



From the Pastor's Desk



Imprinted Images

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. -
Colossians 1:15*

As we journey through these final weeks of Lent, the hymn "On my heart imprint your image" continues to be on my mind. It is one we have closed each midweek service with throughout the Lenten season. It echoes the profound truth of Scripture: Christ is "the image of the invisible God." Week after week, we've paused, looked, and reflected—allowing artistic images to guide our meditation on Christ's path to the cross. These visual reflections have been more than mere illustrations; they've been windows into understanding the very image of God revealed in Jesus.

Our Lenten path is not about remaining in darkness, but about moving towards an ultimate, transformative light. Each image we've contemplated—each brushstroke of suffering, each shadow of sacrifice—has been revealing the depth of God's love. Christ, as the perfect image of God, shows us that suffering is not the end, but a pathway to a new beginning.

As we approach Easter, our hearts are being prepared—not just to remember Christ's crucifixion, but to anticipate and celebrate His resurrection. The images imprinted on our hearts are shifting from the somber tones of Good Friday to the brilliant, hope-filled palette of Easter morning.

Sin darkens. Resurrection brightens.

This is the promise that transforms everything. The cross is not the final word; the empty tomb is. Where sin would leave us in perpetual shadow, the resurrection floods our world with bright colors of hope. It's a hope that doesn't ignore suffering, but transcends it. A hope that doesn't deny pain, but redeems it.

What images are being imprinted on your heart these days? Are they images of limitation, of past struggles, of perceived dead ends? The resurrection invites us to see differently. It whispers that endings are not final, that hope can bloom even in the most unexpected places. The resurrection of Christ gives us a clear picture of what our future will be. It is firmly imprinted on our hearts so we can remain hopeful in all circumstances.

In these remaining weeks of Lent, we are invited to continue preparing our hearts. Let the images of Christ's journey sink deep—not to leave you in sorrow, but to lift you towards the joy that is coming. Easter is approaching, and with it, a radiant reminder that life conquers death, love overcomes darkness, and hope always—always—has the last word.

Stay expectant. Stay hopeful.
Pastor Ben



Ways to watch WORSHIP ANEW:

Online - <https://worshipanew.org/>

Sunday at 6:30am on (WISE-TV Channel 33)

Sunday at 7:00am on (EPTA channel 21.2)

Sunday at 11:30am on TCT (WINM channel 12)

April 6, 2025 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

A New Covenant - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Jesus tells the parable of the wicked vinedressers to illustrate the unfaithfulness of the children of Israel to the covenant God so graciously made with them. A new Israel, the Christian Church, will emerge as a new covenant is set in place.

April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday

Palms to Passion - Rev. Shayne Jonker

Holy Week begins on the road to Jerusalem. The King makes His grand entrance into Jerusalem, riding atop a borrowed donkey, as the people greet their Messiah: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

The mood, however, shifts quickly from palms to passion, from triumph to crucifixion. This King, this Messiah, came to lay His life down, to die for His people on the cross.

April 18, 2025 – Good Friday

What Does This Mean? - Rev. Craig Muehler

It is fitting that we take a look at the words of Jesus to the world as He hangs upon the cross in suffering and pain. We ask the question, "What does this mean ... for us ... for the world?"

April 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen - Rev. Thomas Eggold

The empty tomb means that our bodies will rise from the grave! The empty tomb means that we will be reunited with loved ones who have died in the faith. The empty tomb means that we will live forever with God in holiness, innocence, and blessedness. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed everything!

April 27, 2025 – Second Sunday of Easter

I Believe... - Rev. Scott Zeckzer

We confess in the Apostle's Creed that Jesus, on the third day, rose again from the dead, and we believe in the resurrection of the body. Why is it important we believe in the resurrection? Hear why the resurrection of Jesus changes everything for you.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2 – Midweek 5 – 6:30

April 9 - Midweek Lent 6– 6:30pm

April 17 - Maundy (Holy) Thursday - 6:30pm

April 18 - Good Friday - 6:30pm

April 19 – Easter Vigil 6:30pm

April 20 - Easter Sunday service 10:00am

LENTEN MEALS

Meals will begin at 5:15pm and end at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.

