

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28, 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 #913

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!"

People: **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

People: **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Pastor: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

People: **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

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

HYMN OF CONFESSION

Screen

"O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through 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

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

Acts 8:26–40

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1–21

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

☩ ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 156

HOLY GOSPEL

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

John 15:1–8

☩ HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #633

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

SERMON

“Invited to Speak”

✠ 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, Your only Son came in the flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Protect us from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist that we may always confess Christ to be our only true God and remain faithful to Him.

... Heavenly Father, You have grafted us onto the vine of Your Son. Prune us and cut off from us all sin and dead works, that we may always draw life from Your Son and produce the fruits of faith and good works.

... Savior of all people, in the water of Baptism You welcome sinners into Your kingdom and give them life. Grant that we would always honor and extol this gift, and let nothing prevent people from it.

... Almighty God, give health and guidance to our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with Your good order.

... Heavenly Father, we pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of David Volmerding, Bounma Vongphachanh, Brenda Warren, Heather Weemes, Amber Williams, Clarence Williams, Linda Witte, Suzanne Wright, Delores Wright, Kathy Young, and Passion Young.

... Gracious God, we give thanks to You for 58 years of marriage for Ken and Joyce Knipstein. Grant that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared.

... Merciful God, You hear and answer Your children in their hour of need, 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, Greg Schroeder, Doris Scott, Dora Thompson, Thomas Tinsley, and Phil Urbahns.** We also pray for good health and healing for our friends and family, **Ruby Ahart** (Nancy Pierce's sister-in law), **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 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), and those in our community. Grant that they would bear their crosses with faith, ever looking to You, and so fix their hearts where true joy is found.

... O God, You are love, and You always reveal Your love through Your Son. Grant that all who come to Your feast of love may worthily eat of Christ's body and blood, so that whoever abides in this love forever abides in You and You in him.

... Holy Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever 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 (9:00am)

"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

LSB #623

"Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"

LSB #540

! 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 #691

"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

POSTLUDE

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

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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!

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 hear 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.

**Please plan to attend the
Voters Assembly
May 19**



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), Threasa 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

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

Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, Danville, IN

Register online.

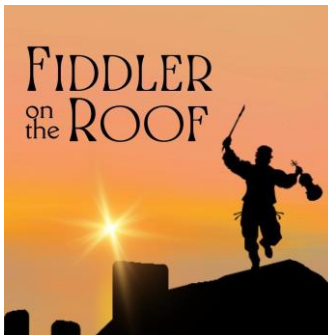
<https://sites.google.com/trinitycp.org/indistrict2024con/home>

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



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.

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 or call for more information at 260-636-7101.

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.

COMING SOON!!!!



LSUS News

PRAYING FOR YOU!

Please pray for all the students/staff: Braylee, Kyu Kyu, Amira, Corlesiya, Simeon, Kennedy, Ivan, Ta’Mya, Max, Jordyn, Kaylen, Camarion, Lay Ku, Ms. Selig, the Office Staff, the “Praise Rocks” Musical, and all Students during their ILearn testing!

ILearn testing under way!

Students started ILearn testing this past week. Please keep students in your prayers as they continue to test the next few weeks!

Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

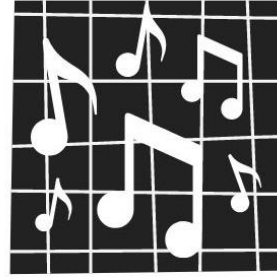
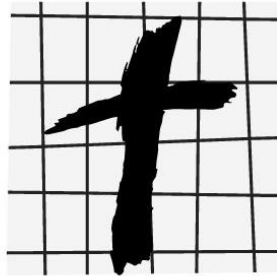
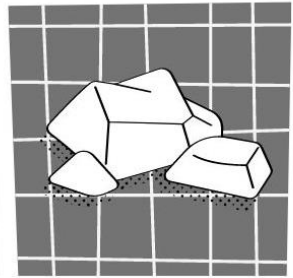
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. —1 Corinthians 15-20

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.

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