

THE MESSENGER

January 2026

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.

Address: 3705 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Phone: 260-744-3228 Fax: 260-744-3229

Email: bethfw@yahoo.com Web: www.bethlehemicms.org



From the Pastor's Desk

Throughout All Generations

“Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.” - Psalm 90:1

One hundred years is a long time. It's longer than most of our lives. Longer than any one pastorate. Longer than the memory of any single family still worshiping here. And yet, as we step into our 100th anniversary year, Psalm 90 reminds us that even a century—remarkable as it feels to us—is held inside something far greater: the enduring faithfulness of God.

Before there was a Bethlehem Lutheran Church building. Before there were pews, hymnals, or a congregation gathered under this roof. Before any of us were born. “The Lord,” Moses says, “has been our dwelling place throughout all generations.” That verse invites us to look in two directions at once. Backward—with gratitude. Forward—with confidence.

When Bethlehem was founded a century ago, the world looked very different. The neighborhood was different. The needs were different. The people were different. And yet the same Lord was present. The same Word was preached. The same forgiveness was delivered. The same Jesus was proclaimed for sinners.

God was faithful then. He was faithful through seasons of growth and seasons of struggle. Through times of clarity and times of uncertainty. Through pastors, teachers, families, children, and saints who are now at rest with Christ. Some of them made sacrifices we will never fully know. Some of them prayed prayers whose answers they never lived to see.

But God saw. God heard. God remained. He was a dwelling place—not just a meeting place, not just a building, but a refuge. A home. A place where sinners could come with nothing to offer and receive everything from Him. And as we step into this anniversary year, God invites us not only to remember—but also to trust. Because Psalm 90 does not just speak to the past. It speaks to the future. The same Lord who was faithful then will be faithful now. And the same Lord who is faithful now will be faithful to generations yet to come.

That matters, especially for a congregation like ours. It's easy to compare ourselves to larger churches, newer churches, more resourced churches. It's easy to worry about what we don't have, or what we used to have, or what the future might hold. But Psalm 90 gently lifts our eyes away from all of that and anchors us in something steadier. Our hope is not in our size. Our confidence is not in our strength. Our future is not secured by our plans. “Our dwelling place throughout all generations” is the Lord Himself. That means we don't enter this 100th year trying to manufacture excitement or prove something about ourselves. We enter it trusting that God is already at work—just as He always has been.

This anniversary year will be filled with opportunities to celebrate: special worship services, shared meals, storytelling, remembering, and giving thanks. It will also be a year to look forward—to ask how God might be calling us to serve our neighbors, speak Christ's Word clearly, and prepare the way for those who will come after us. Children not yet born. Families not yet connected. Neighbors not yet known. God already knows them. And He will be their dwelling place too.

So as we begin this new year—and this significant milestone—let's walk into it together with humble joy. Let's tell the old stories again. Let's listen carefully. Let's pray boldly. And let's trust deeply. Because the God who carried this congregation through one hundred years is not finished with us yet. “Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.” And by His grace, He always will be.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben

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

10:30am-11:30am



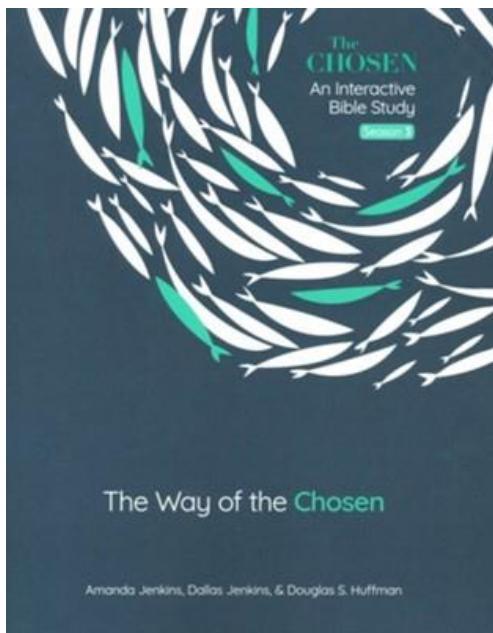
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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 are preparing to begin Season 3 of The Chosen in January. We have opted to return to our every-other-Saturday routine. Consequently, we will meet in Room 1 at 9:30 on the following dates in 2026:

January 3, 17, 31 - February 14 & 28
March 14 & 28 - April 11



IN CHRIST ALONE

Sonshine Club 2025 - 2026

Children ages 3 yrs - 5th 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.



