

**MINISTRY TEAM**

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**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*

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

Saturday, February 24, and Sunday, February 25, 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 #611

*"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"*

### ! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Our Lenten journey continues toward the cross.

People: **It is a journey marked with suffering,**

Pastor: but suffering produces endurance.

People: **Endurance produces character.**

Pastor: Character produces hope,

People: **and hope in Christ does not put us to shame.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our hope in Christ is strong and living, yet we have often taken for granted the profound reality of Christ's death for us. We have ignored how weak and ungodly we have been. Still, our heavenly Father grants us access to His throne of grace, to ask for His forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: **we have not rejoiced in suffering but have given up easily. We have lacked integrity and acted shamefully. And we have even despaired of life itself. Have mercy upon us, and reconcile us back to You, so that we may rejoice once more, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: At just the right time, while we were still weak and ungodly, Jesus Christ died for us and reconciled us to God. 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 and are at peace with God.**

**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 God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

Choir

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* (setting by Peter Niedmann)

**✠ WE HEAR GOD’S WORD ✠**

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

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

*(God renames Abram as Abraham.)*

**EPISTLE**

Romans 5:1–11

*(Christ died for the ungodly.)*

**VERSE**

LSB pg. 156

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 8:27–38

*(Jesus is the Christ who must suffer, die, and rise again.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

LSB #708

*“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”*

**SERMON**

*“An Embodied Confession”*

**✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD ✠**

**! APOSTLES’ CREED**

**! OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER**

**! 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. Heavenly Father, give us Your Holy Spirit, that we might deny ourselves, take up the crosses You give and follow Your Son through this troubled life into heaven. Prepare us to give up our lives, knowing that Christ has already saved them.

... O Lord, give the Church and all her servants grace to fulfill the ministries to which You have committed them. Grant each of us the strength to confess Christ boldly before the world.

... Heavenly Father, teach us to shun neither our Lord’s suffering nor our own. When we endure persecution or ridicule for being Your children, give us faith and perseverance. As You have promised, deliver us out of the hand of the wicked and redeem us from the grasp of the ruthless.

... O God, Abraham was only one when You called him, but You blessed and multiplied him. Protect mothers with child, and equip fathers to lead and raise their households in Your fear and love. We pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of Earl Kruger, Norma Kruse, Threasa Lightning, Andres Linan, Janet Luke, Benita Malinak, Jason Mann, Anthony Mante, Mandy Martinsky, Kathy McKee, Stephen Melcher, and Rachel Michael.

... O Lord, all kingship belongs to You, and You rule over the nations. Bless Joseph, our president, and those who govern, that they may rule wisely and in accord with Your will.

... Great Physician, heal and restore. We pray especially for our members **Marlene Berning, 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, Dora Thompson, 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. Give them Your holy care and strength to bear their crosses, that they may endure to see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

... O Lord, at Your table the afflicted eat the body and blood of Your Son and are satisfied. Through our afflictions, deepen our hunger for this table, that we may eat and drink and be satisfied by Christ's saving life.

... Heavenly Father, receive our praise this day for St. Peter and his confession that Jesus is the Christ. We rejoice that Your Son builds His Church upon this rock and that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Keep us in this faith all our days; 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)

*"Every Time We Eat This Bread"* (by Ken Canedo, setting by Mark Barnard) Choir

*"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"* LSB #563

**! 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.**

#### BETHLEHEM BRIEFING

**! CLOSING HYMN** LSB #433

*"Glory Be to Jesus"*

#### POSTLUDE

*(Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.  
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## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 107

Needed for Operating & Missions	\$ 6,192.31
Offering for Operating & Missions	\$ 3,751.00
Online Operating & Missions	\$ 630.67
Designated Funds	\$ 616.00
Total Contributions	\$ 4,997.67

### OFFERINGS

You can make one-time or recurring gifts directly on our website. It's simple and secure.

[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)  
Offerings may also be mailed to  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**3705 South Anthony Boulevard**  
**Fort Wayne IN 46806-4329.**



Please make **ALL** checks payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Use the memo line on check for designation.

