

THE MESSENGER

May 2024

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shows Christ's love through acts of service so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.

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From the Pastor's Desk

His Work, Our Hands

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21

It was March, 2020 and I was taking a walk around my neighborhood in Portage, Indiana. Walks were about all you could do at that time as the world was in lockdown in the wake of a global pandemic. But I had set myself to do more walking before Covid became a household name. It was something I had been planning to do during the season of Lent. I had been reading a devotional book that encouraged me to reflect on the world around me, specifically my neighborhood, while walking. The thought was that God walked through the Garden of Eden. He has made us in His image and therefore the pace of God was a walking pace, roughly three miles per hour. This helped me see a lot of things differently. It helped me realize how fast I was going and how distracted I usually was.

There was also one other thing that happened to me on those walks: God spoke to me. I don't mean in an audible way but in a way that nudged my heart a particular direction that could not be ignored. Since that nudging I have known what kind of pastor He has created me to be and when God gives you such direction you can't ever go back. God has formed me to be a neighborhood pastor. He has made it clear to me that my heart and passions are driven by what I see locally around me. I have a desire to make an impact in the neighborhood around me. I have a calling that keeps my eyes looking at the world outside of my church and my home. There were various things that got me to that realization but one of the biggest ones was walking at a pace that would intentionally be synced up to God's. This realization is also why I felt so strongly that Bethlehem was where God wanted me.

There is something else I have learned in this pursuit of the passions God has put inside me. Just because you have passion doesn't always mean that you know how to live them out. This might be obvious for those of you who love football but don't have the speed or athleticism to keep up with professional players. It's humbling and challenging when your skills don't always line up with your passions but this does not mean you were wrong about your passions. It just means you find another way.

I'm saying all of these things because this month we are meeting as a congregation to pursue a plan that can help bridge the gap between our passions and our abilities. I need to emphasize again that this plan doesn't have to be THE plan but it at least gets us thinking about how we can leverage what we have to live out our passions as a congregation. It is important that you participate in these conversations. It's necessary that your voice is heard as we pursue God's will for Bethlehem. So please come to the meeting and share your questions, thoughts, passions and desires for Bethlehem. We are many members of one body that can accomplish much with Christ as our Head.

We can be the neighborhood church God has called us to be again. I can be the neighborhood pastor that God has called me to be, too. We just need to discover as a congregation how to bridge that gap between our passions and our abilities. Then we need to be reminded again and again that although these are our hands, it is God's plan in action. Although it is our minds, it is God who receives all the glory. Although it is our desire, it is God who is able to accomplish immeasurably more than what you or I can imagine. It is wonderful being your pastor. Through our work and God's power, it will be even more incredible to see how God allows us to be the neighborhood's church again. I feel God's nudging, don't you?

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)

May 5, 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

When You Feel Overwhelmed - 1 John 5:1-8

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

All of us have been overwhelmed by life's circumstances beyond our control. St. John reminds us that we have "the victory that has overcome the world – our faith." Celebrate that victory with us on Worship Anew.

May 12, 2024 – Ascension of Our Lord

Ascended but not Gone - Luke 24:44-53

Rev. William Mueller

Ascension Day is an often forgotten church holiday. It really shouldn't be. It is the culmination of all that our Lord Jesus came to earth to accomplish. Even though He is now ascended, He has not departed from us. In fact, He has given us a joy-filled mission to reach and share.

May 19, 2024 – Pentecost Sunday

I Will - Ezekiel 37:1-14

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, Jr.

Ezekiel 37 describes the human reality of being dried up and worn out. We experience this as individuals and even as churches. In this text God declares, "I Will." God's explicit promise to us this Pentecost day: "I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live.

May 26, 2024 – Holy Trinity Sunday

When the Darkness Hides God - Isaiah 6:1-8

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Do you experience those dark times when God seemingly fails to show up in our lives? Understanding the true identity of our great Triune God will bless us with right understanding, attitudes, and actions when the darkness hides God.

EDUCATION HOUR

10:30am-11:30am

Adults-cafeteria

Kids-Sonshine Club room

Both adults and kids' classes will focus on the readings for that Sunday. The kid's program, ages 3 and up, is called "Whirl" and will include a DVD, lesson, and craft based on the theme.