With 2026 as the centennial year of our congregation the theme for our January 31, 2026, Men's Prayer Breakfast will be "100 Years of Life Together at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church." To help us see what God has done and continues to do at Bethlehem, we shall read, study, and discuss the book *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who will have us consider a number of directions and precepts that Scriptures provide us for our life together under the Word. Please plan to join your friends in the cafeteria starting at 8:30 A.M. 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 Bethlehem members, friends, visitors, and neighbors are welcome. "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! . . . For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore." Psalm 133:1, 3b NIV.



January 4, 2026 – Second Sunday after Christmas
Where's Jesus? - Luke 2:46
Rev. Scott Zeckzer

The season of Christmas is coming to an end. The Christmas decorations are put away but don't put Jesus away. Jesus is still present, but where?

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran High School Choir, Concordia, Mo.; St. Paul Lutheran School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Lincoln Lutheran High School Choir, Lincoln, Neb.
Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Ind.

January 11, 2026 – The Baptism of Our Lord
The Baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:13-17

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

At the Baptism of Jesus there was clear, powerful evidence that He was not only a man but also God—the Son of God. Christ had to be human and divine in order to be the Savior of the world. As the Savior, Jesus closely identified with the human race, and that is why He submitted to being baptized with John. This is wonderful, good news for us today.

Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran School Choir, Munster, Ind.
Featured Art and Architecture: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Muncie, Ind.

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)

January 18, 2026 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Who Is “The Real Jesus”? - John 1:29

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

What are people's first and lasting impressions of Jesus? Who do you think that He is? Will the “real Jesus” please stand up?

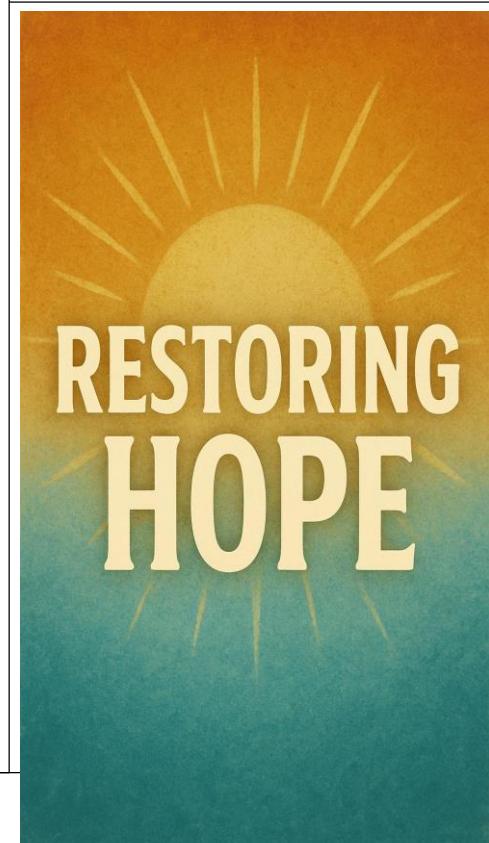
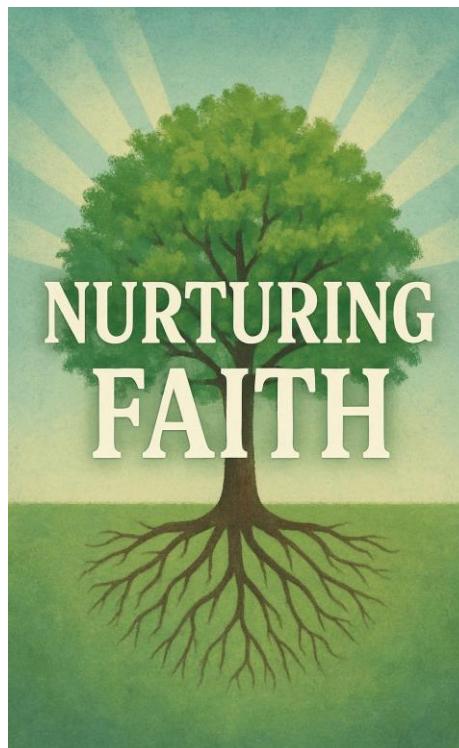
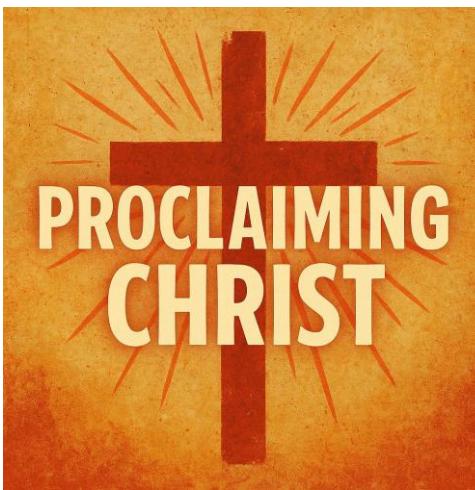
Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Lutheran Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Lutheran School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Featured Art and Architecture: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Tipton, Ind.

