

**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*

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**EASTER DAY**

Sunday, March 31, 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 ✠

### REMEMBRANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY

Screen

*"Man of Sorrows"*

#### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The light of Christ!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: All of you choirs of angels and saints in heaven before us:

People: **Rejoice at Christ's victory over death.**

Pastor: Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation:

People: **Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated.**

Pastor: Rejoice, brothers and sisters in Christ both here and around the world!

People: **Our Lord has kept all God's promises!**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!**

#### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

LSB #457

*"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"*

#### ! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We cannot enter God's presence as we are. Our sinful condition falls short of the glory of God. Let us therefore give voice to those sins, confessing our faults and failures to one another and to God Himself.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad! God has not merely overlooked your faults; He has not missed your failures; and He knows the frailty of the human condition. Rather, He became one of us as Jesus, who died to pay for every sin or yours and your sinfulness itself. Jesus not only paid the penalty; on this day our heavenly Father proclaimed to all the world that He accepted the payment. Your sins are forgiven indeed! In the stead and by the command of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB #155

*“This Is the Feast”*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us.

People: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord’s resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit;

Pastor: through 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

Isaiah 25:6–9

*(When the Lord swallows up death, it will be like having the best feast ever prepared.)*

#### EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

*(Paul, persecutor of Christians, is one of many people who saw Jesus alive after death. The news is of primary importance for people of faith.)*

#### ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 156

#### HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 16:1–8

*(The women are so shocked by the news of the resurrection that they initially tell no one.)*

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

Screen

*“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”* (setting by Paul Bunjes)

#### SERMON

*“Waiting for Him”*

#### ✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD ✠

#### NICENE CREED

#### OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

Handbells

*“This Glorious Day”* (by Susan E. Geschke)

#### 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. Almighty God, You kept Your promise and delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior. By His sacrificial death, our sins are forgiven, and by His rising again, we have the hope of everlasting life. Keep us in this holy joy throughout the Easter season and all our daily lives, that we may not fear our enemies nor give in to the temptation of despair in our days of trouble.

... Let us hold fast to the Word preached to us, that receiving it with joy we may take our stand in it and be saved by it. Hinder all who would sow doubt into our hearts, and grant us courage to confess its truth in our life and conversation.

... Bless Joe Biden, our president, and all who make and administer our laws. Frustrate the forces of evil, and do not let our leaders cooperate with them or further their goals. Guard our armed forces as they stand watch for us at home and abroad. Let them serve with honor and integrity.

...Have mercy on the sick and those in any need. 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, **Al Bebout** (Amber Herndon's brother), **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. Let the dawning light of the new creation in Christ sustain them in faith. In accord with Your will, grant them renewed health — a foretaste of their eternal healing in Him.

... Give us joy in Your Son's great victory feast as He shares it with us from this altar. In the eating of His true body and the drinking of His precious blood in faith, overcome our sin by His forgiveness and swallow up our death in His life, that we may be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

... We praise Your holy name, O Lord, for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We pray that You will not abandon us to Sheol but that, when we awake in the resurrection of all flesh, Your presence will give us joy.

... We give thanks for all the opportunities missionaries around the world have to share the amazing news that Jesus Christ died, rose again and lives forever more for each of us.

... We join today in singing eternal alleluias with innumerable angels in festal gathering, with the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven and with the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and we bring these petitions before You, dear Father, trusting in Your mercy; 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 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**

*"Song For the Lamb"* (by Matt Moseley; arr. by Travis Cottrell) Choir

*"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"* LSB #469

*"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"* LSB #477

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** LSB pg. 164

*"Thank the Lord"*

**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 #478

*"The Day of Resurrection"*

**POSTLUDE**

*(Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.*

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## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 117

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](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**  
**Canned Pasta**

### 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

#### 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 6<sup>th</sup> April 7<sup>th</sup>)

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.*

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.

### **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.

### **EDUCATION HOUR**

Education Hour meets each Sunday from 10:30am-11:30am. Adults meet in the cafeteria, and the Kids in the Sonshine 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!



### **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.

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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)

### WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM BRUNCH

All Bethlehem women are invited to a brunch on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

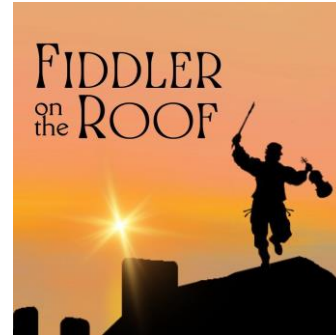
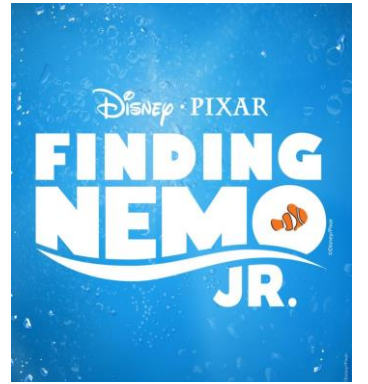
## FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

**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.

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### 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.

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## LSUS News

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### 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.

