May 2024



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:

<u>Sunday:</u> 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."



"16Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 18Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth... I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." – Isaiah 43:16-19a,c



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write this, sitting at a public EV charger, thinking how God energizes us in ways that often amaze us... if we are open to that rejuvenation. Ours is a God, as the prophet Isaiah tells us, who is no stranger to holy power. Whether God works through the supernatural, "mak[ing] a way in the sea" (think Moses and the Israelites in Exodus!) or through innovation and human travel (think ships crossing the Great Lakes each and every day), God makes "a path in the mighty waters." God can even make "a way in the [real or symbolic] wilderness and rivers in the desert."

I just love that part of Isaiah 43. It's on my office wall, and it epitomizes God's creativity and power like few other passages in scripture. It also calls to mind a church in Rome where the apostle Paul encourages the people to "outdo one another in showing honor" (and love) through the power of the Holy Spirit within them.

We are in an exciting time at Bethlehem. Our structural improvements (boiler, roofs, and solar panels) may soon be "outdone" by the gospel that inspires us as people, beyond our walls. Bethlehem's new Vision Team has regularly met this spring and is preparing for the summer. What might that "something new" be that God is preparing us for? And the third exciting part of May is that an anonymous donor wants to make sure everyone who wants a copy of Matthew Kelly's Holy Moments at BLC can have one. Kelly offers them free on his website, for the price of postage. Keep on the lookout at BLC for your copy soon, and Shalom!

Inscription inside Holy Moments books being provided by a donor, to all who want one!:

Holy moments start here.

"The Messiah is among us."

When the idea came to provide these wonderful books, free to anyone who wanted a copy, two thoughts emerged: one reluctant, and one holy.

The reluctant thought was the inevitable and worthy question: "Is this book Lutheran?" To that we could call Kelly's recurring invitation ("The Messiah is among us,") both timeless and biblical (Matthew 18:20.) And while planting holy seeds and moments may not "save" us, such witness and discipleship can certainly reflect the gospel in ways I dare say Christ would approve (see Matthew's gospel again, chapter 25:31-40.)

The second thought I hope you will share with me: that when we say to one another, "Holy moments start here," there is simply no telling how much the Holy Spirit can accomplish among us, and through us. Shalom and be well.

-P2B, 4.23.24

-Pr. Paul

PROSE FROM THE PREZ:

Jesus is Risen!!! Jesus is Risen indeed, Alleluia!!! There is always such joy after Easter, and this year is no different. People feel alive and rejuvenated. I hope you feel that sensation as you read this issue of the STAR and learn about everything that is happening here at Bethlehem. After all of the fun we had last year during Pastor's time of sabbatical Gail Goldsmith is organizing many fun activities again. There will be something for everyone. And many BLC members have volunteered to be a part of the Visioning committee. What can/should Bethlehem be doing to "...journey with God, to serve with love"?

We can rejoice that the first part of our roofing project is complete! Our thanks to our roofing company who swooped in during Holy Week to finish the roof over the fellowship hall and the other small roofs, and made certain that none of their trucks were in our parking lot during any of the services. The company is watching the weather for a long dry spell before they begin work on the sanctuary roof. The solar company's applications have been accepted for the work on the solar panels. They were very pleased with the smooth process in working with Traverse City Light and Power. If all goes well, the panels may be installed in May. And me...I don't know if I have ever signed my name on so many legal documents in my life! But it is all for a wonderful cause.

Blessings and thanks for all you do for each other and for Bethlehem.

Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

Safety and Security Locking the Doors During Worship

The Church Council has approved having the doors locked during worship on a permanent basis. Every Sunday the front doors will be locked and there will be people monitoring the doors to let late comers in. At this point we have a base of 5 people to be the monitors. We would like 3-4 more people so we can rotate only having to monitor once every 2 months. Please sign up in the Gathering Space if you would like to be on the rotation and what Sunday you would like to volunteer. Thank you for those who have volunteered.

