

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack	<u>At Large Members:</u>
Vice President – Evans Branigan	Dan Bates
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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

Vigil of Easter
Saturday, March 30, 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.)*

† SERVICE OF LIGHT †

(The congregation gathers in the Narthex. Those who are uncomfortable standing may wait in the Sanctuary for the procession to enter. All are given candles, to later be lighted from the Christ candle.)

! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

*(An assistant, holding the paschal candle, steps forward.
The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:)*

Pastor: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

(and then traces the Greek letter Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:)

Pastor: the Alpha and the Omega.

(He traces the year on the candle, saying :)

Pastor: His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

Pastor: By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

(Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says :)

Pastor: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.
Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

CHRIST CANDLE PROCESSION

(All light their candles from the Christ Candle.)

Pastor: The Light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

(Then, follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church. Please move to the front and fill the seats closest to the front.)

THE EXSULTET (The Easter Proclamation)

Pastor: Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

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.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and

led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He Who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Candles are extinguished and a few more lights are turned on.)

Pastor: In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

† SERVICE OF THE READINGS †

THE CREATION

Genesis 1:1—2:3

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him Who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE FLOOD

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.**ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA**

Exodus 14:10-15:1

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.**HYMN**

Screen

*"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"***A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT**

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.**GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO ISRAEL**

Deuteronomy 31:19-29

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, the exaltation of the humble and the strength of the righteous, You taught Your people through Your holy servant Moses to sing Your sacred songs and delivered to them the Law that still directs us. Display in all nations the fullness of Your power that, as You blot out all sins through Your forgiveness, terror may turn to joy and fear of punishment may be transformed into the hope of salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.**THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.**JOB CONFESSES THE REDEEMER**

Job 19:20-27

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

JONAH PREACHES TO NINEVEH

Jonah 3:1-10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Let us pray. O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Zephaniah 3:12-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Let us pray. Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old is made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:1-30

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

LSB #930

“All Your Works of God, Bless the Lord”

✠ REMEMBRANCE OF HOLY BAPTISM ✠

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:3-11)

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would uphold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which had been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil?
People: I do renounce him.

Pastor: Do you renounce all his works?
People: I do renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce all his ways?
People: I do renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?
People: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?
People: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
People: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead and the life † everlasting.

Pastor: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life + everlasting.
People: Amen.

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

! Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

(The altar candles may now be lit from the paschal candle. Lights in the church are turned on, bells may be rung, the chancel may be decorated, and the altar may be prepared for the Sacrament while the congregation sings the Hymn of Praise.)

HYMN OF PRAISE

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“This Is the Feast”

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord’s resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 16:1—8

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

! SERMON

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

Leader: O Lord,
People: have mercy.

Leader: O Christ,
People: have mercy.

Leader: O Lord,
People: have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: hear us.

Leader: Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who foretold Your passion saying, “The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,”
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
People: good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: By Your victory over sin and death,
People: good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: By the majesty of Your risen body,
People: good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: We poor sinners implore You
People: to hear us, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
People: grant us, good Lord.

Leader: That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,
People: grant us, good Lord.

Leader: That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
People: grant us, good Lord.

Leader: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
People: grant us Your peace.

Leader: O Lord,
People: have mercy.

Leader: O Christ,
People: have mercy.

Leader: O Lord,
People: have mercy. Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

! PREFACE

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB pg. 161

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 163

! DISTRUBUTION

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

LSB #461 (sts. 1,2,4,8)

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

POSTLUDE

The following provided lilies to beautify the chancel today:

- Dan and Brian Bates in memory of Robert and Dolores Bates.
- Ruth and John Bates in memory of Robert and Dolores Bates.
- Kathy Brehm in memory of her mother, Norma Saalfrank.
- Priscilla Brown in memory of Patricia Olds, Mary Curry, and Dicy Turner.
- Kyle and Donna Calloway in memory of all of their loved ones who have gone before us.
- Rhonda Cheng in memory of Alex Cheng.
- Sharon Dietrich in memory of her parents Edgar and Lillian Dietrich.
- Glenn and Suzie Emley in memory of Harry and Dorothy Boze, and Jack Emley.
- Greg and Cathy Finner in memory of Viola Finner.
- Melody King in memory of Della Kay, Helen and Floyd Thieme, and Robert King.
- Ken and Joyce Knipstein in memory of Joyce's brother, Gene, and Ken's brother, Don.
- Paul Nielson in memory of Walt and Betty Nielsen.
- Elfriede Plettner in memory of her husband, George Plettner.
- Charlotte Ratliff in memory of Ed Booker, Rod Sebring, Fritz and Thelma Bledsoe, Penny Garland, and Fred Bledsoe.
- Dan Scheerer in memory of their grandparents.
- Greg and Sharon Shediack in memory of their parents and brother.
- John and Linda Stafford in memory of Courtland and Eloise Eylenberg, Clyde and Estalene Stafford, and Mark Eylenberg.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE:

Needed for Operating & Missions	\$ 6,192.31
Offering for Operating & Missions	\$ 5,696.75
Online Operating & Missions	\$ 430.67
Designated Funds	\$ 583.00
Total Contributions	\$ 6,710.42

