

**MINISTRY TEAM**

The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer ..... [pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com](mailto:pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com) ..... 744-3228 ext. 302  
Cell ..... (989) 907-9481  
Doug Reynolds, Director of Parish Ministry ..... [bethlehemmusic3705@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemmusic3705@gmail.com)  
Phone ..... 744-3228 ext. 319  
Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager..... [bethfw@yahoo.com](mailto:bethfw@yahoo.com) .....744-3228 ext. 300  
Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager..... [bethfwfin@gmail.com](mailto:bethfwfin@gmail.com) .....744-3228 ext. 307  
Andrew Berg, Fieldworker ..... [andrew.berg@ctsfw.edu](mailto:andrew.berg@ctsfw.edu)  
Brentley Lothamer, Fieldworker ..... [brentley.lothamer@ctsfw.edu](mailto:brentley.lothamer@ctsfw.edu)  
Jonathan Poppe, Fieldworker ..... [jonathan.poppe@ctsfw.edu](mailto:jonathan.poppe@ctsfw.edu)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President – Greg Shediack	<b><u>At Large Members:</u></b>
Vice President – Evans Branigan	Dan Bates
Secretary – John Stafford	Rachelle Dance
Treasurer – Brian Bates	Caleb DeMond
	Natalie Reynolds

**SCHOOLS**

Lutheran South Unity School.....[lsusfw.org](http://lsusfw.org).....744-0459  
Concordia Lutheran High School.....[clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com).....483-1102

**COUNSELING NEEDS**

Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3705 South Anthony Boulevard  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)

Church Office, (260) 744-3228

Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday)

***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

Saturday, February 17, and Sunday, February 18, 2024



**Bethlehem**

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring*

## WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
shows Christ's love through acts of service  
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

### HOLY COMMUNION

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?  
(Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins?  
(Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)
- Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present)?  
(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)
- Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life?  
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

*(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.  
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)*

## ✠ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS ✠

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

LSB #418

*"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"*

### ! INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: It was in this triune name of God that we were baptized—

People: **the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: As we begin our Lenten journey, we remember our Baptism.

People: **We remember we were washed and forgiven.**

Pastor: We remember we were made members of God's family.

People: **We remember we were united with Jesus.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though we are baptized and united with Jesus, we often act as if we were separated from Jesus. There are times when we fall prey to Satan and his temptations. There are times when sin reigns within us. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in repentance, asking for forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: **we have ignored Your help in resisting Satan and his temptations. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Yet our entire lives are lives of repentance. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, and lead us in righteousness, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to endure temptation, suffering, and death for us and our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. We are baptized into Christ.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** (*Omitted during Lent*)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

☩ **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD** ☩

*After the reading:* L: *This is the Word of the Lord.* C: *Thanks be to God.*

📖 **OLD TESTAMENT READING**  
(*God spares Isaac.*)

Genesis 22:1–18

**EPISTLE**  
(*Every good and perfect gift comes from God.*)

James 1:12–18

📖 **ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

LSB pg. 157

**HOLY GOSPEL**  
(*Jesus is baptized, tempted, and begins His ministry.*)

Mark 1:9–15

📖 **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

LSB #657

**SERMON** *“Where is the Sacrifice?”*

☩ **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD** ☩

📖 **APOSTLES' CREED**

📖 **OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

Handbells

*“A Mighty Fortress”*(setting by John A. Behnke)

📖 **OFFERTORY**

LSB pg. 159

*“What Shall I Render”*

📖 **PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE:** L: Lord, in Your mercy. C: **Hear our prayer.**

... Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord, in the midst of this life we are beset by many temptations. Fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus, who bore temptation for us and resisted to the point of death, and bring us through the evils of this fallen world to dwell with You forever.

... Lord God, You placed the wood of the cross on the back of Your only begotten Son, that as the promised offspring of Abraham He might possess the gates of hell. Bless, we pray, His Church and all those called to preach and teach within her. Give them certainty that hell cannot prevail against them, and so embolden them in faith to trample every power of the enemy underfoot.

... Almighty God, preserve all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home from the assaults of the evil one. As Your Son overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, so also give us the victory through Christ and His Word.

... Father of lights, from whom every good and perfect gift comes down to us from above, keep us from being enticed by our own desires to misuse Your gifts. Help us use them rightly in service to You and our neighbor. Bless Joseph and all our leaders, that we may be governed wisely and justly for the good of this present generation and those to come.

... Almighty God, grant faithfulness, humility and patience to the sheep of Your flock here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially for all the families of Tamala Kahn, Gene Kalthoff, Kathy Kalthoff, Carla Kay, Kari Kiger, Lori Kilpatrick, Tonisha King, Melody King, Ken Knipstein, Carolyn Knox, Karen Koehlert, and Yvonne Krill.

