

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack	<u>At Large Members:</u>
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.....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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Saturday, April 13, and Sunday, April 14, 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

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

LSB #474

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

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

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

Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: **death no longer has dominion over Him.**

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: **He has put all things under His feet.**

Pastor: We prepare for our time of confession by singing the confession hymn "O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art." As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

HYMN

Screen

"O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art" (tune: "Just As I Am, Without One Plea")

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins.**

Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB pg. 155

“This Is the Feast”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; 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.

✠ FIRST READING

(Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

Acts 3:11–21

EPISTLE

(We are God’s children now.)

1 John 3:1–7

✠ ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 156

HOLY GOSPEL

(The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

Luke 24:36–49

✠ HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #483

“With High Delight Let Us Unite”

SERMON

“The Beauty of Repentance”

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD ✠

✠ NICENE CREED

✠ OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

✠ 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. Lord God, in Your presence we find fullness of joy, and by Your right hand, Christ Jesus, You win and deliver peace forevermore. In the midst of this world’s sins and sorrows, give us peace in the knowledge of His salvation and confident hope in the resurrection of the dead.

... Heavenly Father, by the incarnation of Your Son and the reconciliation of His cross, You have made us Your children and gathered us into Your Holy Church. Sustain the preaching of Your Holy Word and its message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name among us and all the nations of the world.

... Give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ’s resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husbands and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand. We pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of Ty Smith, Rob Snow, Anoukone Somsanith, John Stafford, Barbara Jean Staller, Linda Stanley, Glenda Starks, Roger Stephans, Charlotte Stewart, Michelle Stewart, Randall Stewart, and Terri Stewart.

... Almighty God, preserve our nation and its leaders, especially Joe Biden, our president, and Eric Holcomb, our governor. Preserve order and decency in this fallen world by their hands and restrain the sins and deceptions of the lawless, that we may practice righteousness while awaiting the eternal peace promised in Christ’s wounds alone.

... God of all comfort, You have compassion on those who are afflicted. Remember and have mercy on our members **Marlene Berning, Teddy Bishop, Ruby Bonner, Lois Branigan, Willard Brown, Margaret Burger, 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 Rachele Dance), **Matthew Derby** (friends of the Hapner family), **Donna Emley, Larry Hollman** (Greg Finner's Brother-in-law), **Tammy Gibson** (sister of Threasa Lightning), **Mary R. Harris-Hill** (Claudia Harris sister), **Dwight Johnson** (LSUS school board president), **Eching Juridico** (Nancy Pierce's mother), **Don Kovac** (Michelle Miller's father), **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), those in our community, **Dorothy, Don and his mother, Tasha, Stephan and Elija,** and all those in need of Your healing and deliverance.

... Heavenly Father, look with favor on Phyllis Reinking as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Bless her with Your abiding love all the days of her life.

... Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Your Son's crucifixion all sins have been blotted out. Send us now the blessed refreshment of His bodily presence in the Sacrament of the Altar, and make us fit partakers in repentance for the forgiveness of our sins.

... Pray for peace of the believers in the Maldives that this would be the year that secret believers could access the Bible in their own language. Pray for their new president Mohamed Muizzi, that he will embrace freedom for religious minorities, and that Christians in the Maldives will be encouraged, knowing they are part of a global family of Christ.

... Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 (9:00am)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" LSB #621

"Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing" LSB #737

! 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 #480

"He's Risen, He's Risen"

POSTLUDE

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

LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 115

Needed for Operating & Missions	\$ 6,192.31
Offering for Operating & Missions	\$ 8,483.28
Online Operating & Missions	\$ 477.68
Designated Funds	\$ 967.50
Total Contributions	\$ 9,928.46

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
Canned Pasta

ACTIVITIES AND BIBLE

STUDIES + THIS WEEK +



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

9:00am Worship w/Communion
Informational Meeting
10:30am Education Hour
Kids – Sonshine Club Room

Monday, April 15

Tuesday, April 16

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

Friday, April 19

Saturday, April 20

4:00pm Worship w/Communion

Sunday, April 21

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
Altar Guild Linda Stafford
Mary Snow
Elder (4:00pm) Ed Ramos
(9:00am) John Bates
Head Usher Evans Branigan
Lay Readers
(4:00pm) Ruby Bonner
(9:00am) John Stafford
Linda Stafford

PowerPoint Operators
(4:00pm) Charlotte Ratliff
(9:00am) Allison Cheng
Sound Operator
(9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer
Live stream Randy Hapner
Prayer Leader
(9:00am)..... Shirley Davis

SERVING AMONG US +NEXT WEEKEND+

Preacher The Rev. Larry Merino
Organist Doug Reynolds
Altar Guild Natalie Reynolds
Allison Cheng
Elder (4:00pm) Terry Bratton
(9:00am) Joe Nelson
Head Usher Dan Bates
Lay Readers
(4:00pm) Ruby Bonner
(9:00am)The Hapner Family

PowerPoint Operators
(4:00pm) Blake Sebring
(9:00am) Aaron Brown
Sound Operator
(9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer
Live stream Josiah Hapner
Prayer Leader
(9:00am)..... Dena Schult

BETHLEHEM SERVICES ONLINE

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK (April 20thApril 21st)

FIRST READING	Acts 4:1–12
EPISTLE READING	1 John 3:16-24
GOSPEL READING	John 10:11–18

The altar flowers are placed in honor of Phyllis Reinking's 90th birthday on April 15 by her children.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING TODAY!!!!

