



May 2025

Volume 18, Issue 9

The Bethlehem *Star*



The Significance and Joy of the Ascension

We confess in the Apostles' Creed "on the third day He (Jesus) rose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty." We all know Easter is a big deal, and the Sunday of the Resurrection of our Lord is a big day, and thanks be to God for that. But there is more. Not only does the celebration of Easter continue for the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, but in the midst of this, 40 days after Easter Sunday to be precise, the Church remembers and celebrates the Ascension of our Lord.

Though everyone knows the Church celebrates Easter, Ascension often gets overlooked. This ought not be. Our Lord's Ascension is of the greatest significance to His Church now as He ascends with the promise "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). He ascends in triumph not to be absent but ever present with His Church as He sends His Holy Spirit to call, gather, and enlighten by His Gospel. This is worth celebrating as we find our joy in Him who is our risen and ascended Lord.

Ascension always falls on a Thursday. This year it is May 29. We aren't used to church on a Thursday. Our lives are busy and some find it is hard enough to make the time on Sunday. I encourage you all to come and worship Christ the ascended king at our service here at Bethlehem, May 29 at 7:00pm. This is important as we find great joy in our Lord's Ascension.

The following is a brief meditation on our Lord's Ascension from Pastor Wilhelm Löhe. "It is written: 'God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet!' He triumphs over all His enemies. He has imprisoned prison and released its dead. There is jubilation in heaven as thousands upon thousands of sinners repent; He who is the sacrifice for our sins is coming, bringing with Him His reward, His spoils. For the innumerable host of the redeemed righteous are remembered by God and His angels. How magnificent is the Lord's ascension!

"If there is joy over one sinner who repents, what joy there must have been in heaven among all the angels and the elect when the Savior, in whom alone all sinners can be saved, returned! Who can describe, imagine, or even conceive of the rejoicing and the singing and the hallelujah that our Lord Jesus Christ received? Not since the morning stars praised the Lord in His creation has there been a day like Ascension. It is the greatest feast; indeed, on that day in heaven a continuous feast began whose hymns of praise have not yet been stilled nor will they ever be. Yet these are things about which we can speak but little. When our time comes, however, we will partake in all of them, when in death our souls come to Zion and our bodies ascend to heaven on the last day to meet Christ in the air, as St. Paul writes."

Rev. Samuel Wirgau





1172

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



Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Phone—(260) 273-7595
Email— samuel.wirgau@gmail.com
A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 WOB Church Cleaning
4 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS 11:30a Elders Meeting	5 6p PTL Meeting	6	7 10:00a Chapel 5:30p Adult Cat. 7:00p	8	9 6:30p Spring Musical	10 9a WOB Hike
11 Mother's Day 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS Adult Confirmation	12	13 6:30p Board of Christian Education Meeting	14 10:00a Chapel 7p Spoken Prayer Service	15 7p Public Examination Service	16	17
18 Confirmation Sunday 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS	19	20	21 10:00a Chapel 7p. Spoken Divine Service	22 Last Day of School 9:30a Closing Chapel	23	24
25 9a Divine Service 10:30a ABC & SS	26 Memorial Day	27	28 7p Spoken Divine Service	29 7p Ascension Service		

May 2, 2025

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills \$7,098.62

Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued <u>Amount</u>	Restricted <u>Amount Borrowed</u>	Account <u>Balance</u>
Improvement Fund	\$29,257.75	(\$ 0.00)	\$29,257.75
Scholarship Fund	\$14,451.27	(\$ 0.00)	\$14,451.27
Music Fund	\$ 3,417.25	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 3,417.25
Organ Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,840.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,840.00
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	\$56,491.27	(\$ 0.00)	\$56,491.27

Checkbook Balance \$ 7,098.62

Savings Account Balance \$56,491.27

Total Savings and Checking Balance \$63,589.89

Borrowed Amounts

Restricted Savings Account	\$ 0.00
Operating Loan Amount	<u>\$20,550.00</u>
TOTAL BORROWED	<u>\$20,550.00</u>

Bills due week of May 6, \$15,000

Church Membership



BAPTIZED on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is Felicity Elizabeth Ann Phillips, newborn daughter of Vicar Morgan and Amelia Phillips born on March 24, 2025 Sponsors for Felicity are Alex and Claire Hannon, Trevor and Rebekah Flanick, Brandon and Erin Schumm. Felicity joins big brother Kelsey. We welcome Felicity to the Kingdom of God and joint heir of all God's blessings.



Membership count:
Baptized 511
Communicant 391



BAPTIZED on Sunday, April 27th into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is Oliver Henry Springer, newborn son of Evan and Reese Springer born on April 21, 2025 Sponsors for Oliver are Ben and Alicen Klitz. Oliver joins big brother Samuel. We welcome Oliver to the Kingdom of God and joint heir of all God's blessings.



Wedding Anniversary Blessings

May 7 Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (59)
May 13 Jason and Erika Lesh (19)
May 14 Karl and Peggy Goede (48)
May 14 Gary and Darlene Werling (20)
May 18 Preston and Makena Graham (1)
May 22 Jason and Danielle Rekeweg (15)
May 26 Jake and Lindsay Wright (13)
May 31 Andy and Melissa Price (17)
May 31 John and Betty Roembke (56)
May 31 Rev. Samuel and DoRena Wirgau (17)



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



The Conversion of Paul May 4, 2025
– Third Sunday of Easter Rev. Dr.
Walter Maier III Paul was a fierce
enemy of Christianity, so his conver-
sion to faith in Jesus was an amazing
event. This was totally unexpected.

