

# **Palm Sunday**

Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13, 2025



# **Bethlehem**

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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.*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*We are so glad you're here! Bethlehem is a caring community of believers committed to being a birthplace of hope in southeast Fort Wayne. We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, where Christ's sacrificial love shapes who we are and how we serve.*

*Our worship centers on God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments. Here, Jesus meets us through His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or your spiritual home, you are part of our family today.*

*Thank you for joining us as we rest in God's grace and grow in His love. May you be refreshed by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice and sent out to reflect His light in the world!*

## **HOLY COMMUNION EXAMINATION**

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.)***

## + PREPARATION +

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

### WELCOME / RINGING OF THE BELLS

### PROCESSION WITH PALMS

*(Saturday's service will begin in the Narthex and Sunday's service will begin in the courtyard if the weather permits.)*

*(Stand)*

### INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Hosanna!

**Congregation Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Pastor Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Congregation Hosanna in the highest!**

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.

**Congregation Amen.**

### PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL:

John 12:12–19

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>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!”

<sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup>“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” <sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup>The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup>The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

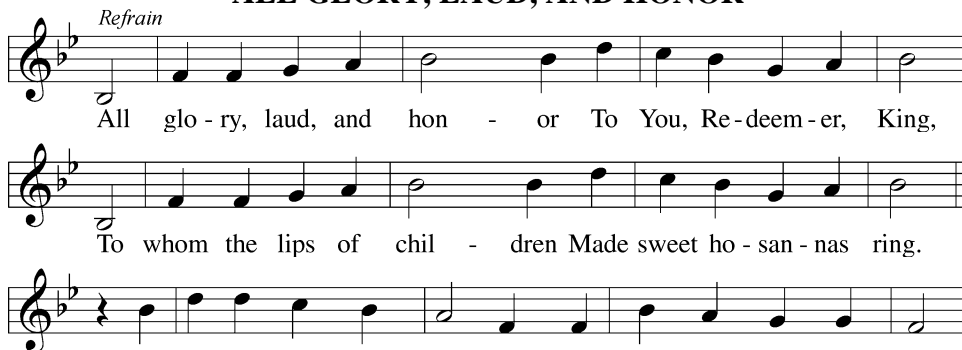
**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**

Pastor Let us go forth in peace,  
Congregation in the name of the Lord.

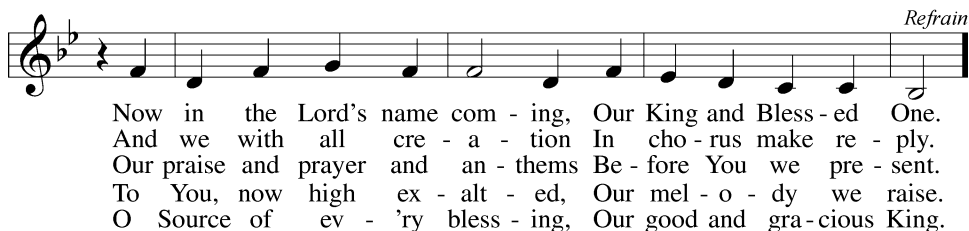
## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

LSB #442

### ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR



- 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,



Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## GREETING

Pastor Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Congregation Hosanna in the highest!

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor We confess before You, Lord, that we have sinned against You.

**Congregation We have sinned not only against You but one another, with what we have thought, what we have said, and by what we have or have not done.**

Pastor We unseat You and put ourselves on the throne that belongs only to You.

**Congregation Our pride in these and all sins deserves Your punishment, yet today we approach Your throne of grace, asking for Your mercy.**

Pastor So I ask you now: are you sincere in this, your confession before God, and promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? If so, answer, “Yes, with the help of God.”

**Congregation Yes, with the help of God.**

Pastor Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday to show His love for you at the cross. At the cross, He showed His passion for you by dying for your sins and paying the price we could not pay. 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.

**Congregation Amen! Thank You, Lord, for Your passion for us.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, on this day, You entered Jerusalem with pomp and circumstance, yet Your true passion was to be sacrificed for our sins. Help us, we pray, to look past the pomp and circumstance and see Your passion for us; we ask this in Your name, who with the Father and Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

## + WORD +

(Sit)

### OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Deuteronomy 32:36–39

<sup>36</sup> The LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free. <sup>37</sup> Then he will say, “Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, <sup>38</sup> who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection! <sup>39</sup> “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE:

Philippians 2:5–11

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

John 12:20-43

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. <sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup>So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup>So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup>While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup>Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, <sup>38</sup>so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” <sup>39</sup>Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, <sup>40</sup>“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” <sup>41</sup>Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

<sup>42</sup>Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup>for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Pastor	This is the Gospel of the Lord.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Praise to You, O Christ.</b>

(Sit)

HYMN

LSB #438

A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH

1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The  
2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The  
3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll  
4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And

guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the  
Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther  
bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to  
taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al

sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes  
chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go  
Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O  
robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When

pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -  
forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren  
won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers  
I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall

out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the  
from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and  
up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how  
be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in

stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and  
stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion  
strong You are to save! You lay the One in -  
gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall

yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."  
they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."  
to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.  
we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.



## SERMON

*“The Parade Toward His Passion”*

*(Stand)*

## NICENE CREED

*(Sit)*

## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### + SACRAMENT +

*(Stand)*

## PREFACE

LSB pg. 208

Pastor                    The Lord be with you.