PB&J for kids and kids-at-heart.

MENU

April 2 - The Rooster crows Dinner - Chicken Noodle Soup, Bread, Salad, and dessert.

April 9 - Mockary Mess Hall - Sheet Pan "Pancakes", sausages, and fruit salad.



small GROUPS

*Join us for
Easter Breakfast
April 20th
8:30am to 9:30am in the
cafeteria.*



Sign up to volunteer!

We are looking for volunteers for the 4th Sundays of the month, and with anyone wanting to donate a dessert to be served along with lunch. Contact either Randy Hapner @ 260-745-7477 or Ruth Bates @260-417-0600 if you have further questions.



THE Rescue Mission
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD™

Food Bank Report

By Sharon Shediack
February

We provided food to 301 individuals. They included 129 children under the age of 18, and 46 individuals over the age of 60. Our congregation provided 417# of food. We went to Community Harvest three times this month to purchase 1,522# of food in the amount of \$792. Our 15 volunteers gave 104 hours of their time.

We could use soup, pasta sauce, rice and tomato products. Thanks to ALL of you for all your many volunteer hours, dedication and the financial support you give to help provide this mission at Bethlehem.

HELP KEEP THE FOOD BANK SHELVES STOCKED

Scour your pantries, include them on your shopping list. Bring a grocery bag of a few non-perishable items to the Saturday and Sunday services to the front pews during the Offering.



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

URGENT NEEDS
Mac and Cheese
Pasta Sauces

Bethlehem Mission News and Prayers

By Jane Miller

Barbara Netterville, for the Mission Committee, has asked me to let you all know that our granddaughter, Sarah Miller Anderson and her teammate and new husband Zack will be speaking at Bethlehem's Bible study hour on Sunday, April 27! Sarah has spoken at Bethlehem's Bible Study a few other times about her ESL teaching ministry with ELIC, where she has taught in a big city in Southeast Asia! Now Sarah and Zack are combining their ministry team, and when they go back this coming June, they will for a time be living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where Sarah spent part of her grade school and high school years, while Zack gets a graduate degree in Linguistics at Paiyap University. Meanwhile, Sarah will do her ESL teaching there in Chiang Mai until they both return to teach across the border. Sarah and Zack are eager to share with you about what the Lord is leading them to do, and we hope you can join us that morning after the 9:00 service! There will be reminders in the weekly bulletins in April, along with information as to just where the presentation will be held! My husband Bob and I are also looking forward to spending one last weekend with this dear couple before they return to Southeast Asia! Hope to see you then!

We got a personal update from Sarah's parents, Tim and Michelle this past week bringing us up to date on a few of their team projects! In January, they enjoyed recording word lists with believers from two Southeast Asian language groups who do not yet have a writing system. Recording and analyzing a word list is the first step in the process to develop an alphabet, a key tool for Bible Translation. In March they and a couple colleagues who are linguistic consultants, to work together to begin this exciting step! They are thanking us and all of you for the Lord's provision through you to help in the Bible Translation process in more language communities.

Jeanne Burger at New Life Lutheran Church asked for prayers for a new vicar family in Puerto Rico: Vicar Paul and Courtney Mroczenski and their baby daughter Jaqueline were welcomed into the church in Ponce, PR. Pray for them as Vicar Paul teaches and preaches at various churches and sites in both Spanish and English, and assist with church planting and other evangelism and mercy work efforts. Pray that God will help Vicar Paul and his wife learn Spanish and adapt quickly to their new home.

The work of our missionaries
is a magnificent expression
of the Lord's redeeming love.



Come to Bethlehem's Bible study hour on **Sunday, April 27** and learn how the Lord is leading Sarah Miller Anderson and her husband Zack Anderson.

BETHLEHEM FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commands that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)"



EDUCATION HOUR



On Saturday, April 26, 2025, the Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held in the Bethlehem cafeteria starting at 8:30 A.M. Please plan to join us for breakfast, prayer, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, and our study of the Book of Obadiah. *"Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the LORD."* Obadiah 4 ESV.