Choir News: Greetings, my friends! I've enjoyed my time with you at our Third Thursday services, and I've had lots of fun working with the choir. We are preparing music to sing on May 5th and for Pentecost on May 19th after which the choir will break for the summer. You're invited to join us during our rehearsals on 5/2 and 5/9 at 7:00pm. Secondly, another round of hymn selection will begin soon. The hymns chosen will be sung during the summer months. If you would like to suggest a hymn, or have any other musical ideas, send me an email at bero.tony@gmail.com. Peace!



Council Nominations open for council 2024.

We have been blessed! Many of the council members have agreed to continue with another term. Have you been thinking this would be a good place for you to increase your involvement at Bethlehem? It involves a 3 year commitment to attend a meeting on the 3rd Tues of the month and perhaps one other meeting per month. The current members are hard-working and dedicated, and always ready with an intelligent question or a quick quip. If this sounds like your kind of people please contact the office at 947-9880 or contact any of the following: Pastor Paul, Cindy Monroe, Paul Wiermerslage, Jana Rockne, or Gary Ancinec. WE would love to have you on the TEAM!



New member gathering scheduled: The next gathering for anyone considering membership at Bethlehem will be May 19 immediately after the service. We want to make certain we gather in a large enough location, so please confirm your attendance at the meeting by contacting Pastor Paul, the office at 947-9880 or Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net. Also, please mention if there is anyone you have already met at Bethlehem who you would like to have as your sponsor. We find it is very helpful to have your own personal "goto" person for questions or concerns.

Please Note:

<u>Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant</u> works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Barbara's email: admin@bethlehemtc.org

<u>Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper</u> works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Phil's email: bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org

<u>Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator</u> works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

Alanna's email: Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

May 19th is Pentecost – don't forget to wear RED

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!!!

<u>Contra Dancing by Bayside Travellers</u> Contra dancing is similar to square dancing, and each of their dances feature live music by local folk bands. They will be back with us for dancing on **May 11th**. All are welcome to attend, no partner or experience is necessary! The dances are by donation. For more information or further dates, please reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

<u>Food Pantry:</u> It's SPRING, so hopefully we will not need to be concerned about the cold damaging any of our food. Please start looking for staple items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

Wednesday Bible Studies:

Adult Bible Study: meets in the Youth Room from 9:30-11:30am, with the Acts of the Apostles.. The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm. We are studying *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. This group will be transitioning into a hybrid class with not only Zoom participants but anyone who would like to attend in-person in the Youth Room. If you are interested in this book and need a copy, please contact Barbara Oster in the office.

Adult Education in the Youth Room plus Sunday School - every Sunday at 9:15am

<u>The next Third Thursday service will be a Behold Our Light service on May 16th at 7:00pm.</u> The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service. This will be our last Third Thursday service until September.

May's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, May 10th at 12pm noon. Our presenters in May will be Tiffany & Jason McQueer, local business owners and nonprofit directors. The McQueers own J & S Hamburg South Airport, and in the midst of the pandemic in 2020 they saw a need in the community that inspired them to launch their nonprofit. Project Feed the Kids operates multiple coolers packed with free bag lunches in the local area to help fight hunger and food insecurity. They currently provide 3,000 free lunches every week to children and adults in need, with the help of volunteers and community support.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY WHO LOVE TO READ:

The book club will discuss *We Are the Light* by Matthew Quick during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues May 28 at The Cottage. Look for extra copies on the counter below the mailboxes. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. If you cannot come to church when it is open please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net and we will make other arrangements such as a book in the wooden STAR box attached to the outdoor mailbox post.

<u>DIRECTORY UPDATE:</u> After 5 proofs, our directory has been sent to printing. We are hopeful that it can be completed within their expected 4 week timeframe, which should be mid-May.

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.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.. You may also call the office to arrange.

Notes from Alanna...