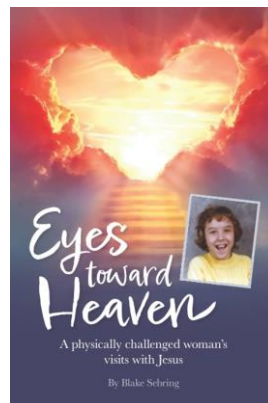
The goal is to have a consistent time where we can grow in God's word and then have discussion about it that week at home, since we will be studying the same thing.

We hope you can join us for this exciting ministry! Please invite your friends and neighbors!



MAY 25 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Author and Bethlehem member Blake Sebring will discuss his two newest books, **Eyes toward Heaven** and **Brave at Heart**, at the Bethlehem Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 25, beginning at 8:30am. Blake will have his books available for purchase. All Bethlehem members and friends and their guests are welcome to join us in the Bethlehem cafeteria for breakfast, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, prayer, and Blake's presentation including time for questions from you. We hope to see you then. *"The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."* Psalm 9:9-10 NIV



"Blessed Is the Work We Do"

From *The Lutheran Layman*, March 1979 issue, "Go into All the World" by Ron Schlegel

And He (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16:15-16

If you have ever had the frustrating experience of having communicated to someone something you thought was perfectly clear only to discover that what you said was completely misunderstood, then you have some idea of how our Lord must have felt (humanly speaking) about His disciples. He had told them He was going to suffer and die and rise again from the dead, but they did not understand at all what was said.

So little did they understand, in fact, that even after His resurrection, when reliable witnesses told them that He had risen from the dead, His disciples still did not believe them. Finally, Mark tells us at the close of his Gospel, "Afterward He (Jesus) appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen" (Mark 16:14).

Those original eleven disciples were men with human failings just like us—men whose understanding was often limited and whose faith was sometimes weak. Yet it was to these very human men that our Lord said to go and take the Good News into all of creation. It was their task to tell the world that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection there is salvation freely available for all people everywhere.

It's a joy to know that God uses us, weak, frail human beings that we are, to announce His message of love and forgiveness to people everywhere. And how that joy is increased because we know our Lord gives us not only the task, but also the power to perform it—just as He did with His original disciples. "And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs" (Mark 16:20).

When we are involved in reaching out into all the world with the Gospel—whether through our support of our church's mission outreach programs or our support of the worldwide reach of Lutheran Hour Ministries—we have the assurance from our Lord Himself that He will bless these efforts and that this work and witness will not be in vain.

And in our own lives as His modern-day disciples, if we are faithful to our calling to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus into all the world, our efforts will be blessed as well. By God's Spirit of grace, He will work through our words and actions, leading others to Himself so they, too, can one day carry His message to the ends of the earth.

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, bless our words and actions so that others may know Your love through the message we share. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES
OF ALL NATIONS . . .
MATTHEW 28:19

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.



MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENES MONTH

May Mental health Challenge		1 What's one thing you can change in your day to improve your mental health?	2 Create an emergency playlist for times when you need love and comfort.	3 What do you struggle with the most when it comes to your mental health? How can you work on that?	4 What are your top three intentions for each day and how can you meet them?
5 Try a guided meditation, listening to rain, waterfall, or nature sounds count too!	6 Work on a coping skill that you haven't put into practice in a while.	7 Practice being in the moment instead of focusing on the past or future. Be here now.	8 How do you sabotage when it comes to your mental health? (How can you work on that?)	9 Pamper yourself today. Intentionally make time for yourself. Schedule into your day.	10 How have your mental health struggles made you a stronger person?
11 Focus on resting and relaxing today. Take a nap, go to bed early, or just give yourself a break.	12 If you're frustrated at your lack of energy, practice radical compassion for yourself.	13 Clean up your online space. Unsubscribe from emails, clean up your inbox. Make the internet a joyful place.	14 Create sacred space for yourself. Allow yourself to feel safe, vulnerable, and accepted.	15 Do a yoga routine specifically for stress, anxiety, depression or mental health.	16 Check-in with how you're feeling today and then plan your day accordingly.
17 Journal, but make it fun! Stickers, glitter, pens, cute paper – or use a journaling app.	18 Take a social media break for the day and focus on the life around you.	19 Research a new technique or coping skill.	20 Know your stress indicators so that you can practice self-care before getting overwhelmed.	21 Put some loving energy into one of your meaningful relationships today.	22 Ask for help or have a real heart-to-heart about your current needs.
23 Have a date night with yourself. Watch a movie with popcorn, read a book with tea. Relax.	24 Read something that will benefit your mental health. It doesn't have to be self-helpy, it can just make you smile.	25 Pick an affirmation and repeat it to yourself throughout the day. Practice your positive self-talk.	26 Spend time outside. Let the sun land on your face, close your eyes and breathe in the fresh air.	27 Make a plan to accomplish something you've been putting off or avoiding.	28 Focus on your self-care routine. How can you make each day more nourishing?
29 Download apps that might help you manage your time, relax, or calm you down.	30 Focus on what your feelings are trying to tell you instead of immediately reacting to them.	31 Pick your favorite prompt from this month and do it again.			

