

MINISTRY TEAM

The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com 744-3228 ext. 302
Cell (989) 907-9481
Doug Reynolds, Director of Parish Ministry bethlehemmusic3705@gmail.com
Phone 744-3228 ext. 319
Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager..... bethfw@yahoo.com744-3228 ext. 300
Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager..... bethfwfin@gmail.com744-3228 ext. 307
Andrew Berg, Fieldworker andrew.berg@ctsfw.edu
Brentley Lothamer, Fieldworker brentley.lothamer@ctsfw.edu
Jonathan Poppe, Fieldworker jonathan.poppe@ctsfw.edu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack	<u>At Large Members:</u>
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.....744-0459
Concordia Lutheran High School.....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

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, March 2, and Sunday, March 3, 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 #427

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: God invites us to gather in His name.

People: **We are gathered to worship and praise.**

Pastor: Our heavenly Father's house is a house of prayer for all the nations.

People: **He gathers people from every corner of the earth to sing His praises.**

Pastor: We listen to God's Word.

People: **We hear the message proclaimed of Christ crucified.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though this is a house of prayer, we do not always honor God's house as we should. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us ever into His house to ask for forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection.)

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: **we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Disrupt our sinfulness. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world, not only to disrupt our sinfulness but also to forgive us by His death and resurrection. 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 because of Christ crucified.**

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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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**

Exodus 20:1–17

(God offers ten words for the people He delivered from Egypt.)

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

(We preach Christ crucified.)

! **VERSE**

LSB pg. 157

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13–25

(Jesus cleanses the temple.)

! **HYMN OF THE DAY**

LSB #579

“The Law of God Is Good and Wise”

SERMON

“The ‘Why’ of Our Obedience”

✠ **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.**

... O Lord, You are a jealous God. Save the third and fourth generations that will come after us from Your punishment. Fill us with Your Son's zeal for Your house, that we may cast every idol from our hearts and be devoted to You and Your commandments.

... O Lord, Your Son's cross and crucifixion is folly to the world, but it is the source of repentance and forgiveness for all His elect. Preserve the preaching of the cross in our midst, that from this life-giving tree we would continually receive Your faith-preserving gifts.

... O Lord, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life. We pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of Gladys Middleton, Carissa Miller, Bob Miller, Rebecca Mitchell, Daniel Mitchell, Fannie Moore, Janee Moore, Matthew Moore, Pamala Morvilus, Corinne Nahrwold, Louise Nahrwold, and Ashley Nelson.

... O Lord of the perfect Law, You have called us to honor our parents and all other authorities that it may go well with us in our land. Bless the president and all who govern us. Make them wise in Your ways, that Your justice may be upheld among us. Help us to serve and obey them in accord with Your will.

... O Lord, our God, Your steadfast love in Christ is good. Turn in Your abundant mercy toward all who suffer in our midst. We pray especially for our members **Marlene Berning, Teddy Bishop, Ruby Bonner, Lois Branigan, Willard Brown, Derek and Dana Crane, Gene Dettmer, Annette Diemer, Joan Domrow, Laverne Eickhoff, Ina Gaunt, Pastor Jeff and Vicky Geisler, LeeNathan Griggs, 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), **Donna Emley, Larry Hollman** (Greg Finner’s Brother-in-law), **Tammy Gibson** (sister of Threasa Lightning), **Mayor Tom Henry, 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), those in our community especially Kirtz, the Robinson family as well as those known only to You. Do not let the flood sweep over them nor the pit close its mouth on them. Deliver them and grant them healing, comfort and peace.

... O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, though we cannot even discern all our errors, declare us innocent in Christ of all hidden faults, and by Your Holy Spirit keep us back from presumptuous sins.

... O Lord, You bless this day and make it holy with Your Word and the gifts of Your altar. Grant that we may come before Your presence to eat Your Son’s body and blood, not boasting of ourselves, but of Christ alone.

... O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, three days after the temple of Your Son’s body was destroyed by wicked men He raised it up again. Grant that on the Last Day we and all the saints who now rest in Your presence may share in the glory of His resurrection.

... O Lord, we ask You to send good weather so that Alaska Mission for Christ workers can get the emergency supplies to the remote villages who are in need. We pray for safe travel for Suzy Schlie’s CRU team as they travel to Italy this week to participate in the Dear Woman project, to bring the Good News of Jesus through visual arts. We pray for safe travels for Joe Boway and his Illinois team as they travel in a small plane to rural Liberia to conduct sewing workshops, working with students and teachers.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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)

“The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord” LSB #634

“Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain” LSB #865

! 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 #707

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

POSTLUDE

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

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 90

Needed for Operating & Missions	\$ 6,192.31
Offering for Operating & Missions	\$10,570.00
Online Operating & Missions	\$ 254.61
Designated Funds	\$ 727.05
Total Contributions	\$11,551.66

OFFERINGS

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

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
Mac & Cheese

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, March 4

Tuesday, March 5

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

6:30pm Board of Elders

Wednesday, March 6

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

5:30pm Adult Choir – Rm 2

6:30pm Worship

7:15pm Handbell Choir - Balcony

Thursday, March 7

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

Friday, March 8

Saturday, March 9

4:00pm Worship w/Communion

Sunday, March 10

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 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) Threasa Lightning

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

SERVING AMONG US

+NEXT WEEKEND+

Preacher The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer
Organist Doug Reynolds
Altar Guild Natalie Reynolds
Allison Cheng
Elder (4:00pm) Michael Johnson
(9:00am) Greg Shediack
Head Usher Dan Bates
Lay Readers
(4:00pm) Ruby Bonner
(9:00am) Donna Melcher
Threasa Lightning

PowerPoint Operators
(4:00pm) Carla Johnson
(9:00am) Allison Cheng
Sound Operator
(9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer
Live stream Joshua Hapner
Prayer Leader
(9:00am)..... Shirley Davis

BETHLEHEM SERVICES ONLINE

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK (March 9th & March 10th)

OLD TESTAMENT READING	Numbers 21:4–9
EPISTLE READING	Ephesians 2:1–10
GOSPEL READING	John 3:14–21

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 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!

THE BETHLEHEM FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY TEAM

The Bethlehem Family Life Ministry Team invites you to join us in some new events and traditions! One of our upcoming events is Bible Study for all ages on Palm Sunday, and an Easter egg hunt following the 10:00am Easter worship service.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT - EASTER

Wednesday 6:30pm services

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)

GENERATIONS
of Faith

AN ALL AGES BIBLE STUDY

The Bethlehem Family Life Ministry Team invites you to a faith formation event for our entire church family. Discover the Biblical story of Palm Sunday and prepare for Holy Week at our first interactive education hour for all ages.

Who: EVERYONE AT BETHLEHEM

When: PALM SUNDAY 3/24 DURING THE EDUCATION HOUR

Where: IN THE CAFETERIA

MARCH IS SELF-CARE MONTH!

Self-harm, or self-mutilation, is the act of deliberately infliction pain and damage to one's own body. Self-harm most often refers to cutting, burning, scratching, and other forms of external injury; it can however, also include internal or emotional harm, such as consuming toxic amounts of alcohol or drugs or deliberately participating in unsafe sex.

The roots of self-harming behavior are often found in early childhood trauma, including physical, verbal, or sexual abuse. It may also be an indication of other serious mental health issues that are independent of trauma, such as depression, anxiety, or borderline personality disorder.

Self-Harm occurs most often in teenagers and young adults. Adults do engage in self-harm, particularly those with mental health conditions or a history of self-injury.

We can help by responding with compassion, and recognizing that self-harm is an attempt at coping with painful feelings, is the first step. We can encourage them to seek help, assist in finding other outlets of feelings, and make yourself available to listen if needed.

Jonah 4 3-4 *"just kill me now Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive in what I predicted will not happen." The Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?"*

God has said you are allowed to feel every emotion. God is never mad about our struggles, but come to God when you feel out of control emotionally so He can help you with your heart. He is like a Gardener who pulls weeds in your heart- weeds that will keep you from growing in faith. Don't be afraid to go to God, He knows your heart better than you do. We can show God's love in many ways, be there, listen, hug, take to get help, and pray. God loves us all!

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 Oktoberfest 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.

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

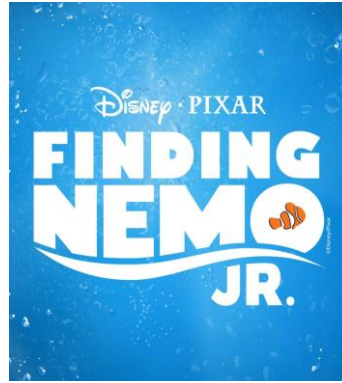
Register online in February 2024.

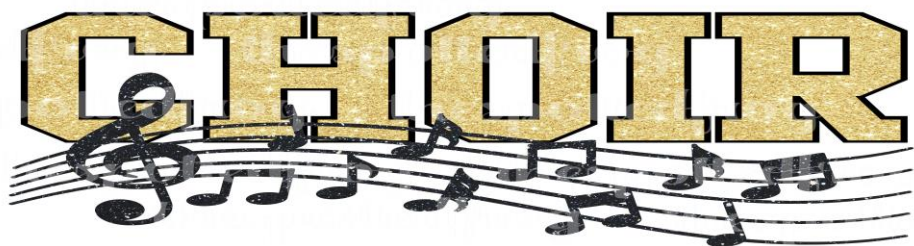
Questions?: Contact Emily Rogers at 765-778-7654 or emily12rogers6@gmail.com

FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

**April 11-13, Arts United Center
303 E. Main Street, Fort Wayne**

This touching extravaganza is a musical adaptation of the 2003 Pixar movie *Finding Nemo*. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased by calling 260-422-4226. Groups of ten or more are \$14 a ticket. Seats will be chosen ahead of time for most of our shows on a first-come first-serve basis.





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!!!

LSUS News

PRAYING FOR YOU!

Please pray for these students/staff: Avionna, Owynn, Nolan, Jadence, Reign, Khloe, King, Josef, DaMonica, and Angelina.

Chapel Partner Project Challenge

During this past month of February, students were asked to bring in items for the Charis House and Rescue Mission. Chapel partner groups competed to see which group can bring in the most items! The group that brought in the most items by the end of February would receive a fun reward! Items students collected were gloves, socks, and deodorant. With one week to go the students had already collected 284 items. A part of our chapel offerings from the past 3 months will also go to the Rescue Mission and Charis House.



Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. —1 Timothy 4:14

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.