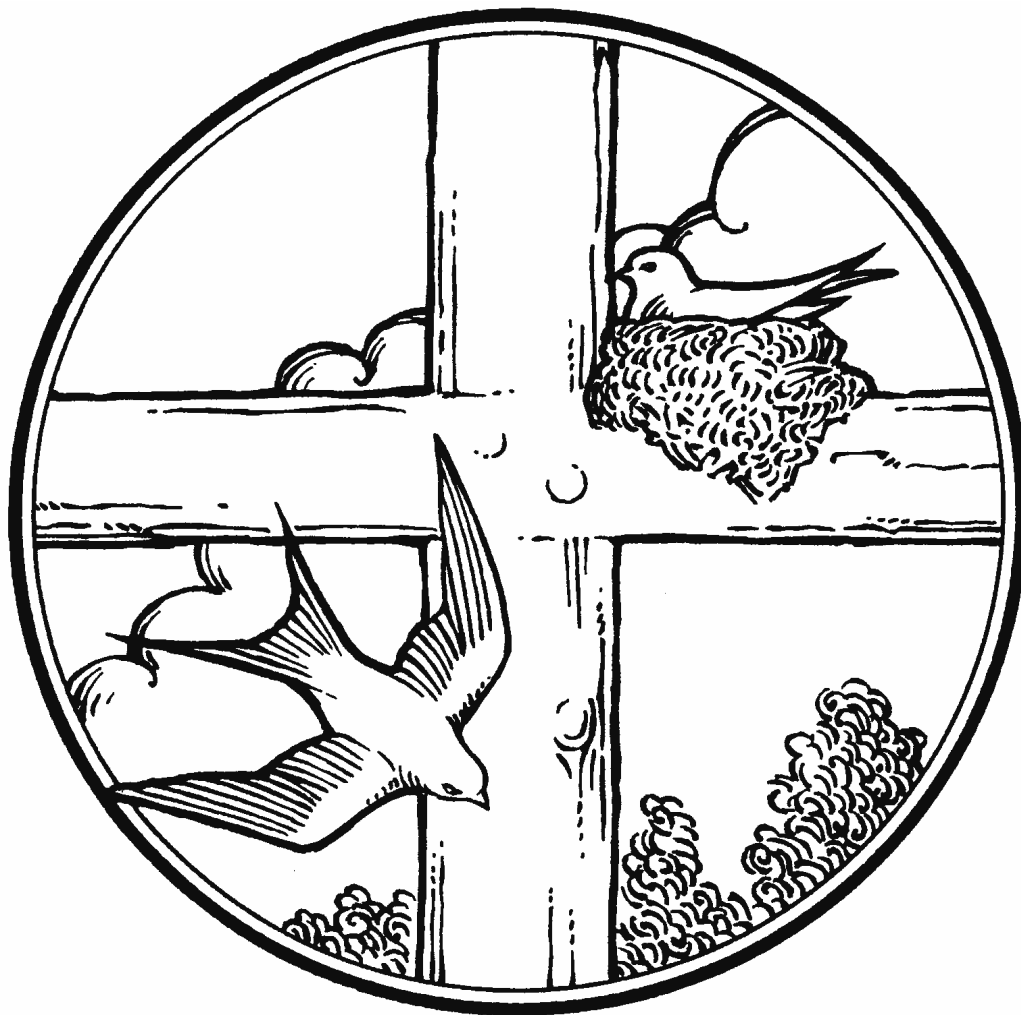


Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Divine Service Three

September 8, 2024

Vol. 126-40

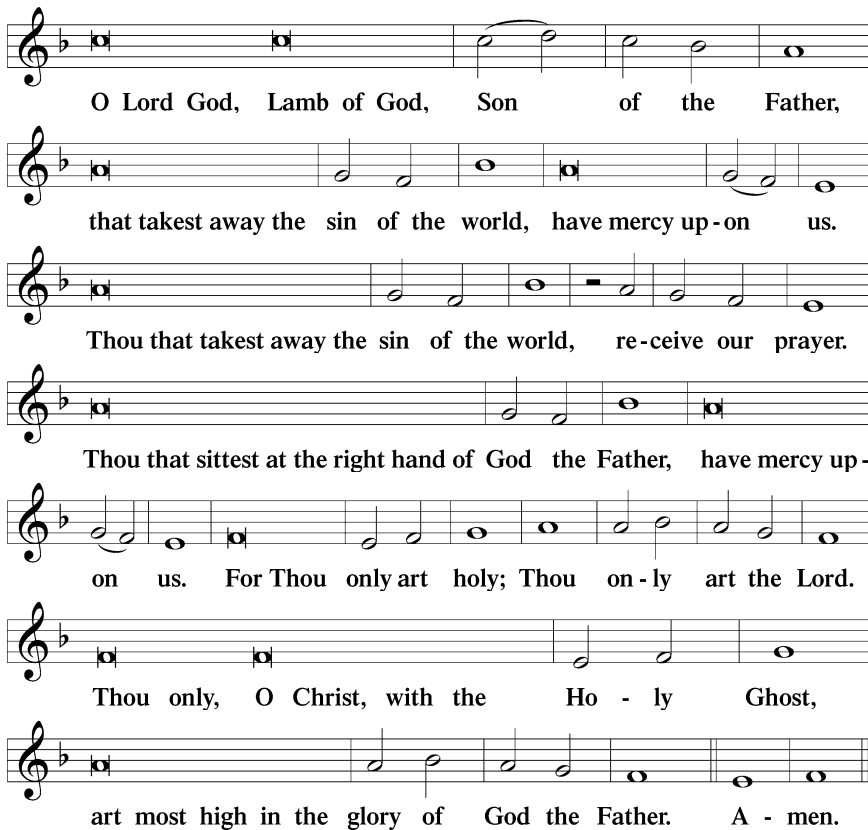
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious;*
 turn to me and be gra- | cious to me;
give your strength to your | servant,*
and save the son of your maid- | servant.
*Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**
and to the Holy / Spirit;
*as it was in the be- / ginning,**
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.
 Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,*
 save your servant, who trusts in you—you | are my God.
Be gracious to me, | O Lord,*
 for to you do I cry | all the day.

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Let us pray.

P O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 17:8–16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

**It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
than to | trust in man.**

**It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
than to trust in | princes.**

Epistle

Galatians 5:25—6:10

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

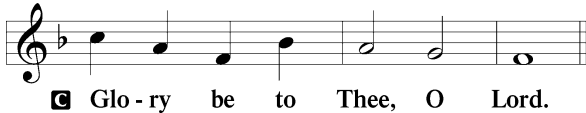
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:24–34

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



²⁴[Jesus said:] “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

- C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

#760 What God Ordains Is Always Good

Sermon

Offertory

