

APRIL 2025

Volume 18, Issue 8

Ordering our Lent in His Peace

As we enter into the last few weeks of Lent and ponder our Lord's Passion, I give you a meditation on Isaiah 53:4 from Dr. Martin Luther.

Surely he bore our infirmity and took upon himself our sorrows. Is 53:4

The prophet adds this; why Christ had need to suffer, and what he accomplished and won by it. He lays the foundation and builds the great and necessary article of our faith, of justification. Namely, we believe that Christ was martyred and put to death for our sake, as also St Paul teaches, that Christ has become a malediction for us all. For it is not enough that one knows that Christ has suffered, but rather he must know the necessity of the same. That is, he must believe as the prophet testifies here, that he has borne our infirmities; that he has suffered not for his sake, or for his sins, but for us; namely, that he bore all the plague and sin and all the sorrows that were laden and heaped upon him, which we poor sinners should have suffered and borne. So whoever rightly understands and knows this passage, has already learned the sum and substance of all of Christianity and our faith. For from this rich, full foundation the holy apostle Paul has fashioned so many epistles rich in grace and takes from this flood an abundance of many blessed passages and rich comforts.

From this one can now be assured and mightily acknowledge on sure grounds that all human industry and labor is accursed. Also all wisdom, righteousness, all good works and service are accursed, by which people would seek and earn salvation, without the dear Lord Christ. Since human ability fails and is overthrown through this single passage, all this establishes that Christ has suffered for us. Then, since this is true, that he has suffered for us, one must consider all our righteousness, good works and services, which we trusted, as nothing (as St. Paul says in Philippians 3, as mire). That must all walk away from us and fade and we forsake them with our whole hearts for an alien righteousness. We consider it as if we were suspended between heaven and earth. We grasp and hang on with faith to the righteousness that one can neither see nor feel, which is alone proclaimed and given us through the Word. And this is the reason that no one can learn or grasp this doctrine of the Christian's justification without the true master and teacher, the Holy Ghost. For this reason alone the Jews do not receive Christ, that they will not have their own righteousness and holy life taken or dropped, nor let the works of the law curse them. Yet Christ became flesh and a man for this reason; that we, who are children of wrath and were sentenced to damnation, are preserved and made blessed through his righteousness. (From *Luther's Family Devotions*, Mark V Publications:1996, 217-218)

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Wirgau





Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
6514 East 750 North
Ossian, Indiana 46777
(260) 597-7121



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Email— samuel.wirgau@gmail.com
A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00a Chapel 5:30p Adult Cat. 7:00p Lenten Serv. Adult Choir	3	4	5
6 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS 11:30a Elders Meeting	7 7p Handbell Choir Practice	8	9 10:00a Chapel 5:30p Adult Cat. 7:00p Adult Choir	10 6:30 Board of Education Meeting	11	12
13 9a Palm Sunday NO ABC & SS 6:30p Youth Bible	14 7p Spoken Prayer Service	15 7p Spoken Prayer Service	16 10:00a Chapel 7p Spoken Prayer Service	17 7p Maundy Thursday Service	18 NO SCHOOL Noon Good Friday 7p Good Friday Service	19
20 6:30a Sunrise Service 7:30 Breakfast 9a Morning Service	21 NO SCHOOL	22	23 10:00a Chapel 7p. Spoken Divine Service	24	25	26
27 9a Divine Service 10:30a ABC & SS 6:30a Youth Bible Study	28	29	30 7p Spoken Divine Service		 <i>Christ is Risen!</i>	

April 4, 2025

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills (\$293.85)

Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued <u>Amount</u>	Restricted <u>Amount Borrowed</u>	Account <u>Balance</u>
Improvement Fund	\$28,733.28	(\$ 0.00)	\$28,733.28
Scholarship Fund	\$14,326.27	(\$ 0.00)	\$14,326.27
Music Fund	\$ 3,417.25	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 3,417.25
Organ Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,780.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,780.00
Relief Fund	\$ 4,156.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 4,156.00
Reserved (TBD)	<u>\$ 2,369.00</u>	<u>(\$ 0.00)</u>	<u>\$ 2,369.00</u>
TOTALS	\$55,781.80	(\$ 0.00)	\$55,781.80

Checkbook Balance (\$ 293.85)

Savings Account Balance \$55,781.80

Total Savings and Checking Balance \$55,487.95

Borrowed Amounts

Restricted Savings Account	\$ 0.00
Operating Loan Amount	\$20,050.00
TOTAL BORROWED	<u>\$20,050.00</u>

Bills due week of April 7—\$15,000

Church Membership



Alie Newnum and daughter, Freyja Hancock were given re-birth in the waters of baptism on Sunday, March 16th. Sponsors for both are Mike and Linda Bultemeier.