But God can do anything because of His almighty power
and because of His awesome grace, mercy, and love. Ser-
mon Text: Acts 9:1-9, 17-20 Readings: Psalm 30:1-5;
Acts 9:1-9, 17-20; John 21:1-14 Featured Choir: St. John
Adult Choir, Indianapolis, IN Featured Art and Architec-
ture: Savior of All Lutheran Church, Cartersville, GA

Compassionate Pursuit May 11, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of
Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) Rev. Dr. Thomas Ah-
lersmeyer The Bible identifies Jesus Christ as both “The
Lamb” and “The Good Shepherd.” Jesus Christ, The
Lamb, has endured every pain inflicted by a sin-broken
world. Jesus Christ, The Good Shepherd, pursues us with
goodness and mercy “all the days of my life” (Psalm 23:6
ESV). Sermon Text: Psalm 23:6 Readings: Psalm 23;
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30 Featured Choirs: - St.
Paul Singing Saints, St. Paul Lutheran High School, Con-
cordia, MO - Holy Cross Angelis Choir, Holy Cross Lu-
theran School, Fort Wayne, IN - Junior Choir, Holy Cross
Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN Featured Art and Archi-
tecture: LCMS-U at Ball State, Muncie, IN

Hearts Will Rejoice! May 18, 2025 – Fifth Sunday of
Easter Rev. Shayne Jonker “You will be sorrowful, but
your sorrow will turn into joy” (John 16:20 ESV). You
will have sorrow because this is a fallen world. But your
sorrow will turn into joy because Jesus has taken your sor-
row upon Himself WorshipAnew.org on the cross and to
the grave. He is risen, victorious over sin death and the
devil and yes, even your sorrow. Sermon Text: John 16:20
Readings: Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-7; John 16:12-22
Featured Choir: - Adult Choir, St. John Lutheran Church,
Sherwood, OH - LWML Indiana District Choir - Jubilate,
St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, IN Featured Art and
Architecture: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Indianapolis,
IN

Here She Comes! May 25, 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
Rev. William Mueller Toward the end of the great revela-
tion, the Lord Jesus gave His Apostle John a glimpse of
the church (the totality of all who have believed in Jesus)
after the return of Christ. What a glorious picture it is — a
picture that gives hope and comfort to worn and worried
Christians ... like you and me! Sermon Text: Revelation
21:9-14, 21-27 Readings: Psalm 67; Revelation 21:9-14,
21-27; John 16:23-33 Featured Choirs: - Adult Choir, St.
Paul (Preble) Lutheran Church, Decatur, IN - Junior
Choir, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN Fea-
tured Art and Architecture: St. John Lutheran Church,
Seward, NE WorshipAnew.org

Birthday Blessings! May



- 1) Burkley Morrow
Jude Wirgau
- 02) Shirley Brown
Grace Cornman
Samuel Springer
Noah Stoppenhagen
- 03) Jeff Bauermeister
- 04) Gianna Wirgau
- 05) Rory Geiger
David Saalfrank
Beverly Werling
- 06) Leroy Dawson
Jeni Harkless
Darren Patrick
Darrin Werling
- 9) Chad Dunham
Kay Jackson
- 10) Jeremy Glisson
- 11) Wendy Boehm
Grant Meyer
- 12) Jennifer Delaney
Janelle Klingenberger
Luke Trammel
- 13) Isaac Miller
- 15) Sandy Avey
- 17) Emilee Whitsitt
- 18) Colleen Patrick
- 19) Vickie Graft
Martin Moehring
- 20) Aaron Anthony
Colin Delaney
Cheryl Louison
Maren Meyer
- 21) Bennett Schumm
- 23) Debra Pursifull
- 26) Paizley Price
- 27) Carolyn Brinkley
Carla Springer
- 28) Breanna Biggs
Ethan Ottinger
- 29) Peggy Goede
Chris Meyer
Neil Stoppenhagen
- 31) Kristen Meyer

**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 March 31, 2025:

\$351,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
208,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
312,398.11 - Amount generated since 2009
-149,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$722,708.93 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of March 31, 2025

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund

\$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
107.27 - Amount generated since November 2024
\$ 90,186.20 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of March 31, 2025



Spring Banquet

Bethlehem members were present at the Right to Life of Northeast Indiana for the 4th Annual Spring Banquet. A celebration of their 51st year of defending innocent human life on Saturday, April 12th, hosted this year at Mirage Banquet Hall in Decatur.



Charles McLain

Wife's Name: Natalie
Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN

Bethlehem welcomes Seminarian Charles McLain as our new Vicar for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Greetings in the Name of Christ! Natalie and I are very excited to start vicarage with you all very soon! We are both from Indiana. I grew up in Fort Wayne and attended Concordia Lutheran High School. Natalie grew up in Noblesville and went to Noblesville High School. We met at Concordia University Chicago and started dating during our sophomore year, and we were married in May 2023 at Natalie's home church.

While in college, I fell in love with chanting and the liturgy. I learned the beauty of the divine service, why it matters, and why the Divine Service is crucial and beneficial to the Christian faith.

Since starting seminary, I have started to enjoy reading some of the early church fathers. Their knowledge of the scriptures is incredible.

When I'm not in class or working on assignment for that class, I enjoy weightlifting and landscaping. There is something about seeing progress and improvement over time in these hobbies. Natalie's main hobby is baking. She spends lots of time in the kitchen working on cakes, breads and other tasty treats.

I am looking forward to being with you and working in the school with the students. As a product of Lutheran schools I know what a blessing a Lutheran education can be.

Isaac Spangler (past fieldworker to Bethlehem)

Wife's Name: Katelyn
Number of Children: 2
Hometown: Lancaster, OH
Home Church: Emanuel Lutheran Church (Lancaster, OH)
Called to be Pastor, Ohio District
Zion Lutheran Church, Edgerton, OH





Please join us as this year's Confirmands are publicly examined in the knowledge and understanding of the Lutheran Doctrine, Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m.

Confirmation Class of 2025

Vincent Fuhrmann

Parents: Scott and Jennifer Fuhrmann

Ephesians 6:10-11 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Kyndal Fuller

Parents: Nick Fuller, Nathan and Melissa Householder

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Emma Wirgau

Parents: Rev. Samuel and DoRena Wirgau

Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

THE RESULTS OF 2025-2026 CHURCH OFFICER ELECTION:

Secretary—Josh Boehm

Treasurer—Ed Black

Board of Elders – Steve Conrad, Mike Schumm, Andrew Stoppenhagen

Board of Trustees – Darrin Werling, Dan Kleppinger, Lee Werling

Board of Finance – Rory Geiger, Jason Laley, Collin Laley

Board of Christian Education – Jeff Holtzclaw, Darren Patrick,
Nathan Householder

High School Youth Group



Thank you to all who came to support the youth through serving and participating in the Easter Breakfast, we had a great turnout!

In April we had our last bible study of the school year along with a farewell/thank you party to Vicar Phillips for all his hard work with the youth.

We look forward to Higher Things this summer in July. There will be a parent meeting TBD.

May

NO bible study in May

JULY 8-11

Higher Things

Kick off in August TBD

Donuts

Jacob B.



