

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

March 29, 2024, 6:30pm



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring

† PREPARATION †

The congregation and ministers enter in silence.

TOLLING OF BELLS—ANNOUNCES THE DEATH OF CHRIST

(33 times, one for each year of Christ's life)

CALL TO WORSHIP

(During our sermon series on Exodus we are using psalms that celebrate Israel's deliverance from Egypt. Today we use selected verses from Psalm 80.)

Pastor: Turn us again to yourself, O God Almighty.

People: Make your face shine upon us.

Pastor: Only then will we be saved.

People: You brought Israel from Egypt like a grapevine.

Pastor: You drove away the nations and transplanted them into your land.

People: You cleared the ground for your people.

Pastor: They took root and filled the land.

People: But now, our walls are broken down.

Pastor: The wild boar from the forest devours it, and the wild animals feed on it.

People: Make your face shine upon us.

Pastor: Look from heaven and see our plight. Take care of this grapevine

People: Turn us again to yourself, O God Almighty.

Pastor: Make your face shine upon us.

All: Only then will we be saved.

OPENING HYMN

LSB #427 (sts. 1–3)

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to reverently behold the agony of your rejection, the pain of Your condemnation, and the horror of Your crucifixion.

People: Bring us to the places You walked and to the people You encountered on that Friday so long ago.

Pastor: Stay with us, Lord, as we witness Your suffering and listen to Your last words of love.

People: As we approach Calvary let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against Your holy commandments.

Pastor: Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from You in our thinking, speaking and doing.

People: We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.

Pastor: We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

People: O God, we have tried to hide from You and from one another.

Pastor: We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.

People: We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or the frailty of our nature or place the blame on other people.

Pastor: We can only say, “For the sake of Jesus, God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

(A moment of silent reflection)

Pastor: By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. O God, make Your face shine upon us.

All: Only then will we be saved!

HYMN

LSB #427 (st. 4)

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; 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.

(The scripture readings are about Christ's cleansing blood.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1–13

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18–23

SERMON

“Agnus Dei”

HYMN

LSB #425

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name.

People: **Demands my Soul, my life, my all.**

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling.

People: **Demands my Soul, my life, my all.**

Pastor: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Joe Biden, our President; the Congress of the United States; Eric Holcomb, our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word.

People: **Demands my Soul, my life, my all.**

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You and graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort.

People: **Demands my Soul, my life, my all.**

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church.

People: **Demands my Soul, my life, my all.**

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name.

People: **Demands my Soul, my life, my all.**

Pastor: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church.

People: **Demands my Soul, my life, my all.**

Pastor: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen**

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ANTHEM

Handbells

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (setting by David Angerman)

† **THE TENEBRAE** †

HYMN LSB #440 (st. 1)

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS Luke 23:33–38

(A candle is extinguished)

HYMN LSB #436 (sts. 1-2)

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

THE WORD OF PROMISE Luke 23:39–43

(A candle is extinguished)

HYMN LSB #437 (sts. 1-2)

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

THE WORD OF LOVE John 19:25–27

(A candle is extinguished)

HYMN LSB #420 (sts. 1,2,4)

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

THE WORD OF FORSAKENNESS Mark 15:25–35

(A candle is extinguished)

HYMN LSB #423

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

THE WORD OF SUFFERING John 19:28–29

(A candle is extinguished)

HYMN LSB #451 (sts. 1-3)

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

THE WORD OF VICTORY John 19:30

(A candle is extinguished)

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Man on the Cross” (by Gilbert M. Martin; arr. by Larry F. Pugh)

THE WORD OF TRUST

Luke 23:44–47

(A candle is extinguished)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (whispered)

(The last candle is extinguished. The light is removed as a sign that Christ has been forsaken by the Father. During the darkness the congregation is invited to meditate silently on Christ’s suffering and death. After a time, a loud noise symbolizes the closing of the tomb. The light is returned and the Christ candle is lit, symbolizing that our redemption is complete, our sign of hope.)

PARTING

*You are asked to leave in silence anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday. **The offering will be received at the doors.** You may remain in the sanctuary for meditation or prayer as long as you like. The omission of the benediction today indicates that our worship is not complete until joined with the celebration of Easter.*

Silent Prayer:

The Lamb, the Lamb, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Easter Vigil is Saturday at 4:00pm
Easter breakfast is Sunday from 8:30am-9:30am.
Easter worship is Sunday at 10 am.