

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

The Mission Society Established by God

...the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise. - Isaiah 43:21



As we step into October, we're reminded of how seasons change—but the heart of God never does. Fall comes with its crisp air and vibrant colors, a picture of God's creative hand at work. And just as God is at work in the world around us, He is at work in and through us—calling us to bring His love into the lives of those around us.

In his sermon "The Mission Society Established by God," C.F.W. Walther speaks with a pointed clarity about the purpose of the Church. He says that wherever the Church is, there is mission. This mission isn't reserved for the extraordinary or the

distant; it's not something we pass off to "the professionals" or those with a specific calling to go overseas. It's here. It's now. It's us.

What does that mean for us, here at Bethlehem? It means that God has put us in this place—this very place—for a reason. And His reason is simple but profound: to love the people He has put in our lives, and to tell them the good news of Jesus. That's mission. It's walking across the street to check in on a neighbor. It's opening our home to someone who's lonely. It's speaking a word of hope to the co-worker who's struggling. And it's extending an invitation to church, where people can meet Jesus, who loves them more than they can imagine.

Walther reminds us that God has planted His Church as a beacon of light wherever it is. The people in our community—our friends, our neighbors, those we run into at the store—many of them are carrying burdens they feel they can't unload. They're longing for rest, for peace, for something solid to hold onto in the chaos. And here we are, carrying the message that Jesus is the rest they need, the peace they're searching for, the solid rock in an unstable world. We don't need to be experts. We don't need to have the perfect words. We simply need to live in the grace that God has poured out on us, and let that grace overflow into the lives of others. Every small act of love, every gesture of kindness, every moment where we share the good news of Jesus—it all matters. The Lord uses each seed we plant, and He is the One who makes it grow.

So this October, let's start asking ourselves some simple yet effective questions: who is God calling me to love? Who is He inviting me to share His good news with? And as a church, how can we better reflect the warmth and welcome of Jesus to those in our community? And please do me a favor. Whenever you start getting answers to those questions let me know. Text me. Call me. Email me. Whatever is easiest because I want to know.

Jesus Himself said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Let's not wait for someone else to do it. The mission begins with us, right here at Bethlehem Lutheran, in the very places God has put us. He has established His mission, and He promises to work through us as we go. Let's take Him at His word, and watch what He does.

With you in Christ,
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)

**October 6, 2024 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Jesus, Our Brother - Hebrews 2:11-12, 17-18
Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

Jesus is our brother because He is fully human as well as being fully God. The Son of God became man in order that He might be our great high priest and the sacrifice atoning for our sins. As our brother, Jesus knows all about the temptations that we experience. As the Son of God, He can give us the help that we need.

**October 13, 2024 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Jesus Loved Him - Mark 10:21
Rev. Thomas Eggold**

The Law of God is centered in a love that cannot bear to see us dying in our sin. The Law of God is given to us to show us how great our need truly is, to uncover our attempts to do it on our own, and to lead us to the one and only path to eternal life.

**October 20, 2024 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Beggar Faith - Mark 10:47
Rev. Shayne Jonker**

Faith is a beggar before God. It offers nothing; it receives everything as a gift. When we look at Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, we see what faith in Christ looks like, and we take our place at His side, praying to Jesus for mercy.

**October 27, 2024 – Reformation Sunday
Catastrophic Grace - John 8:31-36
Rev. Michael Zeigler, Guest Pastor**

Psychologists speak of “self-authoring” — a way of controlling the narrative to become the person you want to be. But what if God is writing the story of your life? In other words, what if we’re saved by grace?



The Bethlehem Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 26, starting at 8:30am in the Bethlehem cafeteria. Our theme will be "**The Reformation.**"

Please plan to join us for breakfast, prayer, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, and God's Word.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV.

EDUCATION HOUR

**10:30am-11:30am
Adults-cafeteria**



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!



The CHOSEN

watch | discuss | reflect | rejoice



Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study Group

The Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study Group will be viewing Season 1 of The Chosen (8 episodes) and using the accompanying study guide this year.

