

# THE MESSENGER December 2025

*The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

*Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.*

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## From the Pastor's Desk

### Coming Home for Christmas

*And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. - Isaiah 35:10*

There's something about this season that stirs a deep sense of home in us. Maybe it's the familiar rituals: unboxing ornaments that have lived through more Advents than we can count, lighting candles in windows that glow against the early darkness, hearing those first strains of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Even the smells seem to carry us—pine, cinnamon, the first batch of Christmas cookies—each one a doorway leading us back into memories of warmth and belonging.

December has a way of reminding us how much we long for home. Not just a house with lights on the gutters, but the feeling of being gathered, held, known. Of being somewhere where you don't have to explain yourself. Somewhere you can breathe. And maybe that's why this time of year can feel tender too. Because even as we lean into those comforting traditions, we're aware of the gaps. Loved ones who won't be at the table this year. Worries or weariness that don't take a holiday break. The quiet ache that even the best Christmas gatherings can't quite fill. That ache is important. It's honest. And it's why our midweek Advent services this year are anchored in a simple, beautiful truth from the prophet Isaiah: the Home we ache for is not ultimately a place—it's a Person.

Throughout Advent, we're walking through five passages in Isaiah where God speaks His promises into the longing of His people—promises fulfilled in Jesus' first coming and promises that point us toward His return. In these ancient words, we hear God proclaim to His exiled, weary, wandering people that He Himself is coming to bring them home. Because that is what Christmas truly is: the arrival of the Home who comes for us. The God who steps into our exile. The Savior who gathers us into His embrace. The King who gives us citizenship in His kingdom. The Lord who promises that someday we will reside with Him forever. All the comfort, peace, and belonging we search for in December—Jesus holds them. He is them.

So as we move through this month, with its familiar rhythms and beloved traditions, I pray you feel both the sweetness and the ache. Let each one point you toward the deeper promise: the Home you're longing for is not fragile, not seasonal, not dependent on perfect circumstances. He has already come for you. He is coming again. And in Him, you have a place—now, and forever. Come join us on this season as we prepare our hearts for that Home, and hear again Isaiah's good news for tired people: Your true Christmas gift has already arrived, and He is bringing you all the way home.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ben



Coming Home  
For Christmas  
ADVENT IN ISAIAH

# 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

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**10:30am-11:30am**



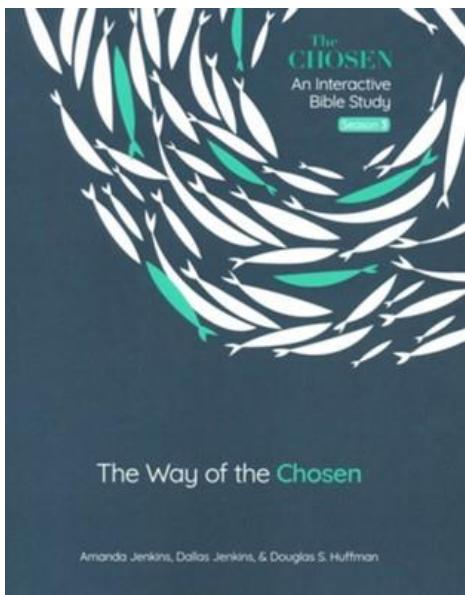
## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

During the Gentle and Lowly series, Pastor Ben will be doing a study on the Characteristics of Jesus during the Education Hour in the cafeteria.

## Women's Saturday Morning Bible Study

We've really enjoyed watching and discussing Seasons 1 & 2. There is a study guide that accompanies The Chosen. This study will begin January 3, 2026 and meet every-other Saturday at 9:30am. Guests are welcome!

Contact Laurie Hapner by December 17, 2025 via email or phone: [hapners6@gmail.com](mailto:hapners6@gmail.com). 260-745-7477 (landline) if you'd like to attend.



## IN CHRIST ALONE

### *Sonshine Club 2025 - 2026*

Children ages 3 yrs - 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us in the Sonshine Club room during the Education Hour after Sunday worship. Our theme this year will focus on stories of Jesus and how we can live in Him. Parents are always invited to join us and even children under 3 are welcome to participate with a parent present.



