September 2024



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



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."



"Be still and know that I am..."



The above verse (or part of it) is from Psalm 46:10. At first glance, you might think something is missing. But let's start with what we know.

God says to us to **be still...**Perhaps this is an invitation, or maybe a command – but let's go with the invite! Being still takes effort, especially these days. Then God asks us to reach back into our minds and hearts, and **know** - to acknowledge something. What is that knowing? Quite literally, we might say that it is just knowing **that God is God.** Yet I think it includes a lot more...

In late spring, I spent some time being still and reflecting on last summer – the sabbatical that was a summer like no other, and now the summer that was to come. Something told me this summer would also prove quite unique. Late May began with a flurry of Vision Team preparations for the fall and shortly after with a family vacation, perforated by an online preaching class that ended in June. Then came the final prep for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in mid-July and another few days with family in Kentucky, followed by the week-long Youth Gathering itself in New Orleans. Upon our return, Bethlehem quickly ramped up for the first Vacation Bible School since sabbatical and (more importantly) since our Ministry Coordinator, Alanna Steffunick, joined us a year and a half ago. What an amazing job Alanna did leading us all through a "Scuba!" adventure with Jesus and 20 wonderful kiddos + volunteers! And since all of that deep diving, we will have come up briefly for air before a fall of new school and church rhythms and a Visioning process the likes of which we haven't done fully since 2012. I am told we may sneak in a Stewardship campaign that could begin as early as mid-September and pause for visioning, then culminating in November. Time will tell, and all will be well.

So are we ready to begin? To become something new together at Bethlehem? Might we first "be still" for a moment. After all, the words "begin" and "become" simply must start out with "be." We place our being and trust, in the providence and patience of the One who always ends this verse... God.

In peace, anticipation and joy.

-Pr. Paul

PROSE FROM THE PREZ:

Sometimes I am truly amazed how much can happen in a month!! If you tink it's hard to keep up with all of the things in your household, just imagine how hard it is for a church!

First of all there was the electric bill which went up instead of down! That required investigation. It turns out that our cooling system failed to shut off as programmed in the sanctuary so it has been running non-stop. The controls are too old to repair so most be replaced. And, there was a glitch in the TC Light and Power system that failed to credit us with the solar power we have been generating. Thanks to Phil Anderson and Pastor Paul for being right on top of both, and all will be remedied.

This also brought up the question asked by yours truly... "When will we possibly see the rebate from the solar power?" Well, we either failed to read the small print or did not ask the right questions before. We cannot submit for the rebate until the END of our fiscal year. So the soonest we may have it is mid-2025. Council has appointed Jim Monroe to shepherd this project since he is experienced with working with the government rules and regulations from his previous employment.

Last but not least, after over 20 years of doing it ALL Carl Lehto is relinquishing some of his duties. Since new member Doug Cunningham has come to us after a lifetime in heating/cooling, the torch has been passed and Doug will assume that part of Carl's role. Thanks to both of these great guys.

Blessings as we move into the glorious colors of autumn

Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

VISIONING TEAM UPDATE: JOIN THE VISION TRAIN!

By now, you are seeing announcements within the Worship Folder, the display board is now in the narthex, preparations are being made for our congregational conversations, our guest facilitator is working with us on content and our time together...now we need to hear from YOU!!! All are welcome!!!

The Visioning Process includes all of us as we listen for God's direction in our ever changing world. We will be asking the question, "What is our journey with God going to look like as we move ahead?" We will be 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. The schedule includes:

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

In order to better plan for each of these events, we ask that you will 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. This will help us to plan without having waste. Your help is very 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...THIS IS GOING TO BE AN OPPORTUNITY YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!!!

See you there!!!

Your Vision Team

Third Thursday Worship Service and Meal

Bethlehem will begin Third Thursday Worship Services and meal on September 19th. The meal will begin at 5:45 and the Fellowship Committee will be providing salad, dessert and beverages. A taco salad bar be served in September. Please come and enjoy a meal and social time before the Holden Evening Prayer service which begins at 7:00pm

Come Join a Craft Class - Acrylic Paint and Pour

Please sign up and join us for an afternoon of fun at Hang Workshop. We are planning to do a paint and pour project. You can choose your own project. Large projects are \$45 and small ones are \$35. We will be having the class on Saturday, September 28th at 2:00. The class will last about 1 1/2 hours. If you would like to see the class information and the craft, please look on their website at HangWorkshop.com. Sign up now and pay the day of the class. Any questions contact Gail Goldsmith 231-633-2630

<u>WELCA FUN DAY</u>: Ladies: Set aside Sunday, September 22nd for the next WELCA Fun Day. Our own BJ Christensen will be our guest speaker! We will have a NOON baked potato bar potluck. Please bring toppings for the potatoes or side dishes. Please join us!

