

November 2024



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Website: www.bethlehemtc.org
Email: 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

Sunday School/Adult Education: 9:15am

Third Thursday Worship: 7:00pm

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.”



“... But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” – John 21:25 (NRSV)



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With all there is to share, I will no-doubt miss something here. This November is surely one to celebrate: our annual Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 2nd (and all the wonderful volunteers and artists who make it happen!); remembering our loved ones with love on All-Saints Sunday the following day; extending our care and concern at the Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for hurricane relief the following Saturday, Nov. 9th; culminating our Stewardship campaign with our second Pledge Sunday and WELCA Thank Offering service on the same day (Nov. 10th); gathering for our final Visioning meeting for the fall with Roger Hardy on the 17th. And, of course, Thanksgiving is in there, and so much more.

Yes, we are thankful. But busy-ness, life transition, historic election seasons, and an ever-changing world all challenge us each and every day to see how the story of Jesus’ gospel is always being written still. Even the writer of John’s gospel (above) says at the very end of his gospel book that “there are so many other things that Jesus did” that we could not possibly capture them all in a gospel – much less a newsletter article!

As we walk this November, we walk together. As we emerge from a busy fall, we “leave” what we must and enter into a season of new beginnings. Advent may literally translate to “waiting,” but it is also the dawn of a son-shine that WE can take an active part in perceiving with God and our neighbor. WE carry the gospel. WE bring God’s message of goodness, concentrating on the “light that shines in the darkness.” We can BE co-authors of grace, the story written beyond the end of a book, and into the unknown ahead... in the name of Christ!

Shalom,
Pr. Paul

PROSE FROM THE PREZ:

It is the season of THANKSGIVING, and I am proposing that to give “Thanks” for all our personal and congregational blessings, that we prayerfully consider if we can be even more “Giving” than we have in the past. This could take the form of TIME, TALENTS, or TITHE. The stewardship committee requested a modest 2% increase in giving. Can we do MORE so that our congregation can truly be a blessing to many more in our community in many ways? I like numbers, and I like it when someone else makes things “easy”. So, if your budget allows, please consider the chart below:

2024 weekly pledge	Up 2%	Round it up	Up 3%	Round it up
\$10	\$10.20	\$11.00	\$10.30	\$11.00
\$25	\$25.50	\$26.00	\$25.75	\$26.00
\$50	\$51.00	--	\$51.50	\$52.00
\$95	\$96.90	\$97.00	\$97.85	\$98.00
\$150	\$153.00	--	\$154.50	\$155.00

Blessings as we give thanks for the wonderful people and acts of kindness in our world.
Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

FINANCIAL NEWS

September income was \$29,831, compared to projected income of \$28,491. We received \$1,340 more than projected. Expenses were \$27,430, compared to a budget of \$39,493. This resulted in spending \$12,062 less than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$2,401 more than we spent.

Year-to-date income is \$283,565, compared to projected income of \$258,594. This resulted in the church receiving \$24,971 more than projected. Expenses were \$296,396, compared to a budget of \$293,273. We have spent \$3,123 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$12,830 more than we brought in.

Giving Statements Available: Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday November 3, 2024. The statement covers giving from January 1st through September 30th. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of November. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

Hello Again Bethlehem Safe Harbor Supporters!

I know you've marked your calendars for Bethlehem serving Safe Harbor guests on Saturday, 25 January; Sunday, 26 January; Tuesday 28 January. Kitchen Teams led by Cindy Monroe, B.J. Christensen, and Tina Dohm are checking their ingredients list and firing up their crews. As noted, Zeke will be entertaining one night and we are seeking more talent- guitar, keyboard, other... We will welcome congregational "treat" support from you all as our dates approach... I feel we have been setting a standard with our food and welcome for Safe Harbor guests. This is community outreach. This is heeding Christ's command to serve our neighbors. This is needed and appreciated. Safe Harbor is always looking for and appreciative of new support. As we consider our vision here at Bethlehem, maybe another group of will raise their hands and consider cooking for an additional night? And we do not know yet what a summer operation will bring. Please contact me with any questions. Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040

THE QUILTS ARE COMING!!! WELCA Sunday is Nov 10 and is your chance to see some of the beautiful quilts which have been crafted by members and friends of BLC. Some ladies work together on Tuesday mornings and others take materials home to work on individually. Many are true masterpieces of color. One thing for certain...they are all crafted with love! If you want to be involved just come some Tues am at 9:00 or talk to Betty Rutila.

