



## From the Pastor's Desk



### Where Do We Go From Here?

*"Behold, I am making all things new." - Revelation 21:5*

Easter morning may have passed, but the resurrection still lingers in the air like the scent of lilies after the service. Jesus lives—and because He lives, hope lives too. That means we're not stuck. Not stuck in our sins, not stuck in fear, not stuck in the grave, not stuck in the past. His resurrection gives us room to imagine again. To trust again. To hope again. He is making all things new—and that includes us.

That's why this May, I want to invite you into a hopeful conversation about Bethlehem's future. Not just about what we do—but about who we are, what we value, and where we're headed. These questions are especially important right now as we consider the future of our school building and the kinds of ministry and partnerships that space might host. We want what happens in our building to reflect what God is doing in our hearts and in this neighborhood.

At our upcoming Voters' Meeting on June 1st, we'll be discussing and approving a proposed mission statement, vision statement, and list of core values. These statements are more than words. They're a way for us to name what's already been shaping our life together and to declare, with resurrection hope, where we believe God is leading us next.

The proposed vision statement is this: *Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a catalyst for Gospel transformation in southeast Fort Wayne, where all people experience Christ's love, grow in faith, and restore hope together.* And our proposed mission statement is simple but deeply meaningful: *Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.*

These three phrases capture the heartbeat of our church. *Proclaiming Christ* means we center everything on Jesus. We are grounded in God's Word and the historic Christian faith, and we believe the Gospel is for everyone. Through worship, teaching, and how we live our lives, we want to make the love, mercy, and justice of Jesus visible in both word and deed.

*Nurturing faith* speaks to how we grow together as a community. Faith isn't a solo journey. At Bethlehem, people of all ages and backgrounds walk with one another, passing on faith across generations. We're committed to building relationships marked by mutual respect and love, where everyone has something to offer and something to learn.

*Restoring hope* reminds us that God has placed us here—in southeast Fort Wayne—for a purpose. We're not outsiders coming in to fix things. We believe Christ is already at work in this neighborhood, and we are called to join Him. That means engaging in partnerships marked by respect, listening, and mutual transformation—so that together we can seek lasting flourishing.

Along with our mission and vision, we're also proposing a set of values that describe how we seek to live this out. These include being Christ-centered and rooted in God's Word. They reflect our commitment to embodying the Gospel, nurturing faith across all ages, and celebrating the diversity of God's kingdom. They show our belief in collaboration, hope for our neighborhood, and the importance of stewarding our resources for the good of others.

Over the next few weeks, you'll see these statements posted in the bulletin, shared in Bible study, and displayed around the church. I encourage you to read them carefully, reflect on them, and talk about them with others. This is something we are discerning together as a congregation—and I hope you'll join us at the June 1st meeting to affirm these steps forward.

Because the tomb is still empty. Jesus is still alive. And He's still making all things new—even here, even now, even at Bethlehem.

With resurrection hope,  
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 4, 2025 – Third Sunday of Easter**

**The Conversion of Paul - Acts 9:1-9, 17-20**

**Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

Paul was a fierce enemy of Christianity, so his conversion to faith in Jesus was an amazing event. This was totally unexpected. But God can do anything because of His almighty power and because of His awesome grace, mercy, and love.

**May 11, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Compassionate Pursuit - Psalm 23:6**

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer**

The Bible identifies Jesus Christ as both “The Lamb” and “The Good Shepherd.” Jesus Christ, The Lamb, has endured every pain inflicted by a sin-broken world. Jesus Christ, The Good Shepherd, pursues us with goodness and mercy “all the days of my life” (Psalm 23:6 ESV).

**May 18, 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Hearts Will Rejoice! - John 16:20**

**Rev. Shayne Jonker**

“You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy” (John 16:20 ESV). You will have sorrow because this is a fallen world. But your sorrow will turn into joy because Jesus has taken your sorrow upon Himself on the cross and to the grave. He is risen, victorious over sin death and the devil and yes, even your sorrow.

**May 25, 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Here She Comes! - Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27**

**Rev. William Mueller**

Toward the end of the great revelation, the Lord Jesus gave His Apostle John a glimpse of the church (the totality of all who have believed in Jesus) after the return of Christ. What a glorious picture it is — a picture that gives hope and comfort to worn and worried Christians ... like you and me!



**LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

As good stewards of the resources God provides, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) works to be strategic in the allocation of those resources.

The final broadcast of **The Lutheran Hour®** on WLW 700 AM was on April 27, 2025.

To find other 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).



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



# small GROUPS

Thank you to all the volunteers, the bakers, and the cooks that helped make this year's Easter Breakfast a great success. It was a great opportunity for fellowship and tasty eats!



## Sign up to volunteer!

Opportunities to serve lunch every 4<sup>th</sup> 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 three volunteers for those Sundays, along with anyone wanting to donate a dessert to be served along with Lunch. Contact either Randy Hapner @ 260-602-4746 or Ruth Bates @260-417-0600 if you have further questions.



**THE Rescue Mission**  
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD™

## Food Bank Report

By Sharon Shediack

### March

We provided food to 266 individuals. They included 120 children under the age of 18, and 42 individuals over the age of 60.

Our congregation provided 510# of food. We went to Community Harvest four times this month to purchase 2148# of food in the amount of \$815. Our 16 volunteers gave 110 hours of their time.

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

## HELP KEEP THE FOOD BANK SHELVES STOCKED

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



Every  
Donation  
Makes A  
Difference

## URGENT NEEDS Mac and Cheese Pasta Sauces



# Bethlehem Mission News and Prayers

By Jane Miller

He is Risen - Risen Indeed - Alleluia! I write this article early in the first week of Easter, and we sang some Easter hymns this afternoon at the Tuesday Bible Study Bill Ihssen, Jon Anderson and Bob Miller lead down in the Heritage Room each week! Yesterday, of course, the whole world heard the news that Pope Francis, after greeting many people Easter Sunday in St Peter's Square at the Vatican and then riding through the area to show his love and concern, was taken home to his eternal rest on Monday! Pat Burgoon, our 102 year old Roman Catholic concert pianist here at LLV, almost always attends that Tuesday class led by Lutherans, regularly takes turns being organist for Chapel services when she's not playing for her St. Henry's parish, and exhibits the gift of serving and ecumenism that would make Pope Francis happy, I think! Pat herself was a member of a religious order out east before moving here to take care of her mother, who then lived to 108! Pope Francis was probably the most beautiful example of living out his concern for the poor, the disabled, the foreigners and immigrants needing help that our world has seen since Mother Theresa - Showing Jesus's love!

We received an update from Joe Boway, sharing that in Rural Liberia, Easter conference services were being held, offering to baptize parents and children yesterday at those services! He also shared about one of their pre-school teachers, Mrs. Mamie Fayiah in the school in Foya, who has 85 preschoolers in her class! As a retired preschool and Kindergarten teacher myself, I can't even imagine teaching that many little ones at once!

By the time you read this, our granddaughter and new grandson in-law Zack Anderson will have worshipped with and spoken to our congregation in Bethlehem's sanctuary this coming Sunday, April 27! I am thankful they will be speaking in the sanctuary so I can also, God willing, be part of that morning with you all! It will be the last time they visit us here before they return to Southeast Asia in June, and we so much appreciate your prayers for them!

We have a prayer request from Anna Jank, for whom we have often prayed as she has taught English and also shared the Good News to students in her classes. A Chinese follower of Jesus at her school, named Echo, was taken into custody by the Chinese police on Friday, along with a university professor named Gu who is a new follower of Jesus. Gu has been part of a house church where Echo was discipling him. Please pray for Echo and Gu, that Jesus will protect them and give them peace, that they will endure faithfully through any interrogations, and that they will be released. Pray also for protection for all the people in their house church. Thank you for your prayers for the suffering church!

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



# 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



*Fix these words of mine  
in your hearts  
and minds;  
tie them as symbols  
on your hands and  
bind them on your foreheads.*

Deuteronomy 11:18

love.com



On Saturday, May 31, 2025, the Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held in the Bethlehem cafeteria starting at 8:30 A.M. Please plan to join us for breakfast, prayer, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, and our study of the Book of Obadiah.  
*"The pride of your heart has deceived you . . ."*  
Obadiah 3a NIV.