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 Sunshine Club will still meet.

WOMEN of BETHLEHEM / LWML

LWML INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION

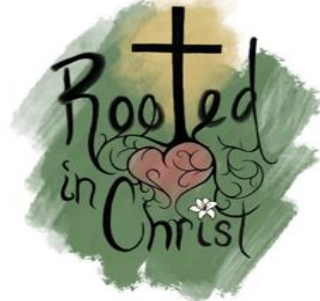
Rooted in Christ - June 21-23, 2024.

Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center,
Danville, IN

Register online.

<https://sites.google.com/trinitycp.org/indistrict2024/con/home>

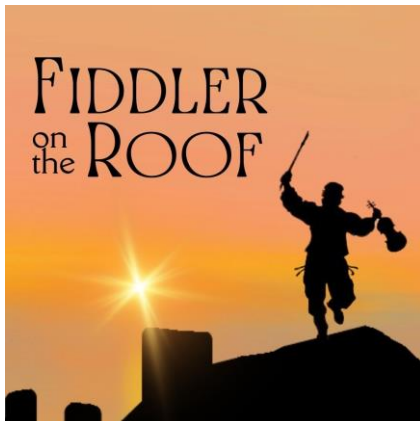
Questions? Contact Emily Rogers at 765-778-7654 or emily12rogers6@gmail.com



FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

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.



April is recognized as National Stress Awareness Month to bring attention to the negative impact of stress. Managing stress is an essential component of a healthy lifestyle. Knowing how to manage stress can improve mental and physical well-being as well as minimize exacerbation of health-related issues.

Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress

Here are some ways you can manage stress, anxiety, grief, or worry:

- **Take breaks from news stories.**
- **Eat healthy.**
- **Get enough sleep.**
- **Move more and sit less.**
- **Limit alcohol intake.**
- **Avoid using illegal drugs or prescription drugs** in ways other than prescribed.
- **Avoid smoking**, vaping, and the use of other tobacco products.
- **Continue with regular health appointments, tests, screenings, and vaccinations.**
- **Make time to unwind.**
- **Connect with others.**

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.

SEMI-ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Ladies' Society will hold their semi-annual Rummage Sale at 800 Green Street, New Haven, on Thursday, April 18, from 9:00am to 7:00pm and on Friday, April 19, from 9:00am-1:00pm. A \$2 bag sale will be held on Friday.

SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Spring Rummage & Bake Sale at Trinity Lutheran Church, 7819 Decatur Rd., Fort Wayne on Thursday, May 2 from 4:00pm-7:00pm, Friday, May 3 from 10:00am-6:00pm. The \$3 bag sale will be Saturday, May 4 from 9:00am-12noon.

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.

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN

Adventure awaits you this summer at Camp Lutherhaven! Race your friends in a kayak, make a craft out of things found in nature, or gaze up at the starry night sky. There are so many activities at Camp Lutherhaven the only question is 'What one will I try today?' There are programs for all ages: youth programs for K-12, family programs, and Servant Events for grades 8-12. Camp has something for everyone! Register online today at www.lutherhaven.org or call for more information at 260-636-7101.

LSUS News

PRAYING FOR YOU!

Please pray for all the students/staff: Aniyah, Jadence, Noelle, Pyae, Ellie, Camren, Major, Leighlani, King, August, Vicente, Mr. Arrington, and our church families from Bethlehem, Mt. Calvary, Peace, and Zion.

We seek to share our faith with all who enter our building. 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. Contact Barb Johnson or the office at LSUS (260-744-0459) for information on how to enroll. Financial aid and scholarships available. We accept School Choice vouchers.



Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. —John 3:16

What's happening at LSUS?

Take a peek at what the students have been up to the last few weeks!

Kindergarten created a leprechaun trap in hopes to catch one on St. Patrick's Day. They also worked on sorting and graphing Lucky Charms!



Spring clubs ended this week. Thank you to all who took the time to lead each club. Let us know if you want to lead a club next year!



In 2nd and 3rd grade art class, students made cupcakes and lollipops out of clay.

WINSTON'S
WORD OF THE
WEEK!

Cantankerous:
often angry and
annoyed

BAILEY'S
BRAIN BUSTER!

WHAT HAS A HEAD AND
A TAIL BUT NO BODY?