... Most High God, our refuge in every trouble, You have promised to hear when we call to You. Command Your angels to guard our brothers and sisters and all who suffer in our midst. We pray especially for our members **Teddy Bishop, Ruby Bonner, Willard Brown, Derek and Dana Crane, Gene Dettmer, Annette Diemer, Joan Domrow, Laverne Eickhoff, Ina Gaunt, Pastor Jeff and Vicky Geisler, Herman and Jenny Guenin, Michael Johnson, Linda Kalthoff, Earl Kruger, Gladys Middleton, Bob and Jane Miller, Corinne Nahrwold, Louise Nahrwold, Barb Netterville, Barb Owen, Richard Pierce, Kim Rasmussen, Josie Reed, Adam Rice, Joan Richter, Doris Scott, Thomas Tinsley, and Phil Urbahns.** We also pray for good health and healing for our friends and family, **Ellen Biers, Stacey Brooks** (Archie and Annie Smith's daughter), **Darryl Calloway, Maria Gema Camumot** (Nancy Pierce's aunt), **Adrian Dance Jr.** (Grandson of Rachelle Dance), **Matthew Derby** (friends of the Hapner family), **Felicia Derrick** (friend of Gladys Middleton), **Donna Emley, Larry Hollman** (Greg Finner's Brother-in-law), **Tammy Gibson** (sister of Threasa Lightning), **Dwight Johnson** (LSUS school board president), **Eching Juridico** (Nancy Pierce's mother), **Don and Dini Kovac** (Michelle Miller's parents), **John Moerer** (John and Shirley Davis' son-in-law), **John Nahrwold** (Donna Volmerding's brother), **Brian Rasso** (Gene Kalthoff's brother), **Paul Roach** (son of John and Linda Stafford), **Stacey Self** (friend of Kim Brooks), **Beverly Van Nalten** (Jennifer Bradley's mother), **Willie Wiggs Jr.** (Ocleva Williams's brother), **LaToya Williams** (Ocleva Williams's daughter), our Food Bank clients **Angela** and **Tamantha** and those known only to You. Keep them from every evil that can befall the body, mind or soul.

... Lord God, the time is fulfilled and Your kingdom is at hand as Your beloved Son comes to us here at the altar. By Your Spirit, grant that we receive Him in repentance and believe the Gospel proclaimed in His body given and His blood shed for us.

... Lord God, heavenly Father, see how the adversary continually afflicts us and walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. We implore You for the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and to strengthen our hearts by Your Word, that our enemy would not prevail over us, but instead that we may abide evermore in Your grace and be preserved to life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ HOLY COMMUNION ✠

**! PREFACE** LSB pg. 160

**PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** LSB pg. 161

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**LORD'S PRAYER** LSB pg. 162

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** LSB pg. 162

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** LSB pg. 163

**! DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (9:00am)**

*"Communion Prayer"* (by Michael Mazzatenta)

*"O Lord, We Praise Thee"*

Handbells  
LSB #617

**! POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** LSB pg. 165

*"Nunc Dimittis"*

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

**! CLOSING HYMN** LSB #424

*"O Christ, You Walked the Road"*

**POSTLUDE**

*(Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.  
Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)*



## **EDUCATION HOUR**

Education Hour meets each Sunday from 10:30am-11:30am. Adults meet in the cafeteria, and the Kids in the Sunshine Club room. Both adults and kids' classes will focus on the readings for that Sunday. The kid's program, ages 3 and up, is called "Whirl" and will include a DVD, lesson, and craft based on the theme. The goal is to have a consistent time where we can grow in God's word and then have discussion about it that week at home, since we will be studying the same thing. We hope you can join us for this exciting ministry! Please invite your friends and neighbors!

## **MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The Bethlehem Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held this Saturday, February 24, at 8:30am in the Bethlehem cafeteria. Our focus will be on Mark 15 as Jesus is brought to Pilate for adjudication and is led away to his death to be crucified despite His innocence. All are welcome to join us for breakfast, prayer, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, and the study of God's Word. *"And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get."* Mark 15:24 NIV



**Have you ever wanted to sing in a church choir, but couldn't make the full-year commitment? Maybe you haven't sung since high school and would like to try it again on a short-term "trial" period. Well, the Choir here at Bethlehem is looking for additional choir members to help sing for Easter! The only time commitment needed is attending the 4 Wednesday rehearsals beginning in March, with a start time of 5:30pm. If you want more information, talk to Doug Reynolds soon! We would love to have you!!!**

## **FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH!**

Valentine's Day, Love, Healthy hearts, and etc.

It is also KINDNESS MONTH!!!!

So what does this have to do with my heart and mental health?

*"Give justice to the poor and the orphan;*

*up hold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute."* Psalm 82:3.

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

Psalm 34:18.

God wants our heart to break in love when we see those less fortunate than us. He wants us to care for them and love them with His love. He wants us to do everything we can to help them. We serve a God who loves to come to the rescue. His heart is with those who are hungry and desperate for the life He has to offer. He loves the poor and will make them rich in spirit. He loves you and all His children and He doesn't have favorites. God wants us to reflect HIS LOVE to the world, so we should always try to show kindness and love to others as He loves us----ABUNDANTLY!

When people need to talk, need food, we can show kindness to help people get through where ever they are. So with a smile, resources, food on the table, and telling them about God's love, we can show God's kindness & love in many ways.