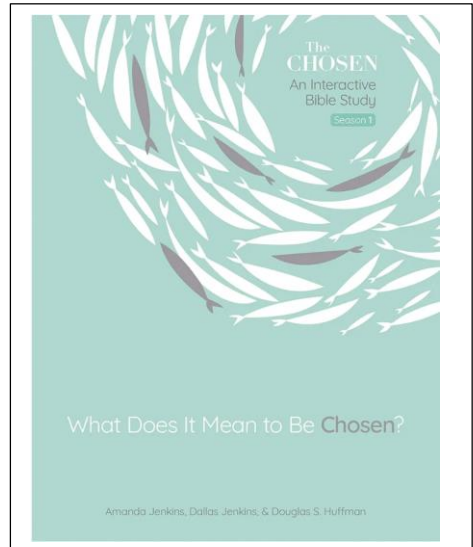
Our fall dates will be:

October 12 **October 26**
November 9 **November 23**

We will break for the holidays and resume in January.

Class start at 9:30am in Room 1? It will include an episode of The Chosen followed by small group discussion and prayer time. Ladies of all ages are encouraged to attend and to bring guests. The cost of the study guide is estimated to be approximately \$11.

This is a great way to get to know other Christian women! Contact Laurie Hapner at hapners6@gmail.com if you would like to attend or if you have questions.



There are openings for Rescue Mission Volunteers for August, September and October. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Book Nook library. We are also inviting all bakers to consider donating a dessert to be served with Lunch that day. Contact either Randy Hapner @ 260-7-7477 or Ruth Bates @ 260-417-0600 if you have further questions



Food Bank Report

By Sharon Shediack
August

We provided food to 373 individuals. They included 174 children under the age of 18, and 54 individuals over the age of 60. Our congregation provided 417# of food. We went to Community Harvest three times this month to purchase 2100# of food in the amount of \$618. Our 19 volunteers gave 131 hours of their time.

We could use broth, tuna, pasta sauce, peanut butter and diced tomatoes. 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.



Pasta Products
Pasta Sauces
Peanut Butter

GETTY MUSIC CONCERT AT CLHS

Listen and sing with the uplifting hymns from Getty Music during a special concert at 7pm October 28 at Concordia Lutheran High School, 1601 St. Joe River Drive, Fort Wayne, Ind. Hymn-writers, Keith and Kristyn Getty, and special guests, Matt Boswell and Matt Papa, are bringing their Fall Tour to Fort Wayne for one unique night. The concert is hosted by Concordia Lutheran High School, Foundations of Truth, Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School, and Worship Anew. All proceeds will be used to support the identification and the nurture of current and future leaders of congregational singing. Reserved seating is available but is almost sold! Tickets are now on sale at gettymusic.com/tour. Tickets range from \$20-\$45. The **general admission** seats are sold on a first come basis. \$20 + \$3.52 fee. Please note that **general admission** makes use of the new bleachers at CLHS. These seats are spacious, and comfortable with easy access, including handrails. We are allowing room for comfort, making these seats an excellent value. All have wonderful sight lines in a uniquely intimate setting.



FOOD BANK PRAYER REQUESTS

Below are some prayer requests from some of our Food Bank clients. I have omitted the names for privacy.

Please pray for: Aubrey and her five children, that they become closer to God and know Jesus better. For them to get along and trust and believe putting their full faith in God's Word and promises.

Please pray for: Ann and her family
Please pray for: the client asking for the ability to keep her commitments to her granddaughter and grow closer to God despite her disbelief.

Please pray for: Health and family after a loss.

Please pray for: help as my heart has grown cold after disappointments and hurts.

Please pray for: a family of 7 as they are struggling.



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

Bethlehem Mission News

By Jane Miller

Dear Bethlehem Family,

Both from the national news and from talking to our kids in Southeast Asia, we have learned that northern Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), and Laos are experiencing much flooding right now, both from a heavier than usual rainy season and also from a big typhoon named Yagi! This also concerns many members of New Life and Southwest Lutheran Churches, who still have family members in Burma! Please keep all these areas and their loved ones safe as they deal with much loss! It seems many parts of the world, including our own country, are dealing with very strange weather patterns this year. Does this make any of you think we are in the latter days the Bible talks about? Pray that many will come to know to only Way, Truth, and Life while there is still time!

We get the monthly prayer newsletter from Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT), and there are new countries in Africa and Papua New Guinea (PNG) beginning Bible translation for the first time! There are also new translation missionaries seeking support before they go on the field. We will mention a few of these in our prayer requests. We will also continue to lift up countries that are hostile to the Gospel being shared, which we learn about mostly through Open Doors, an organization that Bob's sister and brother-in-law have worked in for many years. Dean and Becky were mostly based in Sidney, Australia, and now they and their children all have dual citizenship as Aussies and Americans! We made it to Thailand 3 times and China once to visit our kids and grandkids, but never to Australia to visit those dear family members! Unfortunately, LCMS World Missions doesn't send many missionaries overseas anymore; mostly seminary professors and deaconesses such as Caitlin Ramirez.