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing

Mike Schumm, Martha Bauermeister

Macie Saalfrank, Garrett Werling

Bryce Bowman, Ron Whitesel, Sandy Avey

Rhett Nabrwald (3 year old son of Adam and Allie)

Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)

Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys)

Tom Black (father of Ed Black), Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)

Barbara Murphy (Melissa Price's grandmother)

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Lynae Laley, Danielle Campbell, Amelia Phillips*

We pray for protection: *Pastor and Mrs. Moebring's son Stephen in Israel.*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Gloria Siela (living with son, Gary)

Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

Norwin Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel

Preface

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

Distribution Hymns

- #621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
- #622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared
- #782 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings
- #712 Seek Ye First
- #649 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,




which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

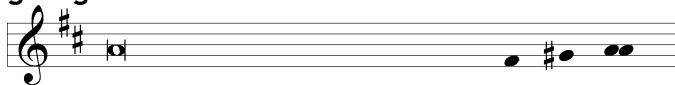


to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

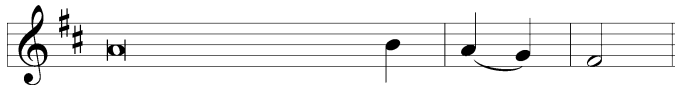


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

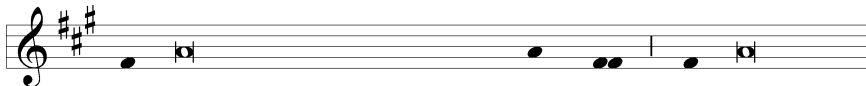


A Bless we the Lord.