Hiding God's Word

in our hearts

Sonshine Club 2024 - 2025



Children ages 3yrs +
are invited to join us in
the Sonshine Club room
after Sunday worship from
10:30-11:30.

We'll be digging into God's
promises for
us all throughout the Bible
beginning in Genesis!

DR. GEORGE FRY PRESENTS "THE FALL OF ROME"

Monday, April 28, 2025

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed." Luke 2:1 KJV. Thus, by God's providence the first Roman emperor issued the order from Rome that directed Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem where our Savior was born. For several centuries Rome was a great world power, yet by 476 A.D. the Roman emperor was overthrown by barbarians, and the Roman Empire collapsed. Why did Rome fall? Do all great nations eventually meet their end? Dr. George Fry returns to Bethlehem to answer these questions in his presentation "The Fall of Rome." A longtime friend of Bethlehem, Dr. Fry was a professor for many years at Concordia Theological Seminary, Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne, and St. Francis College. Dr. Fry will speak in Bethlehem's Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm on Monday, April 28, 2025. Please enter at Door 6, which will be open for entry at 6:45pm. All Bethlehem members, friends, and neighbors and the general public are invited to attend this special presentation.



LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR



The Mental Health Initiative at Bethlehem is under the direction of Joyce Knipstein. **Bethlehem seeks to be a caring community and to provide hope.**

April is Stress Awareness Month

Stress is our body's reaction to challenges or demands, whether physical, mental, or emotional. In today's world, stress is more often caused by work, school, relationships, or societal pressures.

When stress becomes chronic, however, it can have negative effects on our well-being, leading to physical, mental, and emotional strain. Understanding stress is the first step toward taking control of it.

While some signs are obvious, others may be more subtle. Some common symptoms to watch out for:

- **Physical symptoms:** Headaches, muscle tension, fatigue, and digestive issues.
- **Emotional symptoms:** Irritability, feeling overwhelmed, anxiety, or sadness.
- **Behavioral symptoms:** Changes in appetite or sleep patterns, procrastination, or avoiding responsibilities.

If you notice a combination of these symptoms in your daily life, it may be time to take a step back and assess your stress levels. The sooner you recognize it, the sooner you can address it.

Over time stress can affect both your mental and physical health:

- **Mental Health:** Chronic stress is linked to anxiety, depression, and burnout. It can cloud your thinking, make you less productive, and reduce your ability to enjoy life.
- **Physical Health:** Stress weakens the immune system, increases blood pressure, and contributes to heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic conditions.
- **Relationships:** Stress can make us irritable, anxious, or withdrawn, which can strain relationships with family, friends, and coworkers.

Being aware of the effects of stress can help you take steps to manage it before it starts taking a significant toll. There are many ways to manage stress. Some strategies that can help you reduce stress:

1. Taking a few minutes each day to center yourself can be incredibly effective. Meditation is a great tool for calming the mind and relaxing your body.
2. Physical activity releases endorphins, the body's natural mood elevators. Even a short daily walk or stretching routine can make a huge difference in reducing stress levels.
3. Time management is key to preventing overwhelm. Break large tasks into smaller steps and give yourself breaks throughout the day. Prioritize what matters most, and remember, it's okay to say no.
4. Social connection is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress. Talking to someone who understands can provide a sense of relief and perspective.
5. Make time for activities that recharge you, whether it's reading, taking a bath, or pursuing a hobby. Don't feel guilty for taking time for yourself—it's essential for maintaining your mental health.
6. If stress is affecting your daily life, don't hesitate to reach out to a mental health professional. Therapy, counseling, or even stress management workshops can provide valuable tools for coping with stress.

Managing stress isn't about eliminating it completely—it's about building resilience and learning to respond to stress in healthier ways..

Take a moment today to assess your stress levels and consider what small steps you can take to reduce it. It's okay to seek help and prioritize your well-being. Your mental and physical health are worth it.



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

If you 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.



