

July 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.”

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!”

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)



*Friends in Christ at Bethlehem, this July marks the first year anniversary of the “midpoint” of my Sabbatical. It was a time for me to put all of the usual work aside, to rest and be refreshed. That was a big deal for me. I’m used to words, and LOTS of them: reading them, writing them, listening to them, preaching them...The proverbial (empty) “white space on the page” was foreign to me. **Today, this month, I encourage you to bask in the empty space on YOUR page...and let it BE, like this (absence of a regular “STARticle”) a place for sabbath and a space for the Holy Spirit to plant a new creation within you. Shalom. – Pr. Paul***

PROSE FROM THE PREZ:

Well...I was wrong. My last message was not my last one to you. I am once again BLC council president. Gary Ancinec continues as treasurer and Jim Monroe as an unelected member appointed as Financial Secretary. Because certain elected officers can only stay in the same position for 2 years Paul Wiemerslage has moved to the secretary position and Gail Goldsmith agreed to be vice-president in addition to leading the fellowship committee. Otherwise, most committee heads have remained the same except Jana Rockne is now chairing Safety and Security in addition to being council liaison with the Vision Team, and Peggy Burns is chair of Christian Care. Be sure to reach out to these and the other leaders with questions, concerns, or to volunteer to help with their committee.

As a follow-up to our annual meeting, I’m still waiting to see if any more people can find the 2 minor mistakes in the annual report. Remember, for all who find one or more and contact me in person on Sunday or via email cmonroe@chartermi.net a donation will be made to the Good Samaritan fund.

Blessings for a wonderful summer,
Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

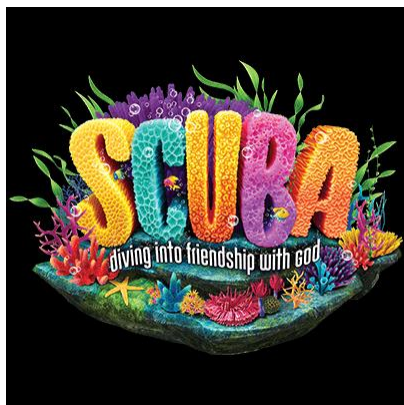
Choir News: The choir's summer break has begun! We wish you all a safe and happy summer. Choir rehearsals resume on Thursdays after Labor Day; September 5, 12, and 26 at 7:00 pm. If you want or need to contact me, I can be reached at 231-942-1162 or at bero.tony@gmail.com. Peace be with you always.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Let's go to a Pit Spitter Game. We are planning a church event to go on Sunday July 14th at 5:05 P.M. If you would like to go please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. The cost is \$12 per person. Please write checks to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Sign up and money must be received by July 7th. **LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!!!**



COMMUNION AT THE RAILING: During the July 14th Traditional service, we will have a trial run of receiving Communion at the altar railing. Because of the location of the musicians, just the railing on the East side will be used. You may either kneel or stand, depending on your comfort level. We plan to repeat this trial run at the August Traditional service.



VBS Registration is Open! Kids ages 3-10 are invited to join us for Scuba Vacation Bible School on July 29th - 31st. Activities will include games, crafts, storytime, snacks, and other fun as they learn all about God's love for them! Registration is available online now in your weekly email or on the BLC website. Space is limited, so sign up now!

VBS Volunteers Needed! We are still looking for a few more volunteers for VBS! Do you love being around children and seeing their joy and fun, especially while they learn about God's Word? Do you have a few hours free in the last week of July? Sign up now to volunteer for VBS! Updated sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or in your weekly email, or you can reach out directly to Alanna to sign up or ask questions! Thank you for generously volunteering your time and your heart!

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 July. 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.

Freedom Builders Missions Week is July

15th-20th! Any and all skills are welcome and needed - you do not need to have construction experience. You can volunteer for a day, or for the full week. Freedom Builders currently has 83 families in need of critical assistance for housing and repair needs. Your help is needed and so appreciated! Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex, or you can reach out to Alanna directly at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org"



MISSIONS
rebuilding hope, one home at a time

Sign up in the Narthex or by contacting Alan
alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

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!!!

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.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY WHO LOVE TO READ:

The book club will be taking a break for the months of July and August. Be sure to keep reading and send Cindy any of your suggestions for the fall at cmonroe@chartermi.net. Already requested are *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger and *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. We have a hold on the latter at the library, but there are 4 holds ahead of us

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

Parkinson's walk and picnic: We have another community event coming up to support a member of BLC so please mark your calendars for Aug 24 at 10:00 at the Civic Center. There will be a sign-up for shirts in early July on the table in the gathering space. There will be more info coming but just wanted you to reserve that date if possible.

Good Samaritan Fund Drive: You did so well with contributions last year that council agreed that a drive should be repeated this summer, especially since the needs are so great in our community. Please keep that in mind if you have been setting any \$\$\$\$ aside for a special need.

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 - Volunteer Opportunities!

Freedom Builders - Missions Week! July 15-20!

The opportunity is here again to volunteer with Freedom Builders! This is a wonderful organization that helps people in our community with housing issues. They currently have 83 families that are in need of critical housing repair - YOU are needed! Sign up now in the Narthex or by emailing me directly at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org!



Vacation Bible School - SCUBA! Registration Open Now!

