

THE MESSENGER September 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



Rest for the Weary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a place in the heart of every believer where the light of faith and the shadow of despair often meet. It's a place where even the most devoted can feel utterly alone, exhausted, and ready to give up. We all have our struggles, whether we are willing to admit them or not. Yet, in that all-too-common place of crisis we are not alone. In this place we find not condemnation from our Lord but His tender, pursuing care.

September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month which causes us to consider these things in the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:1-8. After a great victory on Mount Carmel, where God put His mighty power on display, Elijah falls into the depths of despair. He is suicidal, struggling through a bonafide mental health crisis. He is fearful, fleeing for his life, and utterly spent. Under a solitary broom tree in the wilderness, Elijah, the mighty prophet, prays that his life might end. "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life," he pleads.

We might be tempted to think that such feelings are incompatible with faith. We may have been unintentionally taught that the faithful don't have such moments. But here is Elijah—God's chosen prophet, a man who has just witnessed the fire of heaven descend—and yet he finds himself overwhelmed, at the end of his rope. And what does God do? He does not scold Elijah. He does not chide him for his lack of faith or strength. No, the God of Elijah sends an angel, a messenger of grace. Twice, the angel touches him and says, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you."

God's first act is to nourish and restore. He does not demand that Elijah get up and keep going by sheer willpower. Instead, He meets Elijah in his exhaustion with mercy and ministers to his weary soul. Here is the heart of God for His children in whatever state they may be found. He knows the journey is too great for us. He sees our fragility, our weariness, our weakness and instead of adding burdens, He lifts them. He offers rest.

This story whispers the gospel to us. In Christ, we have a Savior who invites all who are weary and burdened to come to Him and find rest. He knows the frailty of our hearts. He does not demand that we muster up more strength; He comes to us in our weakness. When we are at our lowest, His grace is at its highest.

Elijah's story invites us to bring our own weariness to God, to stop pretending that we are stronger than we are, and to let Him care for us as He did for Elijah. Whether our struggles are with anxiety, depression, or simply the overwhelming weight of life, our Lord comes to us with compassion. He does not turn away from our pain; He steps into it.

In our church, may we be a community that reflects this heart of Christ—where it is safe to admit when the journey is too great, where we care for one another's needs without judgment, and where we point each other to the God who nourishes and sustains us. Death is not the great hope for the depressed and desperate. It is a merciful Heavenly Father and the communion of saints in which each of us has been placed. If you find yourself under your own broom tree today, know this: It's okay. God is not far off. He is near, ready to minister to you in your weakness, with a love that never fails.

In His tender care,
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)

**September 1, 2024 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Inside Out - Mark 7:15**

Rev. Thomas Eggold

God always works from the inside out, and no matter what depraved things you have seen, and no matter what despicable things you have done, and no matter how dirty your heart has been, your sins have been placed by the Father on His Son. Today, because He took your sins upon Himself, you are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

**September 8, 2024 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Be Opened! - Mark 7:37**

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Jesus wants to do for you what He did for that deaf mute man in the Decapolis that day. He wants to stick His Word into your ears, to cut through deafness, to open your ears, your minds, and your hearts. Thus He speaks His Ephphatha to you. Be opened.



On Saturday, September 28, the Bethlehem Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30am. We shall consider **"What Is the Church's Foundation?"** God's Word at Isaiah 26:4 and 28:16, Matthew 16:13-20, I Corinthians 3:11, and Ephesians 2:19-22 enlightens us about the Church's foundation. Please plan to join us for breakfast, prayer, a devotion by Bill Ihssen, and our reception of God's Word. *"Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal."* Isaiah 26:4 NIV.

**September 15, 2024 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Healing for Our Children - Mark 9:14-29**

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

A seriously ill child demands the parents' full attention. Parents will do anything possible to help their child regain physical health. Our heavenly Father did everything possible to restore our spiritual health, even sacrificing His Son to win for us spiritual health and wholeness. Join us on Worship Anew as we share the tools God gives us to restore and maintain spiritual health.

