

# October 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

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.”*



<sup>12</sup> **“Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the LORD...”-Hosea 10:12 (NLT)**

**“There in God's garden stands the Tree of wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations!” (ELW 342, v1)**

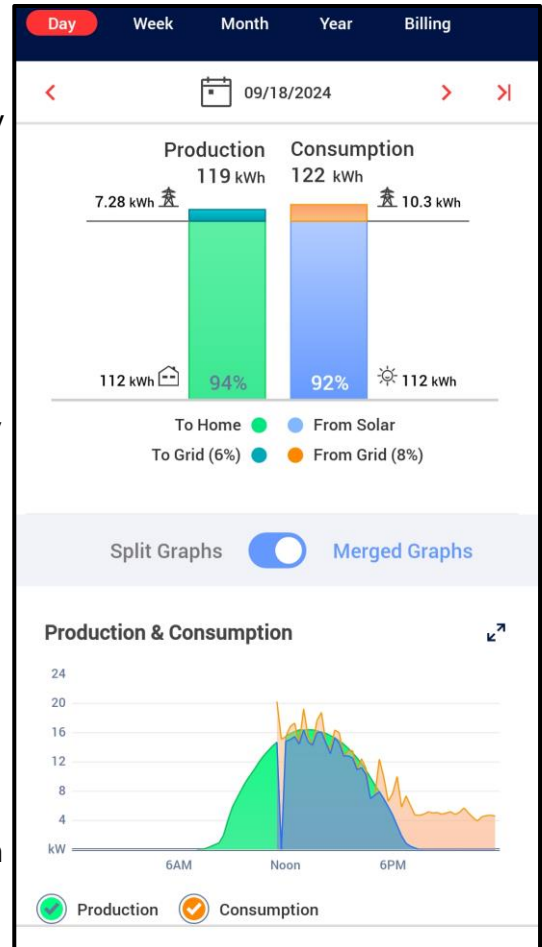


Dear Bethlehem Friends,

Stewardship season is indeed upon us, and God is good (all the time!) This year we focus on supporting our ministry and **“tending our garden”** at Bethlehem, all while standing at the doorstep of a fall journey for new visioning. To be fully present in this moment, we pause to give thanks, survey the grounds, and ponder how best to cultivate what lies ahead. You will soon be receiving a stewardship letter in the mail, but here are a few areas where Bethlehem has improved our building, grounds and ministry this past year since the sale of the church property and successful receipt of grants and special donations:

- **New roofing** on Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and entryway
- **New main boiler and paving** in the parking lot alleyway
- **New sound equipment:** microphones, teleconferencing unit and (soon!) sanctuary speaker • New Fellowship Hall tables and building security camera system
- **New rooftop solar panels** that have already begun to pay back a portion of our power costs this year

Temple Talks for our Stewardship Campaign will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>, with Pledge Sundays on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.



**The graphic to the right** is something you will see more of in the weeks and months ahead. It is a measurement of the amount of electricity our solar panels are bringing in (shown in green), and on a sunny day there will usually be a “bell curve” in sync with the direct sunlight, and the amount of power our building uses from solar (i.e. instant savings) will be substantial.

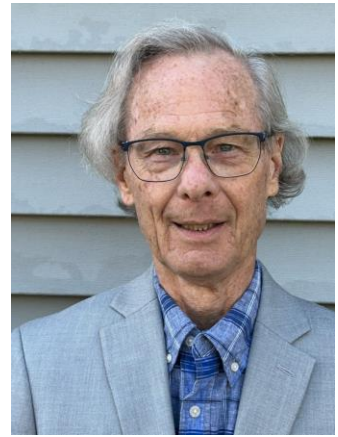
The GOOD NEWS is that *if we had experienced no unusual drains on our power*, by now Bethlehem would have saved well over \$1,000 in electricity!

However, it came to our attention that the sanctuary air handler was stuck in the ON position 24 hours/day for about two months before we caught it. This resulted in well over \$1,500 in extra electricity charges ABOVE NORMAL. So...the BAD NEWS is we did not save on our July or August bills, and though we did save for about a week in September, that bill is about what it was last year. The other GOOD news is that, because of our troubleshooting to find out this problem, Solar Faithful/Charthouse Energy provided Bethlehem – at no charge – a substantial piece of hardware that is now hooked up to our solar system and monitoring software called a “consumption meter.” The extra data you see in the graphic above (in blue and orange) is directly because of this new tool to help us steward our energy. More in the upcoming weeks...