<u>COMMUNION AT THE RAILING</u> will continue during the Traditional service on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga will continue through the month of October except for Mondays September 2 (Labor Day), September 23, September 30 and 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.

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 WEDNESDAY. In September the meeting will be the 4th Wed of the month, Sept 25 at 5:30. We are reading *The Waters* by Bonnie Jo Campbell who is a well-known author who resides in Kalamazoo. After Sept the meetings will occur on the 3rd WED OF THE MONTH. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall if you like to discuss good books.

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!!! 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 receipts from Family Fair.

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have a consistent way to deal with them. If you cause one or see one, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container over by the triple sinks in the kitchen. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. Thank you!!

WALK FOR PARKINSON'S A SUCCESS: Thanks to all who participated in the Parkinson's Walk on 8/24. It was a beautiful day for a walk to support one of our members, Margaret Hutchison, who recently received that diagnosis. Thank you whether you donated to the cause and/or were there to join the parade around the Civic Center track. Thanks to many generous members from Bethlehem the Hutchinsons almost doubled their goal of \$500 to support families of someone with Parkinson's, education, and research. Thanks also to Thrivent for our great "Margaret's Marchers" shirts and for funding our delicious picnic after.

<u>CHOIR NEWS:</u> Choir rehearsals resume after Labor Day; September 5, 12, and 26 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. Peace be with you always.

September is here!: So after a Summer break our groups will start up again

LWR Quilters—9/3 at 9:00am

Zoom Bible Study—9/11 at 1:30pm

XYZ-9/13 at 12Noon

Sunday School/Adult Education—9/15 at 9:15am

Wednesday Bible Study—9/18 at 9:30am

Third Thursday—9/19 at 7:00pm

XYZ Potlucks & Presentations resume on Friday, September 13th! After a delicious potluck lunch at 12pm noon, we will enjoy a presentation by Karie Lambert, the Grand Traverse Local Director of Single MOMM. Single MOMM is "a ministry that addresses the core issues of single motherhood and provides innovative and diverse solutions for families desiring to reach self-sufficiency." While predominantly geared toward seniors, XYZ gatherings are open to anyone who is interested in attending! All of our wonderful presentations last year were informative, useful, and enjoyable for people of any age, and we are excited to continue that with more great presentations this year. See you there!

Notes From Alanna

Happy Fall! As we say goodbye to summer and look forward to autumn, there are many things to look forward to. I am excited for this new season together!

A special reminder for you - kids both within our congregation and in the community are starting a new school year. It's a time of transition for all of them - whether they are beginning school for the first time, moving to a new grade or a completely new school, or diving into practice for a sport



or activity, there is a lot of pressure on our kids. While the beginning of the year is exciting, it can also be stressful and overwhelming. They are finding their places, making important choices, and adjusting to new routines and expectations. Take a minute to encourage them and pray for them as they start their school year! Let them know that they have our love and support!

-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator



FINANCIAL NEWS

July income was \$34,566, compared to projected income of \$28,641. We received \$5,925 more than projected. Expenses were \$28,978, compared to a budget of \$30,926. This resulted in spending \$1,948 less than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$5,588 more than we spent.

Year-to-date income is \$226,299, compared to projected income of \$202,062. This resulted in the church receiving \$24,237 more than projected. Expenses were \$232,268, compared to a budget of \$222,442. We have spent \$9826 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$5,969 more than we brought in.

BLC GOES TO THE THEATRE: Some of you have been asking if we could plan an outing to Old Town Playhouse. If we go as a group we can get a reduced price. The date which still had "good" seats was Sun Sept 29 at 2:00pm to see Waitress. We picked a matinee so no one had to be concerned about being out at night. Normal cost is \$33 per ticket. If we have 8-19 people the cost will be \$28. If we have 20 or more the cost is \$25 each. We need to confirm the number of seats we are going to use so please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space BY SEPTEMBER 13 if you can join in the fun. Payment can be in cash or a check to Old Town Playhouse by the day of the event to Gail Goldsmith or Cindy Monroe.

A BRIDAL SHOWER OF RECIPES: Most of you know that one of our members will be married in October. Being a private person she declined our offer for a bridal shower. BUT, we have a "gentle" way to show her our love. Please take a recipe card and write down your favorite recipe and include your name somewhere on that card. If you don't like to cook, then please share your "recipe" for a happy marriage. There will be a basket for collecting the cards in the gathering space. Please plan to deposit your card by the end of September.



GOOD SAMARITAN DRIVE A SUCCESS: You are still welcome to donate to this fund at any time, but we are so pleased that the goal of \$1275 has been achieved and surpassed. Over \$2000 was collected in August. Members of BLC are so generous!! Thank you!

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.

