

**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*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 24, 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

*"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"*

LSB #904

### ! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus said: "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."

People: **Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**

Pastor: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

People: **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**

Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

People: **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

People: **And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!**

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and pray for His gracious forgiveness. We begin our time of Confession and Absolution as we sing the hymn "Out of the Deep I Call."

### HYMN

*"Out of the Deep I Call"*

Screen

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not**

even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**                      *“This Is the Feast”*                      LSB pg. 155

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD** ✠

After the reading: L: This is the Word of the Lord.          C: Thanks be to God.

✠ **FIRST READING**    Acts 4:1–12

*(Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.)*

**EPISTLE**    1 John 3:16-24

*(Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)*

✠ **ALLELUIA AND VERSE**    LSB pg. 156

**HOLY GOSPEL**    John 10:11–18

*(Jesus prays for and about His disciples.)*

✠ **HYMN OF THE DAY**                      *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*                      LSB #709

SERMON

*“The Truth About Hope”*

✠ **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD** ✠

✠ **NICENE CREED**

✠ **OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER**

✠ **OFFERTORY**                                      *“What Shall I Render”*                                      LSB pg. 159

✠ **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. Shepherd of Israel, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sought out Your sheep and gathered us into Your flock. Keep us always in Your fold, and guard us from every wolf and snare.

... Heavenly Father, Your Son has called us to love our brothers. Turn us in love toward the neighbors closest to us, especially within our own homes, that we may daily show our confidence in God by deed and truth, laying down our lives as Christ first did for us. We pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of Deaynne Suttle, Ed Tharp, Reggie Tharp, Tiffany Thomas, Dorothea Thompson, Thomas Tinsley, Elena Tobon, Hung Tran, Jeremy Trendle, Lavonda Turner, Philip Urbahns, and Sharon Varner.

... Eternal Lord, through the Paschal Lamb You have wrought peace between man and God. By Your gift of good government, grant peace and good days also to our citizens and between the nations of the world, that we and all our neighbors may lead quiet lives in godly contentment.

... Heavenly Father, by the firstfruits of Christ’s life from the dead, You secured forgiveness for our troubled consciences. Bless also with temporal health and well-being those who suffer among us especially 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), **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), **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. Grant them aid in this moment and, even more so, true, immortal health in the world to come.

... Gracious God, we give thanks to You for 47 years of marriage for John and Linda Stafford. Grant that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared.

... O Lord, our Shepherd, You calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death, and You prepare the holy table of Your Son’s testament for us in the presence of our enemies. Grant us repentant and faithful hearts. In every tribulation or besetting sin, lead us to find comfort and strength in Your overflowing mercy given to us here in this Sacrament.

... Lord of the Church, You order all things according to Your gracious will. Bless our fieldworkers Brentley and Jonathan, as well as their families as they receive their vicarage assignments this week. Use this place and time of vicarage to form them into the servants You need for Your Church. We also ask Your grace and protection over Haley and her unborn daughter in the final weeks of her pregnancy. Life is a tremendous gift and we entrust this newly forming family into your capable hands.

... Almighty God, we ask that You give comfort, hope and healing for Pastor Kumaran and his wife Samantha, who lost their son Malkiya, along with Kuweni and Praba who lost loved ones at Zion Church in the bombing of three churches in Sri Lanka five years ago.

... Lord God, out of Your fatherly goodness You have remembered us poor, miserable sinners and given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd — not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death and the devil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that even as this Shepherd knows us and helps in every affliction, we also may know Him, trust Him, seek help and comfort in Him, heartily obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ HOLY COMMUNION ✠

<b>! PREFACE</b>	LSB pg. 160
<b>PROPER PREFACE</b>	
<b>SANCTUS</b>	LSB pg. 161
<b>PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING</b>	
<b>LORD’S PRAYER</b>	LSB pg. 162
<b>WORDS OF INSTITUTION</b>	LSB pg. 162
<b>SHARING OF THE PEACE</b>	
Pastor:	The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People:	<b>Amen.</b>
<b>AGNUS DEI</b>	LSB pg. 163
<b>! DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (9:00am)</b>	
<i>“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”</i>	LSB #622
<i>“Praise to You and Adoration”</i>	LSB #692
<b>! POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE</b>	LSB pg. 164
<i>“Thank the Lord”</i>	
<b>POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING</b>	
<b>BENEDICTION</b>	
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:	<b>Amen.</b>
<b>BETHLEHEM BRIEFING</b>	Missions
<b>! CLOSING HYMN</b>	LSB #411
<i>“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”</i>	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	
<i>(Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)</i>	

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## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 107

Needed for Operating & Missions \$ 6,192.31  
 Offering for Operating & Missions \$ 5,770.29  
 Online Operating & Missions \$ 772.21  
 Designated Funds \$ 1,285.00  
 Total Contributions \$ 7,827.50

### 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

**9:00am Worship w/Communion**  
 10:00am Coffee Hour – FH  
 10:30am Education Hour - Adults – Café  
 Kids – Sonshine Club Room  
**Monday, April 22**  
**Tuesday, April 23**  
 10:00am-11:30am Food Bank  
**Wednesday, April 24**  
 10:00am-11:30am Food Bank  
 5:30pm Adult Choir – Rm 2  
 7:15pm Handbell Choir - Balcony