**September 22, 2024 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost
A Difficult Victory - James 3:13-4:10**

Rev. William Mueller

The text is all about "Spiritual Warfare." But that often isn't a topic we feel comfortable discussing. Why is that? Might the difficulty lie in the fact we might too readily be reminded of our sin? But it is a victory through Jesus Christ. What makes it difficult?

**September 29, 2024 – St. Michael and All Angels
In Service of Go(o)d! – James 3:13-4:10**

Rev. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Popular today among both young and old are action hero figures. These heroes in different ways act in service of good. God gives Christ followers the greatest action heroes – angels – who act in and on behalf of the greatest good: in service of good and in service of God!

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.

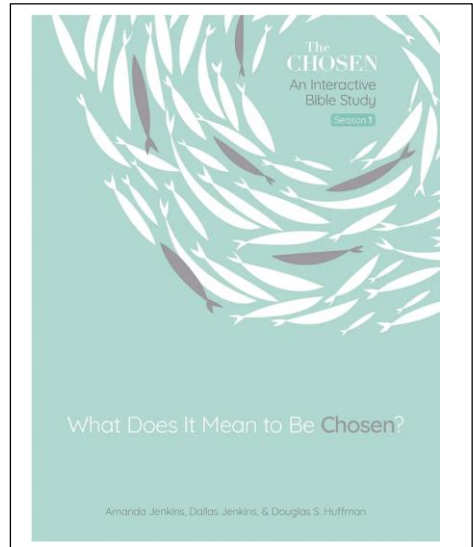
Our fall dates will be:

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
July

We provided food to 374 individuals. They included 165 children under the age of 18, and 60 individuals over the age of 60. Our congregation provided 422# of food. We went to Community Harvest three times this month to purchase 1837# of food in the amount of \$629. Our 15 volunteers gave 116 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

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: Strength, depression

Please pray for: Family going through a time and need and they need all the prayer you can give.

Please pray for: Health and finances for myself, my daughters, my grandkids, and the entire family

Please pray for: Parents and brothers who are out of state. Salvation for myself. Thanksgiving for answering my prayers, I found a place for my kids.

Please pray for: Health and finances for my family. My friend's family going through a time of need. For strength in a time of depression.



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

Shepherd's House

CHICKEN SALE

FOR THE *Veterans*

SEPTEMBER 21ST | 11AM - 5PM

"No honorable discharged veteran should be homeless, regardless of their situation. We help those who need help and give them a comfortable warm place to stay."
-Shepherds House

ALL PROCEEDS GOES TO THE SHEPHERDS HOUSE

CAN'T MAKE IT AND WANT TO HELP?
DONATE HERE:

ALLIED EXTERIORS
VETERAN OWNED

S SALLIEDEXTERIORS @ALLIEDEXTERIORSLLC

519 Tennessee Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Bethlehem Mission News

By Jane Miller

Dear Bethlehem Family,

Since our prayer-time format has changed in our worship services, we will no longer have specific mission prayers assigned for each Sunday. However, for those of you committed to praying for specific missionaries and spiritual needs in the Kingdom, we will list prayer suggestions for you to pray for during the month. Please keep this column handy for your daily prayer and intercession times!

Our granddaughter and new grandson-in-law, Sarah and Zack Anderson, for whom we and many in our family were blessed to take part in witnessing their wedding and exchange of vows the end of July, are back from their short honeymoon in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and are now beginning their first year of marriage in the midst of the cornfields of Illinois, as Sarah put it in her letter this week! Washington, IL is outside Peoria, where Zack grew up and where his life-long home church is. Their mission organization has the policy that a newly married couple in missions should spend their first year on "home assignment," learning how to be married, partner development by sharing with various groups about their changes coming up and looking for additional financial partners. Also, in the Fall, Zack will take an online pre-requisite course for the M.A. in linguistics program that he'll be starting in August 2025 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where Sarah grew up. Sarah, you may remember, is the daughter of Tim and Michelle Miller, who served in Thailand for many years, but now are working in a more sensitive area. Sarah and Zack also were teaching teammates in a city in that same country. After Zack's masters in linguistics is complete, they hope to return to that country if they will be permitted.