## Hiding God's Word in our hearts Sonshine Club 2024 - 2025



Children ages 3yrs +  
are invited to join us in  
the Sonshine Club room  
after Sunday worship from  
10:30-11:30.  
We'll be digging into God's  
promises for  
us all throughout the Bible  
beginning in Genesis!



# 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.**



## The Importance of Mental Health Awareness Month

Each May, Mental Health Awareness Month offers a powerful reminder that mental health is just as vital as physical health. First observed in 1949, this month-long campaign aims to raise awareness, fight stigma, and advocate for policies that support people with mental health conditions.

### Why Mental Health Matters

Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act. It influences how we handle stress, relate to others, and make decisions. According to the World Health Organization, one in four people globally will experience a mental health disorder in their lifetime. Yet, despite its prevalence, mental health remains surrounded by stigma, misinformation, and lack of access to care.

Left unaddressed, mental health challenges can lead to serious consequences, including unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, and even suicide. But with early intervention, support, and education, recovery is possible.

### The Goals of Mental Health Awareness Month

1. **Educate the Public**

Sharing facts about mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, PTSD, and more helps normalize the conversation and dispel myths.

2. **Encourage Open Dialogue**

Mental Health Awareness Month invites people to speak openly about their experiences, helping others feel less alone and more willing to seek help.

3. **Support Access to Care**

Advocacy efforts focus on improving mental health services, increasing funding, and ensuring equitable access, particularly for marginalized communities.

4. **Promote Prevention and Wellness**

Encouraging healthy habits such as regular exercise, quality sleep, mindfulness, and social connection can help support mental well-being.

### How You Can Get Involved

- **Wear green**, the official color of mental health awareness, to show your support.
- **Donate** to or volunteer with organizations that provide mental health services.
- **Participate in events** like mental health walks, webinars, or local community forums.
- **Check in** with friends and family—sometimes a simple conversation can make all the difference.

### A Message of Hope

Mental Health Awareness Month isn't just about raising awareness—it's about fostering compassion, building resilience, and creating a culture where asking for help is seen as a strength, not a weakness.

This May, let's work together to break the silence, challenge the stigma, and support each other on the journey toward mental wellness.

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

If you feel you would also benefit from the care of our Stephen Ministry Bereavement program, please call Pastor Ben (989-907-9481), Threasa Lightning (260-417-1450) or Richard Pierce (260-450-2280), our Grief Coordinators.

# BETHLEHEM'S 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## "Throughout All Generations"

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

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

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

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



### Bethlehem Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary Idea Survey

Theme: "Throughout All Generations" — Psalm 90:1

*We would love your thoughts, memories, and ideas to help us celebrate this special milestone together!*

**1. What is one of your favorite memories of Bethlehem Lutheran Church?**

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**2. Do you have an idea for a "Thank Offering" project (improvements, additions, or gifts to bless the next 100 years)?**

(☒ ☐ Check all that apply or add your own!)

- ☐ Sanctuary beautification/technology updates
- ☐ Main level restroom upgrade
- ☐ Pavilion/Picnic area
- ☐ Open up stained glass window in balcony behind the organ pipes
- ☐ Other:

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**3. Would you like to share a photo, story, or artifact from church history?**

- ☐ Yes, I have something to share
- ☐ Not at this time
- ☐ I'm not sure—please contact me!

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!**

Place your completed form in the offering or give it to an usher.

Mail survey to:

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
3705 South Anthony Boulevard,  
Fort Wayne, IN 46806**



# WOMEN of BETHLEHEM



National: [lwml.org](http://lwml.org)  
State/Local: [lwmlindiana.org](http://lwmlindiana.org)

## 2025 LWML Fort Wayne Three Zone Gathering

Come to the Tea Party at Emanuel Lutheran Church

2025 LWML Fort Wayne Three Zones

800 Green Street, New Haven

Music and Worship!

Zone District Activities!

Breakfast!

Info from Mission Grant Recipients!

Fellowship with ladies from the whole Fort Wayne area!

Ingathering for Point of Grace School in Kenya Cash for chickens

and Girls' underwear size 6 and up!

Saturday May 3, 2025 8:30 AM---\$7 Registration RSVP to church office!



