

# August 2024



Bethlehem  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Paul Busekist  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880



Website: [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)  
Email: [bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org)

Building Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Worship Times:

Sunday: 10 am Modern Worship including  
Communion with service Livestreamed on  
Facebook and YouTube  
Nursery open during worship service

## Follow the STAR to Bethlehem!

### Our Mission...

**“We journey with God, to serve with love”**

### Our Vision...

*“As a community of believers journeying with God together, we at Bethlehem are called to serve with love by growing a premier youth ministry; enlivening Christian discipleship through lifelong learning, care, and spiritual formation; fostering a vibrant and inspiring worship experience; utilizing our natural setting and location for faithful creation care and outdoor ministry; and opening our doors always to be a “campus at the crossroads” for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.”*



Dear brothers and sisters of Bethlehem,

This past week, I returned from the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, along with Tina and Makena Dohm, and Owen Munger from BLC, along with 16 other youth and leaders from our partner church, Mamrelund Lutheran in Kent City, Michigan. It was a wonderful week of worship, service, faith formation and – yes – travel by van (road trip!) Yet it was on that journey that we had wonderful conversation, before, during and after the Gathering in “NOLA.” The event’s theme “Created to Be...” Here are some reflections, based on our subthemes:

**Tues, 7/16 - We are Created to Be BRAVE**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged (Psalm 27). On both the ride down, and the opening worship, we embraced the bravery to step outside our comfort zones, leave the familiar behind and live into Psalm 139:14. Our first speaker, Dr. Michael J. Chan, told us “You were precious long before you could prove it,” and that “this world is rarely prepared for love’s variety and brightness.”

**Wed, 7/17 - We are Created to Be AUTHENTIC**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator (Matthew 5:14-16). Each night we gathered – after evening worship and free time, to share in our Mamrelund-Bethlehem group of 20 our “highs and lows” and reflections for the day. This also happened to be the day that our group had our service project (“accompaniment day”), where we cleaned up a local park in the city. We also learned from speaker Dr. Jacqueline Bussie how to live as “anyways people,” with our scars and hope and joy.

**Thu, 7/18 – We are Created to Be FREE**, to be transformed by the gospel (Romans 12:2). This day we worshipped in the afternoon with 1,300 of our ELCA neighbors in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana (i.e. Region 6). We spent a couple hours getting to know the French Quarter and Mississippi Riverfront before heading to worship with all 16,000 of our ELCA Gathering friends. Speaker and Pastor Emily Harkins shared her ministry and mission with The Dwelling church for the down-and-out and otherwise overlooked people of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**Fri, 7/19 – We are Created to Be DISRUPTIVE**, to work for justice for all our siblings (Matthew 21:12). This day we were blessed to eat at a famous local restaurant with authentic “N’Awlins” cuisine – Dooky Chase’s. Later that afternoon, we also had an amazing shuttle tour of the city and outlying levies and outskirts of New Orleans. At worship that night we again heard amazing music and prophetic messages from Austin Channing Brown and others who talked about the joys and challenges of diversity, while being called to work for positive change.

**Sat, 7/20 – We are Created to Be DISCIPLES**, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God (Matthew 22:36-40). For our final day, we packed up, went to a wonderful last worship, and headed back to Michigan by way of Memphis... Indeed sent.

No doubt you will hear more about the National Youth Gathering, and how it inspired our team. As we enter into Vacation Bible School and then August, we are truly Created to Be: Bethlehem together! Shalom!

-Pastor Paul

### **PROSE FROM THE PREZ:**

Wow!! This congregation has been volunteering all over the place!! Thank you so much if you were down at the Cherry Festival, working in our own parking lot, volunteering for GT Baby Pantry, or helping with Missions Week at Freedom Builders. And then there is always the dedicated crew which works on Tuesday mornings and those who help in some way on Sunday mornings. We truly are blessed with dedicated members. If you would like to be involved in some way feel free to leave a message at the office 947 9880. We can always find a place for another volunteer.