Your prayers are very much appreciated, both in countries where the Good News is still welcome, and in sensitive areas where Believers are threatened or persecuted!

PLEASE PRAY FOR the Lord to raise up prayer and financial supporters for Nathan and Sarah Federwitz as they continue pre-field training as full-time missionaries!

PLEASE PRAY for wisdom as the Evangelical Lutheran Church Papua New Guinea (PNG) discerns the best strategy to begin Bible Translation there.

PLEASE PRAY FOR at least 10 North Korean Christians (of 250,000 already imprisoned for their faith) who were recently sent to inhumane political prison camps. Pray they would know and feel God's presence. Ask God to surround them with His armies of angels and that they would know His peace that passes all human understanding and guards their hearts and minds (Phil.4:7).

PLEASE PRAY FOR Christians in PAKISTAN who every day live with the knowledge that they or a loved one could be accused of blasphemy against Islam and attacked by angry mobs. Pray that they would be protected and that God would keep them under His wings (Psalm 91:4).

PLEASE PRAY against the strong wave of gang violence sweeping through the country of HAITI and the streets of Port-au-Prince, its capital! Pray for the churches, pastors and missionaries who are working in Haiti and who put their lives at risk on a daily basis. Pray for wisdom and peace for them.



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.



October is National Depression and Mental Health Month

What is Depression? Simple definition is a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest. Depression can affect how you feel, think, and behave and can lead to a variety of emotional and physical problems.

The National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding has been designated as the Tuesday of Mental Illness Awareness Week which is the first full week in October of each year!

So what can be done about this? If you or you know of someone that is feeling this way, what can we do? First of all, don't feel alone? Talk to someone you feel comfortable with, to help relieve the thoughts you are feeling. There is **NOTHING WRONG** to ask for help! A friend can walk with you, help you talk to people that can help you with the problems. People in the Bible had problems:

- 1) David was troubled and battled deep despair.
- 2) Elijah was discouraged, weary, and afraid.
- 3) Jonah was angry and wanted to run away.
- 4) Job suffered through great loss, devastation, and physical illness.
- 5) Moses was grieved over the sin of his people.
- 6) Jeremiah wrestled with great loneliness, feelings of defeat, and insecurity.

We can be assured, that in whatever we face, Jesus understands our weakness and suffering, our greatest times of despair, because He too traveled that road, yet without sin. He was there in good days and in dark days too. He didn't condemn them for their questions and pain. He didn't tell them to just tough it out. He reached down to their deepest pit of suffering, and lifted them out. He cared. He still works in the same way today. We need people in our lives to help us remember what real grace is and where lasting help is found. The greatest truth is this, we have a Savior who understands our pain, who knows about every weakness and hurt, and reaches out with compassion and hope. He is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer and Friend.

Depression is a common, yet very treatable condition that affects many people. Help is available!! We have God all the time!!!! God helped David, Job, Jonah, and He will help us!!!

As God says in 1Peter 5: 7 ***"CASTING ALL YOUR ANXIETIES ON HIM, BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU."*** And we do too. You can call church to seek help, talk to pastor, mental health team, and we will help you. Please do not feel alone, God is here and so are we.

O God the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers, mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your children with depression or mental illnesses the help of your power, that our sickness may be turned into health and our concern into joy: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Resources & Education:

- ◆ Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana – (260) 422-6441 – Mhanortheastindiana.org
- ◆ LookUpIndiana.org
- ◆ MentalHealthAmerica.net
- ◆ 211 – connect to help

*Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:7





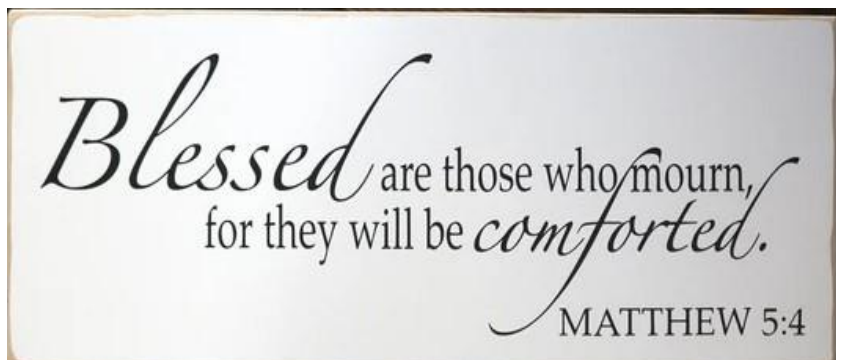
GriefShare®

GriefShare is held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 3705 S. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne in Room 1 on Tuesdays from 5:30pm-7:00pm.