**GOD BLESS YOUR MONTH WITH ABUNDANT LOVE!!!!!!**

## **BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**

If you are a member of Bethlehem and experience the death of a family member who was not a member of the congregation, but feel you would also benefit from the care of our Stephen Ministry Bereavement program, please call Pastor Ben (989-907-9481), Threasa Lightning (260-417-1450) or Richard Pierce (260-450-2280), our Grief Coordinators. The Bereavement program provides a set of four short books, journeying through Grief, to send to people at four crucial times during the difficult first year after losing a loved one. Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be feeling at that point in their grief, providing care, support, compassion, and hope.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WOMEN of BETHLEHEM / LWML

\*\*\*\*\*

### THREE ZONES GATHERING

The Lutheran Women in Mission of Fort Wayne are hosting a gathering for women of all ages at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on April 13, 2024 at 8:30 with a breakfast and fellowship. The theme for our gathering is "**Into All the World**" which is based on Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation".

The speaker will be Sergui Trifa who will talk about how people are reached through the Romanian Ministry.

To register for this event please speak with your church's LWML representative by Sunday, April 7th. There will be a registration fee of \$7 at the door and our ingathering will be donations for the financial support of the Romanian Ministry.

So come and be a part of this meaningful event. Your presence and contribution will make a tangible difference in spreading faith and love to every corner of the world.

### LWML INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION

#### **Rooted in Christ - June 21-23, 2024.**

- Where: Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, Danville, IN
- Keynote Speaker: Jennie Williamson, singer and presenter on Saturday titled "Overcoming Adversity By Being Rooted in Christ" and "Rooted in Christ for Generations to Come."

#### **What to know about convention:**

Participate in the servant events on Friday from 11:00am - 3:00pm.

Sign up for a special Octoberfest meal on Friday, 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

Participate in the LWML IN TALENT NIGHT on Saturday, June 22.

Do you have a talent to share? Contact [becky.thibodeau@trinityindy.org](mailto:becky.thibodeau@trinityindy.org).

Housing information will appear in the February Good News and on the website.

#### **Register online in February 2024.**

**Questions?:** Contact Emily Rogers at 765-778-7654 or [emily12rogers6@gmail.com](mailto:emily12rogers6@gmail.com)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT - EASTER

### Wednesday 6:30pm services

**February 21 - Midweek of Lent 1**

**February 28 - Midweek of Lent 2**

**March 6 - Midweek of Lent 3**

**March 13 - Midweek of Lent 4**

**March 20 - Midweek of Lent 5**

**March 28 - Maundy (Holy) Thursday - 6:30pm**

**March 29 - Good Friday - 6:30pm**

**March 30 - Easter Vigil 4:00pm**

**March 31 - Easter Sunday service 10:00am**

**(Midweek offerings will go to neighborhood benevolence)**

-----  
**EASTER - March 31, 2024**

*LILIES @ \$25.00*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING - **February 26, 2024**

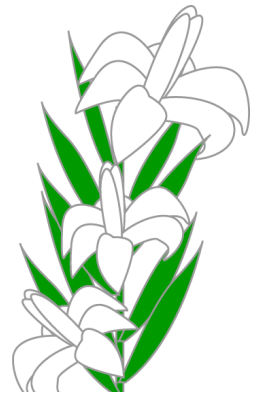
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAIL WITH FORM TO: 3705 SOUTH ANTHONY BLVD,

FORT WAYNE IN 46806

OR GIVE TO AN USHER. (NO PHONE ORDERS, PLEASE)

LILIES CAN BE PICKED UP AFTER THE 10:00 CHURCH SERVICE ON EASTER



\*\*\*\*\*

## LSUS News

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRAYING FOR YOU!

**Please pray for these students/staff:** Jariah, Melvin, Yanuell, Damari, May, Blake, La'Bella, Jabron, Sierra, Da'Marion, Mrs. Nadjeski, and Mrs. White.

**ENROLLING NOW**

Do you have a K-8 student or know someone with a K-8 student? Come join the Lutheran South Unity School family! Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. Contact Barb Johnson or the office at LSUS for information on how to enroll! 260-744-0459

### ITEMS FOR CHARIS' HOUSE/RESCUE MISSION

LSUS is collecting items for Charis' House/Rescue Mission for our February chapel partner challenge. Items being collected are: **new socks (any size), new gloves (any size), and deodorant.** If you would like to participate with us, please place these items in the donation box located at the entrance. Last day of the collection will be Sunday, Feb. 25. Thank you for partnering with LSUS!

## Way to go Phoenix! Way to go!

Congratulations to our Boys Varsity basketball team! They won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the annual DJ Honeick Hoopfest Tournament this year! Our boys worked hard and defeated 5 other teams in the tournament.

During the same tournament our cheerleading team also competed in a cheer competition. They were judged on their cheering performance throughout the tournament. They won 1<sup>st</sup> place! Congratulations to our Cheer Squad!



### **Encouragement Found in Scriptures:**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.—Psalms 25:4-5