January 25, 2026 – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
Fishers of Men - Matthew 4:19

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Formerly, the disciples fished for fish. Now, they would fish for men, catching men for the kingdom, dropping the dragnet of Jesus' own sacrificial death and resurrection into the sea of this world and dragging whatever they caught onto the shore and into the church.

Featured Choirs: St. Peter's Lutheran School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Lutheran Church Choir, Indianapolis, Ind.
Featured Art and Architecture: Faith Lutheran Church, Roanoke, Ind.

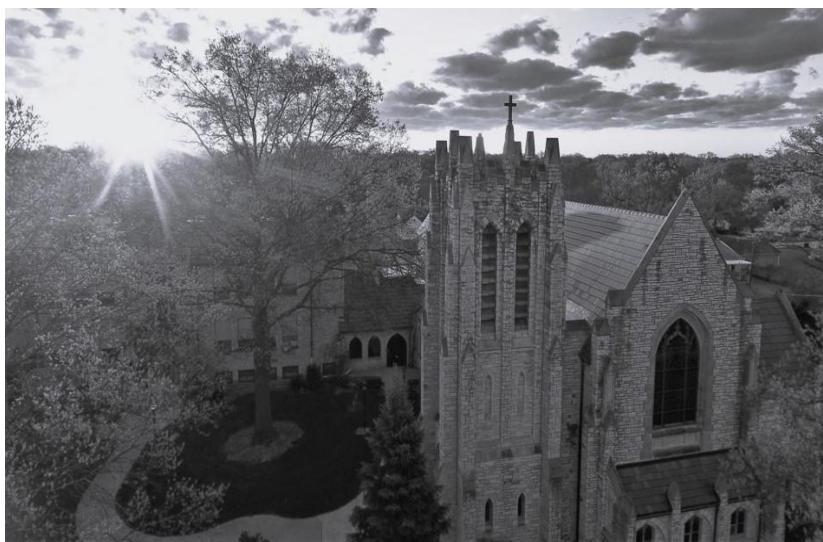


The
FWLutheran

www.myfwl.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Celebrating 100 years



Bethlehem Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary 1926-2026

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Kick-Off - Service: 9:00am

Preacher: Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch,
Indiana District President

Video: Bethlehem 100th Anniversary

Lunch: 11:30am Speaker: Nathan Bienz,
Historian, FW Lutheran Board Member

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Musical Celebration - 2:00pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Big-Eyed Fish Fry 4:00pm -7:00pm

\$15 Carry out available

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Clean up for Shepherd's Hand Walk