Summer Book Club

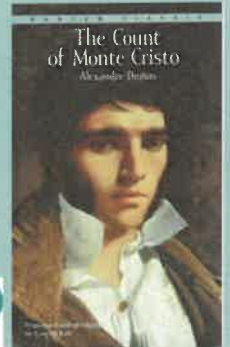
WILL BE MEETING AT CRIMSON HOUSE IN AUGUST (TBD)

***CHECK OUT MORE INFO**

ABOUT THE WELLS COUNTY

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

**THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS**



Fall Women's Bible Study Options

Let Deaconess Boehm know your vote today for our next fall bible study pick. Dates TBD

- "Ten Questions to Ask Every Time You Read the Bible" by Andrew R. Jones
- "Promised Hope: Finding Peace in God's Faithfulness" by Michelle Diercks
- "Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman" by Elizabeth Ahlman
- "Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply: Receive God's Overflowing Gifts" by Deb Burma
- "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Ossian, IN

**BIG & BOLD
Faith**
PRAY WITH BOLDNESS & CONFIDENCE

SAVE THE DATE **VBS** JUNE 23-26
9:00AM-12:00PM

Register Today!

Paper copies available in the Narthex.



Student

Look for our needs poster for ways to help.



Volunteer

Dear Supporter of the CTSFW Food and Clothing Co-op,

Thank you for supporting the Food and Clothing Co-op with your gifts of money, food, or clothes. The Food and Clothing Co-op is an essential part of seminary life and without its consistent supply of material goods, seminarians would find it hard to make ends meet while studying to be pastors.

My name is Aaron Ferguson and I am an S.T.M Student. The S.T.M. (Masters of Sacred Theology) program is designed to give students an opportunity to research a topic deeply in order to enrich the church's knowledge on the Bible and biblical teaching. I have already completed my M.Div. and will be taking a call this year. The Food and Clothing Co-op has helped me, my wife Rachel, and our daughter Agatha as I complete my studies. My wife frequently finds good and useful clothes at the clothing co-op for all of us. She particularly enjoys finding baby clothes for Agatha, who is a little more than 6-months old currently and growing out of her clothes as soon as we get them.



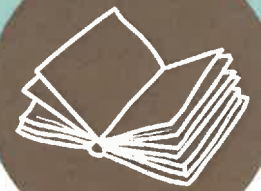
In addition to the clothing co-op, the food co-op has been a great support for me and my family. The food co-op has provided nearly all of the food that my family requires. It has been a great gift to my family. Because of the food co-op, we do not need to spend a lot of money on groceries as most of what we need is provided.

Thank you for your support of the CTSFW Food and Clothing Co-ops. Because of your support, these co-ops provide a much needed and much appreciated service to the seminarians and their families. Your support directly helps the future pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in their preparations for the ministry. Thank you again!

In Christ,

Aaron J. Ferguson

Summer Book Club



THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS

Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantès is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to use the treasure to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas' epic tale of suffering and retribution, inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment, was a huge popular success when it was first serialized in the 1840s.

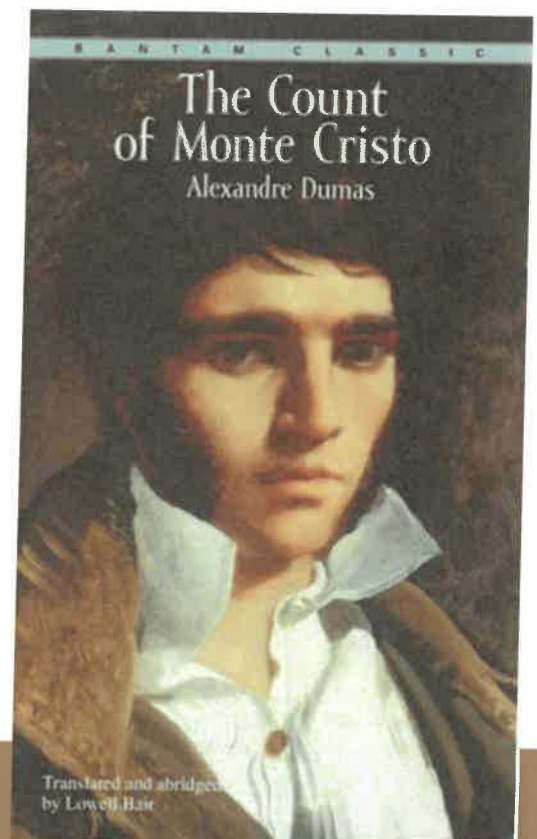
*When searching for the book, be sure to check if it is abridged or unabridged. (Abridged books are a condensed version of the book, while unabridged books are best for readers who want the complete story and a more immersive experience.

There are also a couple movies made about the book.



Your Go-To Spot...

Check out the Wells County Library Summer Reading Program for fun prizes Prizes awarded throughout June and July for completing reading challenges. Registration for Summer Reading begins in May at the Library.



HOW IT WORKS

- PURCHASE THE BOOK (AUDIO, EBOOK OR PHYSICAL COPY)
- WE WILL MEET IN PERSON AT CRIMSON HOUSE IN AUGUST TO DISCUSS THE BOOK.
- ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

CONTACT DEACONESS BOEHM TO JOIN: 260-415-8526

O CHURCH OF CHRIST, REJOICE!

SPRING CONCERT AND HYMN SING

Featuring the modern
hymnody of Keith and
Kristyn Getty, Stuart
Townend, Matt Boswell,
and Matt Papa

**Sunday,
May 18th
3:00**



Zion Friedheim Lutheran Church

10653 N. 550 W., Decatur, IN 46733



Fundraiser for Arlo Tavernier

Grandson of Darrin Werling

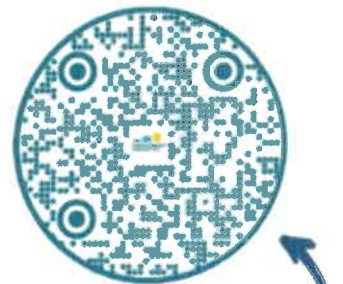
4 PERSON 9 PIN NO TAP

MAY 17 @ 3PM

REGISTRATION @ 2PM

50/50 • SILENT AUCTION • \$100 TEAM FEE

Arlo is an energetic 2 year old with a contagious smile. He loves being the best big brother and spending time with his cousins. When Arlo was born he was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, a progressive, genetic disease that affects the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. Currently there is no cure for Cystic Fibrosis. With the help of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, we hope to have a cure for this ugly disease in Arlo's lifetime.



SCAN TO DONATE!

.....
BOWLER 1 NAME, PHONE, EMAIL & AVG

.....
BOWLER 2 NAME, PHONE, EMAIL & AVG

.....
BOWLER 3 NAME, PHONE, EMAIL & AVG

.....
BOWLER 4 NAME, PHONE, EMAIL & AVG





LUTHERAN NIGHT

2025 OUTING WITH THE FORT WAYNE TINCAPS

**TUESDAY,
JUNE 24**

**GAME TIME:
7:05PM**

SCAN TO ORDER TICKETS



DONATION

\$1.00 from each ticket will be shared with Camp Lutherhaven in Albion, Indiana, specifically to their Campership Fund, which assists campers who wish to attend a camp program when finances are tight.

SPECIAL DRAWING FOR TICKET ORDERS

(For orders received prior to Friday, May 16)

Prizes Include: \$50 gift certificate to The Orchard Team Store, an autographed team bat, a chance to throw out a ceremonial first pitch & more.

POSTGAME FIREWORKS

Enjoy a spectacular fireworks display, shot directly from the field!

FAMILY FEAST NIGHT (PRESENTED BY US FOODS)

Every Tuesday night, fans can enjoy discounts on select concession items including hot dogs, popcorn, soft drinks, pizza slices and more!

Order tickets online at:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutherannight62425>

Only ticket orders received prior to Tuesday, June 10th will receive the Lutheran Night discount offer.

LUTHERAN NIGHT • TICKET ORDER FORM • TUESDAY, JUNE 24

School/Church Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ ext. _____

Email: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check (Payable to Fort Wayne TinCaps)

VISA Mastercard Discover

Card #: _____ Exp: ____/____

3 Digit # on Back (For Security Reasons): _____

TICKETS	#	PRICE	TOTAL
Lutheran Night Tickets		\$12	
Shipping & Handling (if mailing tickets)	1	\$1	
Add. Donations (optional)			
TOTAL			

Please select how you would like to receive your tickets:

Mail Email

Please return orders to:

Fort Wayne TinCaps • Jennifer Sylvester
1301 Ewing Street • Fort Wayne, IN 46802

FORT WAYNE TINCAPS • LUTHERAN NIGHT • 1301 EWING STREET • FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
PHONE: (260) 407-2801 • FAX: (260) 471-4678 • TINCAPS.COM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian Voters Assembly

November 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Approved)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Neil Stoppenhagen and Pastor Wirgau began the meeting with an opening prayer.

(36) Voters were in attendance, and (3) Voters registered an Excused Absence with the Secretary. Voters attending the meeting were: Andrew Stoppenhagen, Brandon Schumm, Brian Bultemeier, Bruce Bultemeier, Bruce Werling, Butch (Norman) Bauermeister, Cale Schumm, Dan Buchinger, Dan Kleppinger, Darren Patrick, Dave Flesch, Don Avey, Doyle Werling, Glen Werling, Jason Rekeweg, Jay Werling, Jeff Holtzclaw, Lane Harkless, Lee Werling, Leon Werling, Lloyd Meyer, Logan Geiger, Mark Patrick, Rev. Martin Moehring, Mike Bultemeier, Nathan Householder, Nathan Meyer, Neil Stoppenhagen, Otto Clausen, Peter Meyer, Rory Geiger, Rev. Samuel Wirgau, Scott Bauermeister, Stan Meyer, Ted Schumm, and Tom Patrick. Vicar Morgan Phillips also attended the meeting, and Voters registering an excused absence were Brian Scheumann, Loren Dathe, & Rick Meyer.

Requests for Voters Assembly Membership / Reinstallation – None

Reports

Secretary's Report

- There were no corrections or additions to the June 30, 2024 Voters Assembly Meeting minutes from the body. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the June 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (Presented by Chairman Stoppenhagen)

- November 22, 2024 Treasurer's Report (attached)
- The Improvement Fund balance of \$26,277.77 reflects an \$1,800 withdrawal from the account that was recently transferred to the checking account to pay for the purchase of a new refrigerator.
- The Operating Loan balance of \$21,900.00 reflects a recent payment of \$4,000.00 from the checking account towards the previous Operating Loan balance of \$25,900.00.
- A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

Senior Pastor's Report

- Official Acts since June 30, 2024 Voters Assembly Mtg.:
 - Funerals – Joellen Meyer (7/9); Gloria Siela (11/11); & Ralph Schumm (11/20)
 - Holy Matrimony – None since the June Voters Mtg.
 - Holy Baptisms – Ruby Patrick (7/28); June Trammel (10/27); Robert Trammel (10/27) & Luke Trammel (10/27)
 - Confirmations – None since the June Voters Mtg.
 - Adult Confirmation – None since the June Voters Mtg.
- Regular Duties:
 - 80 visits to sick and homebound since the June Voters Mtg.
 - Conducting Sunday morning service at 9:00 am and Wednesday evening Divine Service at 7:00 pm.
 - Sunday School and Bible Classes are doing well. The Bible Class study topic is Luther's Large Catechism.
 - Continuing Chapel and catechesis duties with the school.
 - Pastor began Adult Catechesis Classes in September. Classes are on Wednesdays with three individuals participating.
 - Conducting services on Thursdays at Woodcrest in rotation with other Decatur Circuit pastors.
 - Continuing to conduct services at Ossian Health Care on Sundays in alternation with Pastor Ulmer (Zion, Friedheim), Pastor Doubrava (New Hope), and Pastor Oedewaldt (Zion, Decatur).
 - Pastor also reported that he has been pleased with the ongoing discussions from the past two congregational forums regarding First Communion.

- Other:
 - Pastor is serving the Indiana District as chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Matters through June 2025.
 - At the September Decatur Circuit Forum Meeting, Pastor Wirgau was elected to the position of Circuit Visitor for the LCMS Indiana District Decatur Circuit. The Circuit Visitor position is a three-year term, with a 3-term maximum that can be served. (9 years total) Pastor Wirgau's duties as the Decatur Circuit Visitor will begin in June 2025 after the completion of the LCMS Indiana District Convention.
 - Pastor's family is doing well.
- Pastor's Calendar:
 - Nothing Reported.