Blessings for the rest of your summer,  
Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

**During the month of August, we will kick-off our Good Samaritan “Fund”raiser with our Envelope Wall.** Each envelope in the series of 1-50 will represent a donation amount. So, if the first envelope is available for a \$1 donation, the 33rd envelope is available for a \$33 donation and so on. We ask that you remove the colored envelope of your choice from the board, if you're interested in participating, and then put your donation into the inside envelope and return it to the church by putting it into the Sunday service collection plate, placing it into the mailbox of our bookkeeper, Phil Anderson (located by the church office), or mailing it back to the church with Attn Good Samaritan on the outside envelope. A reminder that the Good Samaritan Fund is one of our local outreach initiatives that allows us to be able to help our local residents when there may be a need for assistance with food, gas, a doctor bill, etc. We have been lucky in the past to help many many families and hope that you will once again help us build back this dwindling fund. Please, if paying by check, make the check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Good Samaritan fund in the memo line.

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**Choir News:** I hope you've been having a wonderful summer full of fun. For the third year, I got the privilege to spend three weeks as the keyboard instructor for the Pop Ensemble Division at Interlochen Arts Camp. It was very intense, very loud, and very fulfilling to mentor these emerging rock stars. I'm spending the rest of the summer working in my gardens, teaching my private students on a reduced schedule, and continuing my regular work at Immanuel Lutheran in Suttons Bay. Choir rehearsals resume after Labor Day; September 5, 12, and 26 at 7:00 pm. You are certainly welcome to join in the fun. Meanwhile, if you want or need to contact me, I can be reached at 231-942-1162 or at [bero.tony@gmail.com](mailto:bero.tony@gmail.com). Peace be with you always.

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**CHAIR YOGA:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be having Chair Yoga again. We have a new instructor, Janet Weaver who is a nurse and teaches Chair Yoga independently and at The Village of Bay Ridge and the Traverse Area District Library. We will have the class on Mondays at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall.. The group will meet each Monday through August. The cost will be \$5.00 per class. There is no need to sign up, just attend the class. If there are any questions, contact Gail Goldsmith 231-633-2630.

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**COMMUNION AT THE RAILING:** During the August 11<sup>th</sup> Traditional service, we will have a trial run of receiving Communion at the altar railing. You may either kneel or stand, depending on your comfort level.

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**FREE JAZZ CONCERTS AT THE CIVIC CENTER EVERY SUMMER SATURDAY AT 7pm:** We have been blessed! The music is amazing and the audio/technology crew from NMC does an amazing job with the sound. Come and support some local TC artists and others. There is information in the gathering space as to which group is playing each week. A free-will offering is accepted.

**WALK FOR PARKINSON'S:** One of our members, Margaret Hutchison, recently received that diagnosis. She and her family will be participating in the Parkinson's walk at the Civic Center on the morning of Sat. Aug 24. Just as some from BLC supported a member for the epilepsy walk we are hoping to have a good showing for this walk at 10:30. Even if you can't walk you can receive a free t-shirt from Thrivent which will also be labeled with "Margaret's Marchers". If you can join us for the walk we will share in a picnic at the Civic Center after one time around. For those interested in donating to the cause please follow the link on the poster in the gathering space or follow these steps:

Go to Parkinsonsmi.org

Go to "Grow"

Go to "Events & Resources"

Scroll all the way down to "Parkinson Hero Walk"

Click on Learn More

Click on Traverse City

If you don't see "Margaret's Marchers" scroll down or start typing that name

Enter your donation in that section.

REMEMBER, JIM AND MARGARET HAVE PLEDGED AN ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR EVERY PERSON/FAMILY UNIT FROM BLC WHO CONTRIBUTES TO THIS WALK!!!!

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**PROTECT OUR CARPET:** spills always happen, but we now have a consistent way to deal with them. If you cause one or see one, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container over by the triple sinks in the kitchen. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. Thank you!!

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**A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips.** On April 8th, we received a check from Olesons for \$206.60. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!!

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**Food/Supply Pantry:** It's SUMMER! Please LOOK for staple items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Families visiting the baby pantry especially have appreciated the cleaning supplies. NO matter what you bring your generosity is so appreciated.

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**CHANGE OF PLANS FOR BOOK CLUB:** The book bag we had on reserve came available early so we will be meeting in August. We will be reading *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. It has been on many best seller's lists. You can sign out a book on the shelf below the mailboxes in church or send Cindy Monroe a message to leave one outside for you in the STAR box at cmonroe@chartermi.net. Our meeting will be Wed Aug 21 or Thurs Aug 22 depending on when the most people can attend.