In peace, Pastor Paul

## **VISIONING TEAM UPDATE: MEET OUR GUEST FACILITATOR ROGER HARDY!**

The Bethlehem Visioning Team is pleased to introduce Pastor Roger Hardy who will "co-shepherd" us in our Visioning sessions this fall and early winter. Roger prefers being called simply by his first name and has held many positions of ministry, notably Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for our synod 2007-2013, as well as pastoring several congregations in Michigan, Minnesota and other states including Alaska!



Roger has a wonderful history of partnering with Bethlehem and was very instrumental in co-creating our 10-year 2012 vision, utilizing his "Listening for God" approach, which he has modified for us do a little differently this time - as our world has changed and our church has adapted along with the new standard span of organizational vision (much shorter - about 3-5 years!)

Roger is indeed "outdoorsy" (enjoys walking/hiking/gardening/kayaking/ cross country skiing/golf) and loves doing projects around the house and garage.) Roger finds meaning through reading, journaling, and visiting family and friends, and he spends time in scripture reading, prayer, and meditation each morning. Roger and his wife Sharon have lived in St. Paul since July 1, 2013

Starting October 6<sup>th</sup>, Roger will help us begin Listening for God in Scripture, in our Congregation, and within the Community. By gathering on three separate Sunday's, we will share a meal immediately following worship and then spend time on the topic of the day:

**Sunday, October 6,** Listening for God in Scripture

**Sunday, October 20,** Listening for God in the Congregation

**Sunday, November 17,** Listening for God in the Community

We have planned for a little extra food if necessary but still ask that you take time to sign up on the display in the narthex. Please indicate how many of you will be attending in order that we have plenty of food, beverages, seating, and any materials that may be needed. Your help is important!!

We look forward to seeing you at the events. In the meantime, should you have questions or concerns, your Vision Team members will be glad to talk with you. Members include: Pastor Paul, Sherri Helman, Kelly Thomson, Kathie Bair, Jana Rockne, Tim Goebel, and Craig Bauer

**...ALL ABOARD!!**

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

I've had what I consider to be some Holy Moments this month and I would like to share one of them. The words of a song jumped out at me. It is called "Burn Like a Star" (I always am attracted to anything with a Star due to the Star in our Bethlehem logo.) As we prepare for our Visioning efforts I thought it would be wonderful for all of us to keep these words in mind especially if you cannot be with us at church to sing the song or at the Visioning meetings. Here are just some of the words:

We were born for greater things; we were born to chase Your dreams. Come, my Lord, awaken holy fire.

We are turning from our sin; we are praying once again. Come, my Lord, awaken holy fire.

Send revival; start in us. Set Your holy spark in us. Send us out in resurrection power.

We are aching for the real thing; hearts are open wide. **BURN LIKE A STAR, LIGHT A FIRE IN OUR HEARTS!**

For Your glory for Your fame, in this darkness, light a flame in us.

As we enjoy the colorful "flames" of the fall colors around us please "feel the fire" and be ready to **BURN LIKE A STAR!** Blessings as we enjoy these glorious colors of autumn.

Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

**CHANGE OF DAYS FOR BOOK CLUB:** After years of meeting on Tuesdays the Book Club has found that it will be more helpful for some of its members if we move our meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY of the month. The next meeting will be Wed, Oct 16 at 5:30. We are reading *October in the Earth*. 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](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net).

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**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.**

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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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**The next XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, October 4th (note that this is the first Friday instead of the second, due to event conflicts).** We will meet at noon for a delicious potluck lunch, followed by our presentation. We will be joined by Nancy Bordine who will be speaking on "The Way We Wore" and showing her collection of vintage clothing and their history. While predominantly geared toward seniors, XYZ is open to any adult who would like to join - the presentations would be enjoyable and informative to anyone!

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**CHOIR NEWS:** Choir rehearsals have returned on Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup> 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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**HAVE YOU NOTICED SOMETHING NEW IN THE PEWS?** Some of our members have been disappointed that there has not consistently been a bible in their pew if they just wanted to read a particular passage while waiting for the service to begin. Well, one of our members decided to do something about it. Every pew now has 5 bibles with some even in the back for those who sit there. A special thanks goes out to this anonymous donor who saw a need and did something about it. What a blessing!

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**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH ART & CRAFT SHOW  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER. 2, 2024      9:00am to 3:00pm**

Featuring over 45 local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods!

Please sign up in the Narthex hallway to volunteer for our fundraiser. Your help would be greatly appreciated. As in the past years, there will be a Silent Auction of items donated by the crafters. The auction support the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry and Bethlehem's ministries.

Our Christian Education Team will have a baked goods table with items for sale. In support of Christian Education, please help with a donation of a baked good.