At the Bethlehem Men's Prayer Breakfast set for Saturday, December 27, we shall conclude the Book of Obadiah, prepare to leave 2025, and began to consider 100 years of life together at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church as we head to the centennial year of 2026. Please plan to join your friends in the cafeteria starting at 8:30am that day as we have breakfast together followed by a devotion by Bill Ihssen, time for prayer, and a study of God's Word. All are welcome. *"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"* Psalm 133:1 NIV.





## December 7, 2025 – Second Sunday in Advent

**Stirring Things Up - Matthew 3:3**

**Rev. Scott Zeckzer**

It is time for decorations and baking. There will be a lot of stirring up. God stirs things up to get us ready for His coming.

**Featured Choirs:** Zion (Bull Rapids) Lutheran Church Choir, Woodburn, Ind.; Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Antwerp, Ohio; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.

**Featured Art and Architecture:** Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Ind.

## December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday in Advent

**Lord, Give Us Patience - Matthew 11:2-10**

**Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

John the Baptist asked Jesus if He was the Messiah because earlier John had preached that the Messiah would come in judgment. John did not see this happening in Jesus' ministry. In response, Jesus indicates that He is indeed the Messiah and that John should be patient. In this account, God also teaches us about patience.

**Featured Choirs:** St. John Adult Choir, Indianapolis, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Featured Art and Architecture:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

## December 21, 2025 – Christmas Day (observed)

**The Word Became Flesh - John 1:14**

**Rev. Shayne Jonker**

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14a ESV). The Son of God came in humility that we might be glorified. He came in poverty that we might be rich. He came to die that we might live. He came to dwell with us that we might dwell with Him, His Father, and the Spirit.

**Featured Choirs:** The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Featured Art and Architecture:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, Mich.

**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)**

## December 24, 2025 – Nativity of Our Lord;

**Christmas Candlelight**

**Christmas Can't Be Stolen - Luke 2:1-14**

**Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas was not successful because he did not realize the true meaning of Christmas was not in things. We know the true meaning of Christmas is to be found in Jesus. This world's Grinch, Satan, still tries to steal Christmas joy from us. Let's focus on Jesus, the Reason for the season.

**Featured Choirs:** The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Peter's Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Concordia Choir of Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Preble Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind.

**Featured Art and Architecture:** St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

## December 28, 2025 – First Sunday after Christmas

**Save the Child! - Matthew 2:13-23**

**Rev. William Mueller**

Aside from the fact that the text tells us about the not-any-older than 2-year-old Jesus, this Gospel reading seems so out of place in the Christmas season. Yet, there is an important truth to be discovered and a searching question to be asked.

**Featured Choirs:** The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; Holy Cross Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Featured Art and Architecture:** Lutheran Life Villages (North Anthony), Fort Wayne, Ind.

**The FW Lutheran**

**[www.myfwl.org](http://www.myfwl.org)**

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Celebrating 100 years

Lord,  
You have been our  
dwelling place  
in all generations.

Psalm 90:1



Dear Alumni, former members, and current members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School,

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is celebrating 100 years of Proclaiming Christ, Nurturing Faith, and Restoring Hope. Our theme for this anniversary year is: “Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.” (Psalm 90:1).

You and your families are warmly invited to the Bethlehem 100th Anniversary Kick-Off Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on January 11, 2026, in the cafeteria. We will begin the day with a special 9:00 a.m. service featuring Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Indiana District President, as our preacher. During the luncheon, Nathan Bienz, historian and board member of the Fort Wayne Lutheran, will speak on the growth of Lutheran education in the Fort Wayne community in 1926.

Throughout the coming year, we will celebrate the many blessings God has poured out on Bethlehem over the past century with monthly anniversary events. February will feature an organ recital, and on March 27 Big-Eyed Fish will provide fish and fixings for \$15, with carryout available. In April we will host a clean-up day in preparation for the Shepherd’s Hand 5K. On May 31 we will celebrate Christian education; former student and member Rev. Phil Rigdon will preach at the 9:00 a.m. service, followed by a potluck.

Our June observance will take us back to our beginnings with a Neighborhood Walk at 3205 Alexander Street, the site of Bethlehem’s 1926 Portable Chapel, where former student Mr. Ron Oetting will offer remarks. July 18 will bring a COMMUNITY FEST and Health Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., a day filled with fellowship, food, and fun. Alumni will be highlighted in September, with a dance at the Allen County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 12, from 7:00–11:00 p.m., and former student and member Rev. Steve Ensley preaching on Sunday morning.