### Food Bank Urgent needs:

**Dish Soap**  
**Broths**

### ACTIVITIES AND BIBLE

#### STUDIES

#### + THIS WEEK +



#### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

**9:00am Worship w/Communion**

10:00am Coffee Hour – FH

10:30am Education Hour - Adults – Café

Kids – Sonshine Club Room

#### Monday, February 26

#### Tuesday, February 27

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

#### Wednesday, February 28

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

5:30pm Adult Choir – Rm 2

#### 6:30pm Worship

7:15pm Handbell Choir - Balcony

#### Thursday, February 29

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

#### Friday, March 1

#### Saturday, March 2

4:00pm Worship w/Communion

#### Sunday, March 3

9:00am Worship w/Communion

10:00am Coffee Hour – FH

10:30am Education Hour - Adults –Café

Kids – Sonshine Club Room

### SERVING AMONG US

#### +THIS WEEKEND+

Preacher ..... The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer  
Organist ..... Doug Reynolds  
Altar Guild ..... Kim Ellison  
Sharon Shediack  
Elder (4:00pm) ..... Terry Bratton  
(9:00am) ..... Joe Nelson  
Head Usher ..... Ron Gallmeyer  
Lay Readers  
(4:00pm) ..... Ruby Bonner  
(9:00am) ..... Suzie Emley

PowerPoint Operators

(4:00pm) ..... Charlotte Ratliff  
(9:00am) ..... Aaron Brown  
Sound Operator

(9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer  
Live stream ..... Randy Hapner  
Prayer Leader  
(9:00am)..... Donna Volmerding

### SERVING AMONG US

#### +NEXT WEEKEND+

Preacher ..... The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer  
Organist ..... Doug Reynolds  
Altar Guild ..... Linda Stafford  
Mary Snow  
Elder (4:00pm) ..... Peter Schlie  
(9:00am) ..... Peter Schlie  
Head Usher ..... Evans Branigan  
Lay Readers  
(4:00pm) ..... Ruby Bonner  
(9:00am) ..... Kim Brooks

PowerPoint Operators

(4:00pm) ..... Blake Sebring  
(9:00am) ..... Charlotte Ratliff  
Sound Operator

(9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer  
Live stream ..... Josiah Hapner  
Prayer Leader  
(9:00am)..... Mary Snow

### BETHLEHEM SERVICES ONLINE

The link to watch online: <https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemfortwayne>

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK (March 2<sup>nd</sup> & March 3<sup>rd</sup>)

OLD TESTAMENT READING	Exodus 20:1–17
EPISTLE READING	1 Corinthians 1:18–31
GOSPEL READING	John 2:13–22 (23–25)

*The altar flowers are provided by John and Linda Stafford in thanksgiving to the Lord for their son, Paul Roach's birthday on February 18.*

## **EDUCATION HOUR**

Education Hour meets each Sunday from 10:30am-11:30am. Adults meet in the cafeteria, and the Kids in the Sonshine Club room. Both adults and kids' classes will focus on the readings for that Sunday. The kids' 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!

## **MISSION NEWS**

We are very happy with the opportunity God has given to share His Gospel with people all over the world.

We continue to support missionaries in Alaska, Liberia, Peru, Southeast Asia, King's Community Ministry, and CRU Artist Ministry. The mission committee would like to know how you would like to celebrate these missions.

Please complete the following survey and tell us your thoughts and any ideas you may have regarding missions.

You may hand to an usher or return to the church office. Thank you.

1. If you have never attended a mission Sunday and mission brunch, what can we do to interest you to attend?
2. What did you enjoy about all Missions Sunday?
3. What would you like to see included in Missions Sunday?
4. Would you like to hear from more Missionaries?
5. Did you like the food prepared representing the different countries of our missions?

## **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.

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## WOMEN of BETHLEHEM / LWML

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### 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.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT - EASTER

### Wednesday 6:30pm services

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 Breakfast 8:30am

March 31 - Easter Sunday service 10:00am

(Midweek offerings will go to neighborhood benevolence)



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!!!

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EASTER - March 31, 2024

LILIES @ \$25.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

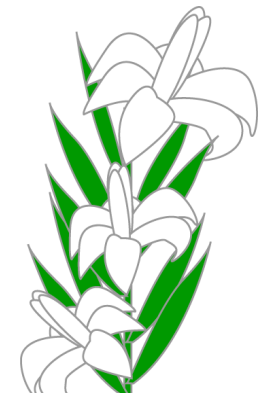
IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

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



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# LSUS News

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## PRAYING FOR YOU!

Please pray for these students/staff: Avionna, Messiah, Joy, Larkin, Royce, Maiya, Le'Ana, Naomi, Annalysa, Avari, and Mrs. Reynolds.

## 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!

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

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. —1 Corinthians 13:4-7

## 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. Schedule a visit and see our classrooms, programs, and all of the benefits we have to offer. We seek to share our faith with all who enter our building. Contact Barb Johnson or the office at LSUS for information on how to enroll! 260-744-0459

We have financial aid and scholarships available. We also accept School Choice vouchers.

## R-I-M, Through the Rim, Through the Rim, Through the Rim!

The basketball season has come to a close! We had a Boys JV and Boys Varsity team along with a combined Girls JV/Varsity team this year. All teams worked hard all season guided by their coaches: Coach Rush, Coach Miller, and Coach Fink! The season had ups and downs for all teams. Our cheer squad supported all teams throughout the season as well! Great job, Phoenix!