**Congregation**      **And also with you.**

Pastor                    Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation**      **We lift them to the Lord.**

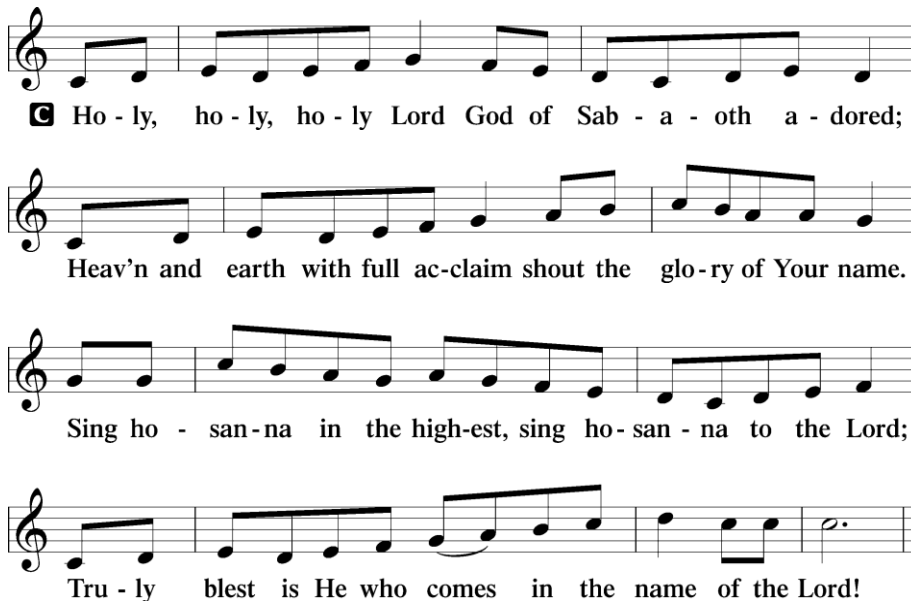
Pastor                    Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation**      **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

## SANCTUS

LSB pg. 208



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### LORD'S PRAYER

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PAX DOMINI

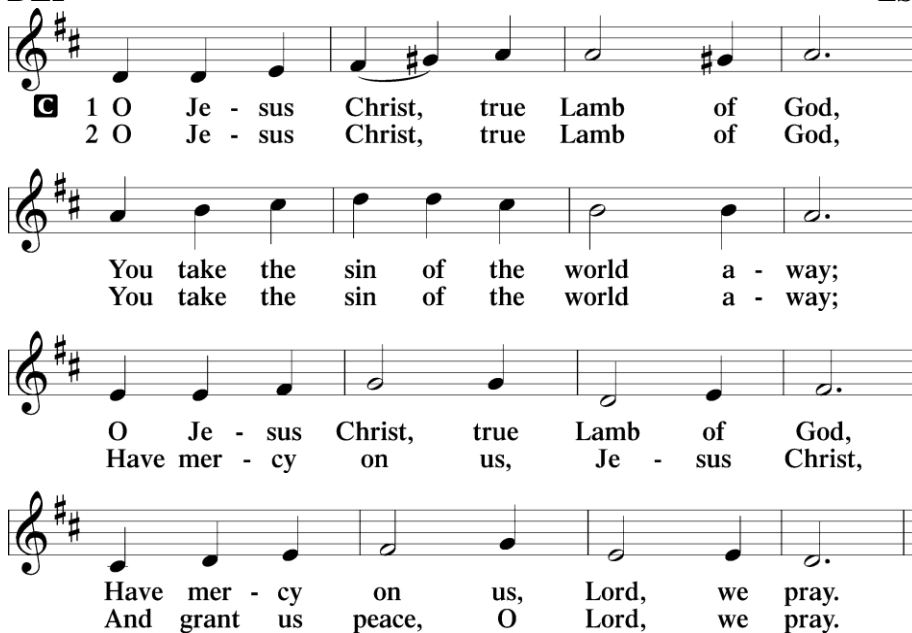
LSB pg. 209

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 210

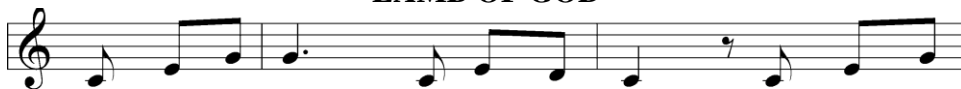


1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Sit)

### DISTRIBUTION

## LAMB OF GOD



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

## O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life

1 O Christ, who shared our mor - tal life And  
4 Death's pow - er holds us still in thrall And

end - ed death's long reign, Who healed the sick and  
bears us toward the tomb. Death's dark - 'ning cloud hangs

raised the dead And bore our grief and pain: We  
like a pall That threat - ens earth and with doom. But

know our years on earth are few, That death is  
You have bro - ken death's em - brace And torn a -

al - ways near. Come now to us, O  
way its sting. Re - store to life our

Lord of Life; Bring hope that con - quers fear!  
mor - tal race! Raise us, O Ris - en King!

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(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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.

Congregation

Amen.

(Sit)

## COME, THOU PRECIOUS RANSOM, COME



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
 2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
 4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
 ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.



## MINISTRY TEAM

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 302 Cell ..... (989) 907-9481

Email ..... [pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com](mailto:pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com)

### **Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 300 Email ..... [bethfw@yahoo.com](mailto:bethfw@yahoo.com)

### **Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 307 Email ..... [bethfwfin@gmail.com](mailto:bethfwfin@gmail.com)

### **Kasey Needham Hapner, Music Director**

Email ..... [kaseyneedham92@gmail.com](mailto:kaseyneedham92@gmail.com).

### **Janelle Deal, Organist**

Email ..... [janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – Evans Branigan**

**Secretary – John Stafford**

**Treasurer – Brian Bates**

## At Large Members:

**Dan Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

**Blake Sebring**

## 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: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

### ***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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