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Preacher: Rev. Eli Voigt

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Service 9:00am – Preacher: Rev. Phil Rigdon

Education Celebration / Church Potluck

Blake Sebring – “Bethlehem Memories”

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Neighborhood Walk - 10:00am

3205 Alexander St.

Site of Bethlehem's 1926 Portable Chapel

Talk: Mr. Ron Oetting

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Outdoor Worship Service

Community Fest / Health Fair 10:00am – 3:00pm
Fellowship, Food and Fun

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

LSUS Clean up

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Alumni Dance 7:00pm – 11:00pm
Allen County Fairgrounds

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Alumni Service 9:00am

Preacher: Rev. Steve Ensley

Alumni Events

Reception with charcuterie

OCTOBER

Mission MONTH

NOVEMBER

Food Bank MONTH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Service 9:00am

Preacher – Rev. Thomas Eggold

Service of Song w/Don Wharton

Closing & Looking Forward to the Future

BETHLEHEM TRIVIA

September 13, 1925 the Christian day school opened at 3205 Alexander Ave.

There were 46 charter members who started Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

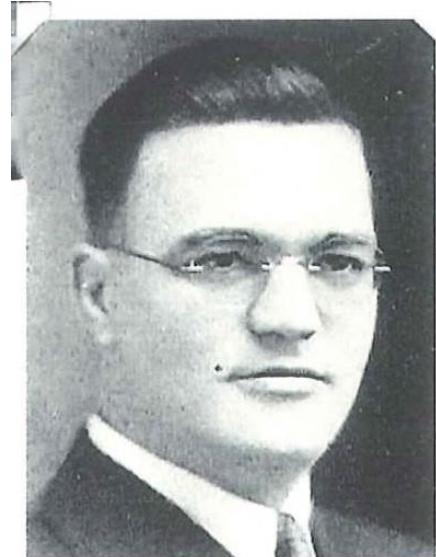
In January 1926 regular Sunday morning services were held in the portable chapel at 3205 Alexander Ave. Fort Wayne, IN. The services were in the charge of Concordia and Zion pastors and assisted by professors of the Concordia College faculty.

In September 1926 Maxine Macke was the first infant baptized at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

In December 1926 the Bethlehem's Ladies Society was organized.

In December 1926 125 people were confirmed.

The first pastors of Bethlehem Lutheran Church were Pastor H.D. Mensing and Pastor M.E. Reinke.



Thankful Projects

Pew Cushions

Signage

Awnings

New Tables and Chairs

Order your 100th anniversary shirts today!

Use the QR code to order shirts.



Blessed by God for 100 Years



Join us in celebrating Epiphany with a special Coffee Hour, January 4th with treats and fellowship. Hosted by Small Groups.



The new 2026 Rescue Mission Sign-up sheet is up.

This would be an excellent opportunity for families to volunteer.

We serve and donate desserts every 4th Sunday of the month.

We appreciate our volunteers for the Rescue Mission.

Thank You!

Food Bank Report

By Sharon Shediack

November

We provided food to 371 individuals. They included 147 children under the age of 18, and 61 individuals over the age of 60.

Our congregation provided 776# of food. Irwin School donated 1,645 # of food. We went to Community Harvest three times this month to purchase 2051# of food in the amount of \$1026.

Our 16 volunteers gave 119 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.

January is:

Mental Well-being Month As we step into a new year, consider ways to prioritize the importance of mental well-being. January is recognized as Mental Well-being Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues, sharing resources to reduce stigma surrounding mental health topics, and encouraging proactive steps toward maintaining mental well-being. Prioritizing mental health is vital for leading a fulfilling life which can lead to healthier communities. Remember, every effort counts in creating a healthier, happier community.