Registration for Vacation Bible School is now open, and we would love to see your kids or grandkids there! Sign up now on the BLC website or weekly email! Space is limited - don't miss out! We are also still accepting volunteers for this fun week. The more volunteers we have, the more people we can welcome into the program! Reach out to me with any questions!

-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

May income was 29,203\$, compared to projected income of \$28,041. We received \$1,162 more than projected. Expenses were \$37,957, compared to a budget of \$31,498. This resulted in spending \$6459 more than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$8,754 less than we spent.

Year-to-date income is \$153,314, compared to projected income of \$144,930. This resulted in the church receiving \$8,384 more than projected. Expenses were \$168,613, compared to a budget of \$160,972. We have spent \$7,640 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$15,299 more than we brought in.

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 July 28th.

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.

News from Your Visioning Team

At the June 16 worship service, the Visioning Team was commissioned. Since that time there has been increased enthusiasm and curiosity expressed by many here at Bethlehem. Enthusiasm and curiosity are two major elements needed in this process...both help to keep us moving forward and remain optimistic in the journey. The team met again on June 25 continuing our study process, exploring what may come next, and working to discern the voice of the Spirit. We ask for your prayers as we move forward. When dates and details become available...we will be sharing those with you. In this in between time, may we all be listening for God's guidance, may we be preparing ourselves for new ideas, and may we be ready to evolve as God intends! Blessings on your summer!!!

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.

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.

Synod Global Mission News

Sharing Health Resources
And
Jesus in Honduras



Recently, six people from Michigan visited our **companion synod** in **Honduras**. They spent time with several different projects supported through our synod and the Lutheran Church in Honduras (ICLH).

The group spent a day with three of the twelve HIV/Aids support groups in Tegucigalpa, learning about their advocacy work and how important it was to have a place that supports and accepts them. They are often rejected by others because of their illness. They also visited homes and churches in two worshipping communities in two small villages. This included the base for a children’s nutrition and health program.

Highlight of the visit was hosting a workshop for health volunteers from across Honduras. They were asked to focus on diabetes detection and care, hypertension, and stress. Volunteers learned how to address these tasks. ... The group reminded volunteers that theirs was a living response to the love of God we experience through Jesus Christ. [The information above was provided by Rev. Megan Crouch, Global Mission Committee Chair and appeared in The Bishop’s Newsletter, June, 2024].

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - July 2024



YOU ARE INVITED! There will be a Bible Study/picnic at the home of Carl & Suzanne Lehto on Wednesday, July 27th at **NOON**. We will meet at Bethlehem at 11:30 to carpool. Meat and beverages are provided. Please bring a dish to pass, your Bible and a lawn chair. We will have the study from the July/August Gather magazine. If you do not have this magazine, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433 and I'll bring a copy.

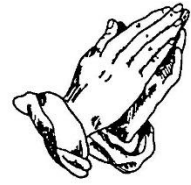
PLEASE RSVP TO NANCY AMMANN BY JULY 14TH.

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

July 4th is a time for celebration of our independence as a free nation. But as followers of Christ, we shouldn't forget to put God at the center of all our festivities. The Lord never forgets us; as such we shouldn't forget to thank Him. Let us pray: *Dearest God, we lift up this prayer to You in gratitude for this grand occasion. Thank You for blessing our nation with the joy of freedom, as we are only able to live so freely because of You. True freedom is only found through You and we wouldn't be here today without Your holy guidance. Please watch over us, our loved ones, our neighbors, every American - that we may all see our true value as followers of Christ and not as superior over others - that places You at the center of everything. May we never forget that it is you whom we celebrate every day of our mortal lives until we are ultimately reunited in your kingdom. In Jesus' Name. Amen*



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
-

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, 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
Gary Ancinec, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Peggy Burns, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Tina Dohm, Christian Ed.	christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Gail Goldsmith, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Property	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Personnel	personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Jana Rockne, Safety & Security	
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).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 10:45am - Staff Meeting	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	Happy Fourth of July Office Closed 5:30pm - ACA 6pm - Parking Lot Fundraiser		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am - Worship Service(S) 11:15am - Worship and Music	1pm - Finance Cmte. 3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR)	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - 5:30pm - ACA		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am - Traditional Worship	10am - Sustaining Endowment 3pm - Chair Yoga 6pm - Grid Group (Library)	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 12pm - WELCA Bible Study @			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
National Youth Gathering - New 10am - Worship Service(S)	3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Council Meeting -	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACA 6:30pm - ACA	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieciful 1pm - Lehto SG - Offsite	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10am - Worship Service(S)	9am - VBS 3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 9am - VBS	9am - VBS 11:30am - Music Rehearsal			



REYNOLDS JONKHOFF

Funeral Home & Cremation Services

305 Sixth Street 947-6347

www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com

For six generations... the Jonkhoff family and caring staff are the ones you can trust and depend on... today and tomorrow.

Kristen Rivard

REALTOR at  Traverse Real Estate

-  231-590-9728  @KRivardTRE
-  K.Rivard.Realtor@gmail.com
-  847 S Garfield Ave, Traverse City, MI 49686
-  www.Traverse-RealEstate.com
-  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 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



Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA)
1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
www.bethlehemtc.org
231.947.9880