

**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*

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Saturday, March 16, and Sunday, March 17, 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

OPENING SONG

Screen

*"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"*

### ! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: What a priest we have in Jesus!

People: **He is our source of eternal salvation.**

Pastor: He sympathizes with us in our weakness.

People: **He offers prayers and supplications for us.**

Pastor: He serves us and sacrifices Himself for us.

People: **What a priest we have in Jesus!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Jesus is our great High Priest, we have lived as if we did not need Him, as though our sin was not dire and deadly. Despite our self-centered failures, our heavenly Father is merciful, and because of Jesus, He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: **we have sinned against our neighbors and against You. We have sought to be served. We have demanded others sacrifice for us. Forgive us, renew us, and humble us, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world to be our great High Priest, who came to serve and offer His life as a ransom for us. Christ died and is risen for you. 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. Christ has sacrificed His life for us.**

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. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and 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.**

✠ **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’s new covenant)*

Jeremiah 31:31–34

EPISTLE  
*(Jesus is our great High Priest.)*

Hebrews 5:1–10

VERSE  
LSB pg. 157

HOLY GOSPEL  
*(The Son of Man came to serve and give His life.)*

Mark 10:32–45

HYMN OF THE DAY  
LSB #430  
*“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

SERMON  
*“The Subject of Suffering”*

✠ **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD** ✠

NICENE CREED

OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

MUSICAL OFFERING (9:00am)

Handbells

*“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”* (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. Heavenly Father, pour out Your Holy Spirit and write Your Word on our hearts, that we may know You as the God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more.

... Heavenly Father, bless and sustain Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, our Synod president; Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, our district president; Rev. Rev. Roy Olsen, our circuit visitor; and our pastor; Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer, who like all flesh are beset with weakness. Grant that they would deal with us gently, and keep them faithful to proclaim Your Word.

... Heavenly Father, Your Son came not to be served but to serve. Help us not lord our authority over one another, but humbly serve one another in our homes, communities and congregation as Christ has so humbly served us.

... Heavenly Father, look with mercy on all earthly authorities. Guard them from the temptation to wield earthly power improperly. Lead them to serve faithfully according to Your good and gracious will.

... Heavenly Father, we pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of Eddie Pierce, Lisa Pippenger, Amie Pishvai, Elfriede Plettner, Paula Polston, Carole Preston, Jenee Smith, Ed Ramos, Kim Rasmussen, Charlotte Ratliff, Josie Reed, and Phyllis Reinking.

... Heavenly Father, as Your only begotten Son learned obedience though what He suffered, we pray that You would instruct, bless and relieve Your servants including 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, John 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 Rachele 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), **Brian Rasso** (Gene Kalthoff's brother), **Paul Roach** (son of John and Linda Stafford), **Stacey Self** (friend of Kim Brooks), **Jim Smith, Beverly Van Nalten** (Jennifer Bradley's mother), **Willie Wiggs Jr.** (Ocleva Williams's brother), **LaToya Williams** (Ocleva Williams's daughter), **Gary Zent** (Pam Morvilius' son), those in our community especially **Kirtz, the Robinson family** and all who suffer in body, mind or soul. Sustain them as they walk the way of the cross with Your Son, that they may know the fullness of His eternal salvation.

... Heavenly Father, Your Son stands before You as our great High Priest. By Your Spirit, prepare our hearts to worthily receive the body and blood of our Savior, who was sacrificed for us on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

... Heavenly Father, we pray for Tim and Michelle as they settle back into their team's work in Southeast Asia that there will be lasting healing for the believers who attended the conference on healing from trauma in the southern part of their country.