As the year continues, October will be observed as Mission Month and November as Food Bank Month. Our celebration will conclude on December 20 when Rev. Thomas Eggold preaches and guitarist Don Wharton, also a former student, leads us in a service of song.

We hope you will join us for the Kick-Off Luncheon on January 11. Meal ticket reservations can be made by contacting Rhonda, our church secretary, at 260-744-3228. Tickets are just \$1—the price of a meal in 1926—and a free-will offering basket will also be available.

Come celebrate with us! We look forward to renewing friendships, sharing memories, and giving thanks for a century of God’s faithfulness to His people at Bethlehem.

Bethlehem Anniversary Steering Committee

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 1926-2026  
 “. . . Throughout All Generations . . .” Psalm 90:1

January 11	<b>KICK-Off</b> Service: 9:00am Preacher: Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Indiana District President Video: Bethlehem 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch: 11:30am Speaker: Nathan Bienz, Historian, FW Lutheran Board Member
February 15	Transfiguration Sunday <b>Organ Recital</b> - 2:00pm
March 27	<b>Big-Eyed Fish Fry</b> - 4:00pm -7:00pm \$15 Carry out available
April 25	Clean up for Shepherd's Hand Walk
May 31	Service 9:00am - Preacher: Rev. Phil Rigdon <b>Education Celebration / Church Potluck</b> Blake Sebring – “Bethlehem Memories”
June 20	<b>Neighborhood Walk</b> - 10:00am 3205 Alexander St., Site of Bethlehem's 1926 Portable Chapel Talk: Mr. Ron Oetting
July 18	<b>Community Fest</b> 10:00am – 3:00pm <b>Health Fair</b> - Fellowship, Food and Fun
August 8	LSUS Clean up
September 12	<b>Alumni Dance</b> 7:00pm – 11:00pm Allen County Fairgrounds
September 13	Alumni Service 9:00am Preacher: Rev. Steve Ensley <b>Alumni Events</b> Charcuterie Board
October	<b>Mission MONTH</b>
November	<b>Food Bank MONTH</b>
December 20	Closing & Looking Forward to the Future <b>Service of Song</b> w/Don Wharton - 2:00pm

## Thankful Projects

Pew Cushions  
 Signage  
 Awnings  
 New Tables and Chairs

## GET YOUR TICKETS!

100th Anniversary  
 Kick-Off Luncheon  
 January 11th at 11:30am in our cafeteria.

The menu will be:

Stuffed pork loin, Mashed potatoes & gravy, Green beans, Salad, Dinner rolls, Cake and beverages.

**You must buy a ticket to be admitted!**

The price of the ticket is \$1.00 (the cost of a meal in 1926, 100 years ago!) We will have a Free Will Basket in case you think the meal is worth more than a dollar.

**Tickets will be sold after church every Sunday through December.**

## Order your 100th anniversary shirts today!

Use the QR code to order shirts.





December 3 Wednesday	6:30pm	Midweek Advent Service
December 10 Wednesday	6:30pm	Midweek Advent Service
December 16 Tuesday	6:30pm	LSUS Christmas Program (Zion)
December 17 Wednesday	6:30pm	Midweek Advent Service
December 21 Sunday	6:30pm	The Darkest Night Service
December 24 Wednesday	6:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25 Thursday	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship Service

To Us a Child  
Is Born

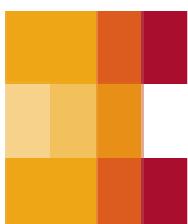
K-8th LSUS  
Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 16  
6:30PM  
at Zion Lutheran Church

# small GROUPs



Mark your calendars for a special Epiphany Coffee Hour, January 4<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Small Groups. Join us in celebrating this special day with treats and fellowship.



## THE Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD™

Watch for 2026 Rescue Mission Sign-up sheets. This would be an excellent opportunity for families to volunteer. We serve and donate desserts every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

We appreciate our volunteers for the Rescue Mission.

Thank You!

## Food Bank Report

By Sharon Shediack

October

We provided food to 458 individuals. They included 220 children under the age of 18, and 47 individuals over the age of 60.

