

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, April 6, and Sunday, April 7, 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 #465

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

! INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

People: **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

Pastor: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I 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 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.

People: Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection **may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

(Believers use everything they have to help one another.)

Acts 4:32–35

EPISTLE

(God is light; He forgives our sins.)

1 John 1:1—2:2

℣ ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 156

HOLY GOSPEL

(Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

John 20:19–31

℣ HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

LSB #470 (St. 1-5)

SERMON

“Dispelling Doubts”

HYMN RESPONSE

LSB #470 (St. 6-9)

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

✠ 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. Heavenly Father, Your Son is the firstborn from the dead. In Him, we have been reborn into a new and living hope. Nurture us with the pure milk of Your Word, that we may grow to maturity of faith and have everlasting life..

... Grant to those ordained for Your service the gift of the Spirit, wisdom that comes down from above, and grace to faithfully fulfill their holy calling where You have placed them.

... As Your people are united in the common life and love of our Savior, grant that we would share that life and love with those in need.

... Build up the households of Your people, that Your holy children, begotten in Baptism, may grow in Your grace and share together in Your forgiveness and life. We pray for all the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, especially the families of Peter Schlie. Susan Schott, David Schult, Barry Schust, Doris Scott, EJ Sebring, Blake Sebring, Greg Shediack, Ignacio Silva, Marie Smiegal, Archie Smith, and Maxine Smith.

... You have instituted authorities to carry out Your justice. Bless all who make, administer and judge the laws of our land. Give them wisdom, integrity and honor to serve according to Your good will.

... As Your Son's wounds brought gladness and peace to the troubled disciples, give Your presence and comfort to the troubled in our midst 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), **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. Comfort also those who weep with the blessed joy of Easter morning.

... Father of the risen Christ, You give us the crucified and risen body and blood of our Lord in this Holy Supper. Let us taste that the Lord is good and continually grow up unto salvation.

... We pray with Open Doors local partners as they respond to increasing incidents of persecution and violence in Laos. We pray for wisdom as leaders of a growing house church navigate this difficult opposition. We ask You, God, to embolden the sons of a pastor who were detained by police for leading a Bible study, to continue to visit believers, and to watch over the believers who opened their home for the Bible study.

... Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that out of Your indescribable grace, for the sake of Your Son, You have given us the Holy Gospel and instituted the blessed Sacraments, that through them we may have comfort and the forgiveness of sin. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe Your Word, and through the Holy Sacraments establish our faith day by day, until at last we 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. -5-

✠ 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)

"Jesus Comes Today with Healing" LSB #620

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia" LSB #463

! 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 #482

"This Joyful Eastertide"

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 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!

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

We will have an Informational Meeting on **April 14th** 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.

EASTER EVENING PRAYER

The Schola Cantorum and Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne will present Bach Cantata 67 for the Easter season, "Hold in Remembrance Jesus Christ," in a service of Evening Prayer on Sunday, April 14, 4:00pm in Kramer Chapel on the seminary campus. The choirs, directed by Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra and joined by soloists Dr. Charles Brown (Concordia University Chicago), Ashlee Bickley, Emily Bird, and Jonathan Busarow. Music by Heinrich Schutz and Carl Schalk will also be included, as well as congregational hymns and canticles. For more information, visit www.ctsfw.edu/events.



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.

WOMEN of BETHLEHEM / LWML

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

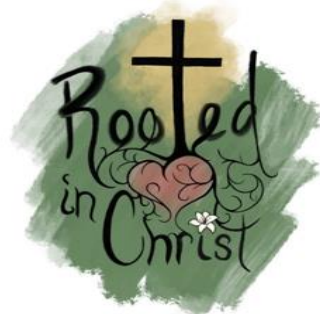
Rooted in Christ - June 21-23, 2024.

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



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

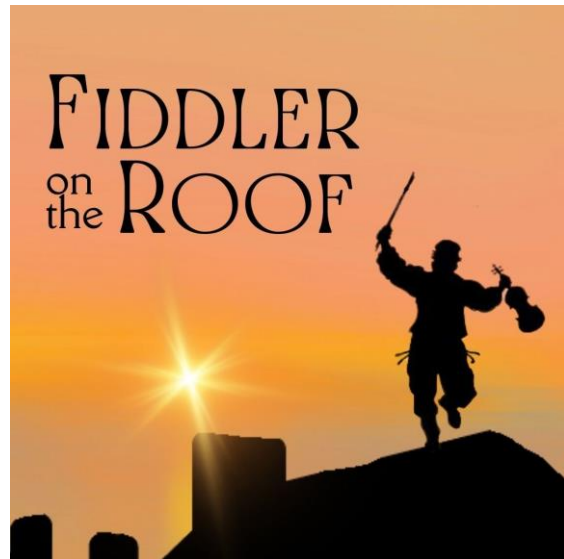
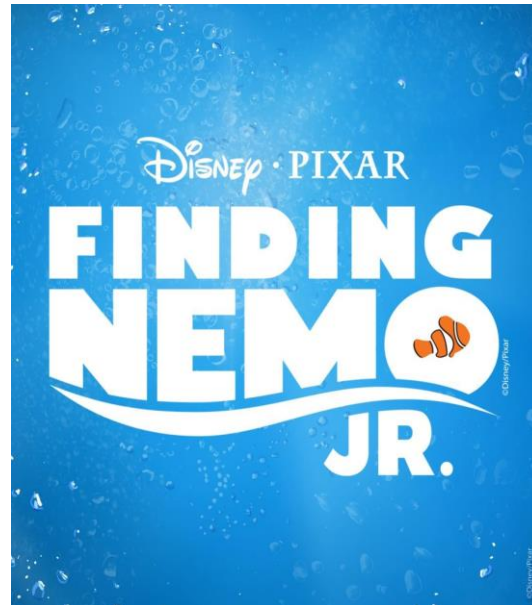
Martini Lutheran Church of 333 E Moeller Rd., New Haven is hosting a Mission Rally on Wednesday Evening May 8, 2024 from 7:00pm to 8:15pm. The guest speaker is The Reverend Gary Schulz, Assistant Director of Mission Central in Western Iowa. You will here stories of missions and missionaries of our synod's 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.

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.

LSUS News

PRAYING FOR YOU!

Please pray for all the students/staff for a safe Spring Break.

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