## Mother's Day Carnations

5.11.25



Donation suggestion is \$2/ carnation.  
They will be available at both services:

May 10 & 11.

All donations will benefit  
Right to Life Northeast



Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission

## 2025 Convention



**Date:** June 26–29, 2025

**Location:** Omaha, Nebraska

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

**Theme:** Growing in God's Grace

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





# WOB Spring Event - "Seeds, Sprouts, Spring!"

Women of Bethlehem members transplanting lettuce and turnip seedlings into pots, A follow up to our Winter Seed Sowing in the milk jugs. which will be given to Food Bank clients. This was a fun Thrivent Action Plan Activity on April 12th.



# The Joyful Corner

## How to Have Fullness of Joy

Adrian Rogers

The life of a Christian is to be a life of continual, contagious joy; Adrian Rogers says, “Joy is not a nicety in the Christian life; it is an absolute necessity.” The fullness of joy is essential to winning the lost to Jesus Christ and bearing life’s burdens. The joy of the Lord is our strength. It is how we are able to face the heartaches and trials of life.

*“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”* John 15:11

The joy of Jesus Christ is abounding and supernatural.

When we put our faith in Him, we don’t just get a cheap imitation of His joy—we *get all of it*. Remember, joy is not happiness; it does not depend on outward circumstances, but on Jesus Christ, who never changes. Joy does not remove the pain, but it helps us bear it.

*“Joy is not the subtraction of problems from life; joy is the addition of power to meet those problems.”* (Adrian Rogers)

Second, the joy of Jesus is an abiding joy; it doesn’t come and go—it stays.

We are able to rejoice always, as Scripture implores us to, because the joy of the Lord will not leave in the dark times. This joy is steadfast in sorrow, triumphant in tribulation, lasting in losses, and abundant in affliction. The joy of Jesus is abundant joy.

John 15:5 reveals the secret to joy is *abiding in Jesus*, living a life of surrender and dependence upon Him. Like a branch relies on a vine for its life and fruit, we rely on Jesus for this joy. *“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”* John 15:9

The joy of the Lord is a life of restfulness and obedience.

We can rest in knowing that His love and His power are continuous. And when we obey Him, our obedience will be made manifest by the fruit we bear.

Finally, it is a life of rejoicing.

The joy of Jesus gives our lives meaning. When we abide in Him, we experience the fullness of joy.

Do you abide in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Do you rely on and rest in Him?

Consider the joy in your heart today; is it evidence of a life of obedience?





# CLHS NEWS

**May 2**

## **JROTC Tournament and Awards Ceremony**

In 1914 a tradition was started in the Concordia Military department. This year will mark the 111<sup>th</sup> Military Tournament. If you aren't familiar with the Tournament, it is an event where CLHS JROTC Cadets will perform, get to act a little goofy, and you will also get to see Cadets receive their promotions and positions for the 2025-2026 school year. The Tournament is a celebration of student excellence. There will also be a slideshow with memories of the past year. It is a great way to celebrate the fantastic year our Cadets have had! Hope you can join us on May 2, 2025 in the high school's main gym. The Tournament will start at 6:00pm. The event is open to the public and free to attend.

**May 9**

## **CLHS Spring Instrumental Concert**

Concordia's bands and orchestra will be performing their Spring concert at St. Michael Lutheran Church on Friday, May 9 at 7:00pm. The concert is open to the public and free to attend.

**May 16**

## **CLHS Spring Choral Concert**

The CLHS Choral Department will have their "Spring Sing" concert at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Haven, Indiana on Friday, May 16th. The 7:00pm concert is free, open to the public and features all three choral ensembles of the school. Join 60+ choral members as we use our God given gifts to praise Him and have fun celebrating the end of another great academic year!

# LSUS NEWS



## **Phil's Friends Care Packages**

Phil's Friends is an organization that supports adults with cancer. Our chapel offerings will be supporting this organization this month.

### **Items to be collected:**

- lip balm/chapstick
- fuzzy socks-women's only
- 5 oz. bottles of fragrance-free lotion
- decks of playing cards
- tissue packs
- puzzle books (crosswords, sudoku, etc.)
- single toothbrushes and 5 oz. toothpaste
- journals (5x7) - not spiral bound

**Collection will run from now through May 16.**



## **OPEN ENROLLMENT 2025- 2026**

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

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

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

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

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



LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL

*Celebration of the Arts*

**ROCKIN' MY  
SALVATION**

YOU'RE INVITE TO CELEBRATE WITH US!