Our congregation provided 690# of food. We went to Community Harvest four times this month to purchase 2179# of food in the amount of \$813.

Our 15 volunteers gave 116 hours of their time.

We could use soup, peas, boxed/packet baking mixes, pasta sauce 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

## 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.**

# Surviving The Holidays With A Mental Illness



## 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), or Threasa Lightning (260-417-1450), our Grief Coordinators.

## Grief is harder around the holidays

Are you prepared to face the holidays while grieving? The Thanksgiving and Christmas season can be bleak. Navigating grief during the holiday season can be challenging. GriefShare can help.

Bethlehem will host two events to offer coping tools and support to navigate the challenges for the season for those grieving.

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas after a big life change: a lost job, a broken relationship, a wearying illness, a recent death—or perhaps it is simply a time that has always been difficult. For these reasons, our church will offer a special “Darkest Night” service on **Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm**. You are invited to come join with us in sharing and hearing scripture, prayers, and music acknowledging that God’s presence is for those who mourn, and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness.



## CLHS NEWS

### Cadets in Cadence Dinner Auction Saturday, December 6

This year's theme, *Beneath the Stars, Beside the Waves*, promises an evening of elegance, fun, and fellowship.

Visit [www.CadetsInCadence.com](http://www.CadetsInCadence.com) for more information, to purchase tickets, or to explore sponsorship opportunities. Don't wait, tickets often sell out quickly! We look forward to seeing you at this year's Cadets in Cadence Dinner Auction.

### Christmas at the Embassy Sunday, December 14 at 4:00pm

Celebrate the start of the Christmas season with inspiring performances from our bands, choirs, and orchestra students. This cherished tradition is one you won't want to miss!

Tickets: \$15 for students and senior citizens, \$20 for general admission. Available beginning October 17 at the Star Bank Box Office, located at the Embassy Theatre.

## LSUS NEWS

Lutheran South Unity School Benefit Dinner was held on November 1. The children of LSUS sang, there was human statue and a Mime. Fun was had by all as we raised funds for our school.



Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying,  
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” and I said,  
**“Here am I. Send me!”**

ISAIAH 6:8

## MISSION NEWS

### ANDERSONS in ASIA

Zack and Sarah have recently moved from L to Thailand. They are loving the benefits: more grocery products available healthcare and its status as a hub for their type of work.

As a full-time linguistics student, Zack's fills his day with going to classes and doing homework. Sarah uses her gifts in hospitality to serve the Payap University linguistics department as the admissions and student-life secretary.

#### Prayer Requests

- For perseverance for the second half of the term.
- For Sarah to have wisdom for her job as a language coach for teammates in L.
- For continued wisdom on how to be involved in our local Body here.

### THE LIBERIAN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Joe Boway traveled to Liberia in early November. He helped to receive a shipping container full of gifts. On behalf of the 6700 students, their parents, and the teachers, thank you for all your support.

#### Prayer Requests

- For Joe as he meets with Liberian Church leaders in Monrovia.
- For safe travels as Joe returns to Fort Wayne on December 11. We ask God to bless him with a time of rest and joyful reunion with his family.

Declare *His glory* among the nations

*His marvelous works* among all the peoples!

Psalm 96:3



# The Joyful Corner

## JOY

On our journey through Advent we focus on Joy, which is so much more than a feeling of happiness, like the world would want us to believe. Spiritual Joy is deep in our heart. Even when life is challenging, we can still hang on to our Spiritual Joy, created in us by the Holy Spirit, and that can only be found in Jesus. As we get closer to Christmas we joyfully look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth, a promise fulfilled. In the time before Christ's birth, God's people relied on the prophecies and waited in joyful expectation for the promise to be fulfilled. They waited a long time! We know the story and that He would go to the cross to save us. Our joy continues past Christmas and the beautiful story of the babe born in Bethlehem, it is a response to what God has already done and continues to do in our lives. As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas, may you find real joy by taking all of your cares and worries to the God who loves you so much that He gave his only Son so that you could have the greatest gift of all: eternal life



*Christmas  
Memories*

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent Tea  
December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

National:  
lwml.org

State/Local:  
lwmlindiana.org



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR MITE OFFERINGS

Sunday, November 23 was LWML Sunday. The Women of Bethlehem, on behalf of LWML, thank you for your generous Joyful, Noisy Door Offering. We collected \$171.39.