CHRIST CENTERED

CARE, COMFORT, & HOPE

2025 *LOOKup* CONFERENCE
FAITH & MENTAL HEALTH

You're Invited to the 2025 LookUp Conference!

The Lutheran Foundation invites you to the 2025 LookUp Conference on Faith and Mental Health on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Conference Center. Join us for engaging keynote and breakout presentations designed to inspire and equip you in providing Christ-centered care, comfort, and hope to people in your family and church family. Some of the breakout session topics include:

- How to best care for a depressed loved one
- How to care for caregivers
- How to best support youth mental health
- How to walk alongside someone living with substance use issues
- How to provide trauma-informed care at home and church

In addition, there will be 30 local mental health organizations on site with resources for you to take home. The ticket price is only \$35 per person which includes access to all conference sessions, a light breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Click below for conference details and to register. Registration closes April 29.

Register: www.lookupconference.com




 **THE SHEPHERD'S HAND
COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER**

5K RUN & WALK REGISTRATION

Join the fun and take on the challenge. Lace-up for our 5K Run & Walk!

► **Date & Time:**
3rd May, 2025
At 09:00AM

► **Location:**
The Shepherd's Hand

1231 S Anthony Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46803  260-424-2224

More Info 

 <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/FortWayne/TheShepherdsHandCommunity5k>



JOIN
US

Volunteer Opportunities:

April 26th: 9am-Noon We will be cleaning up around SH and the 3 mile route. We need lots of hands!

May 2nd: 4-7ish We will be setting up for the 5K. Packing bags and blowing up balloons. Maybe still cleaning any area that we missed and double checking the route.

May 3rd: Race Day! Double check the route. It can get rough on a Friday night and glass bottles can be broken. We also set up the parking lot with tables and supplies. We need people to be on the route to cheer people on and make sure everyone is comfortable with the turns. Everyone will have a map and there are signs.

BETHLEHEM'S 100th ANNIVERSARY

"Throughout All Generations"

Psalm 90:1 *"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations."*

*Kick-off: Sunday, January 11, 2026 (same month as the first meeting of the church)

*Education Celebration: Sunday, May 31, 2026
(History of education and recognition of Confirmation classes)

*Main Event - Sunday, September. 27, 2026 Tent service

To honor Bethlehem's 100th anniversary in 2026, we offer an opportunity to participate in a second videotaping session on April 13 from 1-4 in the sanctuary.

These 5-minute videos consist of three questions:

1. When and why did you come to Bethlehem?
2. What are a couple of your favorite memories?
3. What has Bethlehem meant to you?

Understanding that everyone could talk for an hour, we are asking to keep the sessions to five minutes so we can include more people. These recordings will be played before services throughout the anniversary year. Those being interviewed also do not need to be current members.

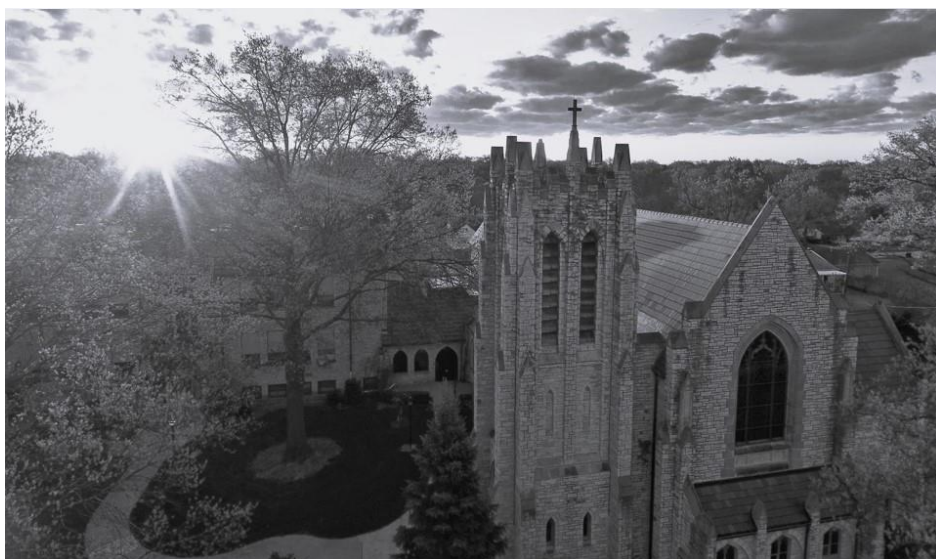
If you are interested, please email Blake Sebring at blakeds@frontier.com so we can get a rough estimate of those wishing to participate. Seating will be available, and we will not schedule appointments, but we'll start a line and keep going until we are finished. Hopefully this will be a fun time of reminiscing.