#### Thursday, April 25

10:00am-11:30am Food Bank

#### Friday, April 26

#### Saturday, April 27

8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
**4:00pm Worship w/Communion**

#### Sunday, April 28

**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. 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

### SERVING AMONG US +NEXT WEEKEND+

Preacher ..... The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer  
 Organist ..... Doug Reynolds  
 Altar Guild ..... Sharon Dietrich  
 Suzie Emley, Amber Herndon  
 Elder (4:00pm) ..... Peter Schlie  
 (9:00am) ..... Peter Schlie  
 Head Usher ..... Ron Gallmeyer  
 Lay Readers  
 (4:00pm) ..... Ruby Bonner  
 (9:00am) ..... Suzie Emley

PowerPoint Operators  
 (4:00pm) ..... Charlotte Ratliff  
 (9:00am) ..... Charlotte Ratliff  
 Sound Operator  
 (9:00am)..... Dan Scheerer  
 Live stream ..... Dave Volmerding  
 Prayer Leader  
 (9:00am)..... Glenn Emley

### BETHLEHEM SERVICES ONLINE

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

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK (April 27<sup>th</sup> April 28<sup>th</sup>)

FIRST READING	Acts 8:26–40
EPISTLE READING	1 John 4:1–11
GOSPEL READING	John 15:1–8

*The altar flowers are provided by John and Linda Stafford in honor of their 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 16.*

## **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!

## **MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST: APRIL 27**

The Bethlehem Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held this Saturday, April 27, at 8:30am in the Bethlehem cafeteria. Our theme will be "Lord, Teach Us to Pray!" based on a brief but thought-provoking book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer entitled *Psalms: the Prayer Book of the Bible*. Please plan to join us for breakfast, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, prayer, and our meditation on God's Word. All are welcome. *"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'" Luke 11:1 NIV.*

## **THE WINNING OF THE WEST WITH DR. GEORGE FRY**

The Reverend Doctor George Fry returns to Bethlehem's Fellowship Hall on Monday, April 29, at 7:00pm with a new presentation on "The Winning of the West and the Transcontinental Railroad." Dr. Fry will discuss the spirit of exploration and innovation which characterized America as seen in the history and development of the Old West. Is this spirit still with us today? Dr. Fry taught many years at the Concordia Theological Seminary and has written many books on history and theology. All members of Bethlehem, The Fortnightly Club, and the general public are invited to attend at no charge.

## **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.



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.

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## WOMEN of BETHLEHEM / LWML

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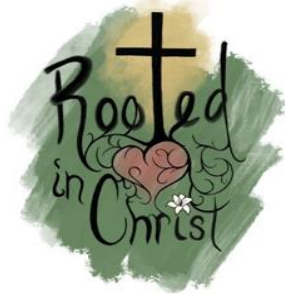
### LWML INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION **Rooted in Christ - June 21-23, 2024.**

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)

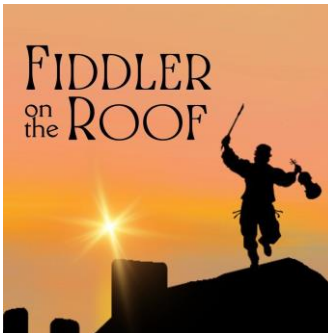


**THREE ZONES GATHERING**  
 There were 88 women and 3 men (Pastor Merino, Pastor Ben, and Sergiu Trifa) who attended the LWML 3 Zone Gathering on April 13!  
 Ingathering of \$1500.00 collected for the Romanian Ministry which will be used to help with the translation of Lutheran works into Ukrainian, planting of Lutheran churches, and assisting Lutheran Ukrainian war refugees.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.lutherhaven.org) or call for more information at 260-636-7101.

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## LSUS News

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### **PRAYING FOR YOU!**

Please pray for all the students/staff: Ezra, Raidyn, Jacielle, Angela, Trevion, Charli, Kaylen, LeShon, James, My'Tazia, Zane, Mrs. Bahr, and Mr. Morales.

K-8TH GRADE STUDENTS  
LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL MUSICAL



### **PRaise ROCKS**

FRIDAY, MAY 3RD, 2024

6:30 PM

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH GYM  
1819 RESERVATION DRIVE

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC SHOWCASE  
STUDENT ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

### **ENROLLING NOW**

Do you have a K-8 student or know someone with a K-8 student? Come join the Lutheran South Unity School family! 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 for information on how to enroll! 260-744-0459

We have financial aid and scholarships available. We also accept School Choice vouchers.

## Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said, "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. —John 19:28-30

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. —Matthew 28:5-6

## **Wrestling Ended with a Win!**

Shout out to our Phoenix Wrestlers Senica, Wayde, Conor, Paingthu, Max, and Lay Ku!  
Each of our middle school wrestlers placed in their weight classes at the LSAA Tournament!  
Our 2 JV wrestlers had a great time learning the basics and celebrated some wins!

Max: 1<sup>st</sup>



Lay Ku: 2<sup>nd</sup>



Conor: 5<sup>th</sup>



Paingthu: 5<sup>th</sup>