**THANK YOU    THANK YOU**

## WOMEN of BETHLEHEM

FROM THE DESK OF



P. O. Box 95 Mandeville, LA 70471

Dear Women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,  
Your spirit of generosity in making the  
"Crosses for Bunny" at your Fall Fling is  
greatly appreciated.

Your kindness is a true blessing to  
Forged by Fire and those who will receive these  
gifts of hope.

We are honored to have you as partners  
in this ministry. May God bless your service.

Sharing our Savior,  
one meal at a time.

*Sincerely,*  
Rochell Kurucar  
Administrator

## VOTERS ASSEMBLY December 14 following the worship service.

The Voters Assembly of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet on Sunday, December 14, 2025, in the sanctuary following the 9:00am worship service. Agenda items include the following:

- Opening prayer
- The minutes of the Voters Assembly of June 1, 2025.
- The Treasurer's report.
- Budget
- Elections

All Bethlehem members may attend and participate in the meeting. All Bethlehem communicant members age eighteen years and older are eligible to vote.

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

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

The November regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:30 PM by President Greg Shediack. Pastor Ben provided an opening devotion focused upon how we are all a part of God's larger epic, players in the greatest story ever leading to the return of Jesus. Pastor closed the devotion with prayer.

The minutes from the Board's October 2025 regular monthly meeting, as previously sent to the Board by Secretary John Stafford, were amended to show Jon Dize as a guest. With that addition, they were unanimously approved, on a motion by John and a second from Dan Bates.

The Soul Accounting report included no changes in membership for the month of October.

Treasurer Brian Bates presented the October Financial Report. Monthly income for October was \$29,109 compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Income from offerings through the first ten months of the year totaled \$286,829 and total income including miscellaneous receipts and extraordinary income totaled \$318,349. Monthly expenses for October totaled \$30,709, compared with monthly budget amount of \$33,668. Expenses for the year through ten months totaled \$334,744. To date it has not been necessary to withdraw any funds this year from the Endowment to support operating expenses. The Endowment earnings in 2025 total \$136,538. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of October was \$1,479,584. That portion of the Endowment Fund resting with the Lutheran Foundation was current through September as we had not yet received the October statement. The month-end balance in the SSMG Fund was \$27,382. Brian also presented a report illustrating actual expenses compared with budgeted amounts for the major categories of the Operating Budget. Through October, we have expended 82.8 percent of the budgeted expenses. The monthly Treasurer's Report as submitted was unanimously adopted on a motion by Brian Bates and a second by Rachele Dance.

Brian next presented a draft budget for 2026 for the Board's consideration. Budgeted income is estimated at \$315,000 and expenses for 2026 at \$453,590. The income shortfall would be made up by a withdrawal of up to \$138,500 from the Endowment Fund. After review and discussion, Brian moved and John Stafford seconded a motion to recommend the budget as presented to the Voters Assembly for their approval.

Pastor's report focused on the upcoming Thanksgiving and Advent services and a continued discussion of Bethlehem's participation on the Lutheran South Unity School Board. To date we have no one willing to serve as a Board member from Bethlehem to fill any of our three vacancies.

Under New Business, the Board discussed ongoing efforts at finding candidates to nominate for the position of Vice President.

The Board next continued the discussion regarding the three vacant LSUS Board of Directors positions from Bethlehem. To date, we have been unable to find any members willing to fill at least one of these slots. It was noted that the school's bylaws require at least one member from each of the four congregations to be present to make a quorum.

The next Voters Assembly was set for December 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Sunday service. At this Assembly will recommend a budget for 2026 and have elections for President, Vice President and two at-large seats on the Board of Directors. We will continue to seek individuals willing to be nominated for serving on the LSUS Board.