Our Sister in Christ, Ruth Bienz at the age of 89 went home to our Heavenly Father on Sunday, March 30th.

Funeral and Committal Service is being held at Bethlehem on Sunday April 6 at 2:00 p.m.



April 13 Palm Sunday Divine Service at 9:00 a.m.

The Sunday School children will process with palms. Children are to arrive at 8:45am and meet in the church Narthex. Sunday School teachers will help the children find their parents after the processional.

April 14, 15, 16 Spoken Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 17 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 18 Good Friday Chief Service with Holy Communion at 12 noon

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.

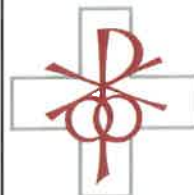
April 19 Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil at St. John, Bingen starting at 8:00 p.m.

April 20 Easter Sunday Services – Sunrise 6:30 a.m. and Morning 9:00 a.m.

The Bethlehem Youth- Easter breakfast between services starting at 7:30 a.m.

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

April 5 Brian and Jennifer Bultemeier (17)
 April 8 Ted and Susan Graft (47)
 April 12 Terry and Shalynn Saalfrank (28)
 April 13 Ed and Lisa Black (34)
 April 18 Logan and Marissa Geiger (10)
 April 21 Ralph and Hildegard Bauermeister (68)
 April 27 Allan and Sandra Graft (51)
 April 30 Brian and Sheryl Bauermeister (31)



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



A New Covenant April 6, 2025
– Fifth Sunday in Lent Rev.
Paul Shoemaker Jesus tells the
parable of the wicked vine-
dressers to illustrate the un-

faithfulness of the children of Israel to the covenant
God so graciously made with them. A new Israel,
the Christian Church, will emerge as a new cove-
nant is set in place. Sermon Text: Luke 20:9-20
Readings: Psalm 126; Luke 20:9-20

Palms to Passion April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday
Rev. Shayne Jonker Holy Week begins on the road
to Jerusalem. The King makes His grand entrance
into Jerusalem, riding atop a borrowed donkey, as
the people greet their Messiah: “Blessed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord!” The mood, how-
ever, shifts quickly from palms to passion, from
triumph to crucifixion. This King, this Messiah,
came to lay His life down, to die for His people on
the cross. Sermon Text: John 12:13b Readings:
John 12:12-19; Luke 22:1-23:56

What Does This Mean? April 18, 2025 – Good Fri-
day Rev. Craig Muehler (Guest Pastor) It is fitting
that we take a look at the words of Jesus to the
world as He hangs upon the cross in suffering and
pain. We ask the question, “What does this mean
... for us ... for the world?” Sermon Text: John
19:17-30 Readings: Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12;
John 19:17-30

Christ is Risen April 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday
Rev. Thomas Eggold The empty tomb means that
our bodies will rise from the grave! The empty
tomb means that we will be reunited with loved
ones who have died in the faith. The empty tomb
means that we will live forever with God in holi-
ness, innocence, and blessedness. The Resurrection
of Jesus Christ has changed everything! Sermon
Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20 Readings: Psalm 16; 1
Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

I Believe... April 27, 2025 – Second Sunday of
Easter Rev. Scott Zeckzer We confess in the
Apostle’s Creed that Jesus, on the third day, rose
again from the dead, and we believe in the resurrec-
tion of the body. Why is it important we believe in
the resurrection? Hear why the resurrection of Jesus
changes everything for you. Sermon Text: John
20:28 Readings: Psalm 148; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John
20:19-31