Bethlehem's 100th Anniversary

Bethlehem's 100th Anniversary needs volunteers!

Coordinator and volunteers needed for: **Commemorative items, Communication/Publicity, Education Celebration, Human Care, 100th Anniversary Directory, THANKOFFERING, Historical Writing, Historical relics, Meals, Worship/Music.** Please pray about using your God-given talents to help make the 100th Anniversary a celebration of thanksgiving and gratefulness to our Lord for being with us
"THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS."

WE NEED YOU!



*Lord,
You have been our
dwelling place
in all generations.*
Psalm 90:1

WOMEN of BETHLEHEM



National: lwml.org
State/Local: lwmlindiana.org

“Seeds, Sprouts, Spring!”

Saturday, April 12th from 10:00am - 12noon in the cafeteria.

A follow up to our winter seed sowing in the milk jugs.

We'll be planting the sprouts in pots, to give to our Food Bank clients.

Sharon Dietrich & Renee Bleke will give a brief presentation, and we'll enjoy a special spring lunch!

Plan to come. Open to all (men and women).



2025 LWML Fort Wayne Three Zone Gathering

“Blessed Are You” theme based on Matthew 5:1-12

On **Saturday, May 3, 2025**, come together in faith and fellowship for an inspiring morning with the Lutheran Women in Mission at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 800 Green St., New Haven, IN, and Door #11. Enjoy a warm tea party atmosphere with delightful conversations, uplifting discussions and a chance to strengthen your faith through worship! Doors open at 8:30am and breakfast is at 9:00am. Registration is \$7.00.

Gifts From the Heart In-gathering: Monetary offerings for Point of Grace Mission in Kenya and NEW girls' underwear sizes 8-16.

RSVP to Rhonda Cheng (260-744-3228) by April 26, 2025.



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

2025 Convention



Date: June 26–29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Convention Center: CHI Health Center,
455 N 10th St, Omaha, NE, 68102

Theme: Growing in God's Grace

Scripture Verse: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen*
(2 Peter 3:18).



The Joyful Corner

The Joy of Easter

Easter is the pinnacle of Christian joy, a celebration that brings life, hope, and renewal to our hearts. It's the day that reminds us of Jesus' victory over death and the promise of eternal life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of our joy, for it means that no matter how dark the world may seem, God's light shines brighter.

Joy is more than just happiness—it's a deep, abiding peace and hope in God's promises. In the midst of trials, we can find joy because we know that death is not the end. Jesus' resurrection gives us assurance that all things will be made right in the end.

Romans 15:13 says, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

This Easter, let's remember that joy is not just a fleeting emotion—it is a gift from God that is rooted in His victory over the grave.

As we celebrate Easter, let our hearts overflow with joy, knowing that Jesus is alive and His love is eternal. In Him, we find the joy that nothing on earth can take away.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the joy of Easter—the joy of the resurrection. Help us to live in the hope of Your victory over death, and to spread that joy to others. May we carry the light of Your love with us always.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Serve the Lord
with joy

Adopted
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting
February 11, 2025

Members present: Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer, Brian Bates, Dan Bates, Rachele Dance, Blake Sebring, Greg Shediack and John Stafford Members absent: Evans Branigan and David Schult Guests: none

The February regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:30 PM by President Greg Shediack. Pastor Ben provided an opening devotion based on Galatians 6:9 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up". He discussed how this passage relates to the work and mission of Bethlehem. Pastor closed the devotion with prayer.

