

June 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.”



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at Bethlehem,

Some of my favorite passages in scripture are not just in the Old Testament (there is gospel there, too!), but they're at the beginning of the prophets' books. This passage from Isaiah chapter 6 is one of the greats. In it, Isaiah tells God that he's not sure he's "prophet material" [my paraphrasing.] Isaiah says, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" As you may know, God does the



opposite of disqualifying this sinner-who's-also-a-saint. Instead, God sends an angel "holding a *live coal* [yikes!] that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

Like the burning bush of God's presence to call Moses, we are left to presume that this piping hot coal did not burn Isaiah either but instead revealed something wonderful and powerful about God AND us. We are called to live out the gospel and be Christ to one another, no matter what our sin and back story is. This is a message of hope, grace and VISION!

This summer I invite you to look around at Bethlehem and see how our vision from years past has already been blessed manifest - through and by God (e.g. our worship, our people, our building, our ministry...) And I invite you this summer to begin to imagine what a new BLC vision might look like as our new vision team invites us all this fall to imagine a new sense of calling and mission together. Here's a snippet from our Vision Team's entry in our June Congregational Meeting packet soon:

"Moving forward...it will be critical for the congregation to share our ideas, hopes, dreams and aspirations regarding the future of Bethlehem Lutheran church. In the meantime, please pray for Bethlehem, for all your congregants, and for discernment as we live out God's direction...as we continue the song that needs to be sung."

(signed Pastor Paul, Sherri, Tim, Kelly, Kathie, Craig and Jana – your Visioning Team) Shalom! -P2B

PROSE FROM THE PREZ:

This could be my last message to you as council president...or will it be? Please be sure to come vote at the annual meeting after the service on Sunday June 16. Then the new council will convene 2 days later and decide on its officers and committee chairs for the 2024-2025 year. We have done so much in the past year...kept things running smoothly while Pastor was on Sabbatical....sold a house...purchased a new boiler...had all of our shingles replaced...and by the time you read this the solar panels should be on the roof of the fellowship hall. Still to come is some tuning-up of the kitchen/fellowship area thanks to a generous dedicated memorial donation and figuring out what is causing the water problem in the basement and what can be done.

Please keep all of us in leadership positions in your prayers as we meet challenges in the year ahead. And please don't hesitate to say "yes" if we ask you to step up (and perhaps maybe a little out of your personal comfort zone) and assist in some way.

Blessings for a wonderful summer,
Cindy Monroe BLC Council President



Choir News: The choir's summer break has begun! We wish you all a safe and happy summer. Choir rehearsals resume on Thursdays after Labor Day; September 5, 12, and 26 at 7:00 pm. If you want or need to contact me, I can be reached at 231-942-1162 or at bero.tony@gmail.com. Peace be with you always.

New member acceptance:

What a big and wonderful group of new members we will be receiving on June 2. Please come and see all of the new faces and take a moment to greet them.



At the recent 2024 Synod Assembly, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod celebrated ways our congregations are: “salt of the earth,” “light of the world,” and “leaven” of the kingdom in ways large and small, as we prayerfully participate in Jesus’s own work of reconciling the world to God’s very self.

Attendees met virtually to review and approve reports including the 2025 budget and compensation guidelines for rostered persons. Election results for synod leaders and churchwide assembly voting members are noted on the synod web site: <https://www.mittensynod.org/events/assembly/>.

Several congregations prepared videos centered around the assembly theme of **Salt, Light and Leaven**. Prince of Peace, Gaylord presented a delightful one entitled **Faith, Family and Fun**. During the year events are planned *involving all ages*. Back to School Blessing features available church programs, food pantry info., free haircuts, school supplies and a meal, Trunk or Treat (Halloween event), Preparation of Ashes, and a Pre-Easter Egg Hunt. See: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NorthWestLowerMichiganSynod> Enjoy watching this video and several others. They are fun and inspiring!

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!!!

Contra Dancing by Bayside Travellers 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 **June 8th**. 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

Food Pantry: It's SPRING! Please start looking for staple items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

Taking a break for the summer: Wednesday Bible and Book Studies along with Sunday School, Adult Education, XYZ and our Third Thursday services will all pause for the summer. These activities will return in September.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY WHO LOVE TO READ:

The book club will discuss *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues June 25 at church before taking a summer vacation. We will chip in money for a pizza dinner. Look for extra copies of the book 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.

Bike and Hike: We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in our Medalie Park bike ride/hike/walk around Boardman Lake. Special thanks go to Cindy who furnished the delicious lunch, Jim who grilled the brats and hot dogs, and the Good Lord for the great weather.

BLC annual meeting: Hope to see as many of you as possible at our meeting on June 16 (Father's Day). Send the kids home to get the grill going and join them after you have exercised your right to voice your opinion on church matters.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: If you had your picture taken or submitted for our new directory, and were not able to pick it up this past Sunday, a copy with your name on it will be waiting for you in your mailbox at church. Our participating home bound members will have their copy delivered by a Christian Caregiving committee member. We are grateful for our congregation's participation and want to send a huge thank you to our committee's volunteers: Nancy Ammann, Maureen Bauer, Gayle Goldsmith, Kathi Ivany, Sherri Helman, Cindy Monroe, Kirsten Rivard, Betty Rutila and Barb Wright - Christine Hubert and Kathy Ancinec, co-chairs

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.