Birthday Blessings! April



- 01) Andrew Glisson
Chloe Lesh
- 02) Blair Werling
- 03) Jay Werling
- 04) Patty Baker
- 05) Wade Lambert
Barbara Werling
- 06) Emma Wirgau
- 08) Kelsey Phillips
- 09) Denny Nahrwold
Alie Newnum
- 10) Bailey Meyer
Mike Nahrwold
- 11) Cora Patrick
- 12) Joel Stoppenhagen
- 14) Jody Kraatz
- 15) Gina Graft
Andrew Messmaker
- 16) Jonah Bultemeier
Jill Holtzclaw
Ryan Ottinger
Lindsay Wright
- 17) Imogene Bultemeier
Adam Nahrwold
Grant Shelton
- 19) Michael Schumm
Doyle Werling
- 21) Donna Schumm
- 22) Brock Werling
- 23) Marlee Brege
Denis Glisson
Grady Meyer
- 24) Kyle Adams
- 25) Mason Baker
Heather Bultemeier
- 27) Ted Graft
- 28) Freyja Hancock
- 30) Amy Aschliman

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of January 31, 2025:

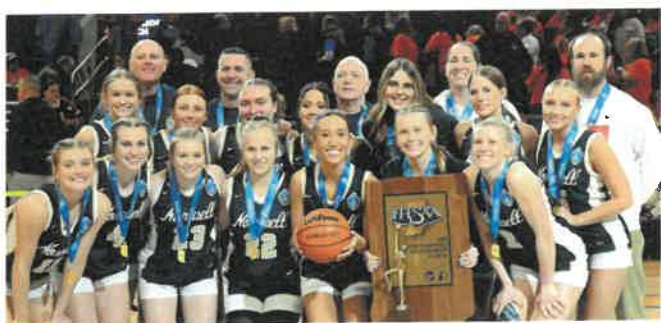
\$221,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
208,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
318,983.72 - Amount generated since 2009
-149,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$599,294.54 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of January 31, 2025

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund
\$ 75,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
928.51 - Amount generated since November 2024
\$ 76,007.44 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of January 31, 2025

RUMMAGE SALE Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Soest), 9909 Wayne Trace, Fort Wayne, will be having

their Spring Rummage & Bake Sale on **Thursday, April 24th, from 10am-6pm and on Friday, April 25th, from 9am-noon.** Bag Sale will be on Friday.

Spring Rummage Sale at St John Lutheran Church Flatrock gym at 12912 Franke Rd Monroeville IN on Friday, April 11th 8am-5pm and Saturday, April 12th 8am-noon. Bag sale on Saturday.



Congratulations to the 2025 Norwell High School girls' basketball team and coaches for winning the IHSAA State Championship! Bethlehem, along with parents and grandparents are very proud of you!



Sidewalk Advocate Training

Have a passion for helping women choose life? Join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on Tuesday, April 22nd for Sidewalk Advocate Training and learn how to save lives in Northeast Indiana. The training, provided by Sidewalk Advocates for Life, will take place at our Training Center at 3106 Lake Ave, from 9am-12pm. Learn how to peacefully, prayerfully, and lovingly approach people outside our local Planned Parenthood and redirect them to life-affirming alternatives in our community. This 3hr introductory training will empower you to turn your passion into action. Visit www.ichooselife.org/sidewalk or call 260-471-1849 to register. Pro-Life Summer Camp

Pro-Life Summer Camp

This 3-day event, open to high school and college-aged students, equips young people to speak confidently and graciously to the most pressing moral issue of our time – abortion. Join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana **Thursday June, 12th- Saturday June, 14th** on the University of St. Francis campus. The registration fee includes meals and snacks, dorm room housing, teaching materials, and a Life Defenders t-shirt. Registration at ichooselife.org/camp.

Assignment and Call Services at CTSFW

Join us in Kramer Chapel for Call Day 2025 as we celebrate the placement of our students into their respective fields of service. On Monday, April 28, at 7 p.m., second-year students will receive their vicarage and deaconess internship assignments, marking an important step in their formation.

On Tuesday, April 29, at 7 p.m., graduating pastoral ministry students will learn where they have been called to serve as pastors. Both services will be livestreamed on CTSFW's

Call Day service pages (buttons below), the Chapel page, on Youtube, and on our Facebook page. Following each service, a complete list of assignments and calls, along with photos of the students, will be available on the service streaming pages, accessible using the links below.

High School Youth Group



Thank you to everyone who has helped with the lenten suppers and those who have attended. We truly appreciate your support of our youth!

We look forward to serving you at the Easter Breakfast between services in the gym on Sunday, April 20.

In March we had our regular bible study along with lenten hymn sing.

Donuts

Kyndal

13TH April
Youth Bible Study

19TH
Easter Breakfast set up

20TH
Easter Breakfast

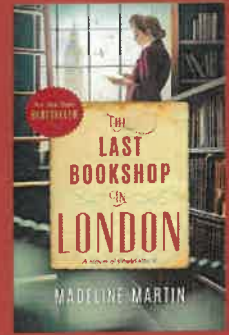
27TH
Youth Bible Study



Book Club

WILL BE MEETING AT CRIMSON HOUSE ON
SATURDAY APRIL 26 AT 8:00AM

THE LAST BOOKSHOP IN LONDON
BY MADELINE MARTIN



EQUIPPING SAINTS
TO SERVE

APR
14TH
2PM

Devotion: You are Priceless and Precious
Bible Study: Chosen. Treasured. Redeemed.



Luke BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

- Wednesday, April 2, 9 and 16
from 5:15pm-6:00pm in the youth room





TIGER TALES



“ENDURE”

Please join us for our Annual Grandparent / VIP Day Friday, April 25, 2025

The day's events will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the arrival of all the students and a Greet and Meet of all our guests!

Dismissal for students will be after the special luncheon served by our Bethlehem PTL.

Volunteers will be needed to help with this event. If interested, please contact Melissa Householder.



REGISTER TODAY - <https://blcsossian.org/vacation-bible-school/> AND SAVE THE DATE

CALENDAR

- April 10 Board of Ed Meeting
- April 11 Midterm
- April 17 Midterm sent home
- April 18 NO SCHOOL
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- April 21 NO SCHOOL
- April 25 Grandparents Day

APRIL 2025

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			

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- April 6 Emma Wirgau
- April 10 Bailey Meyer
- April 11 Cora Patrick
- April 16 Jonah Bultemeier
- April 17 Caroline Haiflich
- April 30 Mr. Meyer





BABY Felicity Elizabeth Ann Phillips has arrived!

We congratulate and give thanksgiving for the blessing of a baby girl to Vicar and Mrs. Phillips. She was born on Monday, March 24th. Mrs. Phillips will be on maternity leave for the rest of the school year.

Thank you to everyone for your gifts during our Baby Shower ingathering. The students were able to give their well wishes before Spring Break with a special treat!



Support our School Endowment & Make Your Money Multiply!

Every year, our church and school are given a dollar amount to match by The Lutheran Foundation as we contribute to Bethlehem's Endowment. This current year, that amount is \$15,000. So, if we put in \$15,000, The Lutheran Foundation will also add \$15,000. But there's more! If we meet our match, The Lutheran Foundation will also give our School a special grant of another \$15,000! So your donation is worth three times as much! We have met this match every year so far, but this year we still need some help to meet it. Would you please consider donating to the Endowment as you are able? Every gift is a blessing to our students and every gift counts! Thank you for all your support!

THE Lutheran Foundation

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



**SCHOOL
CLOSINGS
& DELAYS**

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.

NO SCHOOL—Bethlehem will be closed April 18th for Good Friday and April 21 for Easter Monday. April 25th will be 1/2 a day due to Grandparents Day—dismissal will be after the special luncheon.

SCHOOL STORE

REMINDER: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School logo swag can be purchased at any time from our online school store. Purchases you make will also give a kickback to the school. The more you spend the more the school gets back! Check out the link below for listed items.

<https://teamstore.frecklesgraphics.com/shop/bethlehemplutheranschool/>

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.



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.



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.



The Washington DC group will be having a scrap metal recycling dumpster again this spring. Prepare to purge and round up your scrap metal. You can drop items off, starting April 5 at Jay Werling's house, 4126 E 800 N. Ossian. Contact Jason Rekeweg or Jay Werling for any questions.



4th Quarter CHAPEL MISSION PROJECT March 10—May 22

Luther Academy is an organization that helps Lutheran pastors and churches throughout the world by providing theological education and resources. Many of these pastors are asking for additional education after their seminary training but they do not have the necessary resources in their own church bodies. Luther Academy helps supply food, housing, books, professors, and travel for Lutheran pastors who attend their conferences. Recently Pastor Wirgau was given the opportunity to teach future pastors in South Africa. Luther Academy graciously gave these students their own copy of the book used for that class. Your chapel offerings this quarter will go toward helping pastors to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.



He descended into Hell with Victory and Joy

He descended into hell. This little line from the Apostles' Creed is often overlooked or read with some confusion. But it is really the thrilling turning point of our Savior's redemptive work. It marks the beginning of His glory. After suffering and bleeding for the sins of the world while hanging on the cross, Jesus died. A few of His followers quickly buried His body in a borrowed tomb that Friday evening. All day Saturday, He rested from His work. And then, with the coming of the third day, He was made alive and descended into hell itself to proclaim His victory over sin, death, and hell. This is the beginning of

Easter! It's the turn from death to life, for Him and for us.

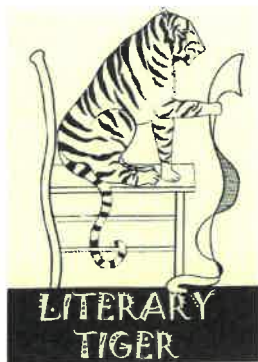
Throughout this school year, our theme Scripture passage, Hebrews 12:1-3, has been our guiding light. It calls us to *look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith*. We look at Him, gazing upon Him in faith. Look at the crucifix. See how *He endured the cross, despising the shame*. That's where He endured the pain of hell, separated from God's love, suffering in the place of all sinners who deserve nothing more than an eternal hell. But that shame, punishment, and pain could not destroy Him. He kept faith in God. So, He was raised from the dead. His redemption was accepted, His innocence was proven, and He triumphed over sin, death, and the devil. When Jesus descended into hell, He went to proclaim His victory. He proclaimed the joy of the cross which comes from the forgiveness of sins, and He proclaimed the joy of the resurrection which comes from the promise that death has no power over us. Hell has been defeated. No believer can be held by sin, death, or devil. Hell must give up its victims because Jesus has broken down the gates of death and made a way for us to enter His kingdom of light and life.

As Lent turns to Easter, continue *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God*. Look to the One who hung on the cross and stepped out of the grave. Look to the One who descended into hell and ascended into heaven, all for you, and for the joy of having you alive with Him. Look to Jesus and see death defeated and find all your joy in Him.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Dodgers

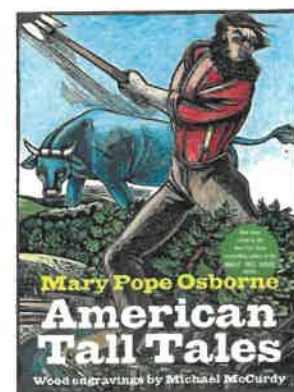
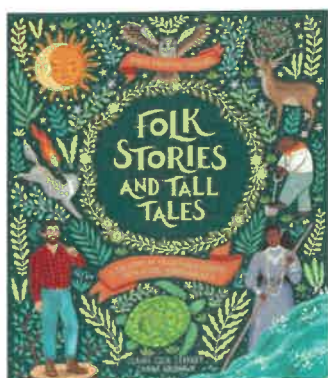


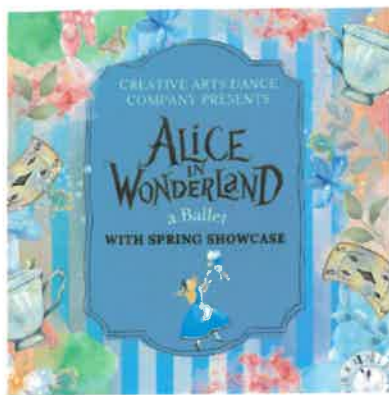
Tales for Tigers
From your Bethlehem Library Ladies
 Thank you to everyone who supported our school library by purchasing books through our spring book fair!