- October 1 **Regrets**
 This week's topic is "Regrets" Dealing with the "If Onlys". This week's video and exercises will help you find freedom from those troubling thoughts. You'll discover: The importance of challenging your "if onlys". Better things to focus your thoughts on. God's response to your regret.
- October 8 **Grief & Your Household**
 This week's topic is "Grief & Your Household" Facing the Empty Chair at the Table. The dynamics in your home may be different and the roles may have changed, but this week's video and exercises will help navigate the challenges your household may be facing. You'll discover: How to deal with secondary loses. What to do with your loved one's possessions. Helpful tips for parenting grieving children and teens.
- October 15 **Grief & Your Friendships**
 This week's topic is "Grief & Your Household" Does Anyone Understand? Relationships are crucial to your healing. In this week's video and exercises you'll discover: Other people can help you deal with changes. Having realistic expectations of others is important. How to talk to people who are uncomfortable with grief.
- October 22 **Questions for God**
 This week's topic is "Questions for God" Why This? What about Heaven? In this week's video and exercises you'll discover how God responds to our most difficult questions. You'll find: Trusting God with your questions is a step forward in faith. The benefits of asking God "What can I learn from this?" You can learn what happens after death in God's Word.
- October 29 **Stuck in Grief**
 This week's topic is "Stuck in Grief" When it feels impossible to move on. In this week's video and exercises will help you learn how to get unstuck, and how to avoid getting stuck. You will discover: Being "stuck" in grief is not about time; it's about not taking steps toward healing. Being stuck results from negative thought patterns. Bible reading and prayer defend against wrong thinking.

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.



WOMEN of BETHLEHEM



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

LWML FW SOUTH ZONE FALL GATHERING

The LWML FW South Zone Fall Rally will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 2313 S. Hanna, on Saturday, October 19, 2024. Registration (\$7.00 fee at the door) at 8:30am with a light breakfast, and a Program and Meeting to follow. Please RSVP before Oct. 11th to: mculpher@zionfw.org.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Featured Speaker will be Ralph Schmidt, representing ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN. Ingathering will be Hygiene Kits needed by the organization. Directions for assembly can be found on the site: ogt.org (what we do/special projects). A sample of items and directions to assemble can also be found in the Fellowship Hall.

2024 Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday (October 6)

Rosie the Riveter became famous during World War II (over 80 years ago). She represented women who worked in factories and shipyards during the war. She learned to use tools to help build ships and airplanes. Since many men were off serving their country in the war, women all over the United States began to volunteer to help do these jobs to serve their country. These women did an important job.

Another woman who stepped forward to help was Mary, the mother of Jesus. God sent an angel named Gabriel to Mary and told her God had favored her and had an important job for her to do. Mary's response was, "I am the Lord's servant. Let everything you've said happen to me" (Luke 1:38 GW).

She loved her Lord and grew up knowing how much God loved her and had blessed her life. She was thankful that God was going to send a Messiah — Jesus — who would save her and all of God's people. We are thankful that Mary was willing to serve God.

Today is a day we honor the ladies here in our church who belong to the LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION. Just like Mary they serve Jesus by telling others about Jesus and support mission work to equip women to honor God, they serve their Lord and others. *Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2). They are happy to serve just as Mary was ready to serve. We give thanks for all they do to support the work of Jesus.

My hope and prayer is that when you have the opportunity to do something for Jesus that you can do it with joy and gladness just like Mary and the women of the Lutheran Women in Mission.



Serve THE LORD
WITH *gladness.*
Psalm 100:2

The Joyful Corner

Letting Your Leaves Fall

Rachel Wojo October 19, 2023

Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree “Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!” But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don’t stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn’t hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God’s Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31,32 (NIV)

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

- » By reading God’s Word.
- » By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.
- » By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.
- » By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we’re not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:18,19 \(NIV\)](#)

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other “decayed leaves” you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.

BETHLEHEM FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

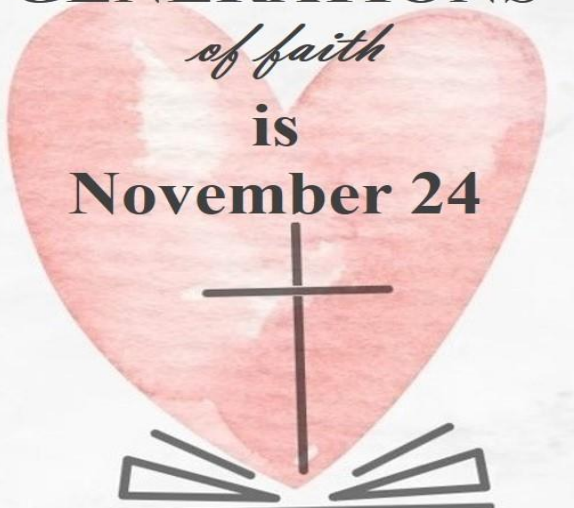
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commands that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along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

**Our next
GENERATIONS**

of faith

is

November 24



To the Members of Bethlehem:

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the Reception and Godspeed you provided for Natalie and me last weekend. You have been such a blessing to us in the past 3.5 years. We will miss being here, worshiping with you, growing with you, but we trust that God does (and will) provide. The words to this song have never meant more to us than now:

(Chorus) And friends are friends forever

If the Lord's the Lord of them.

And a friend will not say "never"

'Cause the welcome will not end.

Though it's hard to let you go,

In the Father's hands we know

That a lifetime's not too long...to live as friends.

("Friends" by Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith – © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Co. – CCLI #677353)

Doug and Natalie Reynolds



RIGHT TO LIFE
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

40 DAYS FOR LIFE- FALL CAMPAIGN

September 25th-November 3

40 Days for Life is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families.

While it is no longer legal to perform most abortions in Indiana, our Planned Parenthood is still a referral hub for the women of NE IN to travel out of state for abortions. Please join us on the sidewalk to offer hope *before* women make the desperate choice to end the life of their child.

Just one hour can change lives! Take part by coming to pray between 8a- 8p daily outside Planned Parenthood right-of-way at 2930 Lake Ave, Fort Wayne. Parking is available 2 doors down at 3106 Lake Ave (RLNI offices).

To learn more visit www.ichooselife.org/40days or call 260.471.1849

THE BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE

The Bethlehem Community Center Committee continues to meet and study potential future options for the building. Members recently met with representatives of the Dana Causey Foundation, Angela Moellering of Lutheran Social Services, Trisha LaRowe of Neighborhood Health and visited with Javier Mondragon, CEO of Bridge of Grace.

Committee members have also started a six-month training program with Sacred Places of Indiana which will provide input and guidance for building a plan to move forward. The program will also make the church eligible for grants, including to pay for a necessary and substantial building engineering assessment. We head to Indianapolis for the second meeting on Oct. 26.

The committee members are Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer, Greg Shediack, Barb Netterville, Blake Sebring, John Stafford, Mark Blessing, Peter Schlie and Kim Brooks. We continue to move judiciously, praying for God's guidance and discernment to know His plans for us. We will regularly provide updates in the Messenger.

BETHLEHEM'S 100th ANNIVERSARY

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



"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

In an attempt to honor Bethlehem's 100th anniversary in two years, we are asking members to participate in a videotaping session on Nov. 10 from 1-4 p.m. in the Lutheran Life Villages Heritage Room. These 5-minute videos will consist of three questions:

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

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

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

Adopted 9-12-2024

**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting
August 13, 2024**

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

The August 13th regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:33 PM by President Greg Shediack. Pastor Ben provided an opening devotion based on "I Will Never Cast You Out" by Dane C. Ortland. Pastor closed the devotion with prayer.

The minutes from the Board's July, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted on a motion from John Stafford and a second from Brian Bates.

Brian Bates presented the July Financial Report. Monthly offerings for June were \$21,725 compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Monthly expenses for July totaled \$36,015, compared with monthly budget amounts of \$40,010. Brian noted that the payment for the boiler repairs was not included in the July expenses but likely will be paid in August. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of July was \$1,167,070. This number did not reflect the recent withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Endowment and that the balance reflected the June ending balance in the funds held with the Lutheran Foundation as the July statement had not yet been received. The month-end balance in the SSMG Fund was \$23,933. Brian also presented a report illustrating actual expenses compared with budgeted amounts for the major categories of the Operating Budget. Through the first seven months of the year, we have expended 56 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.