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.

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. Our final Sunday of the month will 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 November 24th ..

CHANGE OF DAYS FOR BOOK CLUB: After years of meeting on Tuesdays the Book Club has moved our meetings to the 3rd WEDNESDAY of the month. The next meeting will be Wed, Nov 20 at 5:30. We are reading "James". This is the story of the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn told from the point of view of the enslaved Jim. It is a Best Book of the Year for 2024 and a feature film of the book by Steven Spielberg is in development. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall if you like to discuss good books. Any questions can be directed to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On August 29th, we received a check from Olesons for \$190.86 for a year-to-date total of \$397.46. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! **Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair.**

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!!

XYZ meets again on Friday, November 8th at 12pm noon. We will have a returning presenter - Victoria Stone from Habitat for Humanity. Victoria will be updating us on all of the incredible things that Habitat has done in the year since she was with us last, and will also be bringing a special guest with her! Hayley, a single mother of two young children, is a soon-to-be homeowner through Habitat. Pastor Paul was able to provide a beautiful blessing for Hayley's ground-breaking ceremony earlier this year, and we are thrilled to have her join us and hear her story - she and her children will hopefully be moving into their new home by the end of the year

CHOIR NEWS: Choir rehearsals have resumed on **Thursdays at 7:00 –November 7 & 14.** More dates are being discussed so look for those in upcoming bulletins. If you are interested in joining the choir, give your contact information to Cindy Monroe or any member of the choir and have them pass it on to our choir director, Tony Bero and he will get in touch with you directly. Or you can simply arrive at choir rehearsal on Thursday and we'll figure out how best to use your talents.

BOOK OF RECIPES PRESENTED TO ALANNA IN HONOR OF HER MARRIAGE TO JOSH BOOMER: Congratulation and best wishes to Alanna and Josh Boomer who were united in marriage on Oct 26 and celebrated in the way most meaningful to them with a Contra Dance Reception. If you missed your chance to contribute your favorite family recipe or a recipe for a happy marriage to the book already presented to Alanna, you can place one in Alanna's mailbox at any time.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX: The photo sheet of new members is now available as a loose insert for your directory if you took the time to have your photo taken. Please check your BLC mailbox and carry the sheet safely home to place inside your directory. Be sure to check the reverse side for more names.

Friends of Inge Thomas donated a White Spire Birch tree to Bethlehem as a memorial to Inge. The tree has been planted to the west of the memorial garden. Please check out the tree and take a moment to remember Inge.

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JOIN THE VISION TRAIN....Time to take a PAUSE!! We are now at the point in our journey when we have a few weeks off from our Sunday events. Time to continue to pray and ponder what God has in store for us. We are making great progress. Community teams are reaching out to leaders in our larger neighborhoods to gain additional information about the needs in Traverse City. More will be shared on Sunday, November 17. Please make every effort to attend this last conversation and let us know of your plans by signing up on the display in the narthex. Thank you for being here as often as possible. It takes all of us to share in the work of the Kingdom.

Hurricane Relief Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser - Saturday, November 9th, 8:00am-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The south has been hit so very hard this year with hurricanes and flooding, from North Carolina to Florida. It will take years for them to get back to their new normal. They need our assistance now. We will be inviting the community to come have breakfast with us and support our friends to the south. We are asking for a free will offering, 100% of which is directed to hurricane relief through Lutheran Disaster Response. The breakfast will include pancakes, breakfast meat, beverages, and assorted pot luck/donated items. Special Thanks To: -Thrivent Financial for sponsoring the breakfast--Still Point Farm for donating local, family-made maple syrup--An anonymous donor for offering a challenge grant to match the first \$500 made, in honor of deceased members of Bethlehem - Inge Thomas, Russ Luttinen, Reverend Dan Deutsch, and Tom Woodworth. Many hands make light work so please consider helping. There are sign up sheets in the Narthex. Please sign up to help set up, serve, cook or clean up. Peace.

Third Thursday Worship Service and Meal

Bethlehem's next Third Thursday Worship Services and meal on November 21st. The meal will begin at 5:45 and the Fellowship Committee will be providing salad, dessert and beverages. Cobb salad will be served in November. Please come and enjoy a meal and social time before the Taize 1 service which begins at 7:00pm

HAVE YOU SEEN THE GREAT FRESH LINES IN THE PARKING LOT? Thanks so much to the Tuesday property crew for adding the extra handicap parking spots and for repainting all of the lines in the lot. There had been a request earlier from some members reporting that all of the designated handicapped parking spots were full before they arrived for a service. We definitely wanted those who needed closer spots to have them. And it certainly is nice to have our lot so spruced up in addition to the completion of the alley and the paving of the strip behind the hedge.

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga will continue every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person. It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

Christian Care Giving

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as you are doing. As a Ministry we are called to take care of each other. Our goal is to provide care for all of those in need and to make sure no one feels alone and not cared for by our congregation. You are loved and wanted by all of your church family. If we can help you or you know of anyone who has a need, please let me know. Peggy Burns cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com or 231 392 6913
If you would like to be a caregiver please let me know.

Notes From Alanna

Happy November! Bethlehem has many things to be thankful for, and I know I do as well - I am so thankful for all of YOU!

XYZ - Returning Presenter & Special Guest!

XYZ will have another potluck and presentation on Friday, November 8th. This month, we are excited to have a returning presenter - Victoria Stone from Habitat for Humanity, who will be sharing all of the progress that Habitat has made in the year since she was with us last! Also joining her will be Habitat homeowner Hayley, who started her process with Habitat earlier this year and will soon be moving into her new home with her two young children. Our own Pastor Paul was able to give the blessing for Hayley's groundbreaking ceremony, and we are so excited to have her join us this month to continue Bethlehem's wonderful relationship with Habitat for Humanity! We hope you can join us for lunch and a great presentation!



-Alanna Steffunick-Boomer, Ministry Coordinator

Christian Education News November 2024



Happy Thanksgiving!



-Christian Education Committee

NOVEMBER 2nd – BAKE SALE AT BLC'S ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Treat donations, time volunteering, & tasty purchases – thank you for supporting our ministry in so many ways!



Christmas in Bethlehem is coming!
We're planning Advent Night activities & special Christmas Eve services – stay tuned for all the details very soon!



Did You Know? These ELCA Facts?

There are: **101 missionary households**, including **13 new missionaries** in 2023 and 2024. **25 YAGM** (Young Adults in Global Ministry) **volunteers** serving in 2023-2024.

They are in **41 countries** around the world, including **5 YAGM country programs** that encompass **6 countries and/or territories**.

Paulina Dasse, Senior Director, Companion Engagement and Global Personnel reminds us "The ELCA believes the Holy Spirit calls us to serve in the world. I encourage you to pray for ELCA missionary personnel and to connect with one of them as the beginning of a new relationship in Christ." Visit the web site at: www.elca.org/globalmission for more information about our missionaries across the world.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM -- NOVEMBER, 2024



THANK OFFERING SUNDAY: The WELCA Thank Offering Sunday is being held on November 10th. This is the time we celebrate women with most of the worship service being performed by women of Bethlehem. We also collect a special offering which will benefit women, here and across the country and world. There are Thank Offering jars available in the Narthex for you to collect coins daily. There will also be envelopes available that Sunday. We hope you will join us.

CHRISTMAS TEA: All women of Bethlehem are invited to the "Angel" Christmas Tea on December 8, 2024. We are also inviting women from Feast of Victory, Bethany of Northport, and Immanuel Lutheran of Suttons Bay to share in the festivities. Please bring the following: 1 dozen cookies, canned or packaged items for gift baskets for families of the baby pantry, and a wrapped gift for exchange (no more than \$10). Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex in November. Be an Angel and join us!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY: The Bible study for November is Session # 3 from the *Gather* magazine on Ephesians: "Living as Children of the Light". What concrete advice can Ephesians give us on how to live a fuller, happier life? What poetic inspiration can it offer us for living as Christians? If you would like to us in this study, please contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.



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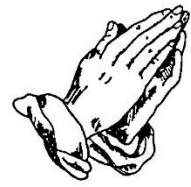
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Questions??? Please contact Alanna Steffunick at 231-947-9880 or
alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org Make checks payable to BLC...put "Star Ad" on envelope.

Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Tom & Lee Miller,
Judy Fenton, Julie Lapeer, Milt & Carol Bowes,
Lynn Hoyt, Ron Hellenga,
John Stretlien, Harper Wiemerslage,
Sherry, Leroy Schlagel, Owen Munger,
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 & Cheryl Leider, Julie Barrett,
Jennifer Mowers, Debbie Knopf, Janet Burmeister,
Jim Rumbach, John Block, Bob Pierce,
Billie Thompson, Earl Manuel, Jack McCracken, Marianne
Norm Fred, Howard Vanderbeck, Betty Sheftall*
French Manor South: Brenda Denoyer
Evergreen Cottage: Milt & Carol Bowes

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.

Prayer Requests:

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

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at www.bethlehemtc.org!

Good News...and great news...at 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

BLC Contacts

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst., Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Tony Bero, Music Director	bero.tony@gmail.com
Alanna Steffunick-Boomer, Ministry Coordinator	Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Cindy Monroe, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Gail Goldsmith, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
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Tina Dohm, Youth/Y2A	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org

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
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<p>9:15am - Adult Education (YR)</p> <p>9:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p>	<p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p>	<p>Craft Fair Set-up</p>	<p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study -</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>5:30pm - ACA</p> <p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12pm - XYZ</p>	<p>9am - Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>7pm - Contra Dance - Bayside</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>9:15am - Adult Education (YR)</p> <p>9:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>10am - Traditional Worship</p> <p>12:30pm - Youth</p>	<p>1pm - Finance Cmte.</p> <p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - LWR Quilters (FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>10-45am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study -</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>9am - Baby Pantry Setup</p> <p>10am - Baby Pantry-FH</p> <p>1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - GS</p> <p>1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle -</p> <p>5:30pm - ACA</p> <p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>STAR articles due today</p> <p>10am - Sew Pieceful</p> <p>1pm - Lehto SG - Library</p>	<p>16am</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>THANKSGIVING SUNDAY</p> <p>9:15am - Adult Education (YR)</p> <p>9:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>10am - Traditional Worship</p> <p>12:30pm - Youth</p>	<p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p> <p>6pm - Grief Group (Library)</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - LWR Quilters (FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>1pm - Friendship Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR)</p>	<p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study -</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>5:30pm - ACA</p> <p>5:45pm - Third Thursday Meal</p> <p>7pm - Trizee/Third Thursday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>9:15am - Adult Education (YR)</p> <p>9:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p> <p>11:30am - VISION Congregational</p>	<p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p> <p>6pm - Grief Group (Library)</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - LWR Quilters (FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>12pm - Sarah Circle - Library</p> <p>6:30pm - Council Meeting -</p>	<p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study -</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm - Book/Supper Club</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Have a Blessed Thanksgiving</p> <p>5:30pm - ACA</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>30</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>9:15am - Adult Education (YR)</p> <p>9:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p>	<p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - LWR Quilters (FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p>	<p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Have a Blessed Thanksgiving</p> <p>5:30pm - ACA</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

Lots of cool information inside
Pr Paul's Page
Council President's notes
Council officers and committee liaisons
Visioning team events
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Hurricane relief
Choir News
Book Club changes
XYZ News
Third Thursday
Chair Yoga
Notes from Alanna
Christian Education News
Financial News
ELCA Global Links
Women of Bethlehem 2024
The Power of Prayer