**Friday, May 2 @ 6:30 PM**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Gym  
(3705 S. Anthony Blvd.)**

**ALL K-8 STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING**



**Draft, not yet approved by the Board**  
**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**April 8, 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 April regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:31 PM by President Greg Shediack. Pastor Ben provided an opening devotion based on Matthew 5:13-16. Let the light of Bethlehem shine on both our congregation and on our surrounding neighbors. Pastor closed the devotion with prayer.

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

The Soul Accounting report, as approved by the Board of Elders at its April meeting, was reviewed by the Board. It included the death of Waldell Bright on March 10, 2025.

Brian Bates presented the March Financial Report. Monthly income for March was \$27,485 compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Income through the first three months of the year totaled \$97,875. Monthly expenses for March totaled \$33,559, compared with monthly budget amount of \$33,668. Expenses for the year through March totaled \$100,012. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of March was \$1,365,846. That portion of the Endowment Fund resting with the Lutheran Foundation was current through February as we had not yet received the March statement. The month-end balance in the SSMG Fund was \$25,383. Brian also presented a report illustrating actual expenses compared with budgeted amounts for the major categories of the Operating Budget. Through March, we expended 24.75 percent of the budgeted expenses. The monthly Treasurer's Report was unanimously adopted on a motion by Brian Bates and a second by Dan Bates.

Pastor's report provided an update on the Lenten Services, noting that they have been well attended. Pastor also provided an update on his Doctor of Ministry program. He will be visiting two predominately African-American Lutheran congregations this summer as a part of his studies. They include Bethany Lutheran Church in Detroit (Pastor Chris Bodley) and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis (Pastor Dr. Gerard Bolling). Lastly, he noted that he has and will continue to be working with both Kasey Hapner and Janelle Deal on updating the musical component of our worship services.

Pastor Ben, Blake Sebring and John Stafford provided an update on the work of the Community Center Committee. We have been approved for a \$23,500 grant from the Sacred Places program to undertake a building assessment. We have engaged the architectural firm of Design Collaborative who will be teaming with ISES Corporation, a subcontractor from Atlanta, to prepare the assessment. The Committee met in March with several non-profit organizations serving youth in our community. The Committee also met to create a series of points better defining the expectations of Bethlehem as we pursue partner/s for this initiative.

Pastor provided a Lutheran South Unity School update. The HVAC work is underway in their building. Bethlehem will be hosting the LSUS Arts and Music Festival on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Under New Business, the Board voted to dedicate the Lenten Service offerings to the Bethlehem Food Bank on a motion by Evans Branigan and a second by Dan Bates. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board also voted to present to the next Voters Assembly a motion to remove Section A-3 of Chapter III in the Bethlehem Constitution and Bylaws. This section currently states that no Board of Directors member may serve more than three consecutive terms without a break of at least one year. The motion was made by John Stafford and seconded by Blake Sebring. It was noted that it has become increasingly difficult to find members willing to serve on the Board. The motion passed unanimously. The proposal will be presented at the next Voters Assembly, tentatively set for the first Sunday in June.

The Board continued consideration of proposed Bethlehem revised Vision, Mission and Values Statements, along with benchmarks for their active implementation by the congregation. The Board will continue its review at its May meeting with a goal of being able to present them for consideration to the Voters Assembly in June.

Lastly, the Board members expressed their thankfulness for Evans' return to Board meetings after a recent absence due to health issues.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Evans Branigan moved and Rachele Dance seconded a motion for adjournment. After closing with prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Submitted in His service,

John Stafford, Secretary

## **Voters' assembly June 1st.**

**Agenda will be forthcoming but will include an amendment to the constitution and our mission, vision and values to be approved.**

The Board of Directors proposes the following amendment to the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws for consideration at the next Voters Assembly (tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 1, 2025):

Removal of the following section:

Chapter III – Officers and Board of Directors

A. 3. Tenure

No director may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms without a break of at least one (1) year of service, except the Senior Pastor. If a director serves one year or more of an unexpired term, that service shall count as one term. If a director serves less than one year of an unexpired term, that service shall not count as a term.