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)

*"Pedalpoint"* (by Hal Hopson) Handbells

*"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"* LSB #685

! 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 #919

*"Abide, O Dearest 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: 81

Needed for Operating & Missions	\$ 6,192.31
Offering for Operating & Missions	\$ 3,326.75
Online Operating & Missions	\$ 530.67
Designated Funds	\$ 360.19
Total Contributions	\$ 4,217.61

### 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**  
**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 18

#### Tuesday, March 19

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

#### Wednesday, March 20

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

5:30pm Adult Choir – Rm 2

#### 6:30pm Worship

7:15pm Handbell Choir - Balcony

#### Thursday, March 21

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

#### Friday, March 22

#### Saturday, March 23

**4:00pm Worship w/Communion**

#### Sunday, March 24

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

10:00am Coffee Hour – FH

10:30am Education Hour – Generations of Faith Bible Study

### SERVING AMONG US +THIS WEEKEND+

Preacher ..... The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer  
Organist ..... Doug Reynolds  
Altar Guild ..... Sharon Dietrich  
Suzie Emley, Amber Herndon  
Elder (4:00pm) ..... Ed Ramos  
(9:00am) ..... John Bates  
Head Usher ..... Ron Gallmeyer  
Lay Readers  
(4:00pm) ..... Ruby Bonner  
(9:00am) ..... Donna Volmerding  
Dave Volmerding

PowerPoint Operators  
(4:00pm) ..... Charlotte Ratliff  
(9:00am) ..... Aaron Brown  
Sound Operator  
(9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer  
Live stream ..... Dave Volmerding  
Prayer Leader  
(9:00am)..... Glenn Emley

### SERVING AMONG US +NEXT 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 ..... Evans Branigan  
Lay Readers  
(4:00pm) ..... Ruby Bonner  
(9:00am) ..... Richard Pierce

PowerPoint Operators  
(4:00pm) ..... Blake Sebring  
(9:00am) ..... Josiah Hapner  
Sound Operator  
(9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer  
Live stream ..... Randy Hapner  
Prayer Leader  
(9:00am)..... Suzie Emley

### BETHLEHEM SERVICES ONLINE

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

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK (March 23<sup>rd</sup> & March 24<sup>th</sup>)

OLD TESTAMENT READING	Zechariah 9:9-12
EPISTLE READING	Philippians 2:5-11
GOSPEL READING	John 12:20-43

*The altar flowers are provided by Rhonda Cheng in memory of her father, Russell Miller, for his March 14 birthday.*

## 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!

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT - EASTER

Wednesday 6:30pm services

**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)**

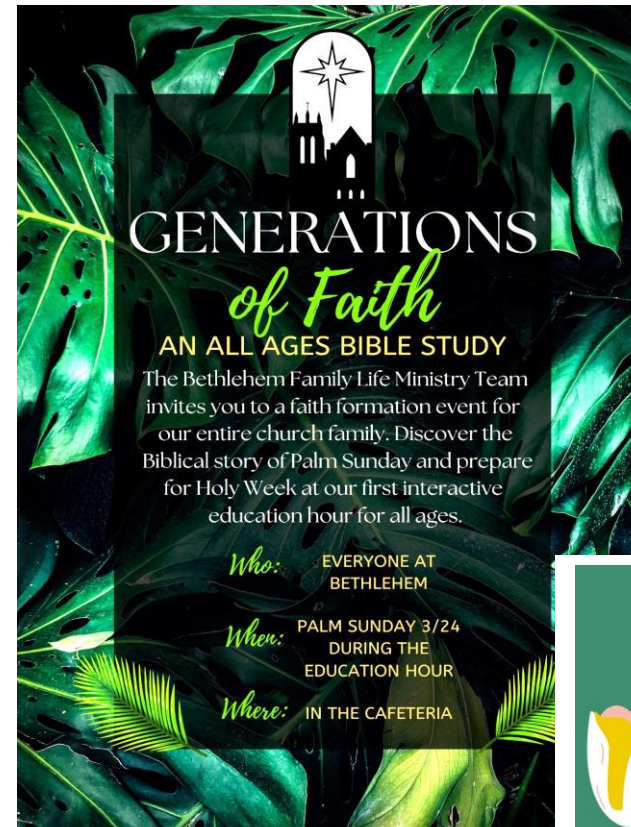
Thrivent CHOICE dollars can be directed to your church favorite nonprofit. Deadline is March 31. Support and uplift others with your Choice dollars!



## INFORMATIONAL MEETING

We will have an Informational Meeting on **April 14<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service, regarding the use of the building.

We invite you to come and hear the proposed future of Bethlehem Lutheran Church as we seek to serve our neighbors in Christ's name. There will be no Adult Bible Study, but Sunshine Club will still meet.



## 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.



## 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.

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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.

### LWML INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION

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

Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, Danville, IN

**Register online.** <https://sites.google.com/trinitycp.org/indistrict2024con/home>

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

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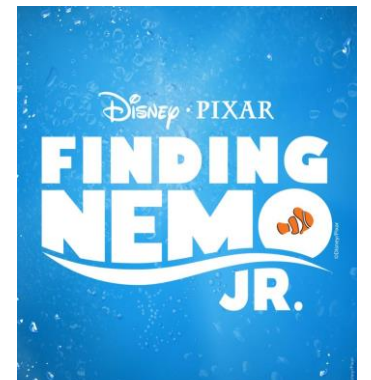
### FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

**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.



## **MISSION RALLY**

Martini Lutheran Church of 333 E Moeller Rd., New Haven is hosting a Mission Rally on Wednesday Evening May 8, 2024 from 7:00pm to 8:15pm. The guest speaker is The Reverend Gary Schulz, Assistant Director of Mission Central in Western Iowa. You will here stories of missions and missionaries of our synod's mission work around the world. Mission Central, a farmstead in Western Iowa, is the heart of the operation. A free-will offering will be gathered to benefit Mission Central. Light refreshments will be served following the rally.

## **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

St. John Lutheran Church, Flatrock (12912 Franke Road, Monroeville) is having a Spring Rummage Sale in their gymnasium Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00am-5:00pm and Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00am-noon. Bag sale on Saturday, priced items not included in bag sale and are half price on Saturday.

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## **LSUS News**

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## **PRA YING FOR YOU!**

Please pray for these students/staff: Myava, Messiah, Joy, Tyte'Anna, Azariah, Sophia, Dalayza, Natasha, Megan, Ja'veah, Mrs. Wakeland, and Our Board of Directors

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 (260-744-0459) for information on how to enroll.



### **Book Fair: March 14-22**

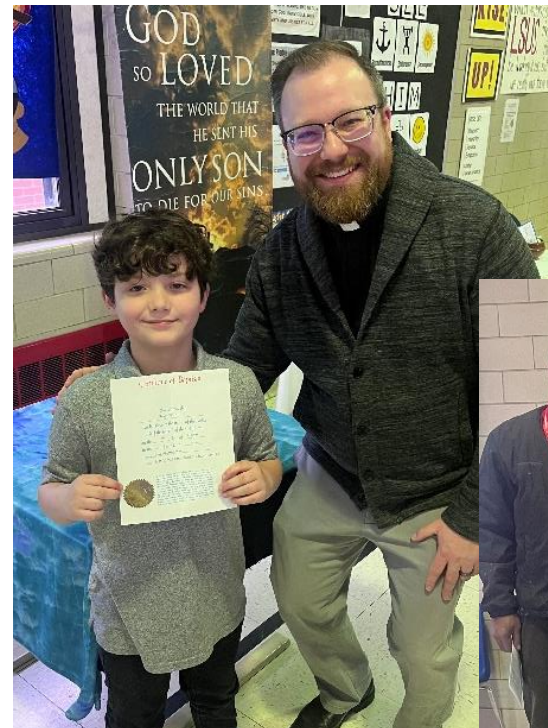
The Scholastic book fair returned March 14<sup>th</sup> and will go through the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

You can donate to the school library online or order for yourself here: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/lsus>

## **Baptism Now Saves!**

First grader, Royce, was baptized this past Thursday at our chapel service! He was baptized by Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer from Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Congratulations, Royce! May God guide and bless you as you continue on your journey in Faith in Him.

If you are interested in getting baptized or have questions regarding baptism you can contact the office, your student's teacher, or one of our pastors.



*Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*-1 Peter 3:21*



## **Encouragement Found in Scriptures:**

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." —Acts 2:38-39