The minutes from the Board's January, 2025 regular monthly meeting were unanimously approved as submitted, on a motion from John Stafford and a second from Brian Bates.

The Soul Accounting report, as approved by the Board of Elders at its February meeting, was reviewed by the Board. It included the death of Ilene Saalfrank on January 31, 2025.

Brian Bates presented the January Financial Report. Monthly income for January was \$26,701, including both offerings and extraordinary interest earnings, compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Monthly expenses for January totaled \$38,160, compared with monthly budget amounts of \$33,668. The expenses include unanticipated boiler repairs. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of January was \$1,337,380. The month-end balance in the SSMG Fund was \$24,943. Brian also presented a report illustrating actual expenses compared with budgeted amounts for the major categories of the Operating Budget. Through January, we expended 9.5 percent of the budgeted expenses. The monthly Treasurer's Report was unanimously adopted on a motion by Brian Bates and a second by Dan Bates.

Pastor's report noted that Kasey Hapner has been planning out worship music and plans for the Lenten Services. He also noted that the listening devices have been fixed and are now fully operational. Lastly, Pastor provided an update on this semester's independent study portion of his Doctor of Ministry program.

Pastor Ben, Blake Sebring and John Stafford provided an update on the work of the Community Center Committee. The Committee met in early February with representatives of the City of Fort Wayne Department of Community Development and with Mary Ann Mings, the Executive Director of Inasmuch Ministry.

Under New Business, the Board adopted Resolution 2025-01 adding John Stafford to the individuals authorized to sign checks on behalf of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The resolution was adopted on a motion by Brian Bates and second by Blake Sebring and passed unanimously.

Pastor provided an update on Lutheran South Unity Schools, particularly on how their building was successfully functioning with the temporary heating arrangement. Rachele Dance noted that the Missions Committee was heading up an effort to provide cupcakes to the staff at LSUS as a show of our appreciation for their dedication.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dan Bates moved and Brian Bates seconded a motion for adjournment. After closing with prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted in His service,

John Stafford, Secretary

Let all that you do be done in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14

Draft, not yet approved by the Board
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting
March 11, 2025

Members present: Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer, Brian Bates, Dan Bates, Rachele Dance, Blake Sebring, Greg Shediack and John Stafford Members absent: Evans Branigan and David Schult Guests: none

The March regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:32 PM by President Greg Shediack. Pastor Ben provided an opening devotion based on 1 Corinthians 15: 16 to 22. If we can imagine eternal life that can help guide our actions here on earth. Pastor closed the devotion with prayer.

The minutes from the Board's February, 2025 regular monthly meeting were unanimously approved as corrected, on a motion from John Stafford and a second from Blake Sebring. The Board discussed putting the draft minutes in the Messenger ahead of their formal approval at the subsequent Board meeting in order to more timely inform the members of the congregation of Board activities.

The Soul Accounting report, as approved by the Board of Elders at its March meeting, was reviewed by the Board. It included the death of Herman Guenin on February 28, 2025.

Brian Bates presented the February Financial Report. Monthly income for February was \$43,689, including both offerings of \$23,950 and miscellaneous receipts of \$19,739, compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Miscellaneous receipts included both a memorial to the church and a \$2,500 contribution from Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in appreciation for allowing their temporary use of space in our building. Income through the first two months of the year totaled \$70,389 compared with a budgeted amount of \$53,667. Monthly expenses for February totaled \$28,293, compared with monthly budget amounts of \$33,668. Expenses for the year through February totaled \$66,453. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of February was \$1,360,061. That portion of the Endowment Fund resting with the Lutheran Foundation was current through January as we had not yet received the February statement. The month-end balance in the SSMG Fund was \$25,549. Brian also presented a report illustrating actual expenses compared with budgeted amounts for the major categories of the Operating Budget. Through February, we expended 16.45 percent of the budgeted expenses. The monthly Treasurer's Report was unanimously adopted on a motion by Brian Bates and a second by Dan Bates.