Practical Tips for Enhancing Mental Well-being

1. Self-Care: Engaging in simple practices such as gratitude journaling, connecting with nature, and creative hobbies can significantly enhance mental well-being.
2. Set Realistic Goals: As you embark on your New Year's resolutions, ensure they are achievable and time bound. Setting realistic goals can reduce feelings of overwhelm and promote a sense of accomplishment.
3. Practice Mindfulness: Engage in mindfulness practices such as meditation or deep breathing exercises. These techniques can help reduce stress and improve emotional regulation.
4. Stay Active: Regular physical activity and joyful movement is beneficial for both physical and mental health. Aim for at least 30 minutes of rigorous activity most days to boost your mood and energy levels.
5. Get Enough Sleep: Sleep is vital for mental health. Prioritize a consistent sleep schedule and create a relaxing bedtime routine to improve sleep quality.
6. Limit Screen Time: Reducing the amount of time spent on screens, especially on social media, can help decrease stress and anxiety levels.
7. Professional Support: Seeking help from mental health professionals is a sign of strength and self awareness.

Additional Resources

- American Psychological Association (APA), APA commemorates Mental Health Awareness Month with series of special activities,
<https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2018/04/mental-health-month>
- Mental Health Center- 21 Ways to Celebrate Mental Wellness Month,
<https://www.mentalhealthctr.com/21-ways-to-celebrate-mental-wellness-month/>



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.

The Joyful Corner

Stepping Into the New Year With Joy

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.” — Romans 15:13

As we begin a new year together, we come carrying many things—hopes and prayers, unanswered questions, gratitude, and perhaps a few worries. Each of us stands at a different place in our journey, yet we are united by the same faithful God. The joy He offers us is not dependent on circumstances, but rooted in His unchanging presence.

Joy is often mistaken for happiness, but joy is deeper. It is the quiet confidence that God is at work even when the path ahead feels uncertain. It is the strength to keep loving, serving, and trusting when life feels heavy. This new year invites us not to strive harder, but to lean closer—to trust God more fully and to walk one day at a time in His grace.

As women of faith, we are called to encourage one another, to share burdens, and to celebrate victories together. May this year be one where we choose joy daily—through prayer, through gratitude, and through faithful obedience. Let us remember that God goes before us, walks beside us, and gently carries us when we are weary.

Prayer:

Gracious God, thank You for bringing us into this new year. Fill our hearts with Your joy and our lives with Your peace. Help us trust You more deeply, love one another more freely, and walk confidently in the plans You have prepared for us. May this year draw us closer to You and to one another. Amen.

National:
lwml.org

State/Local:
lwmlindiana.org



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

**WOMEN of
BETHLEHEM**

Advent Tea 2025, Christmas Memories

Approximately 135 women braved the cold to attend the Tea. We had 11 beautifully decorated tables and a dramatic reading by Al Schumm and Sharon Dietrich Schumm, of *“A Cup of Christmas Tea”*. A Love Offering of \$516.00 when to Lutheran South Unity School.





LSUS NEWS

ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT

HAVE SOME FUN. ENJOY GETTING TO KNOW THE LSUS TEACHER & PARENT. BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE CHURCHES AND PARENTS

Food & Drinks will be provided



FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026
6:00 PM

2313 S. Hanna Street

TEACHERS, PARENTS & CHURCHES



WHEN THEY
SAW THE STAR,
they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Matthew 2:10



PHOENIX SPORTS CORNER

WEEK OF DEC. 29TH - JAN. 10TH



GAMES:

Monday, Jan. 5th vs. Emmaus
4:30pm Varsity @ Bethlehem

Wednesday, Jan. 7th vs. Holy Cross
4:30pm Varsity @ Bethlehem

Thursday, Jan. 8th vs. Concordia
4:30pm Varsity @ Bethlehem

thank you

Thanks so much for
remembering us at
Thanksgiving! It was
truly a huge help for
Jeff, Alice & I and we
were able to have a
special meal & special
treats for Pastor Jeff
at HV.



Every thought of you holds a special wish

for all the warmth and joy

of a truly wonderful Thanksgiving.

In Christ's love
& Gratitude,
Wicky, Pastor, Jeff & Alice

Draft, not yet approved by the Board.
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting
December 9, 2025

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

The December regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:29 PM by President Greg Shediack. Pastor Ben provided an opening devotion focused on Psalm 98, the basis for two hymns - *Sing A New Song* and *Joy to the World*. Pastor closed the devotion with prayer.