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), Thresa Lightning (260-417-1450) or Richard Pierce (260-450-2280), our Grief Coordinators.

The Mental Health Initiative is offering a one-hour information session on a
Scam Protection Guide at Lutheran Life Villages (Heritage Room).
Tuesday, June 4, from 10:00am-11:00am.

The speaker will be Cesar Ruiz, computer technician for Bethlehem.
Please join us to learn how to protect yourself from fraud using text, email and telephone.
Bethlehem members are welcome to attend. Bring a friend.

CONSUMER REPORTS'S SCAM PROTECTION GUIDE

It is harder than ever to tell if the email, text, or phone call is from someone trying to steal your money, personal information, or both. Here is what you need to know now.

1. The New Text Scams “smishing”
 - a. Spotting a text scam
 - b. If you opened the text
 - c. If you got scammed
2. The Latest Phone Scams –Is that loved-one-In-Trouble Call for Real?
 - a. Spotting a Phone Scam
 - b. If you answered the Call
 - c. If you go scammed
3. Suspicious emails –Phishing Emails
4. Facebook Frauds

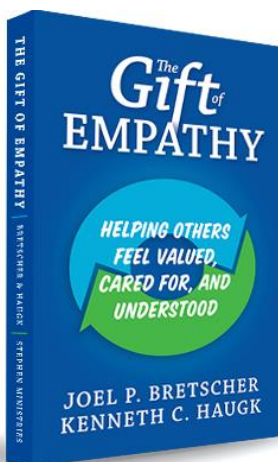
SMART SECURITY STEPS;

1. Slow down
2. Share less of your personal information
3. Delete old accounts
4. Allow automatic software updates
5. Double up
6. Stick with safe payment methods
7. Use antivirus protection

CAN YOU BLOCK SCAMMERS??

BE CAREFUL WITH QR CODES

WATCH OUT FOR THIS ATM CARD SCAM



An **EMPATHY CLASS** will be offered in June.

A book, *The Gift of Empathy*, written by Joel P. Bretscher and Kenneth C. Haug will be studied. Helping people discover and spread empathy is a life-changing power, one interaction at a time. Learn ways to help others feel valued, cared for and understood. Stay tuned for more details for where and when.

“Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying.” Romans 12:15

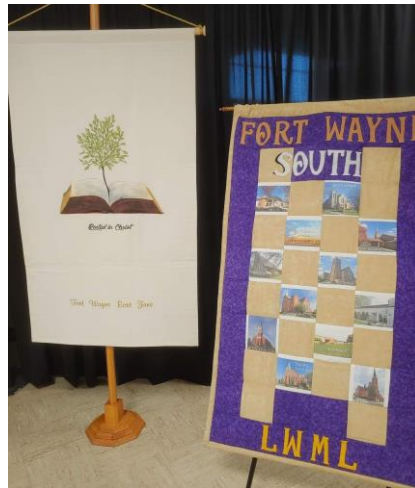
WOMEN of BETHLEHEM



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

There were 88 women and 3 men (Pastor Merino, Pastor Ben, Sergiu Trifa) who attended the LWML 3 Zone Gathering on April 13!

Ingathering of \$1500.00 collected for the Romanian Ministry which will be used to help with the translation of Lutheran works into Ukrainian, planting of Lutheran churches, and assisting Lutheran Ukrainian war refugees.