During this year Sarah and Zack will also be supplementing their state-side income by doing substitute teaching; it's more costly to live here than in Southeast Asia! Sarah is checking with Bethlehem about their being able to speak in our Bible Class hour in the Spring of 2025, as Sarah has done before. They are requesting that they might be allowed to do their sharing up in the Sanctuary, as Tim and Michelle did earlier last year, so that hopefully I will be able to attend that. They hope to leave for Thailand in May or June of 2025!

***PLEASE PRAY** for Zack and Sarah Anderson as they prepare to return to Chang Mai, Thailand, with all of the above concerns and items! Thanks!

OPEN DOORS has listed in their September Prayer Calendar countries where believers are in danger for having become Believers:

***PLEASE PRAY** for those Christians in Nigeria facing attacks on their lives and villages that desperately needed qualified trauma care workers can work with survivors! Pray for the Lord's comfort and provision, and especially for Pastor Barnabas, for healing after being brutally attacked by Fulani militants. Today, Barnabus pastors thousands of Christians in a camp for internally displaced people. Pray for his ministry and perseverance. Pray also for the children in these camps, that they would grow in their faith and hunger for the Word of God!

***PLEASE PRAY** for Believers in China, especially a 60-year-old couple who left Buddhism to follow Jesus and have led a church for ten years. Authorities recently seized their church building, so the couple continues to host a church in their home. Pray for their protection, and that Believers who are isolated would find a community and grow together.

***PLEASE PRAY** for Algerians who have left Islam to follow Jesus. It is considered an act of mental illness to convert to Christianity in this predominantly Muslim country. Pray especially Meryem, a young college student whose Muslim parents discovered her faith and placed her under house arrest, sedating her. Lord, we cry out for Meryem and pray for her rescue; Amen



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.

Suicide Prevention month

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

September is Suicide Prevention Month — a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Month provides a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength to address this difficult topic. The truth is, we can all benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide, because just one conversation can change a life.

Individual Impact:

79% of all people who die by suicide are male. Although more women than men attempt suicide, men are 4x more likely to die by suicide.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14, the 3rd leading cause of death among those aged 15-24 and the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.

46% of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition — but research suggests that 90% may have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition

Community Impact:

Annual prevalence of serious thoughts of suicide, high risk populations:

U.S. Adults: 4.8%

Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander: 7.4%

Mixed/Multiracial: 8.2%

American Indian/Alaska Native: 8.5%

Young adults aged 18-25: 13%

High school students: 22%

LGBTQ youth: 41%

The highest rates of suicide in the U.S. are among American Indian/Alaskan Natives, followed by non-Hispanic whites. Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are 4x more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth.

Transgender adults are nearly 9x more likely to attempt suicide at some point in their life compared to the general population.

Suicide is the leading cause of death for people held in local jails.

If you know someone who is at immediate risk of suicide, call 911 right away. It can be difficult when someone you know expresses thoughts about suicide, but you can show support by doing the following:

- **Talk.** Expressing your concern for the person in crisis can be the first step in getting that person help.
- **Listen.** Being an active listener is another way of reminding a person in crisis that they are not alone.
- **Remain Present.** Your physical and emotional presence in the person's life makes a difference.
- **Call or text 988.** When someone dials 988, they will be connected to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This confidential support line is available 24 hours a day to provide free help to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress.

If you are struggling or in crisis, remember that there is hope and there are steps you can take to seek help and support.



GriefShare®

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

September 3

Loneliness & Sadness

This week's topic is "Loneliness & Sadness" Life After Your Loss. In this week's video and exercises you will discover that: Sadness can slow you down to assess where you're struggling and what might help. Sadness lessens as you make adjustments in your life. Making meaningful connections eases loneliness.

September 10

Self-Care

This week's topic is "Self-Care" Keeping Up Your Strength. This week you will learn ways to take care of yourself while you're grieving and start to rebuild your energy and health. You'll discover: Healthy lifestyle practices while grieving. Numbing with unhealthy behaviors hinders progress. How to build a relationship with the God of Comfort and Strength.

September 17

Fearful & Overwhelmed

This week's topic is "Fearful & Overwhelmed" Facing the Unknown. In this week's video and exercises you'll find a road map out of worry. You'll discover: Worry is a fear of what *might* happen. Having a plan can prevent "grief overload". Fear reminds you to depend on a trustworthy God.

September 24

Anger

This week's topic is "Anger" When It All Seems So Unfair. Learning how to process your anger in a healthy way is important. This week's video and exercises will help you do that. You'll learn: Anger can give you energy to make needed changes. Anger is powerful, but God can help you manage it. Forgiveness is important for you and your relationships.

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.

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.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be *comforted*.

MATTHEW 5:4

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**



WEDNESDAY MORNING PLAYDATES at SHARING PEACE CAFÉ

Wednesday morning Playdates will begin for the Fall semester between 9am-11am at the Sharing Peace Cafe starting Sept 4. This is just a group of moms (and sometimes dads), often with their littles in tow, to find fellowship and maybe a caffeine fix. Come when you can, leave when you must - we love to make new friends! We begin with a short and will continue every first Wednesday of the month. It will be an encouraging message for busy parents and drop-in style!



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



**LUTHERAN SOUTH
UNITY SCHOOL**



“POWER UP” CAMPAIGNS

**Come Join us
September 15** (see reverse)

Dear Congregation Members, Attendees, & Friends,

You may have read recently in the Fort Wayne Lutheran about the tremendous early success of our school's "Power UP" Campaign. 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! Please make a special effort to attend our presentation on Sunday, September 15 after morning worship as we will be sharing 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.

We hope to see you on September 15!

Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer
Your Congregational Board
Mark & Dana Muehl, Campaign Co-Chairs

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

WOMEN of BETHLEHEM



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



Thursday, September 26 9:00am - 7:00pm
Friday, September 27 9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday, September 28 9:00am - 12noon
\$3 BAG SALE on Saturday, September 28

Donations are still being accepted.

SORTERS NEEDED

Rummage Sale sorting has begun!

We will be sorting Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am – noon.

Come when you can, leave when you must.

BETHLEHEM BAKERS

Cookies needed for our Rummage Sale Hot Dog Lunch Boxes! The Women of Bethlehem will be selling Hot Dog Lunches during our Rummage Sale to raise money for our WOB Fund. We need cookies! Bake them ahead and freeze them!

NO NUTS PLEASE. Please bring them to Bethlehem kitchen Sept. 24-25th.

Please call church office 744-3228 to sign up as a Baker! Thanks!



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.

Featured Speaker will be Ralph Schmidt, representing ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN. In gathering 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.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Autumn, the season that
teaches us that change
can be *beautiful*.

The Joyful Corner

God Wants You to Enjoy Life

So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun. ~ Ecclesiastes 8:15 NIV

A baby's laughter. A beautiful sunrise. Hanging out with friends. A good book. A box of chocolates. There are many things and ways that we can enjoy life. With so many opportunities at every turn, it's alarming to realize that one in ten Americans experience depression at some point in their lives.

Why is that? More often than not it's because we've let our circumstances dictate our enjoyment of life. When circumstances are calm and favorable, we more easily enjoy the simple things in life. When they are chaotic, we let even the little things stress us out and the enjoyment of life seems like a fleeting memory.

So what's the secret? It's our perspective. When we keep our focus on the promises found in God's Word and on His love for us, our big and scary circumstances seem much smaller and are more easily dealt with, leaving more time to enjoy life.

That's what God really wants for us: to enjoy life. It's through our enjoyment of life and the joy we carry about us that attracts others to Him. If we are down in the dumps all the time, we don't make a relationship with God look attractive.



LSUS NEWS

Over summer we had done some updates in the building. We are excited to announce that we are in the process of updating our electrical system and will soon start construction to install new rooftop HVAC units for every classroom. This means we will soon have air conditioning! We are excited to see what this year will bring. Please keep all our students, staff and faculty in your prayers this school year!

The 2024-25 school year is off to a great start! We have added several new families to the LSUS family. Our enrollment is at 184 this year. Enrollment for 6th grade is closed but we are still accepting all other grades.

We have added several new staff and faculty:

Principal Amber Bahr

Kdg 1 Michelle Madden*

1st Hannah Fink

2nd John Fink

3rd Tiffany Scheurich*

5th Danielle Ramsey

6th/MS Soc St Chase Mertz

8th Gr/MS ELA Yvonne Schwantz

Physical Ed. Gary Arrington

LSEM Tara Nehls*

FWCS Title I Tutor Melissa White

Office Administrator Allison Cheng

School Nurse Beverly Jordan

Extended Care Manager Patricia Spaulding*

Extended Care Assist. Courtney Pearson* Erica Pearson*

Kitchen Manager Stacey Antoine

Kitchen Assistant Lafayette Jordan Shaniqua Swann

Custodian David Morales

Admissions Barb Johnson

Kdg 2 Rachel Wiegman

Teacher Aide Sylvia Benavides

Teacher Aide Susan Bienz

4th Abbey Kohler

Teacher Aide LaQuetta Washington

7th/MS Sci Michael Cullen

Art Natalie Reynolds

Hall Monitor Josh Sowders

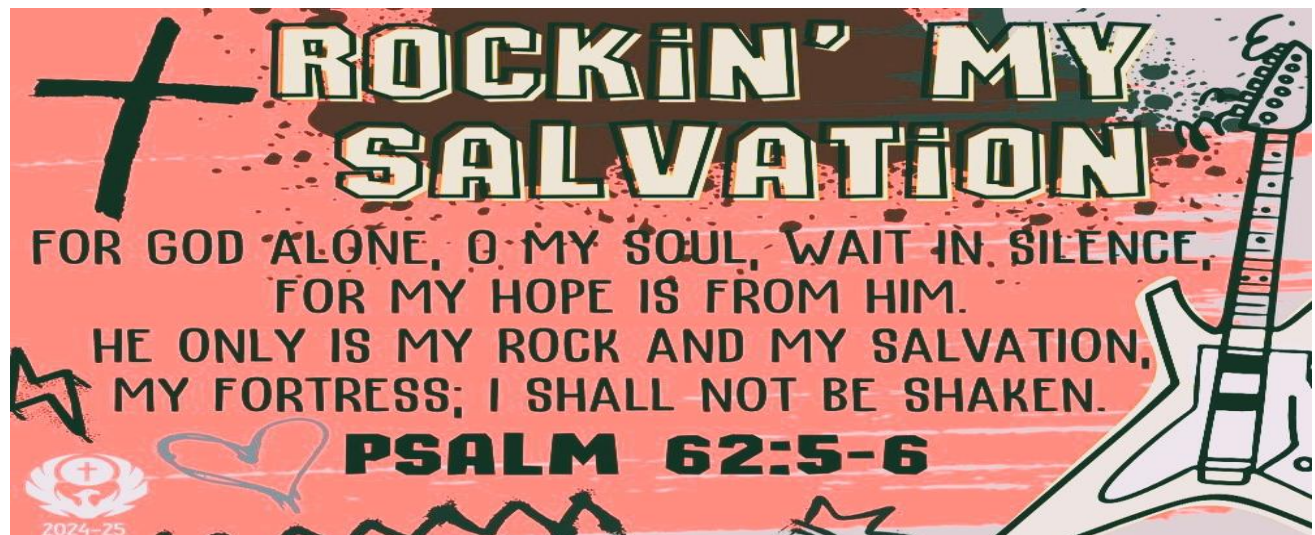
Progress Partners Coach Lizzy Hoham

School Librarian Diane Lammert

Financial Administrator Betsy Lytle

Maintenance Jovan Antoine

*New to LSUS this year



ADOPTED
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting
July 9, 2024

Members present: Brian Bates, Dan Bates, Evans Branigan, Rachele Dance, Natalie Reynolds, Greg Shediack and John Stafford

Members absent: Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer, Caleb DeMond

Guests: Doug Reynolds

The July 9th regular monthly meeting of the Board was opened at 6:34 PM by President Greg Shediack. Greg provided an opening prayer to begin the meeting.

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

Brian Bates presented the June Financial Report. Monthly offerings for June were \$39,505 compared with a budgeted amount of \$26,833. Monthly expenses for June totaled \$47,125, compared with monthly budget amounts of \$40,010. The balance in the Endowment Fund at the end of June was \$1,165,997. The month-end balance in the SSMG Fund was \$36,155. Brian noted that an additional \$12,000 was withdrawn from the SSMG Fund after the end of this reporting period. Brian also presented a report illustrating actual expenses compared with budgeted amounts for the major categories of the Operating Budget. Through the first six-months of the year we have expended 48.5 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 no changes from the congregational membership during the month of June, 2024.

John Stafford noted that the application for participation and potential financial assistance has been submitted to Indiana Landmarks under their Scared Places program and we are awaiting word on acceptance.

Brian Bates provided an update on the repairs to the boiler and the tree trimming.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Evans Branigan moved and Dan Bates seconded a motion for adjournment. After closing with prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Submitted in His service,

John Stafford, Secretary



Change my heart, Oh God.

*Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 – Dan Bates
Eddie Pierce | 16 – Kimberly Griggs |
| 4 – Charles Tharp | 18 – Conner Bearman |
| 6 – Alice Pion | 20 – Rafael Flores
Elisabeth Magadan
Hung Tran |
| 9 – Herman Guenin
Andrew Nelson
John Stafford | 23 – Brandon Epperson |
| 11 – Tiyona Griggs | 24 – Douglas Howard |
| 12 – Edward Johnson | 25 – Joan Dressler
Kathy Kalthoff |
| 13 – Dorothy Jackson | 26 – Kelly Bernabe |
| 14 – David Hille
Sandra Linan | 28 – Laura Magadan |
| 15 – Leah Hutchinson
Ashton Stevenson | 30 – Valeria Harris |



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 – LT and Denise DeYampert (43)
16 – David and Debra Epperson (34)
18 – Evans and Loistene Branigan (53)
21 – Derek and Dana Crane (17)
28 – Gene and Linda Kalthoff (60)
Anthony and Toni Mante (43)



ONLINE WORSHIP

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



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.



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



September 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>
31	Linda Stafford Mary Snow	Michael Johnson			Carla Johnson	
1		Greg Shediack	Ron Gallmeyer	Donna Melcher Threasa Lightning	Josiah Hapner	Randy Hapner
7	Natalie Reynolds Allison Cheng	Ed Ramos			Blake Sebring	
8		Joe Nelson	Evans Branigan	The Hapner Family	Aaron Brown	Joshua Hapner
14	Sharon Dietrich Suzie Emley Amber Herndon	Peter Schlie			Charlotte Ratliff	
15		Peter Schlie	Dan Bates	John Stafford Linda Stafford	Josiah Hapner	Randy Hapner
21	Kim Ellison Sharon Shediack	Michael Johnson			Carla Johnson	
22		Greg Shediack	Ron Gallmeyer	Glenn Emley	Allison Cheng	Dave Volmerding
28	Linda Stafford Mary Snow	Ed Ramos			Blake Sebring	
29		John Bates	Evans Branigan	Suzie Emley	Aaron Brown	Josiah Hapner

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

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	2	3 5:30pm - GriefShare 6:30pm - Bd. of Elders	4 LSUS Volleyball Home game	5	6	7 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
8 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	9	10 5:30pm - GriefShare 6:30pm - Bd. of Directors	11 LSUS Volleyball Home game	12	13	14 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
15 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	16	17 5:30pm - GriefShare	18 Soccer	19 LSUS Volleyball Home game	20 MESSENGER articles due	21 8:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
22 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	23	24 5:30pm - GriefShare	25 Soccer	26 9:00am-7:00pm Rummage Sale	27 9:00am-4:00pm Rummage Sale	28 9:00am-12:00pm Rummage Sale 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00pm Worship w/Comm
29 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:30am Education Hour	30	 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">Let all that you do be done in <i>Love</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1 Corinthians 16:14</p>				