Following the opening devotion, Greg thanked Evans Branigan for his many years of service on the Board of Directors. Evans will be stepping down from the Board beginning in January 2026.

The minutes from the Board's November 2025 regular monthly meeting, as previously sent to the board by secretary John Stafford, were unanimously approved on a motion by John and a second from Dan Bates.

The Soul Accounting report as forwarded by the Board of Elders, included the deaths of Earl Kruger on November 18th and Laverne Eickhoff on November 27th.

Treasurer Brian Bates presented the November Financial Report. Monthly income for November was \$29,247 compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Income from offerings through the first eleven months of the year totaled \$316,076 and total income including miscellaneous receipts and extraordinary income totaled \$347,596. Monthly expenses for November totaled \$32,964, compared with monthly budget amount of \$33,668. Expenses for the year through eleven months totaled \$367,697. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of November was \$1,494,707. That portion of the Endowment Fund resting with the Lutheran Foundation was current through October as we had not yet received the November statement. The month-end balance in the SSMG Fund was \$27,476. Brian did note that the SSMG investment account was closed in early December with the remaining funds transferred to Specific Dedicated Accounts not associated with the Operating and Missions Fund. Brian also presented a report illustrating actual expenses compared with budgeted amounts for the major categories of the Operating Budget. Through November, we have expended 91 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 David Schult.

Pastor's report focused on the Advent services and an update on his progress toward completing the Doctor of Ministry program. He also provided an update on activities at Lutheran South Unity School, including our ongoing need to elect representation from Bethlehem on the School Board and correspondence between the school and The Lutheran Foundation regarding future grants to LSUS.

Under New Business, Greg updated the Board on the recent action of the Board of Property Management to engage a firm to provide cleaning services for the building. This was necessitated by Dan Scheerer's illness.

The Board next discussed a proposed slate to be presented at the December 14th Voters Assembly, as follows:

President – Greg Shediack

Vice President – John Stafford

Secretary – Blake Sebring (taking the remainder of the term that John Stafford would be vacating)

At-Large Board Member (2 slots) – David Schult and John Bates

The Board next reviewed an update from the Missions Committee regarding 2025 disbursements to several mission activities. These included contributions from both the annual Operating and Missions Budget and from envelope giving during the year by members:

Cru (Joe and Suzy Schlie) \$1,000 (\$500 from budget and \$500 from envelopes)

Liberian Children (Joe Boway) (\$462 from Budget and \$1,038 from envelopes)

Alaskan Ministries (\$373 from Budget and \$627 from envelopes)

Southeast Asian Ministries (Tim and Michele Miller) (\$253 from Budget and \$1,247 from envelopes)

Shepherds Hand (\$368 from Budget and \$132 from envelopes)

Kings Global (\$150 from Budget and \$50 from envelopes)

Zack and Sarah (Miller) Anderson (\$250 from Budget)

LSUS (\$1,608 from Budget)

Total disbursed: \$3,954 from Budget and \$3,584 from envelopes)

Bethlehem also collected fifty packs of diapers and thirty feminine products for Shepherd's Hand.

Lastly, the Board discussed suggesting at the Voters Assembly that we consider eliminating the Constitution and Bylaws provision that a member can only serve in one elected position at a time. This was suggested given the difficulty we are having in finding members willing to serve on the LSUS School Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Evans Branigan moved for adjournment following a closing prayer. Rachele Dance seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Submitted in His service,
John Stafford, Secretary

DRAFT NOT YET APPROVED BY THE VOTERS ASSEMBLY

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Voters Assembly
Sunday, December 14, 2025

The Voters Assembly was called to order by President Greg Shediack at 10:25 AM in the sanctuary. Thirty-five members were present establishing a quorum.

Pastor Ahlersmeyer opening the meeting with prayer.

Secretary John Stafford presented the minutes from the June 1, 2025 Voters Assembly. Barb Netterville moved for their approval as submitted and Steve Bercot provided a second. The motion unanimously passed.