LWML Indiana District Convention, Rooted in Christ June 21-23, 2024

- Where: Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, Danville, IN
- Keynote Speaker: Jennie Williamson, singer and presenter on Saturday titled “Overcoming Adversity By Being Rooted in Christ” and “Rooted in Christ for Generations to Come.”

What to know about convention:

Participate in the servant events on Friday from 11:00am - 3:00pm.

Sign up for a special Oktoberfest meal on Friday, 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

Participate in the LWML IN TALENT NIGHT on Saturday, June 22.

Do you have a talent to share? Contact becky.thibodeau@trinityindy.org.

Housing information will appear in the February Good News and on the website.

Register online.

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

The Joyful Corner

A mother's joy

A mother is her child's biggest supporter. She is always ready to cheer for their successes, big and small. She treasures the stick-figure drawings made by their little hands. She applauds at all their performances. She lifts them up in prayer through every journey and she smiles at every accomplishment. A mother believes in the best for her child and expects nothing in return. Her joy is complete when she sees her child smile. And whether or not they acknowledge it, children know that no one sees them the way their mother does.

As a mom, I know how special it is to hear even the subtlest "thank you" from your child or to see even a small glimpse of appreciation for your love and dedication. As I read the Bible today, I saw a moment like this for Bathsheba, King Solomon's mom, and it warmed my heart.

[Solomon] had a throne built for the King's mother, and she sat down at his right hand.
1 Kings 2:19

What a sweet picture of King Solomon's love and admiration. At only twenty years old he became the King of Israel and he wanted to show his mom how much he appreciated her. So he built her a throne. Her very own throne right next to his. He gave her the special place of honor at his right hand. I can just imagine the moment he called her in to present it to her: "Here, mom. Look what I made for you. You've always been there for me and believed in me. I wouldn't be where I am today without your love and support. Now I want you to be right beside me as I do great things for the Lord."

God gave moms a special ability to love, support and encourage their children. And the blessings we have to offer aren't just for the children we give birth to. God puts other people into our lives that need the kind of love only a woman with a mother's heart can give. Whoever it is that you are blessing like only a mama can, never forget how much it means to them. They may not build you a throne, but one day you'll receive a crown.

Her children arise and call her blessed...Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.
Proverbs 31:28-29

Charm is deceptive, and beauty
is fleeting; but a woman
who fears the Lord
is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30 NIV

Wishing you God's unending
favor, kindness and love this

Mother's Day
and always.





Volunteering at the Rescue Mission.

The people who come to the Rescue Mission for a meal on Sunday love the cakes, pies and brownies we bring. They really appreciate having dessert to go along with their meal. The staff is glad to see us showing up to volunteer, so they can concentrate on keeping the food line full, while we do the serving. We get to serve and chatter with the residents and visitors who come in for a hot meal and a chance to rest a bit.

Typically, it takes about a little over an hour to volunteer. We sign in at the front desk and go the kitchen to grab an apron. You'll want to bring a hat to wear, otherwise you'll have to wear a hair net. We then start cutting desserts up and bringing them to the serving line. The Chef, working that day, gives the volunteers the run down of what's being served and how much to portion out. The other staff makes sure we have plenty of serving trays, glasses, utensils and napkins. We begin serving the staff and residents first and then the visitors, taking occasional moments to holler out for more steam trays of food or plates as we run low. Once the hour is up, we gather our things, and sign out at the desk.

Just an hour or so on the third Sunday each month.



Sign up to volunteer!

Opportunities to serve lunch every 4th Sunday of the month at the Rescue Mission are available. You can find the sign-up sheet and additional information on what to expect on the bulletin board just outside the Book Nook library. We are looking for volunteers for those Sundays, *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.

Food Bank Report

By Sharon Shediack

February

We provided food to 230 individuals. They included 90 children under the age of 18, and 42 individuals over the age of 60. Our congregation provided 212# of food. We went to Community Harvest twice this month to purchase 1499# of food in the amount of \$347. Our 16 volunteers gave 120 hours of their time.

We could use broth, Cheesy Tuna & canned fruit. 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.



Broths
Canned Fruit
Rice



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

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)

The above Bible verses are the main focus of the formation of Bethlehem's Family Life Ministry Team.