Pastor's report provided an update on the Lenten Services. Pastor also provided an update on this semester's independent study portion of his Doctor of Ministry program. He next distributed some thoughts to the Board members regarding Bethlehem's Vision, Mission and Values for our review. The Board will further discuss the topic at the April meeting.

Pastor Ben, Blake Sebring and John Stafford provided an update on the work of the Community Center Committee. They discussed the information learned at the fourth and final workshop sponsored by Sacred Places in Indianapolis conducted on February 18th. We will be applying for a Sacred Places grant to undertake a building assessment examining potential upgrades and improvements that may be needed. The Committee, along with a representative from the Committee on Building and Grounds is currently reviewing the responses from architectural firms and will be selecting a firm to undertake the assessment. Lastly, Blake noted that the Committee will be meeting on March 18th with a group of local non-profit organizations which work with youth.

Pastor provided an update on the heating situation at LSUS, noting that to date the temporary solution appears to be working successfully. Rachele Dance noted that cupcakes had been provided by Bethlehem to the LSUS staff in appreciation for their dedication to the students.

Under New Business, the Board discussed the need to enhance our abilities to communicate with our members through written materials and electronic media. On a motion by John Stafford and a second by Blake Sebring, the Board authorized Pastor Ben and President Greg to seek the support of an individual to assist with upgrading our communication vehicles and that any expenses associated with this initiative to be taken from the Congregational Life line in the Operating Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Draft, not yet approved by the Board
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting
March 11, 2025

Under New Business, the Board discussed the need to enhance our abilities to communication with our members through written materials and electronic media. On a motion by John Stafford and a second by Blake Sebring, the Board authorized Pastor Ben and President Greg to seek the support of an individual to assist with upgrading our communication vehicles and that any expenses associated with this initiative to be taken from the Congregational Life line in the Operating Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Rachele Dance update the Board on current discussions by the Nissions Committee to potentially host an event at Bethlehem, such as game night, oriented to youth from the surrounding community and from LSUS later this year.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Brian Bates moved and Rachele Dance seconded a motion for adjournment. After closing with prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Submitted in His service,
John Stafford, Secretary

CLHS NEWS

Registration Now Open **CLHS Summer Camps and Classes**

Concordia is offering more than 20 different summer camps as well as multiple summer school classes that are open to all students in the Fort Wayne region! With everything from sports and video games to music and drama, you'll find something for every student in your household!

Concordia Theatre Department Presents it's
Spring Comedy
The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today
Saturday, April 26 at 7:30pm.
Sunday, April 27 at 2:00pm.

Something is different about the company picnic this year. After 126 years woven into the fabric of this small town, the Littlefield Gazette is closing its doors. For the staff, this is the last hurrah: the perfect time to tell a secret, confess feelings for someone, plan a new future. What could they mean to each other now? And while we're at it, who brought the best pie? This rich ensemble collage of poignant, funny vignettes pays tribute to local news and explores what makes a community. This comedy is directed by Mr. Chris Murphy and Miss Hannah Mundt. Tickets available online or at the CLHS auditorium box office

LSUS NEWS



OPEN ENROLLMENT **2025- 2026**

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS LOOKING
FOR A GREAT SCHOOL?**

**LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL WOULD
LOVE TO SHARE OUR CHRIST-CENTERED
SCHOOL WITH YOU.**

**TOURS ARE AVAILABLE SO WE CAN SHARE
HOW OUR SCHOOL CAN BENEFIT YOUR CHILD.**

CONTACT BARB JOHNSON -- ADMISSIONS
BJOHNSON@LSUSFW.ORG
260-744-0459

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR CURRENT LSUS
FAMILIES IS ON FAST DIRECT NOW.