Upcoming Social/Fellowship Events

The Fellowship Committee and Social Ministry are working together to plan some fun events for the rest of this year! Game nights, biking & hiking, field trips, and more are in the works! Keep an eye out for announcements and join us for some fun!

Final XYZ for the semester - Looking to Next Year!

Our final XYZ Potluck for spring is May 10th, with a wonderful presentation by Project Feed the Kids! We're very excited to hear from them and hope you can join us! As we start looking at fall

programming, I want to hear from you - do you know of an individual or business that might like to present for us? Send them my way! I'm open to a variety of presenters! Thank you!



-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

"...with that hymn he softly sang, of God's good grace."

The Soldier and the Oak, Elliot Park



Jane Kurkowski is graduating & we're celebrating –
watch for more details soon!
Congratulations & God's Blessings!!!





loin us May 19th for our final Sunday School before we take a summer break... Then plan to join us again in September!!!



We have LOTS of summer opportunities – parking lot fundraisers, VBS, and so much more... get involved & don't miss out!



FINANCIAL NEWS

March income was \$35,027, compared to projected income of \$28,691. We received \$6,336 more than projected. Expenses were \$33,043, compared to a budget of \$32,629. This resulted in spending \$413 more than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$1,984 more than we spent. Year-to-date income is \$91,408, compared to projected income of \$86,448. This resulted in the church receiving \$4,960 more than projected. Expenses were \$98,298, compared to a budget of \$98,044. We have spent \$254 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$6,890 more than we brought in

<u>Coffee and Cookies on Sunday:</u> Remember that treats and a hot 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 May 26th.

<u>Are you grieving something from a death or something else?</u> 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.

BIKE AND HIKE ADVENTURE Well Spring is here and nice weather is upon us so let's go outside and have some fun. The Social Ministry and Fellowship Committee has combined to plan some activities for this year. So we are planning a Bike and Hike Adventure on the Boardman Lake Trail. It will start at Medalie Park off of South Airport Road on May 4th at 10:00. Cheryl Wegener will start the group off with warm up and get to know each other games. She will lead the bike portion of the adventure for the whole 4 mile loop around the lake. Jana Rockne will lead a group of hikers around the whole loop and Cindy Monroe will lead a group who want walk a smaller distance. The hikers will be asked to pick up trash along the way and the bikers can help to clean up the park. In case of inclement weather Sunday May 5th after church will be a back up day. Cindy Monroe has applied for a Thrivent Grant to supply a picnic after the adventure. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex, so we know how many will be staying for lunch. We will have water available, but bring your water bottles. If you have any questions contact Gail Goldsmith.

<u>Spotlight on Zeke:</u> So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Sat 05/04—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm Fri 05/17—MiddleCoast 6:00pm Thurs 5/30—Brady's Bar 6:30pm Fri 5/31—Grand Traverse Resort 7:00pm

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. We will change to these new ways at the end of June for the July issue.

<u>Safety and Security: TORNADO AND BAD WEATHER DRILL</u> BLC will present a Temple Talk on Sunday, May 5, to give instructions on a Severe Weather Drill. The drill will be held at the end of service with congregants moving to the basement hallway. If unable to go downstairs, we will ask you to move safely to the hallway by the classrooms outside of the Sacristy. This should take only a few minutes and we thank you in advance.



Recently, updates from several companion churches were shared virtually across the Leadership Circle of the ELCA. The Circle includes people who contribute \$1,000 or more to ministries of the ELCA.

Notable among the stories shared, was the ELCA's support for the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope in Nicaragua. A ten-year sustainable agricultural project is in progress. Farmers have been able to increase crop production substantially, through the sharing of planning, working, marketing, and sales. This has enabled the community to sell at affordable market prices, which gives them justice. Church members offered their sincere gratefulness for assistance from ELCA Global Mission.



Iglesia Luterana de Fe y Esperanza de Nicaragua (ILFE)

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - MAY 2024

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY: The May 2024 devotional is on mental health and wellness by Elise Seyfried. This is often misunderstood - even in biblical times. Learn some steps we can take to make a positive difference.

<u>BABY PANTRY:</u> Items needed are: laundry products, cleaning products, paper products, hygiene products. The pantry opens on the second Thursday of the month. Please place items in the coat room. Thank you!

<u>SUMMER BIBLE STUDY:</u> We will have a potluck Bible study at the home of Suzanne & Carl Lehto on Wednesday, July 17th at noon. We will use the study in the Gather magazine titled: "After certainty: A biblical guide" by Rev. Aelabouni. A global pandemic, political upheaval, a changing climate...the future is more uncertain than it has ever been Or is it? Watch for futher information and Join Us!



Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, 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 Denover and the Denover Family. Patti McCracken, Sharon Vanmeter, Dale Thiel, Margaret Hutchison, Carol Collins, Julie, Patience Lambert, Dale Leider, Julie Barrett, Jennifer Mowers, Debbie Knopf, Jim Rumbach, Kathi Ivany, John Block, Dan Deutsch, Billie Thompson, Earl Manuel, Jack McCracken, Marianne French Manor South: Brenda Denoyer **Evergreen Cottage: Milt & Carol Bowes** Boardman Lake Glens: Inge Thomas

<u>Hospital Visits</u>: 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

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 <u>paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Admin. Asst., Barbara Oster <u>admin@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson <u>bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Tony Bero, Music Director bero.tony@gmail.com

Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator <u>Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Website www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Cindy Monroe, President <u>president.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Paul Wiemerslage, Vice President <u>vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Jana Rockne, Secretary <u>secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Gary Ancinec, Treasurer treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org

Jim Monroe, Financial Sec. financial secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org

Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Tina Dohm, Christian Ed. christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Gail Goldsmith, Fellowship fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org

, Membership/Evangelism membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org

, Property property.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Maureen Bauer, Personnel personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Scott Farley, Stewardship stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org

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).

sary, May 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

BLC - Non assigned mig. spece, Conference Room, Entire BLC, Event Held Outside of BLC, Fellowship Hall, Galhaning Space, Lower Room 2, Lower Room 3, Lower Room 1, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room 1, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room No #, Sanctuary, Youth Room

18 25 10am - Bike and Hike Adventure 7pm - Contra Dance - Bayside 12pm - WP Assoc Mtg - FH Sat 10 77 17 31 STAR articles due today 1pm - Lehto SG - Library 10am - Sew Pieceful E 12pm - XYZ 16 83 8 fpm - Rebecca Anna Circle - GS 5:45pm - Third Thursday meal 7pm - Third Thursday service 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle -9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 2 5:30pm - ACA 53 45 22 7pm - Indian Woods Neighborhood 5:30pm - Vision Team - Library 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Bible Study Mod 7 28 21 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 7pm - Lautner SG @ at the home 6:30pm - Executive Comts.(CR) 5:30pm - Vision Team - Library 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 12pm - Sarah Circle - Library Sam - Property Work Group 9am - Property Work Group Sam - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Council Meeting -5:30pm - Boolo'Supper Club 9am - Property Work Group Bulletin articles due today Bulletin articles due today Bulletin articles due today Bulletin articles due today Builefin articles due today Sam - LWR Quitters (FH) Sam - LWR Quilters (FH) 10:45am - Staff Meeting 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) Sam - LWR Quilters (FH) Tue 13 8 6pm - Grief Group (Library) 1pm - Finance Cmte. 12 19 28 26 1pm - Confirmation End-of-Year 11:15am - Worship and Music 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Traditional Worship 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Worship Service(S) 1pm - Confirmation Class 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Sunday School 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Sunday School 9:15am - Sunday School Pentecost - WEAR RED 8



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Special Notice for Future STAR issues <u>(starting in July)</u>,
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 adminabethlehemtc.org



www.bethlehemtc.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1050 Peninsula Drive Traverse City, MI 49686