The Team: A Team has been created to encourage, challenge, and equip the families of Bethlehem as well as the families in the surrounding neighborhood of the church. Not only Bethlehem's neighborhood, but neighborhoods where the families of Bethlehem live, work, and play. It's important for Christ's light to shine where ever we are. The team is comprised of Melissa Ahlersmeyer, Summer DeMond, and Natalie and Doug Reynolds. If you are interested in partnering with us in faith formation, please consider joining us!

Our hope is that we can connect with all ages and generations in our Bethlehem church family to create a solid foundation of faith in our homes, whatever each of our homes might look like. We want to create faith forming moments for all ages to support one another as we engage in and explore Biblical truths together. We are calling these opportunities to gather around God's word as a family "Generations of Faith". This is something that we hope to do once a month to help build relationships and connections within our own Bethlehem church family as we gather around the Word.

- Family Life Ministry Team



Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church

invite YOU to...

For Children
Grades
K-5

At Peace
Lutheran
Church

WHAT A MESS! VBS

Dinner for your
whole family
Sun - Thurs

An evening
program

WHEN

Sun 6/9 - Thurs 6/13 2024 5:45 - 8:00PM

WHERE

Peace Lutheran Church - 4900 Fairfield Ave Ft Wayne

WHO

The VBS program is for children going into K through those who have completed 5th grade.

Your whole family is invited to join us for dinner each night starting at 5PM!



Register Here!

Hold the camera of your phone over this code and click the link!

VBS Donations

Look for a donations board coming soon for VBS supplies.

Approved 4-9-2024
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Regular monthly Meeting
March 12, 2024

Members present: Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer, Brian Bates, Dan Bates, Evans Branigan, Rachele Dance, Caleb DeMond, Natalie Reynolds, Greg Shediack and John Stafford

Members absent: none

Guests: Doug Reynolds

The March, 2024 regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:32 PM by President Greg Shediack.

Pastor Ahlersmeyer began the meeting with a devotion focused “the Christian story of everything”: the world that God made, the world that we broke, and the world that God will fix. This is not just what we, as Lutherans, believe; it is the way it is. Pastor concluded the devotion with prayer.

The Board next reviewed the minutes from the February 13th meeting. A modification to the Soul Accounting report was suggested by Pastor Ben. With that modification from the minutes as submitted they were unanimously approved on a motion by John Stafford and a second by Caleb DeMond.

Treasurer Brian Bates presented the February, 2024 Financial Report. Monthly income for February was \$25,548 compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Year-to-date income through February was \$53,937. Monthly expenses for February totaled \$38,097, compared with monthly budget amount of \$40,010. Year-to-date expenses through February were \$75,896. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of January was \$1,118,442 (it was noted that the February report from the Lutheran Foundation had not yet arrived) and the balance in the SSMG Scholarship Fund was \$58,672. The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Brian Bates and a second by Dan Bates.

The Soul Accounting report, as previously approved by the Board of Elders, was reviewed. It included the transfer of Madalene Eggold to Emmanuel Lutheran Church on February 12, 2024. The report was accepted as submitted by the Board of Elders.

The Pastor’s report included an update of the Lenten services and the upcoming series of Holy Week services. He also noted that we will be starting a mid-week Bible Study program after Easter.

Natalie Reynolds provided an update on activities at LSUS. Grandfriends Day will be March 15th and that the Art Fair, in which LSUS students will be participating, will be held at Concordia Lutheran High School on March 17th. She also noted that there have been a couple of faculty changes during the second semester. Lastly, Natalie noted that Pastor Ben performed a baptism for an LSUS student, Royce, on March 14th. This was believed to be a first for LSUS.

Under new business, the need to update the first aid kits in the sanctuary was addressed. There will be a CPR training class for several members of the congregation to be conducted on Saturday, April 20th. Rachele Dance is taking the lead on both these efforts. The VBS Program will be conducted held on June 9th through June 13th and will be conducted at Peace Lutheran Church. This will be a joint Bethlehem-Peace activity. The Board also discussed how best to present concepts for increased utilization of space in the building as we look to raise the level of engagement with our surrounding community. The next step will be an informational session for the congregation immediately following the service on April 14th.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Evans Branigan moved and Dan Bates seconded a motion for adjournment. After Natalie closed with prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Submitted in His service,
John Stafford, Secretary

Hello Bethlehem Family,

On Sunday, April 14th our congregation gathered after worship to hear a proposed future for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. ~~The information that was presented is attached to this email.~~ Our congregation will be asked to vote on a motion to authorize the Board of Directors to perform further due diligence on the feasibility of this proposal at a voter's meeting on May 19th after worship, and so we want to make sure that you have the opportunity to fully consider the proposal prior to this meeting. While the results of this further assessment of feasibility would be brought back to the congregation for a vote in the future prior to initiation of any elements of the proposal, the vote on May 19 provides key input for the Board in whether to further pursue this effort and so your voice needs to be heard.