**ROCKIN' MY
SALVATION**

**FOR GOD ALONE, O MY SOUL, WAIT IN SILENCE,
FOR MY HOPE IS FROM HIM.**

**HE ONLY IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION,
MY FORTRESS; I SHALL NOT BE SHAKEN.**

PSALM 62:5-6

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 – Teddy Bishop
Sharon Shediack | 16 – Earl Kruger |
| 2 – Jasmine Stewart
Angelique Woods | 17 – Donald Davies |
| 3 – Dustin Jackson
Amie Pishvai | 19 – Ken Knipstein
Jayce Recht
Kaleigha Trump |
| 4 – Janine Bernabe
Sarah Curl | 22 – Jamila Williams |
| 5 – Donovan Eisom
Pam Fuller
Tyler Fuller
Pamala Morvilius | 23 – Aleana Branigan
Welton Jones
Daniel Mitchell |
| 8 – Eddie Ramos | 25 – Charles Krill |
| 9 – Shanesha Norfleet | 26 – Claudette Daniels
Drake Perry |
| 12 – Jaxson Jones | 28 – Laurie Hapner
Andy Vongphachanh |
| 15 – Patricia Flores
Phyllis Reinking
Vesta Scott | 29 – Tashayla Sutorius |
| | 30 – Steve Bercot
Rhonda Cheng
LeeNathan Griggs |

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 – Denisson and Christina Carrillo
16 – John and Linda Stafford
24 – Ken and Joyce Knipstein



www.myfwl.org



If you have had a change in home address, home or cell phone number or email address, please be sure to let us know so that we can update our database.

If your children have moved out on their own please provide the office with their updated information.

We want to stay in touch, so having accurate contact information is important to us.

Please call, mail, or email the church office with any updates.

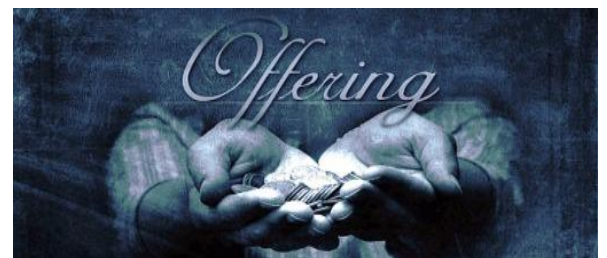
Faith is what brings us
nearer to God.
Every day is a blessing.
It's all because Christ,
our Savior, lives, and
each day is full of hope.

**Have a
Blessed Easter!**



online WORSHIP

<https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemfortwayne>



Offerings may be mailed to the church at
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
3705 South Anthony Boulevard,
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

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and secure. Visit our website
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www.bethlehemlcms.org



APRIL Servant Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Head Usher</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Power point</u>	<u>Live Stream</u>
5	Linda Stafford	Michael Johnson			Carla Johnson	
6		Peter Schlie	Dan Bates	Donna and Dave Volmerding	Aaron Brown	Josiah Hapner
12	Mary Snow Allison Cheng	Brian Bates			Charlotte Ratliff	
13		John Bates	Evans Branigan	Peter Schlie	Josiah Hapner	Joshua Hapner
17 Maundy Thursday	Sharon Dietrich Suzie Emley Amber Herndon		Dan Bates			Dave Volmerding
18 Good Friday	Kim Ellison Sharon Shediack		Ron Gallmeyer			Randy Hapner
19 Easter Vigil		Ed Ramos			Blake Sebring	
20 Easter	Linda Stafford	Greg Shediack	Evans Branigan	The Hapner Family	Allison Cheng	Josiah Hapner
26	Mary Snow Allison Cheng	Peter Schlie			Charlotte Ratliff	
27		Peter Schlie	Dan Bates	John Stafford Linda Stafford	Aaron Brown	Joshua Hapner

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm Bd. of Elders	2 5:15pm Lenten Dinner - FH 6:30pm Lent Service 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	3	4	5 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
6 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	7	8 6:30pm Bd. of Directors	9 5:15pm Lenten Dinner - FH 6:30 Lent Service 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	10	11	12 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00-12:00 LWML Spring Gathering 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
13 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour 1:00-4:00pm 100 th Videotaping	14	15	16 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	17 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service	18 6:30pm Good Friday Service	19 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
20 HE IS RISEN! Easter Breakfast 10:00am Worship w/Comm	21 Messenger articles due	22	23 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	24	25	26 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
27 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	28 7:00pm Dr. George Fry	29	30 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells			