



JANUARY 2025

Volume 18, Issue 5

The Bethlehem Star

Loehe on the Epiphany of Our Lord

The following is from J. K. Wilhelm Loehe, nineteenth-century Lutheran pastor and theologian, whom our church commemorates on the day of his death, January 2, 1872. He writes regarding the Epiphany of Our Lord:

This is a day of great glory in Bethlehem, in the City of David, and in the house where Mary resided after the birth of her firstborn in the stable. The Magi from the distant East—wise, without a doubt; rich, as their gifts demonstrated; venerable, as their behavior and adoration before the blessed One proved; pious, believing, full of the Holy Spirit; a most honorable company, led by a miraculous star—they came through Bethlehem's gate full of joy and delight, in celebration and reverence, to the house where their shining leader, the star of the Wise Men, came to rest. We have very little knowledge about these Magi, which tradition thereafter sought to provide. How many, their homeland, their station, and other details have not been given to us, so we cannot know this as easily as we know other things. But we see and hear and know enough to praise God for the entire event and to extol with gladness these worthy first emissaries of all Gentiles who bring homage to the Son of God and Mary. We confirm that they represent us in praise and at the same time sign our own names on the list of those who praise this One.

The light of the Gentiles and Israel's glory shine in this day's Gospel, lovely and brilliant in every eye. God is present in Israel; Immanuel has appeared in Bethlehem. The day of manifestation is here! Countless days of equal majesty will follow this day!

We can call the entire period since the day of Pentecost a time of manifestation, a time of revelation of the reality and grace of Christ. It was then that our time, the Gentiles time, began. And while Israel seems to recognize her glory in Christ Jesus less and less as time goes on, the choir of the Gentiles grows increasingly rich and sonorous, its day ever brighter, the adoration of Jesus ever more widespread, the army of those who confess the faith and offer praise ever more innumerable, whose princes are the Wise Men of the East.

And so we rejoice today, as should all Gentiles with us, in the anniversary of the beginning of the time of the Gentiles. We call upon the Almighty to make this time ever more blessed as long as it endures, that the host of believing Gentiles ever increase in number, that the salvation of Israel may appear as a light at the evening of the world, that the time of this world shall come to an end and be fulfilled to the glory of the Lord and His ancient, holy, blessed design.

(Wilhelm Löhe, *The Word Remains*. Translated by Matthew Carver, et. al. (Fort Wayne: Emmanuel Press, 2016), 13-14).

Rev. Samuel Wirgau





6721

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Ossian, Indiana 46777
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A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2	3  Epiphany	4
5 9a Divine Sev NO ABC & SS	6 Back to School 6:00p Holyfit 7p Handbell Choir Practice	7 5:30p Board of Education Meet	8 10:00a Chapel 5:30p Adult Cat. 7:00p Spoken Di- vine Service Adult Choir	9 6:00p Holyfit	10	11 Right To Life Workshop—New Hope Lutheran Church
12 9a Divine Ser 10:30a ABC & SS 6:30p Youth Bible Study	13 6:00p Holyfit 7p Handbell Choir Practice	14	15 10:00a Chapel 5:30p Adult Cat. 7:00p Spoken Di- vine Service Adult Choir	16 6:00p Holyfit	17	18 Bethlehem Boys Varsity Tournament
19 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS	20 6:00p PTL Meeting 6:00p Holyfit 7p Handbell Choir Practice	21	22 10:00a Chapel 5:30p Adult Cat. 7:00p Spoken Di- vine Service Adult Choir	23 6:00p Holyfit	24	25 Bethlehem Girls Junior Varsity Tournament
26 9a Divine Service 10:30a ABC & SS 6:30p Youth Bible Study	27 6:00p Holyfit 7p Handbell Choir Practice	28	29 10:00a Chapel 5:30p Adult Cat. 7:00p Spoken Di- vine Service Adult Choir	30 6:00p Holyfit	31	Bethlehem Boys Junior Varsity Tournament

January 3, 2025

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills \$2,521.56

Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Account Balance
Improvement Fund	\$26,833.12	(\$ 0.00)	\$26,833.12
Scholarship Fund	\$12,615.27	(\$ 0.00)	\$12,615.27
Music Fund	\$ 3,322.22	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 3,322.22
Donation to Endowment	\$26,300.00	(\$26,300.00)	\$ 0.00
Relief Fund	\$ 2,500.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,500.00
Reserved (TBD)	\$ 2,369.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,369.00
TOTALS	\$73,939.61	(\$26,300.00)	\$47,636.61

Checkbook Balance

\$ 2,521.56

Savings Account Balance

\$47,636.61

Total Savings and Checking Balance

\$50,693.22

Borrowed Amounts

Restricted Savings Account	\$26,300.00
Operating Loan Amount	\$ 6,900.00
TOTAL BORROWED	<u>\$33,200.00</u>

Bills due week of January 5—\$3,000

Bills due week of January 12—\$15,000

Pro Life Workshop at New Hope Lutheran Church-Ossian on Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 9-12 (\$5 Registration fee). Speaker Mike Spencer, Project LifeVoice. This workshop is open to adults and students 7th grade and older. Register online at ichooselife.org (through Right to Life of NE Indiana). About the Workshop: *Many people today reject or are indifferent to the pro-life view, often because they've never heard the pro-life position presented in a compelling manner. This workshop will prepare you to confidently communicate the pro-life position to others. Using science & philosophy, you will learn to simplify the debate. Come learn to speak intelligently and graciously to the most pressing moral issue of our time: abortion. You'll leave prepared to confidently persuade others by exposing the logical fallacies of abortion-choice rhetoric without the need for vitriol and angry dialogue.*

Northeast Indiana March for Life

Join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on Saturday, January 18th for the March for Life in downtown Fort Wayne. Unite with thousands of pro-life advocates from our region to show that you support life from conception to natural death. The **March for Life is an annual pro-life rally held near the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in *Roe v. Wade*.**

The pre-march Rally will take place at Tincaps Stadium, 1301 Ewing St, Fort Wayne, IN. Doors open at noon, and the rally will begin at 12:30 pm. The March will start after the Rally.

Learn more at www.ichooselife.org/march or call our office at 260-471-1849.

The Endowment Committee thanks the Lord and the congregation for the generous gifts to the Endowment Fund.

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of October 31, 2024:

- \$221,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
- 208,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
- 304,895.68 - Amount generated since 2009
- 149,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
- \$585,206.50 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of October 31, 2024**



Wedding Anniversary Blessings

- Jan. 2 Jerry and Judith Lockwood (32)
- Jan. 4 Dan and Sue Buchinger (50)
- Jan. 31 Keith and Dorothy Krick (49)



Elder Routes

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Bruce Werling | A-B |
| Glen Werling | C-F |
| Ted Schumm | G-K |
| Jerry Meyer | L-P |
| Steve Conrad | Q-S |
| Bruce Meyer | T-Z |



Filled with Wisdom January 5, 2025 – Second Sunday of Christmas Rev. Thomas Eggold God's Wisdom saves you. The teachers in Jerusalem were being taught by the One in whom all wisdom is found. In Christ Jesus, the Passover Lamb was sacrificed for our sins once and for all. In Christ Jesus, the punishment for our foolishness was received. We have been forgiven and heaven is ours. Sermon Text: Luke 2:40 Readings: Psalm 119:97-104; 1 Kings 3:4-15; Luke 2:40-52

Baptized into Christ January 12, 2025 – The Baptism of Our Lord Rev. Shayne Jonker "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5 ESV). Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan, God in the flesh, and so also we celebrate our baptism into Christ. What a great comfort in the midst of temptation and trial, sin and death, and every distress that we can say to ourselves, "I am baptized into Christ!" Sermon Text: Luke 3:21-22 Readings: Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

Read the Signs January 19, 2025 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany Rev. Paul Shoemaker Recognizing and understanding signs is an important skill to master when learning to drive. Jesus performed many miraculous signs and wonders so we can see the signs and know He is the Christ, the Son of God. Sermon Text: John 2:11 Readings: Psalm 118; Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

Scripture Fulfilled January 26, 2025 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany Rev. William Mueller Jesus is invited to choose and read the Scripture reading at a worship service in His hometown of Nazareth. He reads a powerful section from Isaiah the Prophet about the work of the Messiah. He startles the worshipers with the statement, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." What? How could this be? But it begs us to examine our own lives and ask ourselves, "Are we offended at what Jesus says?" Sermon Text: Luke 4:16-30 Readings: Psalm 119:7-14; Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:16-30

Birthday Blessings! January



- 3) Marissa Geiger
- 4) Sara Fowler
- 6) Louis Schumm
Gary Werling
- 7) Dan Kleppinger
- 8) Eden Stoppenhagen
Sylvia Wann
- 9) Arthur Dodgers
- 10) Nikki Caldwell
Marilyn Franke
Kyle Patrick
- 11) Hallie Brege
Judith Lockwood
- 12) Melissa Price
- 14) Brandon Schumm
June Trammel
- 15) Jacob Bultemeier
- 18) Joshua Brown
Steve Conrad
Jordin Saalfrank
Ethan Williamson
- 19) Isla Meyer
- 21) DoRena Wirgau
- 22) Jennifer Meyer
- 24) Brittany Schumm
Hazel Todd
- 25) Briar Bauemeister
- 26) Tim Baker
Jason Lesh
Deann Oliver
Kim Werling
- 27) Tom Patrick
- 29) Jared Conrad
Olivia Householder
Jacob Werling
Kirsten Whitsitt
- 30) Dorothy Krick
Tara Werling
- 31) Rhys Meyer
Matthew Rekeweg

Beat the Winter Blues & Join Us for

Craft for a Cause

Saturday, March 1, 2025

7am - 7pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 6514 E 750th N, Ossian, IN

Ladies, pack up your crafting supplies and join us for 12 hours of fellowship, food and uninterrupted crafting fun!!!

Registration Includes

1/2 of an 8' Table Workspace with
Padded Chair
Continental Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Goodie Bags
Progressive Bingo for Prizes
Snack & Beverage Station

Not Crafty? NO WORRIES!

Bring a hobby, coloring books, a book or whatever you want and come fellowship with us!

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: Register by February 1 for ONLY \$30
\$35 after February 1

GROUP DISCOUNT: SAVE \$5/person when 4 people sign up together!

All proceeds benefit the Women of Bethlehem Ministry

Please direct inquiries to Deann Oliver at deannrene@outlook.com or 616-894-0144.

Mail this form and check **payable to Women of Bethlehem** to
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, c/o Deann Oliver, 6514 E 750th N, Ossian, IN 46777.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Need Electricity? Y / N

Extension cords will be provided. Please bring power strip if needed.

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

High School Youth Group

In December, we had our christmas party and participated in the City of Churches Tour in Fort Wayne.



Thank you to everyone who helped with and came to the advent suppers before services!

Donuts

Luke

January

12TH

Youth Bible Study

26TH

Youth Bible Study

TBD

East of Chicago Fundraiser



Book Club

WILL BE MEETING AT CRIMSON HOUSE
ON SATURDAY MARCH 8 AT 8:00AM

THE THINGS WE CANNOT SAY
BY KELLY RIMMER



EQUIPPING SAINTS
TO SERVE

JAN
13TH
2PM

Devotion: What Am I Worth?
Bible Study: Who's Number One?



Spring Bible Study TBE



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Hope for Rachel

It seems to dampen the Christmas spirit if we observe the Holy Innocents on December 28. We joyfully celebrate the birth of baby Jesus and then must think about the tragic death of babies. But another tragedy cried out from the streets of Bethlehem that night: Rachel weeping. "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more" (Matt. 2:18). Rachel, who personified the sorrow of the Jews enslaved in captivity in Jeremiah 31, now personifies the loud weeping and comfortless sorrow of these Jewish mothers at the murder of their babies.

Another tragedy cries out from our streets: Rachel weeping, the mothers and fathers of these dead children weeping in the darkness of grief, refusing to be comforted. Rachels today sit in an even deeper darkness. Unlike the mothers of Bethlehem, they participated in the choice to have their own children killed. When that reality strikes, it crushes the heart and numbs the soul. Listen to their weeping. If this secret sin stays secret, it manifests itself in other ways. Trapped in the darkness of sin, Rachels feel unforgivable and hopeless.

A voice is heard in our land: "Weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." But there is hope for Rachel! There is hope for those sitting in the darkness refusing to be comforted because one Baby escaped Herod's sword that awful night: Jesus. Jesus, who said, "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5), and "I have come into the world as a light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in the darkness" (John 12:46). Jesus hung in the darkness. "It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole and until the ninth hour" (Luke 23:44). Jesus hung and bled in the darkness of sin. He suffered the hopelessness and forsakenness of that darkness. He was buried in the darkness of the tomb and death. But the darkness of death could not contain the Light of Life! The Light shattered the darkness, giving us "a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3b). We find hope in our living God! There is hope for Rachel because Jesus shatters the darkness of our sin. He enters the darkness to give us the light of living hope.

Satan would love us to believe that the Herod-like destruction of unborn children and the abuse of women through this destruction are political issues and do not belong in the Church. But that is precisely where they do belong! We have the Gospel, the only message that can shatter the darkness and bring hope. If you sit silently alone in the darkness, know that God loves you. He enters the very depths of your darkness and shines upon you with the light of His forgiveness. In that light, you can find hope and begin the path toward healing.

Snippets of article taken from The Lutheran Witness Article "Hope for Rachel" by Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- RIGHT TO LIFE WORKSHOP AT NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-OSSIAN ON JAN 11 FROM 9-12 (\$5 REG.)
- MARCH FOR LIFE IN FW JAN 18
- MARCH FOR LIFE IN D.C. JAN 24

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- LUTHERANS FOR LIFE
- LCMS LIFE MINISTRY
- KFUE FRIENDS FOR LIFE PODCAST
- RIGHT TO LIFE OF NE INDIANA
- MARCH FOR LIFE



JANUARY 11TH, 2025

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
8824 N. ST. RD 1 OSSIAN, IN 46777

*Mike Spencer, ProjectLifeVoice,
will equip you to speak confidently and
graciously to the most pressing moral issue
of our time: abortion.*

Scan the QR Code or register at
ichooselife.org/ossianWS



260-471-1849 | \$5 COST
ADULTS & STUDENTS 7TH GRADE & UP.



TIGER TALES



“ENDURE”



A big thank you to the Women of Bethlehem for a wonderful Christmas luncheon December 2nd. Thank you also to the students of 1st and 2nd for supplying the homemade gingerbread center pieces.



CALENDAR

- Jan. 6 Back to School
- Jan. 17-18 Var Boys Tournament
- Jan. 20 PTL meeting
- Jan. 24-25 JV Girls Tournament
- Jan. 27-31 Natl Lutheran School Week
- Jan. 31-Feb. 1 JV Boys Tournament

JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 14 June Trammel
- Jan. 15 MaKayla Berkey
- Jan. 21 Ronnie Trammel
- Jan. 31 Matthew Rekeweg





Thank you to everyone who worshiped with us at the Children's Christmas Divine Service on December 18th. The Bethlehem students worked hard to spread the message of Jesus' birth.



Children's Christmas Art Exhibition – School hallway bulletin boards

All the artwork is based on Luke 2, illustrating the birth of Jesus our Savior. Three entries were selected for bulletin covers and are as follows:

Children's Christmas Service – Harper Miller Grade 3

Christmas Eve Service – Jonah Bultemeier Grade 5

Christmas Day Service – Emma Wirgau Grade 8

Honorable Mention: Nolan Anthony (1), Cora Day (1), Violet Nahrwold (1), Madeline Schumm (3), Emma Campbell (5), Alex Fuhrmann (6), Bailey Meyer (6), Caroline Haiflich (7), Micah Leamon (8)

A big thank you to our judges Sue Buchinger, Judy Moehring and Glen Werling

Parents may access the new church and school website at <https://blcsossian.org/>
There you will find shortcuts to the student and parent dashboards.

PRIVACY NOTICE

We all love to share pictures of our child's school activities and accomplishments. However, we have to be very careful where those pictures are posted and respect that other students might also be in the picture. Parents, please remember to not post pictures that may have students in them other than your own child. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office before posting anything. Thank you

Bethlehem basketball schedule!



Sat Jan 11	Basketball (Boys Varsity)	Huntington Catholic School	T	9:00 AM	Huntington Catholic School	Away
Fri Jan 17	Basketball (Boys Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	3:30 PM	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home
Sat Jan 18	Basketball (Boys Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	TBD	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home
Tue Jan 21	Basketball (Boys Varsity)	St Peter-immanuel Lutheran School	SG	5:30 PM	St Peter-immanuel Lutheran School	Away
Fri Jan 24	Basketball (Girls Junior Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	TBD	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home
Sat Jan 25	Basketball (Girls Junior Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	TBD	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home
Fri Jan 31	Basketball (Boys Junior Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	TBD	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home
Sat Feb 1	Basketball (Boys Junior Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	TBD	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home
Fri Feb 7	Basketball (Girls Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	TBD	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home
Sat Feb 8	Basketball (Girls Varsity)	Bethlehem Lutheran School	T	TBD	Bethlehem Lutheran School (Bethlehem Lutheran School)	Home

School Gym Use after school hours – Before using the school gym after school hours, please be sure to contact our current Athletic Director, Brandon Schumm. Please call or text him at 260-273-7403 to make arrangements. Thank you

With Gradelink you can stay updated on your child's academic progress at school and get information on upcoming assignments such as assignment descriptions and due dates. The following information is available to you when you **log in to Gradelink**:

- Current Grade in each class
- Current GPA for the term, if applicable
- Descriptions, Grades, and Teacher Comments for graded assignments
- Descriptions and Due Dates for upcoming assignments
- Assignment handouts or documents (attachments)
- Email Alerts you can configure for grades and attendance
- Attendance Information
- Transcript Information, if applicable
- **Billing Information, online payment for tuition and lunch fees**

To access this information go to www.gradelink.com and click on the green Log In button.



PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU NEED ANY HELP logging in.

Weather permitting the students will be going outside for recess time. Please have your child dress appropriately for the weather.



Potential delays and cancellations for Bethlehem will follow the same as Northern Wells Community Schools.

Potential delays and cancellations for Bethlehem will follow the same as Northern Wells Community Schools. Sign up for text alerts at www.wane.com/text-alerts.

National Lutheran Schools Week

Lutheran Schools Week - Jan. 27-31



January 26 - February 1,
2025

Monday: Be a Saint - dress like a famous believer from the Bible or Church History

Tuesday: Letter Day - dress like something that starts with the first letter of your first name

Wednesday - Dress your Best - wear your fanciest, classiest clothes

Thursday - Live the Book - dress like a beloved character from a favorite book

Friday - Career Day - dress like someone doing a job you love or want to do

On Monday afternoon January 27th we'll have a school-wide Bible Trivia Challenge. Parents are welcome to attend. We will be moving the school-wide Spelling Bee to later in the quarter.

During the month of January, we'll have a Chapel Family Penny War. To support our chapel offering project, jars will be set out for each chapel family. Bring your pennies and other loose change and see which chapel family can raise the most money for Lutheran Senior Care Ministries.



Sign up today!

Shop at Kroger and help Bethlehem Lutheran School tuition assistance fund with the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com, be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with Bethlehem Lutheran School as your organization for the reward. The NPO number for Bethlehem is WG595#.

If you don't have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk.

Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered card when shopping for each purchase to count.



To redeem Box Top products, you will need to download the Box Tops app on your phone and then scan each receipt that contains your Box Tops products. **KEEP ON SCANNING!**

PLAN TO USE SCRIP FOR ALL YOUR SHOPPING NEEDS This year we would like to encourage all of our church and school families to purchase scrip products online www.raiseright.com. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for information on how to create your own account through Raise Right using Bethlehem's enrollment code noted on the attached flyer. Physical cards, ecards and reloadable cards are all available for your purchase and can be sent directly to your home. As you purchase cards online you can also accumulate a percentage of profit to be applied to your child's tuition. Be sure to login regularly to find bonus percentages! Thank you to the church congregation and school families for supporting the Scrip Program.



SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS – We have now switched to online orders only. Please be sure to place your personal orders at the scrip table, on www.RaiseRight.com or contact our coordinator Melissa Price at 260-433-5307 by Sunday, December 15th to receive them by Christmas. The general Bethlehem Scrip gift certificates will be replaced by Visa Gift Cards. Thank you for your support.



Please save your newspapers, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, old phone books, office/school papers and hard/soft cover books. Along with cereal type boxes (**NO CARD-BOARD**). Bring your recycled paper to school and dispose of it in our "PaperGator" located right next to the trash dumpster in the front parking area of the school.