Vicars Report

- For church services, Vicar Phillips continues to assist in Sunday morning services and Wednesday evening services, preaching every Wednesday and once per month on Sundays.
- For the school, Vicar Phillips teaches catechesis to 5th/6th graders on Tuesdays and 7th/8th graders on Thursdays and preaches at Chapel Services one day per week.
- Vicar Phillips shadowed Pastor Wirgau on most of his shut-in calls and made a few shut-in calls/visits by himself.
- Vicar Phillips worked with Deaconess Boehm to plan and organize the 2024 – 2025 Advent Devotional Book.

Elders Report

- July 12th Elders Mtg.
 - Removed Joellen Meyer from baptismal and communicant membership roster due to her passing.
 - July Church Membership Statistics: 503 Baptized / 394 Communicant Members
 - Elders discussed the upcoming First Communion and Confirmation Forum and agreed to a second forum being held on Sunday, September 22, 2024.
 - Elders reported that there is currently \$2,826 in the Emergency Relief Fund and they agreed that \$1,500 in funds should be kept on hand, and available, for distributions, with the remaining balance being put into a savings escrow account.
 - Elders discussed, and agreed, that at least one Elder should be present for all funerals and weddings.
 - Elders discussed, and agreed, that an Elder should attend, and stand by, during all baptisms.
 - Elders discussed the necessity of continuing to maintain/update the church's communion record book since we are now using communion signup sheets in the narthex. It was decided to continue using the communion record book for communion attendance tracking.
 - The Elders agreed it would be beneficial to put a notice in the bulletin reminding people of the need to register for communion using the signup sheets in the narthex.
- August 11th Elders Mtg.
 - Ruby Patrick was received into membership by baptism.
 - August Church Membership Statistics: 504 Baptized / 395 Communicant Members
 - Elders confirmed that things were on-track for the September 22, 2024 Congregational Forum and briefly discussed the proposed presentation content.
 - The Board of Elders elected board officers for the 2024 – 2025 church year with Glen Werling being elected as the Head Elder, and Jerry Meyer being elected as the Secretary.
 - The Elders discussed a proposal to host a Garms Family performance with no action being taken.
- September 8th Elders Mtg.
 - Approved the transfer in of Emma Scheuler from St. Paul Lutheran Church.
 - September Church Membership Statistics (stats are prior to Emma Scheuler transfer in): 504 Baptized / 395 Communicant Members
 - Elders began discussing the 2024 church holiday decorating schedule, postponing the finalization of the timeline to a future meeting.
 - Scheduled Elder AED training (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the October Elders Meeting.
- October 6th Elders Mtg.
 - October Church Membership Statistics (post Emma Scheuler transfer being accepted): 505 Baptized / 395 Communicant Members

- Modifications to future Elder Meeting Agendas noting reports from the Vicar and Deaconess.
- Elders discussed the September 22nd Congregational Forum, and after discussion, agreed to hold a 3rd Congregational Forum in February 2025.
- Elders finalized, and approved, the 2024 church holiday decorating schedule.
- Elders discussed the possibility of eliminating the green Visitor Cards from the pews and replacing one of three hymnals in each pew rack with a Bible. No action was taken on either item.
- Elders successfully completed their AED Training provided by a professional trainer from Adams Memorial Hospital.
- November 10th Elders Mtg.
 - Accepted Robert, June, and Luke Trammel into membership by baptism.
 - Removed Gloria Siela from baptismal and communicant membership roster due to her passing.
 - November Church Membership Statistics (prior to Katie Meyer transfer out): 507 Baptized / 394 Communicant Members
 - Approved the transfer out of Katie Meyer to Our Shepherd LCMS in Avon, IN.
 - Reviewed the procedure for Elders for assisting Pastor while communion is being administered to parishioners seated in nave and overflow sections of the church.
 - Approved the purchase of a new replacement laptop for Pastor Wirgau.
 - Scheduled the next Elders Meeting for December 8th.

Headmaster Report

- Current Enrollment for Bethlehem Lutheran School for the 2024 – 2025 school year is 51 students.
- New School Mission Statement & School Code – The school has adopted a School Mission Statement and a School Code. The generation and adoption of each are the result of discussions during the NLSA Accreditation process, and the school faculty’s adoption of a school-wide disciplinary process.
 - School Mission Statement – *Bethlehem School works with parents to guide their children in gaining wisdom, pursuing virtue, and developing skills for life with God, neighbors, and self in this world, and in the world to come.*
 - School Code – *I will love, serve, and honor God. I will love, serve, and honor my neighbor. I will love, serve, and honor myself.*
- New Student – Gabriel Gardner was accepted into the 4th Grade in October.
- New School Support Staff – Erin Schumm has been contracted by the school as a 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher’s Aide, Dorena Wirgau has been contracted by the school as a Music Teacher for the K – 3rd Grade students, and Clara Conrad is providing volunteer assistance for the school.
- Pastoral Duties – Pastor / Headmaster Dodgers continues with his regular Sunday morning duties, assisting in chapel and catechesis, overseeing the Vicar for school related duties, and filling in for Pastor Wirgau and Vicar Phillips at school in their absence.
- Special Services – Bethlehem School’s Special Services for both speech and academic assistance continue to be an ongoing challenge. Current Special Speech Services provided by Norwell have academic logistics challenges, and LSEM has not been able to secure an instructor to fill the special academic learning position. In the interim, Layne Fisher has volunteered her time to provide speech therapy for students.
- Lutheran Foundation Endowment Fund – With the monies donated to Bethlehem School from the estate of Dr. David Nahrwold, the Endowment Committee established a Segmented Fund to be used for the purpose of education. Additionally, Bethlehem School anticipates being awarded a \$15,000 + - School Support Matching Grant from the Lutheran Foundation in December 2024. This Grant has a June 1, 2025 deadline for Bethlehem to attain our matching portion for the grant.
- New Church & School Phone System – The Church Council approved a change to the church and school phone service provider. Josh Boehm is assisting both the church and school with the installation and set-up of the new phone system and equipment.
- Faculty Continuing Education – All teachers will be attending the Connections Conference (professional development for IN, MI, & OH LCMS Districts) on November 25th & 26th in Ft. Wayne, IN. Students will have E-Learning on both days.
- Pastor Dodgers and his family are doing well. They are planning to make a couple of visits to family around Thanksgiving and Christmas, but the time away will not affect Pastor Dodger’s school or church responsibilities.