Treasurer Brian Bates next presented a financial update through the month of November. Income for the year to date was \$347,596 and expenses were \$367,697. The balance in the Endowment Fund as of the end of November was \$1,494,707. It was noted that the portion invested with the Lutheran Foundation was current as of October 31st as we had not yet received the November statement. The balance in the SSMG Scholarship Fund as of November 30th was \$24,476. Lenka Bercot moved for the acceptance of the financial report. The motion was seconded by Rhonda Cheng and passed unanimously.

Brian next presented the 2026 Operating and Missions Budget as recommended by the Board of Directors. The budget as presented includes projected income from member giving of \$315,000 and investment withdrawal of \$138,590. Proposed expense for 2026 total \$453,590. Expenses proposed by major category include:

Staffing	\$242,690
Pastoral Expenses	\$6,300
Congregational Life	\$22,900
Missions	\$4,000
Supplies	\$21,000
External Outreach	\$4,800
Buildings and Grounds	\$145,000
Educational Ministries	\$6,900

A more detailed explanation of proposed expenses was distributed at the Voters Assembly and is available from the Church Office. After explanation and discussion, Brian Bates moved for approval of the 2026 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dan Bates and passed unanimously.

The next item of business was election of President and Vice President, two At-Large Board of Directors seats and Bethlehem representatives to the Lutheran South Unity School Board (LSUS). The Board of Directors proposed the following slate of candidates:

President – Greg Shediack for a two-year term

Vice President – John Stafford for a two-year term

Secretary – Blake Sebring one year to complete the term being vacated by John Stafford

Two At-Large Board Members – David Schult and John Bates, each for a two-year term

From the floor Joe Nelson agreed to serve as one of the three Bethlehem slots on the LSUS School Board. The remaining two slots will continue to be vacant. A motion to elect this slate, including Joe Nelson for LSUS School Board, was provided by Dena Schult and seconded by Ruth Bates. It subsequently passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Mark Blessing provided an update from the Community Center Committee outlining the progress being made to fill under-utilized space in our building with an organization or organizations which could serve the needs of our surrounding neighborhood. He noted that the Committee had met with several organizations that could use a relatively small portion of the available space but, as of yet, no single organization needing a larger amount of space had surfaced. Mark also provided an update on the successful application to Sacred Places Indiana for a grant to address several issues impacting the exterior condition of the building. The grant is in the amount of \$66,000 and will require a match of \$33,000.

Sharon Dietrich provided the Assembly with an update on the upcoming 100th Anniversary events.

John Stafford presented the Assembly with a suggestion that we formally consider an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws, removing the limitation of members being able to serve in only one elected office at a time. This consideration would have to occur at a future Voters Assembly after proper notification of the proposed amendment to members. The suggestion was made after the congregation had been unable to fill the LSUS Board slots for several months.

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, David Schult moved and Brian Bates seconded for adjournment. After closing with prayer, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted in His service,

John Stafford
Secretary

CHANGING FOOTPRINTS

Changing Footprints collects both new and gently worn shoes and distributes them to individuals who are homeless, affected by disasters, or otherwise in need. They are currently operating right here at Bethlehem and could use volunteers to help sort the many shoes they receive. If you can donate just a few hours a month, your help would make a big difference! For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Cheryl at 260-341-0167.



Dear Bethlehem Congregation,

Thank you so much for welcoming The Shepherd's Hand to speak during Sunday School.

It was a joy to share how God is working through this ministry, and we are grateful for the opportunity to connect with your congregation.

We are deeply thankful for the generous donations of diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene products, as well as the monetary gift to support our diaper program. Your kindness is a true blessing to the families we serve.

Because of your generosity, parents will have essential items for their children, and our shelves will remain stocked for those who come to us in times of need. Your support helps us continue offering compassion, dignity, and hope in the name of Christ.

Thank you for being partners in this ministry of mercy. May God bless you for the care you've shown to our community.