Congratulations to Jonah Bultemeier, the winner of Storyglory's random gift card giveaway.

It was a busy spring break in the library, and students can enjoy a fresh selection of new, and new-to-Bethlehem books in the library, largely thanks to generous support of our two book fairs this year.

This spring as we prepare for the school musical, many students may be looking for stories of American heroes. We have two lovely collections available in the library. These would be perfect for enjoying as a family!





"Alice in Wonderland" Ballet + Dance Showcase

April 11th @ 7:00pm & April 12th @ 3:00pm

Auditorium at Creative Arts:

428 S. Oak Street

Bluffton, IN 46714

Admission: \$5 at the door.

Featuring Bethlehem Students:

Emma Wirgau- Cheshire Cat

Jonah Bultemeier- Card, Caterpillar

Annabelle Fuhrmann- Card, Caterpillar, Card

Jude Wirgau- Card, Caterpillar

Gianna Wirgau- Flower, Card

LANGUAGE ARTS FAIR



MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

APRIL

YOUR MONEY OR YOUR...



In March we decorated kindness rocks after our bible study from the adulterous woman.

NOT-SO-NICE BIBLE STORIES

MASTER CRIMINALS



Middle School Youth Group

April

In March we had a lenten hymn sing along with regular bible study

13TH

Youth Group Bible Study
(Bultemeier)

27TH

Youth Group Bible Study
(Fuller-Householder)



ENDURE
HEBREWS 12:1-3



(Front cover pieces drawn by Eighth Grade students)

Lenten Devotions

A gift to you from the students at Bethlehem Lutheran School

DEACONESS DISCUSSION

17

Easter Project

APRIL

In March we talked about trees and the significance of Jesus' family tree. Another tree we discussed was the cross and God's plan of salvation. The kids were able to see objects like the crown of thorns to imagine some of what Jesus had to endure to save us.

Check out our Lenten Devotionals! Printed and digital copies are available from the church secretary.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Holy Week & Easter

While we may come to church seeking a sense of comfort or to feel uplifted, the true purpose of gathering is to receive God's gifts, particularly the forgiveness of sins. Even when our life's struggles, or our own feelings may make us hesitant, church remains a place where we experience the grace of repentance and absolution. As we move through this season of reflection, let us remember that the forgiveness we receive at church is vital for our spiritual well-being.

SPOKEN PRAYER SERVICE

Spoken Prayer service reflects on the events of the Passion and the sacrifice of Christ. *(Services Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 7pm).*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum;" it is from a verb that means "to give" or "to order" — command. *(Services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 7pm).*

GOOD FRIDAY

Tre Ore Italian for "three hours," "tre ore" refers to the time that Christ was on the cross — from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. While no definite ritual is prescribed, this service centers on a series of homilies on the seven last words of Christ, along with appropriate hymns, periods for silent meditation, and the stations of the cross. *(Service at St. John Bingen from noon-3 on Good Friday).*

The **Chief Service** on Good Friday is a solemn liturgy focusing on the Passion and death of Jesus Christ. *(Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Good Friday at noon).*

Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness", usually held the evening of Good Friday and includes the gradual dimming of the lights and extinguishing of candles. The Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary and a concluding "Strepitus" or loud noise (slamming shut the Bible) symbolizes the earthquake and agony of creation at the death of Christ. *(Service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 7pm).*

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil is the pinnacle of the church year. Held between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning, it is the first celebration of Easter (traditionally holy days are considered to begin at sunset). Twelve Old Testament readings are appointed for the Vigil. *(Services at St. John Bingen at 8pm).*

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord. *(Services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:30am and 9am with Easter Breakfast in between services).*

AVAILBALE AT BETHLEHEM

- LENT DEVOTIONAL
- LARGE PRINT SERVICE BOOK/HYMNS
- ONLINE RECORDINGS OF SERVICES

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- ALLTHEHOUSEHOLD.COM (INFO ON FEAST DAYS, CHURCH CALENDAR, RECIPES AND GIFT IDEAS)
- LCMS.ORG
- [HTTPS://WITNESS.LCMS.ORG](https://WITNESS.LCMS.ORG)

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