I have been your pastor for over three years now and this time has been a wonderful period of getting our congregation back on its feet. Stability is comfortable but God calls us to more. We are steady on our feet but we cannot stay still. What has been presented is an attempt to find our footing as we step forward in faith as a church.

I believe very strongly that the future of our congregation is tied intimately to what will happen to our neighborhood and our connection to it. Bethlehem has always been a neighborhood church and as we seek to regroup and discover new purpose it should be connected to that identity.

This proposal is an attempt to explore a path forward while staying true to who we are. It gives us a sense of purpose while aligning with our passions and capabilities. This does not have to be the way we actually go, but it at least begins a conversation about what God would have us do next.

Please read and consider this information carefully. In an email prior to the meeting, we will share with you the specific language of the motion that will be addressed on May 19th.

Keep this initiative in your prayers and bring any questions or concerns you might have to our meeting on May 19th. You are free to contact me or any board members with those until we meet.

May God be with us as we seek His will in all things!
Pastor Ben

Please plan to attend the
Voters Assembly on May 19

*"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future"*
Jeremiah 29:11

Hello Bethlehem Family,

As promised, below is the proposal that will be placed before our congregation on our May 19th voters meeting. It was wisely suggested that this proposal be sent out the congregation in advance of our meeting so that each member has adequate time to digest the information. Last week we sent an email with the presentation from April 14th informational meeting attached. If you would like another copy of that you may request one from the office. Please keep this idea and our conversations as a congregation in your prayers. We seek God's will in all things as we attempt to be a trusted gospel presence on Fort Wayne's southeast side. Thank you for your heart for our church and the mission of God's kingdom.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben

Bethlehem Congregation directs the Board of Directors to undertake the following actions associated with investigation of the feasibility of development of a Community Center program as generally described in the Neighborhood Mission Rejuvenation Plan document presented to the congregation on April 14, 2024:

- I. Performance of following feasibility analyses:
 - A. Identify interested potential Primary Service Providers and associated services, and obtain and assess proposals
 - B. For each identified Primary Service Provider determined to be potentially feasible by the Board, develop the following:
 1. Program Feasibility Assessment budget (these are costs such as architectural studies needed to complete following steps) along with immediate Fundraising Plan designed to limit Bethlehem contribution to no more than \$5,000 from the endowment fund for the feasibility assessments
 2. Proposed Community Center Primary Service operating budget
 3. Proposed Bethlehem Facility Plan, consisting of:
 - a. Architectural plans for necessary renovations for proposed program
 - b. Description of proposed use of designated Bethlehem-only or shared space for all key Church needs
 - c. Capital budget for required renovations
 4. Proposed Community Center entity operating budget
 5. Proposed Combined Bethlehem/Primary Service Provider Fundraising Campaign plan with following elements:
 1. Program descriptions of Community Center and associated Key Services to be provided
 2. Fundraising Campaign proposed budget to meet operating and capital budget needs outlined above
 3. Preliminary research and set proposed fundraising goals by major donor types (Foundations; Corporations; Individuals, etc.) for:
 - a. Key Service Provider operations
 - b. Bethlehem Facility renovation
- II. If the Board determines, after performance of above analyses, that a proposed program appears feasible, the Board is directed to develop a summary presentation of the information analyzed above for Bethlehem Congregation membership, in partnership with the Primary Service Provider. Performance of actual program development steps to initiate proposed plans presented will require a separate authorization vote of Bethlehem Congregation membership at some time after this presentation.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 3 – Antonio Rogers | 16 – Derek Crane |
| 4 – Trinity Dance
William Ihssen | Lo'real Davis |
| 5 – Hans Bernabe
Tambra Jackson | Patti Niday |
| 6 – Demetra DeYampert
Jayle'an Raines | Maxine Smith |
| Linda Stanley | 17 – Jewel Robinson |
| 7 – Adrien Hill | 18 – Gladys Middleton |
| Joan Richter | 20 – Rafael Flores |
| 8 – Alexcia Finan
Bounma Vongphachanh | 21 – Sherrill Davis |
| 9 – Greg Fuller | 22 – Brian Bates |
| Durane Harris | Priscilla Brown |
| 10 – Rebecca Mitchell | 24 – Suzie Emley |
| 11 – Laverne Eickhoff | Terrence Fuller |
| 12 – Lamarcus Moore | Dorothy Oetting |
| Barry Schust | Susan Schott |
| 13 – Vivian Brown | Sandi Wright |
| Claudia Harris | 25 – Eldaer Magadan |
| 14 – Nicole Hill | Miley Moore |
| 15 – Omar Bernabe | Ocleva Williams |
| Michelle Miller | 26 – Davina Crawford |
| | Doug Reynolds |
| | 28 – Kathy McKee |
| | Ellyn Miller |
| | 29 – Angela Stanley |
| | 30 – Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer |
| | Dorothy Feagin |
| | 31 – Leighton Fuentes |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 – Chris and Kari Kiger (6)
Brandon and Staci Epperson (6)
- 6 – Earl and Nancy Kruger (63)
- 15 – Shea and Carmen Hutchinson (20)
- 19 – John and Deborrah Richards (12)