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

8:30am - Easter Breakfast
10:00am Worship w/Communion
Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 1

Tuesday, April 2

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank
6:30pm Board of Elders

Wednesday, April 3

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank
5:30pm Adult Choir – Rm 2
7:15pm Handbell Choir - Balcony

Thursday, April 4

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

Friday, April 5

Saturday, April 6

4:00pm Worship w/Communion

Sunday, April 7

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
Trumpet	Aaron Reynolds
Trombone	Micah Reynolds
Baritone	Aleese Branigan
Altar Guild	Sharon Dietrich
	Suzie Emley, Amber Herndon
Elder (4:00pm)	Peter Schlie
(9:00am)	Peter Schlie
Head Usher	Dan Bates
Lay Readers	
(4:00pm)	Easter Vigil
(9:00am)	Peter Schlie
PowerPoint Operators	
(4:00pm)	Charlotte Ratliff
(9:00am)	Aaron Brown
Sound Operator	
(9:00am).....	Dan Scheerer
Live stream	Josiah Hapner

SERVING AMONG US
+NEXT WEEKEND+

Preacher	The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer
Organist	Doug Reynolds
Altar Guild	Kim Ellison
	Sharon Shediack
Elder (4:00pm)	Michael Johnson
(9:00am)	Greg Shediack
Head Usher	Ron Gallmeyer
Lay Readers	
(4:00pm)	Ruby Bonner
(9:00am)	The Hapner family
PowerPoint Operators	
(4:00pm)	Carla Johnson
(9:00am)	Josiah Hapner
Sound Operator	
(9:00am).....	Dan Scheerer
Live stream	Joshua Hapner
Prayer Leader	
(9:00am).....	Mary Snow

BETHLEHEM SERVICES ONLINE

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK (April 7th)

FIRST READING	Acts 4:32–35
EPISTLE READING	1 John 1:1—2:2
GOSPEL READING	Mark 9:2–9

The altar flowers are provided by Greg Shediack in honor of Sharon Shediack for her birthday on April 1.

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!



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

We will have an Informational Meeting on **April 14th** 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.

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.

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.

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

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM BRUNCH

All Bethlehem women are invited to a brunch on Saturday, April 6th at 9:30am at Dena Schult's home (10710 Lake Pointe Drive) for a chance to get to know each other better outside of worship services. Bring nothing but yourself. We will conclude at 11:30am.

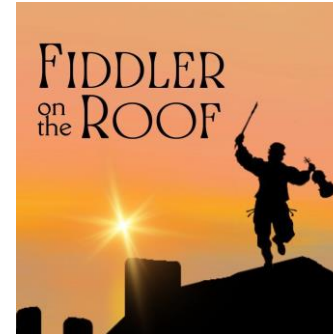
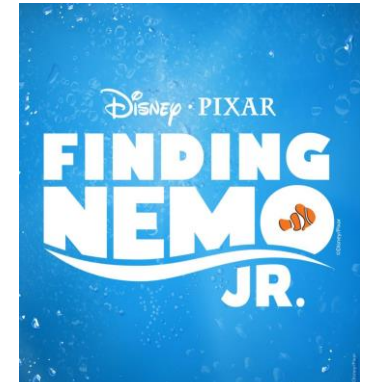
FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

April 11-13, Arts United Center

303 E. Main Street, Fort Wayne

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.



May 16-18

University of Saint Francis

Robert Goldstine Performing

Arts Center, 431 W. Berry Street

Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased by calling 260-422-4226. Groups of ten or more are \$14 a ticket.

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.

LSUS News

PRAYING FOR YOU!

Please pray for these students/staff: Ramya, Isabella, Santino, Max, Trushon, Jesse, Dontae, Carlos, Alonte, Key’Vontay, Hailey, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Washington, and a Successful Art & Music Festival.

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:

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” —John 12:13



Phoenix Spirit Wear

The Lutheran South Unity Apparel Store is now open!

<https://luthेरansouthunity.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**.



Music and Arts Festival

Sunday, March 17th we joined all the other area Lutheran Schools to celebrate music and art! Several choirs including our 3rd-5th grade choir sang, our band students performed, and several of our students had artwork on display. A special shout out to Angelina and Stephanie for winning top awards for their artwork!

Congrats to all who had displayed work:

Ja’maire, Yanuell, Holly, Royce, Anyla, Monroe, Major, Layla, Avenly, I’Mani, Yu, NaTika, Matthew, Truvayah, Josue, Megan, Gracelynn, Key’Vontay, Ivan, Vaeda, Sirah, Khloe, Pla, Kali, Ja;veah, Aaleyah, Hailey, Abigail, De’Lyn, Ivan, Cataleya, Nycole, Emeraude, Laydia, Messiah, Wayde, Forever, Kendall, Aveyah, Ximena, Larkin, Damari, Maxwell, Elizabeth, Cynthia, Keh Ter Re, Sophia, Gay Doh, De’Cora, Yaronna, Zane, Evoleth, and Natasha.