<u>Coffee and Cookies on Sunday</u> 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 29th..





"A few years ago, in September 2019, a house behind a community center in the El Bosque subdivision of Santiago, Chile, was consumed by a deadly fire. The frame of the gutted house still stands, a stark reminder of the neglect suffered by this low-income area.

"But today new life is springing up among the ruins. On a strip of patio extending alongside the premises, peas, carrots, celery, lettuce, parsley, eggplants, Swiss chard and other vegetables sprout from five elevated planters, attached to metal structures that were built from tables salvaged after the fire. This is the work of the Amajudisa Community Gardening Group, led by Educación Popular en Salud (EPES) health monitors - and supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger."

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - SEPTEMBER 2024



CIRCLES STARTING: Bible studies will begin the second week of September. The fall series is from the *Gather* magazine and is titled "Receiving grace: A study of "Ephesians. Is grace real? We often focus on how we fall short and deserve God's judgment. What if we remember God's continual gift of grace? God invites us to lead lives of love and wholeness." Call Nancy Ammann if interested in attending.

WELCA FUN DAY: Set aside Sunday, September 22nd for our next WELCA Fun Day. Our own BJ Christensen will be our guest speaker! We will have a NOON baked potato bar potluck. Bring toppings for the potatoes or side dishes. Watch the bulletin and online announcements for further information.

FALL GATHERING: The N/W Lower Michigan Synod is holding the **fall gathering in Big Rapids on Saturday**, **September 28th from 10AM - 3PM.** Deadline to register is September 18th - registration fee of \$10 is due at that time. They are collecting packaged products for special outreach to Angels of Action. Watch for announcements and signup sheet. **See poster in Narthex**. Call Nancy Ammann for further details.

BABY PANTRY PRODUCTS: Families have said how much they appreciate the products you have been providing for them. They especially need hygiene products, laundry, cleaning and paper products as well as any packaged food items. Please put items in coat room prior to the second Thursday of the month. Thank you!

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, 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, John Block, Bob Pierce, Dan Deutsch, Billie Thompson, Earl Manuel, Jack McCracken, Marianne Norm Fred, Jamal, Howard Vanderbeck French Manor South: Brenda Denoyer

<u>French Manor South</u>: Brenda Denoyer <u>Evergreen Cottage</u>: Milt & Carol Bowes

Hospital Visits: Please let the church office know if you are going into the hospital for a scheduled procedure or an emergency so Pastor Paul can visit you.

Prayer Requests:

- •Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- •Prayers read from the altar: Please call the Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or email admin@bethlehemtc.org

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 <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u>

Church Council

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

Gail Goldsmith, Vice President <u>vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Paul Wiemerslage, Secretary secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org

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Peggy Burns, Christian Care Giving christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org

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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).

Sep 2024 (Eastern Time - New York) BLC - Nan assigned mtg. space, Conference Racm, Entire BLC, Event Held Outside of BLC, Fellowship Hell, Gathering Space, Lower Room 2, Lower Room 4, Nursery Room 1, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room 5, Nursery Room 5, Nursery Room 6, Sanctusty, Youth Room

14 23 28 4pm - Siegel/Harke Wedding at 10am - WELCA set-up Sat 9am - AAUW 20 11am - Siegel/Harke Wedding 1pm - Lehto SG - Library STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieceful Œ 12pm - XYZ 5:45pm - Third Thursday Meal 7pm - Holden/Third Thursday 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle -9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 2 5:30pm - ACA 5:30pm - ACA 5:30pm - ACA 5:30pm - ACA 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Baby Pantry Season 9:30am - Adult Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Bible Study Med 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR) 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 12pm - Sarah Circle - Library 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Council Meeting -9am - Property Work Group Sam - Property Work Group Bam - Property Work Group Bulletin articles due today Bulletin articles due foday Bulletin articles due today Bulletin articles due today Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilbers (FH) 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 9am - LWR Quilters (FH) 10:45am - Staff Meeting Tue 30 6pm - Grief Group (Library) Happy & Safe Labor Day 1pm - Finance Cmte. Mon 3pm - Chair Yoga 3pm - Chair Yoga Office Closed 10am - Teagan McCarty baptism God's Work Our Hands Sunday 11:15am - Craft Show Meeting 10am - Worship Service (S) 10am - Traditional Worship 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Worship Service(S) 12pm - WELCA Potluck Sun RALLYDAY



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Lots of cool information inside

Pr Paul's Page Council President's notes Council officers and committee liaisons Visioning team events Choir News Book Club changes XYZ News Third Thursday returns Communion at the railing BLC goes to Old Town Playhouse Chair Yoga Craft Class Notes from Alanna Christian Education News Financial News ELCA Global Links Women of Bethlehem 2024 The Power of Prayer



<u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u> 231.947.9880

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