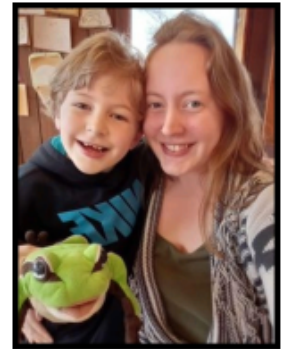
Notes From Alanna - Summer is Here!

Parking Lot Fundraiser - Support Our Youth!

Sign-ups are now open for Parking Lot Fundraiser volunteers! This is the biggest fundraiser for our youth every year, and we need your help! Each shift is only a commitment of a few hours, and it's lots of fun, plus a great way to support our kiddos! Check your weekly email update for details!

VBS - SCUBA!

VBS is coming this summer! On July 29th - 31st, Bethlehem will be transformed into a fantastic underwater experience for kiddos to explore and learn all about Jesus! As we put together programming for the fun, knowing how many volunteers we have helps a lot - sign up to help today! Details are in your weekly email update!



-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

Christian Education News June 2024

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



Jane Kurkowski is graduating & we're celebrating –
Sunday June 2nd cake & punch after worship!
Congratulations & God's Blessings!!!

PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER



6/29, 6/30, & 7/04 – watch for signup sheets!

Happy Father's Day!

The righteous man walks in
his integrity; his children
are blessed after him.

Proverbs 20:7



-Christian Education Committee

FINANCIAL NEWS

April income was \$32,703, compared to projected income of \$30,441. We received \$2,262 more than projected. Expenses were \$32,357, compared to a budget of \$32,629. This resulted in spending \$272 less than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$345 more than we spent.

Year-to-date income is \$124,111, compared to projected income of \$116,889. This resulted in the church receiving \$7,222 more than projected. Expenses were \$130,656, compared to a budget of \$129,475. We have spent \$1,181 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$7,230 more than we brought in.



Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: 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 June 30th..

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.

Spotlight on Zeke: 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:

Fri 6/7—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

Fri 6/28—Bel Lago Winery 5:00pm Cedar

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.

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.



Global
Mission



The Rev. **Khader El-Yateem** is the new executive director of the ELCA churchwide organization's Service and Justice home area.

"I am deeply moved by this new appointment to be the executive director of the Service and Justice home area," El-Yateem said. "My deep faith commitment is to help advance the mission of our church in making disciples and loving and serving our neighbor. We as the ELCA are uniquely positioned and called to make a difference in this broken world, both locally and globally."

Born and raised in Bethlehem, El-Yateem received his Bachelor of Theology from Bethlehem Bible College in 1989 and his Bachelor of Theology and World Religions from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo in 1991. He received his Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Seminary) in 1996. El-Yateem has served as assistant to the bishop and director for evangelical mission for the Florida-Bahamas Synod and as pastor of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church of Brooklyn in New York City, among other positions.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - JUNE 2024

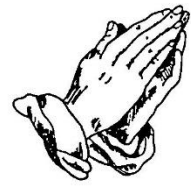


JUNE BIBLE STUDY: "After certainty: A biblical guide: Holy curiosity can lead us, like our Biblical ancestors, to where God's love in Jesus transforms 'what is' to 'what could be'. by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Join Rebecca/Anna Circle on Thursday, June 13th at NOON at the home of Nancy Ammann, 537 Lake 5 Drive for a potluck lunch. Meat and beverages provided. **RSVP PLEASE to Nancy Ammann, 946-8433 by June 9th.**

BABY PANTRY PROJECT: Please continue to bring cleaning, laundry and hygiene products for families of the baby pantry. Please bring items to the coat room prior to June 11th for distribution. Thank You!

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: There will be a Bible Study at the home of Carl & Suzanne Lehto on Wednesday, July 17th at **NOON**. We will have the study from the July/August issue of *Gather*. If you do not have this magazine, please contact Nancy Ammann for a copy. This will be a potluck lunch; meat and beverages provided. Please bring a dish to pass, a Bible and a lawn chair. **Please RSVP to Nancy Ammann by July 14th at 946-8433.** We always enjoy each other as well as the Bible Study and the good food. Come 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 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,
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.

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
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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
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Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Tony Bero, Music Director	bero.tony@gmail.com
Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator	Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Cindy Monroe, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jana Rockne, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
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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).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10am - Jane Kurkowski High 10am - New Member Acceptance 10am - Williams Baptistam 10am - Worship Service(S)	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	10am - Staff Meeting 5:30pm - ACA		7pm - Contra Dance - Bayside
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am - Traditional Worship	1pm - Finance Cmte.	Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Cmte.(CR)	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - 5:30pm - ACA		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Confirmation Camp at Stony Lake 10am - Worship Service(S) 11:15am - Congregational	6pm - Grief Group (Library)	Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Council Meeting - 7pm - Lautner SG @ at the home	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACA	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieceful 1pm - Lehto SG - Library 5pm - Stowel/Henne Rehearsal	2pm - Stowel/Henne Wedding
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am - Worship Service(S)		Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Book/Supper Club	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite)	5:30pm - ACA	11am - Gravesite - Robert Bloom	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am - Worship Service(S)						



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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



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