ITEMS NEEDED

Double stroller and baby items needed for a baby boy due in October.

Contact Josie Reed at 260-515-0561

online WORSHIP

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

The
FWLutheran

www.myfwl.org



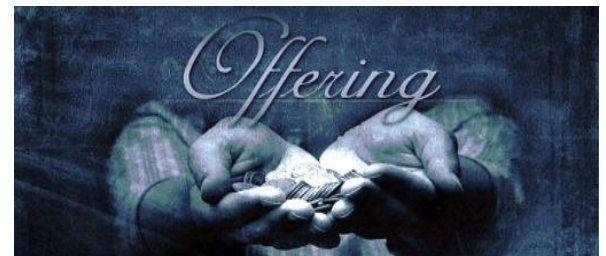
**IS YOUR
INFO UP
TO DATE?**

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 or pick up a form by the church exits and turn into an elder or the church office.



Offerings may be mailed to the church at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**3705 South Anthony Boulevard,
Fort Wayne, IN 46806**

You can make gifts directly on our website. It's simple and secure. Visit our website to see how easy it is!

www.bethlehemlcms.org



May 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>
4	Kim Ellison Sharon Shediack	Michael Johnson		Ruby Bonner	Carla Johnson	
5		Greg Shediack	Evans Branigan	Donna Melcher Threasa Lightning	Aaron Brown	Randy Hapner
11	Linda Stafford Mary Snow	Ed Ramos		Ruby Bonner	Charlotte Ratliff	
12		John Bates	Dan Bates	Richard Pierce	Josiah Hapner	Josiah Hapner
18	Natalie Reynolds Allison Cheng	Terry Bratton		Ruby Bonner	Blake Sebring	
19		Joe Nelson	Ron Gallmeyer	Donna Volmerding Dave Volmerding	Allison Cheng	Joshua Hapner
25	Sharon Dietrich Suzie Emley Amber Herndon	Peter Schlie		Ruby Bonner	Charlotte Ratliff	
26		Peter Schlie	Evans Branigan	Peter Schlie	Aaron Brown	Dave Volmerding

The greatest joy that I know in this life is

SERVING *the Lord.*

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30pm Adult Choir 7:15 Handbells	2	3	4 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
5 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour 2:00pm King's Community Outreach	6	7 6:30pm Bd. of Elders	8 5:30pm Adult Choir 7:15 Handbells	9	10	11 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
12 Mother's Day 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour 2:00pm King's Community Outreach	13	14 7:00pm Bd. of Directors	15 5:30pm Adult Choir 7:15 Handbells	16	17	18 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
19 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour 2:00pm King's Community Outreach	20	21	22 5:30pm Adult Choir 7:15 Handbells	23	24	25 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
26 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Intergenerational Bible Study 2:00pm King's Community Outreach	27 Memorial Day (office closed)	28	29 5:30pm Adult Choir 7:15 Handbells	30	31	