The Soul Accounting report from the Board of Elders noted the deaths of members Maxine Smith on July 10th and Barbara Owen on July 11th. Tonya Smith is a new member received by transfer.

In the Pastor's report, Pastor Ben commented that the new listening devices are now fully functioning. The 100th Anniversary Committee has begun meeting. This year the Pastor will again be working with the K-2 grades at Lutheran South Unity School. Lastly, the Grief Share sessions will start up again in August.

John Stafford provided an update on the work of the Community Center Committee. Indiana Landmarks has accepted Bethlehem into their Sacred Places Program. Four members of the Committee will be attending a series of one-day workshops in Indianapolis put on by Indiana Landmarks over the next several months. Our participation in this program will likely make us eligible to receive a grant of up to \$25,000 to examine what improvements may be needed to our building. Members of the Committee also participated in virtual workshop on alternative revenue opportunities sponsored by the Center for Congregations. This organization may be a second opportunity for funding of a physical assessment of our building.

Under new business, the Board discussed the deteriorating condition of the playground equipment which is creating a potentially dangerous situation for users of the facility. Brian Bates subsequently moved, and Caleb DeMond seconded, that we accept the recommendation from the Board of Property Management that the playground equipment be removed and be properly disposed of due to its deteriorated and potentially hazardous condition. The Board of Property Management will implement the removal. The congregation will be informed of this decision during upcoming services.

Lutheran South Unity School has requested that they have an opportunity to present to the Bethlehem congregation their capital campaign, "Power Up", supporting a series of needed improvements to the school building. It was determined that this request was best met for their presentation to immediately follow the Sunday Service on September 15th. Pastor Ben will communicate back to the school to determine if that date also works for them.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dan Bates moved and Brian Bates seconded a motion for adjournment. After closing with prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Submitted in His service,
John Stafford, Secretary

LSUS NEWS

Back-To-School Night

Everyone enjoyed mingling with other families, faculty, and staff.
We also had Kona Ice providing delicious frozen treats at a discounted price



 LUTHERAN SOUTH
UNITY SCHOOL



**“POWER UP”
CAMPAIGNS**

Of the \$1,500,000 goal, we have already received approximately \$775,000, including gifts from The Lutheran Foundation, the Tippmann Foundation, and few lead individual gifts.

Now is the time to finish our goals! how you can be a part of the effort to improve the school with needed HVAC and lighting upgrades, including bringing air conditioning for the first time to Lutheran South Unity School. Help the school continue to grow and teach the saving grace of Jesus Christ to over 200 students next year.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 – Tamara Griggs | 17 – Rayshae Pierce |
| 2 – Melissa Ahlersmeyer | 18 – Joan Domrow
Connie Hawkins
Threasa Lightning |
| 3 – Linda Kalthoff | 19 – Glenn Emley
Greg Shediack |
| 4 – Nancy Kruger | 22 – Chandra Jones
Andres Linan |
| 5 – Dawn Beaty | 24 – Christina Carrillo
Louis Nahrwold
Peter Schlie |
| 7 – Kim Ellison
Kiara Nelson | 25 – Athena Carrillo
Ilene Saalfrank |
| 9 – Keasia Gatewood
Grant Pettit
Miriam Roesener | 27 – Keith Peterson |
| 10 – Tu Dang | 28 – Vivian Chaney
Tatum Owen |
| 11 – Quinton Jones
Wendy Vachon | 29 – Aleese Branigan |
| 13 – Shea Hutchinson | 31 – Jeviel Lee
Christopher Rigdon |
| 14 – Malik Kashani-Hill | |
| 15 – Marlene Berning
Amber Hill-Roddy
Edward Ramos | |
| 16 – LT DeYampert
Archie Smith | |



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.



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 – Kent and Michelle Bearman
- 5 – Steven and Gladys Davies
- 6 – Steve and Mandy Martinsky
- 9 – Dave and Donna Volmerding
- 13 – Glenn and Suzie Emley
- 19 – Greg and Sharon Shediack
- 24 – Herman and Jenny Guenin
- 28 – John and Ruth Bates

Happy Anniversary



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



ONLINE WORSHIP

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

October Servant Schedule

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

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

October 2024

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