**"Many hands make work light".**



## Notes From Alanna

### **Contra Dancing is Back!**

Bayside Travellers is back from summer break and will be having contra dances again here at BLC! The first is on Saturday, October 12th, and they will continue on every second Saturday through June. There is always live music, and no need to have any dance experience - they teach everything! Come dance - it's not something to miss!



### **Bethlehem's Youth are in Action!**

I hope you enjoyed the most recent Youth in Action email! Bethlehem's kids are up to so many exciting things. If you have a youth who is doing something exciting, reach out to me so we can get it included in the next email! It can be anything they're excited about - an upcoming event, good grade, new hobby, big accomplishment, or favorite activity!

*-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator*

## Christian Education News October 2024

**NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> – BAKE SALE AT BLC'S ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR**  
Donations of baked goods would be very much appreciated!  
Thank you for your support of our ministry!



### Count your Blessings

**C**ount your Blessings  
**A**nd name them  
**N**ame them  
**D**ay by day.  
**Y**ou'll be reminded  
**C**hrist Jesus' love  
**O**verflows to you,  
**R**ight now, in  
**N**early every way.

Happy Halloween & Remember Reformation Day!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month –



Thank you Pastor Paul for building & growing our faith!



Congratulations Makena and Grayson –  
God's blessings to you!!!  
We will celebrate Sunday, October 27, 2024

## **FINANCIAL NEWS**

August income was \$26,149, compared to projected income of \$28,041. We received \$1,891 less than projected. Expenses were \$36,785, compared to a budget of \$31,338. This resulted in spending \$5,447 more/less than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$10,635 less than we spent.

Year-to-date income is \$253,733, compared to projected income of \$230,103. This resulted in the church receiving \$23,630 more than projected. Expenses were \$269,065, compared to a budget of \$253,780. We have spent \$15,285 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$15,331 more than we brought in.

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### **Hello Bethlehem Safe Harbor Supporters!**

Mark your calendars! 2025 is coming...and Bethlehem will be preparing meals and hosting Safe Harbor guests on Saturday, 25 January; Sunday, 26 January; Tuesday 28 January at the Safe Harbor building on a. Our proven Kitchen Teams led by Cindy Monroe, B.J. Christensen, and Tina Dohm are assembling and tweaking their award-winning recipes. Zeke Clemons is again going to lend his guitar and voice one night and is seeking talent to cover our other nights... We will once again be seeking "treat" support from the congregation at large...and delivering warm food and warm wishes to all 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 would like to raise their hands and consider cooking for an additional night? It's never too late. Please contact me with any questions. Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040



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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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**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 September 29<sup>th</sup>..





This summer the ELCA welcomed 13 new missionaries into service. They are now on their way to eight countries - Slovakia, Tanzania, Argentina, Japan, Thailand, and UK - to walk alongside their new communities as teachers, pastors, pastoral interns, coordinators and more.

As these missionaries begin their work, they need your support. Individual, congregational and synodical offerings will enable them to meet the needs identified by our global partners and to be fully present with our siblings in Christ around the world.

## WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - SEPTEMBER 2024

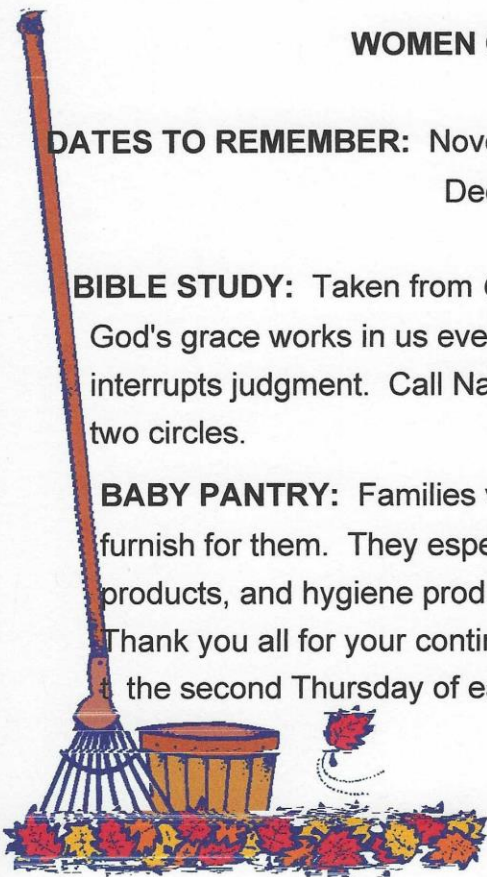
**DATES TO REMEMBER:** November 10th - Thank Offering Sunday  
December 8th - Christmas Tea



**BIBLE STUDY:** Taken from *Gather Magazine*: Session 2: "God's Power Works In Us."  
God's grace works in us even when we don't see or feel it. Grace, like belonging, interrupts judgment. Call Nancy Ammann 946-8433 if interested in joining one of our two circles.