The Board is offering this proposal in light of the increasing difficulty of finding members of the congregation willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

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



Join us on Monday, July 31 for Lutheran Night at Parkview Field! Gametime is 7:05pm against the Dayton Dragons.

Ticket orders received before Friday, June 30, will be entered into a special drawing for prizes such as: a \$50 gift certificate to The Orchard team store, an autographed team bat, a chance to throw out a ceremonial first pitch & more.

\*\*Ticket orders must be received prior to Monday, July 17th in order to receive the Lutheran Night discount offer.

Lutheran Night will be a FAMILY FEAST NIGHT where fans can enjoy select concession items for only \$1.00, including hot dogs, popcorn, soft drinks, and pizza slices!

And, plan on staying to enjoy post game fireworks!!

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Jennifer Bradley	15 – Omar Bernabe
3 – Antonio Rogers	Elfriede Plettner
4 – Trinity Dance	16 – Derek Crane
Bill Ihssen	Lo'real Davis
5 – Hans Bernabe	Patty Niday
Tambra Jackson	17 – Jewel Robinson
6 – Demetra DeYampert	18 – Gladys Middleton
Jayle'an Raines	20 – Rafael Flores
Linda Stanley	21 – Sherrill Davis
7 – Adrien Hill	22 – Brian Bates
Joan Richter	Priscilla Brown
8 – Alexcia Finan	24 – Suzie Emley
Bounma Vongphachanh	Terrence Fuller
9 – Greg Fuller	Dorothy Oetting
Durane Harris	Susan Schott
10 – Rebecca Mitchell	25 – Eldaer Magadan
11 – Laverne Eickhoff	Miley Moore
12 – Lamarcus Moore	Oclea Williams
Barry Schust	26 – Davina Crawford
13 – Vivian Brown	28 – Angela Stanley
Claudia Harris	30 – Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer
14 – Nicole Hill	Dorothy Feagin

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 – Christopher and Kari Kiger  
 Brandon and Staci Epperson  
 6 – Earl and Nancy Kruger  
 15 – Shea and Carman Hutchinson  
 19 – John and Deborrah Richards



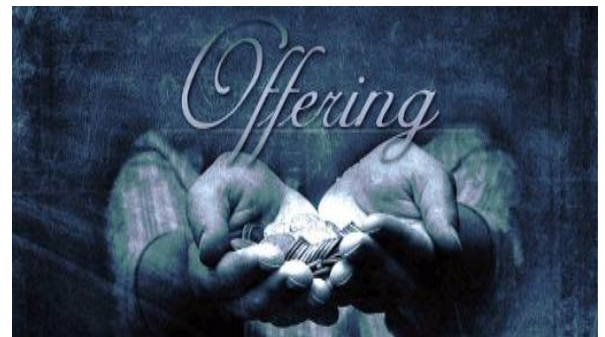
**IS YOUR  
INFO UP  
TO DATE?**

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.



**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](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)**



**online WORSHIP**

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



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

*The greatest joy that I know in this life  
is **SERVING** the Lord.*

# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."</i> 3 John 1:4				1	2 6:30pm <b>LSUS</b> <i>Celebration of the Arts</i>	3 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>4:00pm Worship w/Comm</b> LWML Fort Wayne Three Zone Gathering
4 <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> 10:30am Education Hour	5	6 6:30pm Bd. of Elders	7 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	8	9 <b>CLHS</b> Spring Instrumental Concert	10 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>4:00pm Worship w/Comm</b>
11 Mother's Day <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> 10:30am Education Hour	12	13 6:30pm Bd. of Directors	14 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	15	16 <b>CLHS</b> Spring Choral Concert	17 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>4:00pm Worship w/Comm</b>
18 <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> 10:30am Education Hour	19	20 6:00pm 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting	21 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	22	23	24 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>4:00pm Worship w/Comm</b>
25 <b>9:00am Worship w/Comm</b> 10:30am Education Hour	26	27	28 6:00pm - Choir 7:15pm - Handbells	29	30	31 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>4:00pm Worship w/Comm</b>