Board of Christian Education Report

- BOCE Chairman Jason Rekoweg provided additional clarification regarding the funding for the 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher's Aide and the K – 3rd Grade Music Teacher positions. The cost associated with both positions is being funded by adjustments the BOCE made to the 2024 – 2025 school tuition rates, and from a stipend that the school receives via another funding source, so there will not be additional financial support required from the church to cover these salaries.
- Basketball season has begun for both the girls' and the boys' teams, with games already having been played. As is customary, Bethlehem School will be hosting four different basketball tournaments from mid-January into February.

Board of Trustees Report

- The church's AED device has been installed next to the coat rack.
- The Trustees plan to collaborate with nurses from the church to inspect and replenish supplies in the First Aid Kits for both the church and school.
- Failing appliances have recently been replaced in the school and parsonage kitchens.

Board of Finance Report

- No Report

Cemetery Report

- No Report

Old Business

- Financial Task Force Update
 - Progress has been made, and cost savings are being realized with the changes to the church and school phone systems.
 - Vice Chairman Dave Flesch has connected with a representative from the Concordia Plans and procured information for the Concordia Health Plan for Church Council review.
 - Trustees are currently checking into the church and school's trash removal fees and options for alternate providers.

New Business

Nominations for the 2025 Indiana District Convention

- Pastor Wirgau gave a summary of the process and shared his recommendations for the two primary positions to be elected during the Indiana District Convention on June 19 & 20, 2025.
- Bethlehem Church's Nominations for the Indiana District (each church can nominate 2 individuals per position)
 - Indiana District President
 - Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch (incumbent)
 - Rev. Peter Brock
 - Area Vice-President
 - Rev. Peter Brock (incumbent)
 - Rev. Shayne Jonker (current District Circuit Visitor)
 - A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to nominate the candidates noted above for the positions of Indiana District President and Area Vice-President.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Indiana District Lay Delegate

- Chairman Stoppenhagen proposed the following individuals to be appointed as Bethlehem's Lay Delegate, and Alternate Lay Delegate, for the 2025 Indiana District Convention:
 - Lay Delegate – Stan Meyer
 - Alternate Lay Delegate – Dave Flesch
 - The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to appoint the candidates noted above as the Lay Delegate and Alternate Lay Delegate for the 2025 Indiana District Convention.

Motion to Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

The Voters Assembly Meeting concluded with Pastor Wirgau leading the Assembly in the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Meyer, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Secretary

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian – Special Voters Assembly

February 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Approved)

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Dave Flesch, and Pastor Wirgau began the meeting with prayer.

(29) Voters were in attendance. Voters attending the meeting were: Rev. Anthony Dodgers, Brian Bauermeister, Brian Bultemeier, Brian Scheumann, Bruce Bultemeier, Bruce Meyer, Bruce Werling, Cale Schumm, Dan Buchinger, Dan Kleppinger, Darren Patrick, Dave Flesch, Don Avey, Gary Oliver, Glen Werling, Jason Rekeweg, Jay Louison, Jeff Gresley, Jerry Meyer, Josh Boehm, Lane Harkless, Lloyd Meyer, Loren Dathe, Nathan Householder, Nathan Meyer, Rick Meyer, Rev. Samuel Wirgau, Stan Meyer, and Ted Schumm.

Reports – None

Old Business - None

New Business

The purpose of the Special VA Meeting was to discuss the possibility of a Vicarage Assignment at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the 2025 -2026 Academic School Year.

- Pastor Wirgau shared that the Concordia Theological Seminary FW had reached out to him asking that Bethlehem - Ossian consider participating in the 2025 – 2026 Vicarage Program, as the Lutheran Foundation Grant subsidizing a congregation’s costs for Vicars assigned to church & school congregations is still in effect and entering its second year. Pastor also noted that Bethlehem’s current participation in the Vicarage Program has been beneficial for Vicar Phillips, and for Bethlehem Church & School.
- Vicar Phillips explained that during his Vicarage year he does not attend classes at the Seminary, but his full-time involvement at/with Bethlehem Church & School is in essence his classroom attendance and homework for the year.
- Vicar Phillips spoke and shared details outlining what he is, and has done to date, during his Vicarage with Bethlehem:
 - Church Duties
 - Assisting with Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services and preaching once per month on Sundays.
 - Preaching for Wednesday night spoken Divine Services.
 - Shadowing pastor at shut-in visits and hospital visits.
 - Helping pastor with shut-in services at Ossian Healthcare and Woodcrest.
 - Attends Elders & Church Council meetings.
 - School Duties
 - Teaching catechesis to 5th/6th graders on Tuesdays and 7th/8th graders on Thursdays.
 - Preaching once a week for chapel.
 - Attending Christian Board of Education Meetings.
 - Helped Deaconess Boehm plan and organize the 2024 – 2025 Advent/Christmas Devotional Book.
 - Youth Group
 - Plans and conducts Bible studies for the high school students for the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.
 - Applied for, and received, a grant from the Lutheran Foundation for \$4,800 to help offset the cost for attendance to the 2025 Higher Things.
 - Sunday School
 - Taught Sunday School for the 3rd - 5th grade students until Christmas break and now leading Adult Bible Class is the study of the church liturgy.