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

Submitted in His service,  
John Stafford, Secretary

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 – Johanna Hoffacker   | 21 – Percy Dance       |
| 4 – Annette Diemer      | Andrea Lightning       |
| 5 – Cathy Dykstra       | Terri Nelson           |
| Havilynd Martinsky      | Anousack Somsanith     |
| 6 – Zerek Graf          | 22 – Harrison Brooks   |
| 10 – Roger Stephans     | 23 – Cathy Finner      |
| 12 – John Davis         | 24 – Kaliq Jackson     |
| 13 – Catherine Stanley  | 25 – Kennedy Coopwood  |
| 14 – Patricia Hawkins   | 26 – Carla Kay         |
| 16 – Joyce Knipstein    | 28 – Demetrius Jackson |
| Alexandra Leathers      | Ryan Jarrell           |
| Alexia Silva            | Rylee Jarrell          |
| 17 – Anoukone Somsanith | Alexis Parker          |
| 19 – Callen Bearman     | 29 – Trevor Essex      |
| Philip Urbahns          | James Lee              |
| 20 – Treshur Booker     | David Magadan          |
|                         | 31 – John Bates        |



**IS YOUR  
INFO UP  
TO DATE?**

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.

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 – Ignacio and Esperanza Silva (32)  
 20 – Tamala Kahn and Frank Kahn (44)  
 25 – Bounma and Boualinh Vongphachanh (38)  
 28 – Robert and Jane Miller (62)



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES  
[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

To find airings near you, check the broadcast guide at [lhm.org/guide](http://lhm.org/guide).

The Lutheran Hour is available today in many other ways beyond traditional radio. From the American Forces Network, Sirius XM satellite radio, [lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org), the Connected by LHM mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Spotify, iHeartRadio, YouTube, dialing in on your phone, and more, listeners can hear the weekly sermons whenever and wherever they are.

For more information about Lutheran Hour Ministries, visit [lhm.org](http://lhm.org).

*Merry Christmas*



**Give your tithes and offerings online.  
It's simple and secure.**

Visit  
[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)

Or hold the camera  
of your smartphone  
over this code then  
click the link  
provided.



**Facebook  
Livestream**

Stream worship  
weekly  
9AM EVERY SUNDAY

Access the livestream by  
visiting  
[www.facebook.com/bethlehemfortwayne](http://www.facebook.com/bethlehemfortwayne)



# DECEMBER 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>
3	Mary Snow Allison Cheng				Charlotte Ratliff	Hapner Family
6	Sharon Dietrich Suzie Emley	Peter Schlie			Charlotte Ratliff	
7	Amber Herndon	Greg Shediack	Evans Branigan	Donna Volmerding	Allison Cheng	Joshua Hapner
10	Kim Ellison Sharon Shediack				Charlotte Ratliff	Hapner Family
13	Linda Stafford	Michael Johnson			Carla Johnson	
14		Peter Schlie	Dan Bates	The Hapner Family	Aaron Brown	Randy Hapner
17	Mary Snow Allison Cheng				Charlotte Ratliff	Hapner Family
20	Sharon Dietrich Suzie Emley	Brian Bates			Charlotte Ratliff	
21	Amber Herndon	John Bates	Ron Gallmeyer	John Stafford Linda Stafford	Allison Cheng	Josiah Hapner
24						Hapner Family
25	Kim Ellison Sharon Shediack					Hapner Family
27	Mary Snow Allison Cheng	Ed Ramos			Blake Sebring	
28		Greg Shediack	Evans Branigan	Glenn Emley	Aaron Brown	Randy Hapner

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30pm - Bd. of Elders	3 5:30pm Advent Dinner 6:00 – 6:20pm – Choirs 6:30pm Advent Service	4	5	6 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>4:00pm Worship</b> w/Comm
7 <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> 10:30am Education Hour 1:30pm Advent Tea	8	9 6:30pm – Bd. of Directors	10 5:30pm Advent Dinner 6:00 – 6:20pm – Choirs 6:30pm Advent Service 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting	11	12	13 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>4:00pm Worship</b> w/Comm
14 <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> Voters' Assembly	15	16 6:30pm – LSUS Christmas Service at Zion Lutheran Church	17 5:30pm Advent Dinner 6:00 – 6:20pm - Choirs 6:30pm Advent Service	18	19	20 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>4:00pm Worship</b> w/Comm
21 <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> 10:30am Education Hour 6:30pm The Darkest Night service	22	23	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve worship	25 10:00am Christmas Day worship	26	27 8:30am Prayer Breakfast <b>4:00pm Worship</b> w/Comm
28 <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> 10:30am Education Hour	29	30 6:30pm – Bd. Of Property	31	<i>Merry Christmas</i>		