**BABY PANTRY:** Families visiting the baby pantry are very grateful for the items you furnish for them. They especially appreciate laundry and cleaning products, paper products, and hygiene products. They might also appreciate packaged food items. Thank you all for your continued donations. Please leave them in the coat room prior to the second Thursday of each month.

**ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S FALL CREATIONS!**



### Third Thursday Worship Service and Meal

Bethlehem will begin Third Thursday Worship Services and meal on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The meal will begin at 5:45 and the Fellowship Committee will be providing salad, dessert and beverages. Caesar salad will be served in October. Please come and enjoy a meal and social time before the Behold Our Light service which begins at 7:00pm

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### AARP Driving Refresher course for Seniors taught by our own member, Gary

Ancinec. Have you wondered if you are driving as well as you should? Do you really know all of the rules? Especially with all of these new round-a-bouts? Then this is the course for you. It will be taught 1 to 5 pm on 10/23 and 10/24 in the Fellowship Hall. You need to attend both days to receive the completion certificate. Some insurances will honor that certificate with a reduction in your insurance (You must check individually with your insurance to determine any reduction in premium.) In any case this class should give you comfort knowing that you are doing everything possible to stay safe on the road. Cost is \$20 for AARP for members and \$25 for non-members. You receive a workbook which is yours to keep. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering space or call Gary at 989 906 2765.

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**CHAIR YOGA:** Chair Yoga will continue through the month of October except for Monday, October 7. Janet, the instructor, will return on October 14th. We will meet 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.

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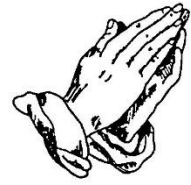
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Monthly donation: 1/16 page \$25; 1/8 \$50; 1/4 \$80. Pay for a year in full---get 1 Month Free Questions??? Please contact Alanna Steffunick at 231-947-9880 or [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) Make checks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



## 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, 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, Erica,  
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.

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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 or email [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)
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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>
Admin. Asst., Barbara Oster	<a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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>
Paul Wiemerslage, Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Gary Ancinec, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org">treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	<a href="mailto:financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Peggy Burns, Christian Care Giving	<a href="mailto:christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org">christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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Scott Farley, Stewardship	<a href="mailto:stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music	<a href="mailto:worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org">worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group 10:45am - Staff Meeting	9:30am - Adult Bible Study - 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	5:30pm - ACA 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	12pm - XYZ	12pm - Funeral - Inge Thomas 1pm - Luncheon - Inge Thomas
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:15am - Adult Education (YR) 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service(S) 11:30am - VISION Congregational		Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR)	9:30am - Adult Bible Study - 11:30am - Music Rehearsal	9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - 5:30pm - ACA 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	4pm - Kelly/Bruce Rehearsal /	3pm - Kelly/Bruce Wedding at BLC 7pm - Contra Dance - Bayside
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15am - Adult Education (YR) 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Traditional Worship 12:30pm - Youth	1pm - Finance Comte. 3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - Sarah Circle - Library 6:30pm - Council Meeting -	9:30am - Adult Bible Study - 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club	5:30pm - ACA 5:45pm - Third Thursday Meal 7pm - Behold Our Light/Third	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieceful 1pm - Lehto SG - Library	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15am - Adult Education (YR) 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service(S) 11:30am - VISION Congregational	10am - Sustaining Endowment 3pm - Chair Yoga 6pm - Grief Group (Library)	Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group	9:30am - Adult Bible Study - 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - AARP Driver Safety Course 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	1pm - AARP Driver Safety Course 5:30pm - ACA		9:30am - Youth Discipleship
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:15am - Adult Education (YR) 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service(S)	3pm - Chair Yoga	Craft Fair Set-up Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - Property Work Group	9:30am - Adult Bible Study - 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	5:30pm - ACA		

Lots of cool information inside  
Pr Paul's Page  
Council President's notes  
Council officers and committee liaisons  
Visioning team events  
Stewardship News  
Choir News  
Book Club changes  
XYZ News  
Third Thursday returns  
Art & Craft Fair  
Chair Yoga  
Notes from Alanna  
Christian Education News  
Financial News  
ELCA Global Links  
Women of Bethlehem 2024  
The Power of Prayer