- Other
 - Meets with Pastor Wirgau and Pastor Dodgers on Thursdays for Greek study, book study, and to discuss new church and school business needing to be addressed.
 - When in his office, Vicar Phillips studies and prepares for upcoming sermons and bible study lessons.
- Pastor Wirgau reviewed information outlining vicarage duties and the normal congregational cost associated with a Vicar position. (See attached meeting handout providing information regarding a vicarage position and duties.)
- Additional items covered in the subsequent discussion were:
 - The Lutheran Foundation Grant covers a minimum of 33% of the cost for a Vicar and a maximum of 90% of the cost. The cost for a local seminarian including salary, housing allowance, transportation, and health insurance was projected at \$50,000 which would translate to the LF Grant covering \$45,000 of the cost and Bethlehem paying \$5,000.
 - A current 2nd year seminarian student has been recommended, and identified as a good theological, character, culture, and financial fit for Bethlehem.
 - Although there is not a guarantee that Bethlehem will be assigned the requested seminarian student, Bethlehem would only accept a Vicarage Assignment if the Vicar assigned to the congregation is the desired 2nd year student identified/requested.
 - The approval for the Vicarage Assignment is only for the 2025 – 2026 academic year and not for subsequent years. (1-year program)
 - If the requested seminarian is assigned to Bethlehem for the Vicarage, pastoral and school support duties would be staggered between Seminarian Streeks and the new Vicar similar to the way they are currently being delegated. However, as a 2nd year student, Seminarian Streeks will have additional duties and responsibilities.
 - If a Vicar is assigned to Bethlehem, it is improbable that Bethlehem will request a 1st year seminary student for the 2025 – 2026 academic year.
 - Pastor Wirgau will begin his duties as the Circuit Visitor for the Indiana District Decatur Circuit at the end of June 2025. Pastor Wirgau is confident that he will collectively be able to support the Bethlehem congregation, Vicarage Program responsibilities, and the Decatur Circuit duties for the upcoming year.
 - The Board of Christian Education has discussed supporting this effort from their budget with the allocation of \$2,500 towards the projected \$5,000 cost, the same as they had done this year.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved for Bethlehem Church to move forward with an application for a Vicar Assignment, specifically for the unnamed 2nd year seminarian student identified by Pastor Wirgau, for the 2025 – 2026 academic year, and if that particular student is not assigned to Bethlehem, to allow Pastor Wirgau to use his discretion on whether to withdraw Bethlehem's Vicarage Assignment application, or to proceed with another candidate compatible with Bethlehem's interests.

The Special Voters Assembly Meeting concluded with Pastor Wirgau leading the Assembly in the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Meyer
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Secretary



TIGER TALES



“ENDURE”



Thank you for coming to Grandparents Day! The students did a wonderful job of entertaining our special guests! Thank you to Mr. Meyer for giving us a taste of what's to come in our Spring Musical! Thank you to our PTL committee and all the wonderful volunteers for a delicious luncheon! Hope to see you again next year!

CALENDAR

- May 4 –9 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5 PTL Meeting
- May 6 Last Library Day
- May 9 Spring Musical
- May 13 Board of Ed Meeting
- May 15 Birthday Pizza Lunch
- May 16 Tin Caps Reading Program Game Day
- May 18 Confirmation Sunday
- May 20 All School Bowling
- May 22 Last Day of School
- May 26 Memorial Day
- May 27 School Improvement Starts
- May 29 Ascension Service

MAY 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	31

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- May 1 Jude Wirgau
- May 4 Ginny Wirgau
- May 11 Deaconess Boehm
- May 15 Gabriel Gardner
- May 20 Maren Meyer





Please join us for our last **PTL Meeting** of the school year on Monday, May 5th at 6:00 pm. This is an important meeting because we will be looking to fill openings for our next year's PTL Board. This would also be a great opportunity to check out some of the artwork around the school and to take home any of the winter clothes that may still be in your child's locker. Hope to see everyone there!



School Improvement Project

We are excited to announce several school improvement projects starting May 27th. Contractors and church trustees will install new flooring and partitions in the locker/restrooms, paint those rooms, gym, and hallways, and re-varnish the gym floor. The library will also be getting their handmade wood bookshelves. These projects should be almost complete by June 16th for Vacation Bible School. Following this, we will clean carpets, polish floors, and carry out general cleaning. Please contact the school or our Athletic Director, Brandon Schumm about event availability.

Thank you.



REGISTER TODAY -
<https://blcsossian.org/vacation-bible-school/> or use the attached registration forms
AND SAVE THE DATE

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.

Thursday, May 22nd is the “Last Day of School” dismissal after lunch with no morning or afternoon bus service.

Shop for next year at the SCHOOL STORE!

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/bethlehemluthेरanschool/>

School Gym Use—summer hours— Before using the school gym 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!**

PURCHASE SCRIP CARDS AND GET TUITION CREDIT!!

This summer we would like to encourage all of our church and school families to purchase scrip products for all of their shopping or dining needs! Purchases can be made online or in person from our **PTL Coordinator, Mariah Trammel 260-267-1614**. Please see the attached flyer for information on how to create your own account through Raise Right using Bethlehem's enrollment code noted. A physical card order form is also attached. The last day to receive credit towards next year's tuition is May 31st. Be sure to login regularly to find bonus percentages! Thank you 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 is currently having a scrap metal recycling dumpster **till the end of May**. Prepare to purge and round up your scrap metal. You can drop items off, 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.



We are on the Way!

We're approaching the finish line of this school year! But as we near the end, let me encourage you to endure, even beyond May 22. All year long, we've been taught by our theme Scripture passage in Hebrews 12: *Run the race with endurance!* So when do we finish it? Not this year or even in this life. What about learning? Do we finish learning at the end of the school year? Or at the end of college? When do we finish gaining wisdom or pursuing virtue or developing skills? Again, we never finish in this life. And that's not a bad thing. It means our whole life is a time for growth. We can keep learning every day if we are open to it. We can keep getting better, stronger, kinder, more and more the child of God that He has created us and called us to be.

This is encouraging because it means we never have to give up. We just keep trying, keep running, keep enduring, and we know that Christ is with us all the way. Martin Luther put it this way:

This life is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not yet finished, but it is actively going on. This is not the goal but it is the right road. At present, everything does not gleam and sparkle, but everything is being cleansed.

I love this because even though we know we're not done, we are on the way! We are on the right road! All we have to do is endure. Because Jesus is the Way. He is the one who went before us and make it possible for us to follow Him. Jesus is the founder and perfecter of our faith, the beginner and the finisher. So, He will bring us with Him to completion, the end of the race, and our eternal home.

God bless you! And keep running!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Dodgers



April / May / June Birthday Pizza lunch with the Pastor Dodgers

Thursday, May 15th
students celebrating birthdays:

Emma Wirgau, Bailey Meyer, Jonah Bultemeier
Caroline Haiflich, Cora Patrick, Jude Wirgau,
Ginny Wirgau, Maren Meyer, Gabriel Gardner,
Weslynn Nahrwold, Brooke Werling, Nolan Anthony,
Isaac Wanner

Last Day of School

Thursday, May 22nd

As a school tradition, students will be allowed to ride their bicycles to school with parent permission and supervision. All bicycles are to be parked in the north parking lot near the sidewalk.

Morning and afternoon bus service will NOT be available.

The events for the day will start with Closing Chapel at 9:30 am. Parents are welcome to attend.

8th Grade Graduation along with Academic Awards will follow.