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**Taking a break for the summer:** Wednesday Bible and Book Studies along with Sunday School an Adult Education. And also the LWR Tuesday Quilters, XYZ and our Third Thursday sed rvices. These activities will return in September.

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**Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years.** They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. **Leave them in plastic bags by the garage.** These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.



## Notes From Alanna

### **Include VBS Kids in Your Prayers!**

As you're reading this, depending on your method of STAR delivery, VBS is either just about to begin, is currently underway, or has just finished! In this special time, I have a special prayer request for you.

We are blessed to have two dozen or more children attending VBS this year, and the vast majority of them are from families outside of Bethlehem, in our local community. VBS is a great chance for us to connect with them. I ask you to pray for these kids specifically - pray for their safety, their growth, and their hearts. Pray that by attending VBS that something resonates with them, that a fire for God is lit in their soul that continues to grow, wherever they may go afterward. Some may already know God, and some may not. Either way, I hope you'll join me in praying that all of us who are involved in VBS will be able to glorify God by sharing His love with these incredible kids this week!



*-Alanna Steffunick*, Ministry Coordinator

## Christian Education News July 2024

Dive into VBS with us this summer –  
July 29-31



**CREATED  
TO BE**  
**2024 ELCA YOUTH  
GATHERING**  
NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA  
JULY 16-20, 2024

Safe Travels



Keep our BLC youth & adults in prayers this week –  
they are partnering with Mamrelund for a big trip!  
We wish them peace, prayers, & plenty of blessings!!!



# Save the Date

Rally Day is Sunday 9/08/2024 – watch for details!!!

**Happy Fourth of July!**

*In You our fathers  
put their trust; they  
trusted and You  
delivered them.*

*Psalm 20:4*



-Christian Education Committee

## **FINANCIAL NEWS**

June income was \$38,731, compared to projected income of \$28,491. We received \$10,240 more than projected. Expenses were \$35,143, compared to a budget of \$30,543. This resulted in spending \$4,600 more than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$3,587 more than we spent.

Year-to-date income is \$191,744, compared to projected income of \$173,421. This resulted in the church receiving \$18,323 more than projected. Expenses were \$203,376, compared to a budget of \$191,515. We have spent \$11,860 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$11,631 more than we brought in.

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**Coffee and Cookies on Sunday** Remember that treats and a drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off. Please see the message elsewhere about having the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall for this activity. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. For this month it will be on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

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**Are you grieving something from a death or something else?** It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

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## **News from Your Visioning Team**

Here we are, we have passed mid-summer. Praying everyone is finding some time for relaxation and renewal. The Visioning Team is gearing up for our second mini-retreat in early August. Information and details will be brought together in order to assist in setting the fall schedule and planning for our time together. As details become available, we will be sharing that information in order for all of us to plan to be involved. Please pray for discernment within the body of Christ. May our work together be off to a great start! God be with you!

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## **STAR DELIVERY-WE FOUND A BETTER WAY!!**

All of us are aware that the price of postage keeps increasing. Since so many of you have returned to church we are returning to an "old" way and starting a "new" way of dispersing the STAR. You can pick-up a copy in church, or if you have reliable e-mail, you will receive an automatic STAR each month without any extra clicking. We know that neither of these ways are possible for some of you so simply contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues.

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**LOST AND FOUND:** If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.



## **Young Adults in Global Mission - YAGM**

This August, twenty-five passionate volunteers will begin their transformative journeys, engaging with and immersing themselves in communities globally and growing both spiritually and personally.

The Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program empowers young adults, aged 21-35, to make a meaningful impact by serving in Argentina and Uruguay, Cambodia, Central Europe, Mexico, Senegal, and the United Kingdom. This year YAGM is excited to re-introduce the Cambodia country program.

These young leaders will live in accompaniment as their host communities and our partner churches address challenges in education, health care and community development.