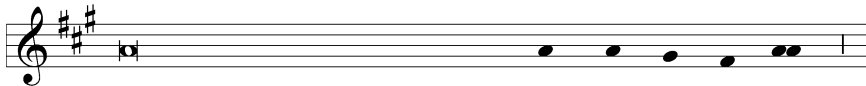


G Thanks be to God.

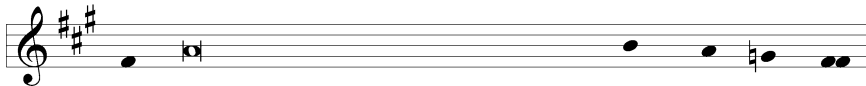
Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Celebrant	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Vicar	Sem. Morgan Phillips
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Ted Schumm and Jerry Meyer
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Acolytes	Jude Wirgau and Matthew Rekeweg
Altar Guild Chairman	Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison
Ushers	Rory Geiger, Lane Harkless, Isaac Harkless Darren Patrick, Mark Patrick, Cole Patrick

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School	260-597-7366
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Kantor Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
Vicar Morgan Phillips	605-391-4770
Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org	

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.

TODAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
	6:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study
MONDAY	6:00 p.m. Wholyfit
TUESDAY	6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (youth room)
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m. Chapel Service
	7:00 p.m. Spoken Divine Service
	7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
THURSDAY	1:00 p.m. Ladies blanket sewing (school basement)
	6:00 p.m. Wholyfit
	6:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting
SUNDAY	8:00 a.m. Women of Bethlehem Meeting
	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

DUE TO RENOVATIONS BEING MADE IN THE CHURCH NURSERY, IT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR USE THE NEXT 2 SUNDAYS. APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

NEW CATECHESIS CLASS - Mark your calendars. Pastor Wirgau will be offering a class on Christian Doctrine from the Small Catechism for anyone who is interested beginning Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30-6:30. This class will serve as a refresher for current members who would like to continue their catechesis as well as an introductory class to the Christian faith and the teaching of our Church for all who are not members of Bethlehem. All are invited and encouraged to attend and to bring family and friends who may be interested. If you have questions or need more details, please contact Pastor Wirgau.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY -TODAY Sunday, September 8th, we will start our regular Sunday School classes. This year we will also be offering a Nursery age class (crawling-age 2). This class will go along with the Enduring Faith Sunday School Curriculum we currently use in the other classes. The purpose of this class is designed for toddlers to engage in God's word at an age-appropriate level. Depending on the age and number of children, parents may be asked to stay.

BETHLEHEM CHOIR PRACTICES – Kantor Brinkley will be starting his Adult Choir practices on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 11th after the 7 pm Spoken Divine Service. The Handbell Choir practice will be on Monday evenings beginning on September 23rd at 7:00 pm. Please see Kantor if you have any questions.

CHURCH MEDIA MEETING – For anyone interested in learning -We will have a meeting on TODAY Sunday, September 8th after church. We will train and show how to do sound/video and answer any other questions.

CARD SHOWER - Gloria Siela will be celebrating her 91st birthday on September 8. If you would like to send her a birthday card, her address is 127 Stangrove Cove, Fort Wayne 46845. We wish her a very Happy Birthday on the 8th and God's blessings!

Sunday, September 15 - WOB all women's meeting at 8am in Fellowship Hall

There will also be a bake sale on Sunday, Sept. 15. Ladies are reminded to bring in their homemade soups and baked goods for the sale.

Tuesday, October 1 - WOB Board meeting at 7pm in Fellowship Hall

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM: PART 2 - The elders of Bethlehem are calling another congregational forum to continue our discussion of First Communion prior to Confirmation during the Bible Study hour on Sunday, September 22. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. If you have questions or would like to submit questions for the forum please speak to Pastor Wirgau or the Elders.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, the annual Bethlehem Pork Chop dinner will be held at Lighted Gardens on Sunday, October 6th. Ticket information will be announced soon.

Employment Opportunity - The Bethlehem Board of Christian Education along with the Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for someone to fill a part-time resource room teacher position. Applicants must hold a current Indiana Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Rev. Anthony Dodgers at pastordodgers@blcsossian.org or Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org

THERE IS A GARDENERS TABLE SET UP IN THE NORTH HALLWAY for those who would like to share their garden crops or for those wanting to enjoy taking what is on the table.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The Right to Life of Northeast Indiana's fall banquet is Monday, October 14 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. The Keynote speaker will be actor Jim Caviezel! Tables are now open to sponsor! Please view the following link for more information and details.

<https://www.ichooselife.org/resources/events/upcoming-events/uniting-our-county-for-life-banquet> ***If interested in attending, please sign up TODAY on the sheet located on the Right to Life table in the church foyer or contact Pastor Wirgau.***

Upcoming Decatur LWML events are: Saturday, September 14 is the Fall Gathering at St. Peter, Fuelling. Our speaker will be Rev. Peter Brock who will give us an update on the Tanzania Children's Home. A free-will offering will go towards the Tanzanian Mission. Saturday, October 5 is the SRD (Spiritual Resource Department) Workshop at St. Paul – Preble. We will be marking Bibles for prisons and local missions.

Book Club: "Much Ado About Nothing" William Shakesphare We will meet in person at Crimson House **Saturday Sept 21** at 9:00am to discuss the book and the play.

Free Shakespeare Performance All are invited to attend Parlor City Shakespeare Company's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" at Parlor City Plaza in Bluffton. Bethlehem's members Peter Meyer and Sarena Wirgau are part of the cast. Admission is FREE, just bring your own chair and enjoy the show. September 13 & 14 - 7:30pm, September 15 - 6:30pm*, and a special Preview Night on September 12 - 7:30pm. *Possible change of venue for 9/15 performance due to conflict with Bluffton Street Fair. Check "Parlor City Shakespeare Company" facebook page for updates.

DIAPER DRIVE – We will be collecting diapers for the Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne and the Hope Clinic in Decatur. Collection boxes will be in the church narthex

Sunday September 22nd, the Adult Fellowship Group (formally widows club) will be meeting after Sunday School in the fellowship hall for a carry in potluck. Card games will be available to play as well. Contact Gail Werling for more info.

LADIES, DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER! WOMEN'S RETREAT – Sept. 27-29 Register online at <https://lakeview.camp/women/>. After registering, please sign up on the sheet located on the WOB bulletin board in the North hallway so we know who is attending or contact Deann Oliver for more information (616-894-0144).

A Decatur Circuit Forum is Scheduled for Sunday, September 15 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John, Bingen. At this meeting, the church's delegates will elect the next Circuit Visitor. Also on the agenda are two presentations: Pastor Peter Brock will give an update on the work in Tanzania (with recent pictures) and Pastor Don Sauls will share information and updates about the work of Compassionate Ministries. All the members of our circuit congregations are invited to come and hear about the Lord's work supported by our circuit churches.

WHOLYFIT IS BACK THIS FALL! LADIES: Join us on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm for HolyFit – a Christian ALTERNATIVE to yoga. All fitness levels are welcome! **Classes start Sept 9** and are approximately 45 min. Our first Scripture theme will be The Full Armor of God. Bring an exercise mat, water, and wear comfy clothes. Contact Deann Oliver for more information 616-894-0144

Offering September 1, 2024

<u>Average weekly need</u>	<u>\$13,818</u>
Home Fund Env.	\$7,273.45
Synod	15.15
Loose	211.56
Scholarship Fund	
Improvement Fund	50.50
Endowment Fund	
Music Fund	
Sunday School	5.75
Nahrwold Estate	<u>14,092.39</u>
Total	\$21,648.80

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance \$5,124.44

Next week bills due: \$14,000

Bills due two weeks: \$10,000

Savings Account Balance \$107,443.22

Borrowed from Savings: \$26,300

Operating Loan Debt: \$0.00

Church/Communion Attendance

Sunday 130/90

Wednesday 16/12

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR SCHOOL AND HOME

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What are the Ten Commandments?

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is the Apostles' Creed?

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- *Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*
- *A hymn may be sung.*
- *Scripture Reading and Devotion Lesson*
- *Prayers and Intercessions*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

What is the Ninth Commandment?

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

What is Hebrews 13:5?

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5