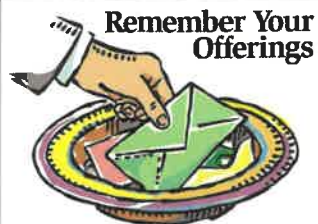
The recycling company pays us by the ton so the more you feed our Gator, the more funds we can collect!

If you need help with large amounts, please call the school office and we will make arrangements to help you.

Please spread the word to all your family and friends.

Our Washington D.C. group appreciates your support.





3rd Quarter Chapel Mission Project

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry, celebrating its 100-year milestone, continues its commitment to providing Word and Worship ministry to individuals in nursing homes, assisted living centers, and adult day services in the greater Fort Wayne area. Currently served by 18 Lutheran chaplains—comprising active or retired pastors and deaconesses—over 30 facilities benefit from their dedicated ministry to residents and facility employees. Supported by a team of volunteers, including pianists and helpers, the organization ensures that residents are accompanied to worship locations and receive assistance in various aspects of their spiritual journey.

We will be having a “Penny War” between the chapel families to help with our next chapel offering to Lutheran Senior Ministries. There will be opportunities for the church and school to work together for donations. There are jars located in the hallway during school days and in the church on weekends. Each jar has the name of a chapel family. How to play: Pennies and dollars (\$1, \$5, \$10, etc.) count as positive points, silver coins (nickels, dimes, quarters) count as negative points. The chapel family with the most points at the end of the third quarter wins. All are encouraged to participate in this race!



Run the Race in the New Year

A new year can bring a new start. You might set new goals for yourself or your family. You even might feel like you have new energy to start something new or to keep going with something old. A new year can give the encouragement you need to endure. But you also might start the new year still feeling exhausted from the old one. You might be carrying a lot of disappointments and discouragements. So, you might be wondering, how can I possibly continue to endure? Whether you're greeting the new year with excitement or dread, we can only endure with Christ. Remember Hebrews 12: *let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.*

As you know, this is our theme for the school year and so also for National Lutheran Schools Week, which is coming up soon: January 27–31. At this time, you might see some paper shoes at school colored by our students, reminding us to endure and run the race. Of course, this race is not a physical contest. It's the race of faith. At the end of his life, St. Paul wrote: *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2 Tim. 4:7).* The Christian life of faith is a journey. We're running through this world, but we don't stay here. So, whether you're on track and ready to press ahead or you feel like you're lagging and need a break, Christ is with you helping to bear your burdens. His Word and Spirit give you the energy you need to endure the only race that really matters. We can endure in this race of faith because Christ went before us and accomplished salvation for us. We're running the race He has set out for us so that we finally reach our true goal: eternal life with God.

Rev. Anthony Dodgers

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL LIBRARY POLICIES



LITERARY
TIGER

Library Purpose

The purpose of the library is to supplement classroom learning and provide motivation for reading enjoyment. Visiting the school library helps students learn the basics of library use and etiquette.

Circulation Policies

Kindergarten students may have a maximum of one book checked out, loaned for one week.

1st - 8th grade students may have a maximum of two books checked out, loaned for two weeks.

Books may be renewed a maximum of two times (i.e., three weeks for Kindergarten students, six weeks for other students) and **the book must physically be in the library to be renewed**. If a book is not returned by its due date, fines will accrue at a rate of \$0.25 per item per week.

Due dates and a maximum checkout exceptions may be made for book reports, research reports, and other classroom assignments, at the discretion of teachers and/or librarians.

Lost or Damaged Books

Parents will be notified when a book is overdue. If an overdue item is not returned within four weeks after parents are notified (or by the library deadline at the end of the school year) the item will be considered lost and a replacement fee will be charged. A handling fee of \$5.00 will be added to the cost of the book replacement.

Librarians should be notified of any damage that occurs to a library book. If a damaged item needs to be replaced due to inappropriate handling or accident (i.e. water damage), a replacement fee may be charged. A handling fee of \$5.00 will be added to the cost of the book replacement.



Picture includes Bethlehem members: Sarena Wirgau, Emma Wirgau, Anna Fuhrmann, DoRena Wirgau, Ginny Wirgau, Alex Fuhrmann, Jude Wirgau, Jonah Bultemeier, Emma Schueler, Savannah Fuller

"Photo courtesy of the Creative Arts Council of Wells County"

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes out of your pocket.



Your organization earns

Impacting what matters most to you.

Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house. Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.



amazon



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