God's blessings,

Deac. Jana Peters, ED

The Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Denise DeYampert Joshua Hapner	18 – Jared Geisler Yasmine Owen
7 – Heather Weemes	19 – Rey David Magadan
8 – Stephanie Cheng Dana Crane Reggie Tharp	Carole Preston Robert Snow
9 – Kent Bearman Gladys Davies	20 – Dena Schult
12 – Lucas Bernabe	21 – Lisa Bratton
14 – Ty Smith	Joey Nelson
15 – Jane Miller Blake Sebring Suzanne Wright	Katrina Owen
16 – Lindsey Finner Jean Hille	Amber Williams
	22 – Tracy Davis-Cannon
	Gene Dettmer
	23 – Charlee Williams
	24 – Marissa Johnson
	25 – Shirley Brunson
	26 – Lisa Pippenger
	28 – Joseph Nelson



**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.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

8 – Richard and Kathy Brehm (39)
Steve and Donna Melcher (60)
9 – Keith and Amber Hill-Roddy (17)



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

To find airings near you, check the broadcast guide at 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, 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.

Merry Christmas



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

Visit
www.bethlehemlcms.org

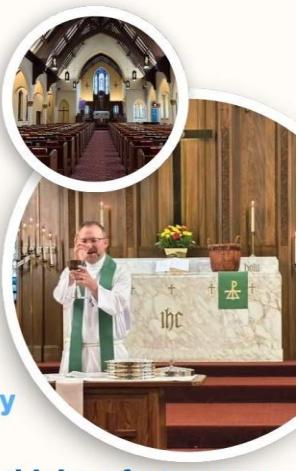
Or hold the camera
of your smartphone
over this code then
click the link
provided.



**Facebook
Livestream**

Stream worship
weekly
9AM EVERY SUNDAY

Access the livestream by
visiting
www.facebook.com/bethlehemfortwayne



JANUARY 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	Sharon Dietrich Suzie Emley Amber Herndon	Michael Johnson			Carla Johnson	
4		John Bates	Ron Gallmeyer	Suzie Emley	Josiah Hapner	Hapner Family
10	Kim Ellison Sharon Shediack	Brian Bates			Blake Sebring	
11		Greg Shediack	Evans Branigan	Dena Schult	Allison Cheng	Hapner Family
17	Linda Stafford	Ed Ramos			Charlotte Ratliff	
18		Peter Schlie	Dan Bates	Donna Melcher Threasa Lightning	Aaron Brown	Hapner Family
24	Mary Snow Allison Cheng	Peter Schlie			Blake Sebring	
25		John Bates	Ron Gallmeyer	Peter Schlie	Josiah Hapner	Hapner Family
31	Sharon Dietrich Suzie Emley Amber Herndon	Michael Johnson			Carla Johnson	
1		Greg Shediack	Evans Branigan	Donna Volmerding	Allison Cheng	Hapner Family

HELP SHARE OUR WORSHIP BEYOND THE WALLS

Our church's **Livestream Ministry** helps us reach members who are homebound, traveling, or unable to attend in person—and it's only possible because of faithful volunteers behind the scenes. Right now, we are in need of **Livestream operators** and **PowerPoint operators** to help support our worship services.

No experience is required—we will provide training and ongoing support. If you're comfortable with basic technology, willing to learn, and have a heart to serve, this could be a meaningful way to use your gifts. Even serving **once or twice a month** makes a big difference.

By volunteering, you're not just running equipment—you're helping people worship, stay connected, and feel included in our church family. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the church office to sign up or for more information (260-744-3228).

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
4 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Epiphany Coffee Hour 10:30am Education Hour	5	6 6:30pm – Bd. of Elders	7 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	1	2	3 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
11 100 th Anniversary Kick-Off 9:00am Worship w/Comm 11:30am Luncheon	12	13 6:30pm – Bd. of Directors	14	15	16	17 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
18 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	19	20	21 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	22	23	24 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
25 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	26	27 6:30pm – Bd. Of Property	28 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	29	30	31 8:30am Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Women's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm