

**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*

**PALM SUNDAY**

Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24, 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 / INVITATION**

### **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

### **! GREETING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

### **COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL** *(The triumphal entry)*

John 12:12-19

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Gospel is read.)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, heavenly Father. Today we especially thank You for the love You showed as Your Son redeemed us. Step by step our Savior followed Your will so that by His glorious death He would redeem us and draw us to Himself. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, those who greeted Him cut palm branches to lay before Him.

**People: We ask that You bless these palms and all who bear them this day. Grant that we may always hail Him as our Lord and King;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” LSB #442 (Worshippers may raise their palm branches.)


*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,  
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

- 1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
- 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
- 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.  
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.  
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.  
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.  
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the highest.**

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

## ! CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Today is the beginning of Holy Week. During it we shall recall how our Savior gave His life so that our sins may all be forgiven, and heaven opened to us.

**People: Even during worship, our minds wander to other concerns.**

Pastor: These concerns are already known to God. Give them into His loving hands for resolution, but turn your hearts and minds to focus on our Lord's step-by-step determination to free us from every sin. Confident of the forgiveness He won through His glorious death and resurrection, let us then admit our sinful condition to Him and to one another.

**People: I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I am mired in sin and incapable of saving myself. Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake and because of His sacrifice for us fallen creatures, we beg You to forgive, strengthen, and turn us to Your will so that we may follow our Savior in loving service to You and to one another.**

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, who gave Himself over to death that we might have eternal life, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## INTROIT (9:00am)

Choir

*“Antiphonal Hosanna”* (by G. Alan Smith)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.

**People: Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, 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 Zechariah 9:9–12  
(*The King comes humbly on a donkey.*)

EPISTLE Philippians 2:5–11  
(*Because of His humble death, Christ has been exalted by the Father.*)

VERSE LSB pg. 157

GOSPEL John 12:20-43  
(*Step by step Jesus goes to His glorious death.*)

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB #443  
*“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

SERMON *“Do You Want the Real Jesus?”*

## ✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD ✠

NICENE CREED

OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

OFFERTORY LSB pg. 159

*“What Shall I Render”*

-5-

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. Lord God, Your Son humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross. Fix our faith upon His death for our salvation, enrich the proclamation of the Gospel, and enliven our hearts to live out this faith until Christ comes again in glory.

... Uphold this world in Your order. Preserve the Church and the preaching of Your Word against all enemies. Give health and wisdom to all who serve in public office, that their authority may be exercised for the benefit of our people.

... Bless our homes that parents and children may serve one another faithfully and grow in instruction and faith until life’s end. We pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of Doug Reynolds, Adam Rice, Deborrah Richards, Joan Richter, Rita Rincon, Denise Robinson, Jewel Robinson, Sara Robinson, Miriam Roesener, Ilene Saalfrank, Gertrude Savage, and Dan Scheerer.

... God Almighty, our Lord Jesus did not count His equality with You something to be grasped, but humbled Himself. Grant us a mind like His to spurn all worldly equality and, humbling ourselves, to find Your greater portion in the life of the world to come.

... Lord of hosts, Your Son came to deliver His people from all evil. Take away the fear of all who suffer in this world. 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, Mary R. Harris-Hill** (Claudia Harris sister), **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), and those in our community as they await the fullness of their salvation, fix their eyes upon their crucified Savior.

... Eternal Lord, as Your Son once entered humbly into Jerusalem to cries of “hosanna,” so send Him to us according to His promise in the Holy Sacrament, that we may eat His body and drink His blood in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of our sins and in the unity of a true confession.

... We pray for Sarah Miller in her last semester of her school year as she teaches English in the Laotian city of Luang Prabang to students who want to learn more about our Father’s love.

... Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! We praise You, Father, that You have sent Your Son not in wrath but in mercy. As we enter this most holy week and ponder together the mysteries of Your great salvation, show us the answer to Your people’s prayers of “hosanna” in the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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)**  
“*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*” Choir  
“*Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Has Blessed*” LSB #560

**! 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

*“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”*

LSB #441

### POSTLUDE

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

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE HOLY WEEK

**March 28-Maundy 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 10:00am**

## 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 Sonshine Club will still meet.





## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Bethlehem Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held this Saturday, March 30, at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Our focus will be on Mark 16, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please plan to join us for breakfast, prayer, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, and a study of God's Word. *"[The women] asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?' But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away."* Mark 16:3-4 NIV.

## BETHLEHEM FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY TEAM EDUCATION HOUR

Education Hour meets each Sunday from 10:30am-11:30am. 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.



## MARCH IS SELF-CARE MONTH!

Self-harm, or self-mutilation, is the act of deliberately inflicting 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), Thresa 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LSUS News

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRAYING FOR YOU!

Please pray for these students/staff: Willow, Marion, Holly, Mikah, Deondre, A.J., Benicio, Kyaw Ko, Grace, Miss Triniti, Aaleyah, and Mrs. Lammert.

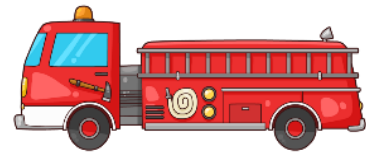
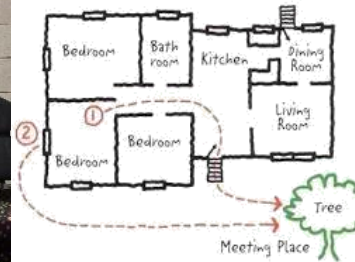
Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. Schedule a visit and see our classrooms, programs, and all of the benefits we have to offer. We seek to share our faith with all who enter our building. Contact Barb Johnson or the office at LSUS (260-744-0459) for information on how to enroll.

### Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3: 12-14

## Learn Not to Burn

Captain Mark Claus with the Fort Wayne Fire Department visited LSUS last Friday, March 8th. He taught the Learn Not to Burn class to Kindergarten-5th grades. (3rd grade will go to the Safety Village in May.) Students learned to "stay away from hot stuff", what to do if there is fire in the home, and other fire safety education. Some students even got to wear what firemen wear! Make sure your family has a fire escape plan!



### Phoenix Spirit Wear

The Lutheran South Unity Apparel Store is now open!

<https://luthersouthunity.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Don't have internet access, order in the office with cash, check, or credit.

◆ Check out what's available!

◆ All orders will be processed after the store closes.

◆ The store will close at midnight on **March 31st.**