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## **WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - AUGUST 2024**



**Hello, August! May this month be bright and energetic and bring lots of love, joy and miracles to you, your family and friends, filling you with delightful surprises.**

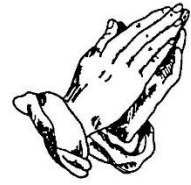
**KEEP THE DATE OPEN! There will be a fall gathering on Saturday, September 28th at Big Rapids, Michigan for Women of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod ELCA. Join us for fellowship opportunities, Bible study and worship. Contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.**

**CIRCLES START IN SEPTEMBER: Our regular Circles will begin in September after our summer rest. If you would like to join one of our circles, contact Nancy Ammann for further information.**

**BABY PANTRY: We are collecting any products for cleaning, laundry, and paper products for the families who utilize the baby pantry here at Bethlehem. Please bring items prior to the second Thursday of each month and leave in the coat room.**

**Thank You!**

## Health Concerns\*



# The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Tom & Lee Miller,  
Judy Fenton, Julie Lapeer, Milt & Carol Bowes,  
Lynn Hoyt, Tom Woodworth, Ron Hellenga,  
John Stretlien, Harper Wiemerslage,  
Sherry, Leroy Schlagel,  
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Sean Rivard,  
Brenda Denoyer and the Denoyer Family,  
Patti McCracken, Sharon Vanmeter, Dale Thiel,  
Margaret Hutchison, Carol Collins, Julie,  
Patience Lambert, Dale Leider, Julie Barrett,  
Jennifer Mowers, Debbie Knopf,  
Jim Rumbach, John Block, Bob Pierce,  
Dan Deutsch, Billie Thompson,  
Earl Manuel, Jack McCracken, Marianne*  
**French Manor South:** Brenda Denoyer  
**Evergreen Cottage:** Milt & Carol Bowes  
**Boardman Lake Glens:** Inge Thomas

**Hospital Visits:** Please let the church office know if you are going into the hospital for a scheduled procedure or an emergency so Pastor Paul can visit you.

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### Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain:** Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
  - Prayers read from the altar:** Please call the Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880
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Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at: [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)?

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)!

Good News...and great news...at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)...

**Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?**  
Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council (or call the office for a copy:

**[bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes)**



# BLC Contacts

## **Church Office**

Pastor Paul Busekist	<a href="mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org">paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org">bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Tony Bero, Music Director	<a href="mailto:bero.tony@gmail.com">bero.tony@gmail.com</a>
Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org">Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.bethlehemtc.org">www.bethlehemtc.org</a>

## **Church Council**

Cindy Monroe, President	<a href="mailto:president.council@bethlehemtc.org">president.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Gail Goldsmith, Vice President	<a href="mailto:vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org">vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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, Property	<a href="mailto:property.committee@bethlehemtc.org">property.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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Tina Dohm, Youth/Y2A	<a href="mailto:youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org">youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Pastor Paul Busekist	<a href="mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org">paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</a>

If you have an interest in serving on any of the above Committees,  
Please contact the Committee Chairperson(s).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10am - Worship Service(S) 11:15am - Worship and Music	3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 10:45am - Staff Meeting	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 2:30pm - 2:30pm House Blessing	9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 5:30pm -ACA		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Traditional Worship	1pm - Finance Cmte. 3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 6pm - Y2A/Christian Edl Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Comte. (CR)	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACA	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieceful	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Worship Service(S)	3pm - Chair Yoga 6pm - Grief Group (Library)	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Council Meeting -	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACA		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship Service(S)	3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACA		9am - Parkinson's Walk at Civic
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am - Worship Service(S)	3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACA		



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*Kristen Rivard*

REALTOR at  **Traverse Real Estate**

 231-590-9728     @KRivardTRE  
 [K.Rivard.Realtor@gmail.com](mailto:K.Rivard.Realtor@gmail.com)  
 847 S Garfield Ave, Traverse City, MI 49686  
 [www.Traverse-RealEstate.com](http://www.Traverse-RealEstate.com)  
 [www.Zillow.com/profile/Kristen%20Rivard](http://www.Zillow.com/profile/Kristen%20Rivard)



*Northern Michigan...*  
**where dreams can come true!**



Monthly donation: 1/16 page \$25; 1/8 \$50; 1/4 \$80. Pay for a year in full---get 1 Month Free Questions??? Please contact Alanna Steffunick at 231-947-9880 or [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) Make checks payable to BLC...put "Star Ad" on envelope.

Special Notice for Future STAR issues (starting with July issue),  
You will NOT be receiving the STAR in the mail unless you have requested it.  
Print copies will still be available at church AND digital copies will now be  
delivered directly to your email address.

To add your name to the list for mailed copies:  
Please contact the office at 231-947-9880 or [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)



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