Field Day with all the students in different stations. Then ending with a school picnic hosted by the Board of Education and PTL at 11:30 am. Hot dogs, Mac & Cheese and beverages will be provided. **Parents are asked to bring side dishes to share.** (Last names ending in A-K please bring a dessert, L-Z please bring a side dish.)

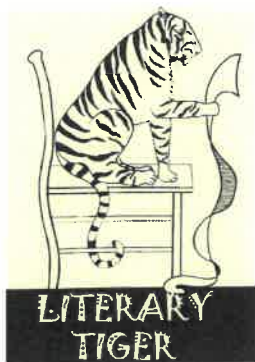
Dismissal will be around NOON, after lunch with NO bus service.

Please be sure to have all tuition fees paid in full and library books returned. Report cards will be sent in the mail.

Have a great summer!

In Person Final Registration Day –Thursday, August 7th, 4-7 p.m.

First Day of School– Wednesday, August 13th



Tales for Tigers

Last day to check out books from the school library will be May 6, and all books must be returned the next week, Tuesday, May 13.

New bookshelves will be installed shortly after the end of the school year, so the librarians need time to pack up the library. Please return books by the deadline to help expedite the packing process.

We hope all the students will continue reading over summer vacation. Check our local public library for information about summer reading programs, or use the break to enjoy some selections you purchased from one of our book fairs.

Happy Reading!

Summer
by Christina Rossetti

Winter is cold-hearted,
Spring is yea and nay,
Autumn is a weathercock
Blown every way:
Summer days for me
When every leaf is on its tree;

When Robin's not a beggar,
And Jenny Wren's a bride,
And larks hang singing, singing, singing,
Over the wheat-fields wide,
And anchored lilies ride,
And the pendulum spider
Swings from side to side,

And blue-black beetles transact business,
And gnats fly in a host,
And furry caterpillars hasten
That no time be lost,
And moths grow fat and thrive,
And ladybirds arrive.

Before green apples blush,
Before green nuts embrown,
Why, one day in the country
Is worth a month in town;
Is worth a day and a year
Of the dusty, musty, lag-last fashion
That days drone elsewhere.





3rd Quarter Honor Roll

MaKayla Berkey (5), JT Holtzclaw (5), Hunter Householder (6), Emma Wirgau (8)

3rd Quarter High Honor Roll

Bailey Meyer (6), Matthew Rekweg (6)



At this year's Auction and Gala event, Ivan Bales won the opportunity to ride in a police car to school! Ivan invited Matthew Rekweg to ride with him. Thank you to Officer McClish for this fun opportunity!



JT Holtzclaw, 6th grade student, participated in the Decatur Mudokwan tournament on April 26. He placed first in board breaking, second in sparring (in a sudden death match), and third in forms.

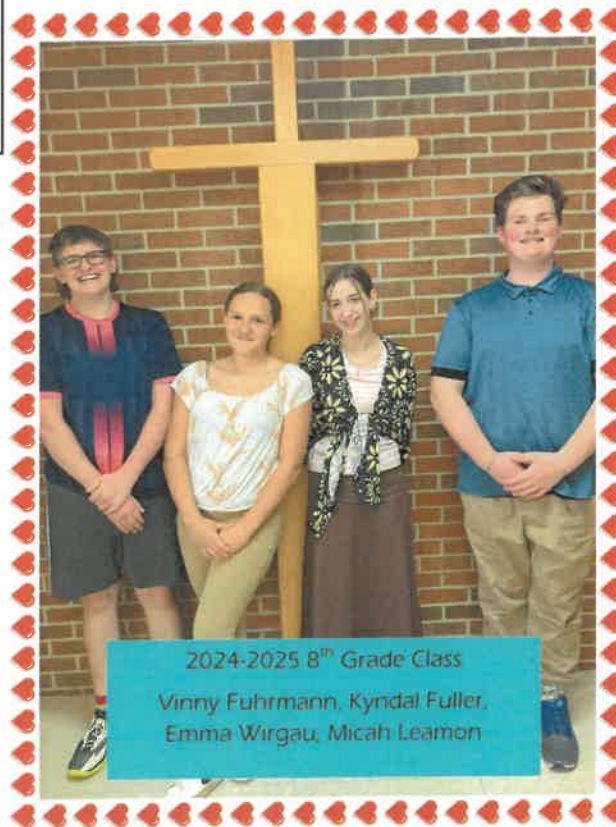


Fort Wayne Children's Choir
Spring Concert
 Sunday May 4th at 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 Auer Performance Hall, Rhinehart Music Center

2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN, United States
 Come hear all eight ensembles of the Fort Wayne Children's Choir perform their annual Spring Concert. *Bethlehem's Emma Schueler is one of the choir members and would love to see you there!*



On April 11th Kantor Brinkley and the Junior Choir sang at the Concordia Theological Chapel Service. Our students enjoyed a tour of the campus, met with professors and seminarians while having a delicious luncheon.



2024-2025 8th Grade Class
 Vinny Fuhrmann, Kyndal Fuller,
 Emma Wirgau, Micah Leamon

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!

Funds needed to achieve our match: \$15,000
 - 9,000 Approximate funds on hand
\$ 6,000 Needed by June 1 to achieve our goal

The Board of Christian Education would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of our teachers. Bethlehem is blessed to have them in our school, and they are what make Bethlehem Lutheran School so great!

Experience at the completion of the 2024-2025 school year			
Teacher	First Year at Bethlehem	Years exp.	Years at Bethlehem
Pastor Dodgers	2022-2023	3	3
Peter Meyer	2017-2018	28	8
Amelia Phillips	2022-2023	4	3
Shaeli Streeks	2022-2023	4	3
Nancy Defrain	2021-2022	8	4
		47	21

May 5-9 is Teacher Appreciation Week. This is a time when we encourage our Bethlehem parents to show their appreciation for your child's teacher. The PTL committee will be asking for volunteers to provide our teachers with a special luncheon and help for lunch and recess duties. Please watch for that sign-up sheet to come through your email and consider helping to make our teachers feel special!



Mrs. Streeks is expecting her fourth child in July. She has decided to take leave from her teaching position to become a full-time mother, while also supporting her husband Brandon in his pastoral education. Bethlehem will miss Mrs. Streeks but looks forward to welcoming her family next year. Their eldest daughter, Ella, will be attending kindergarten, and Brandon will continue as the church fieldworker for another year.

Bethlehem Lutheran School
presents

Tall Tales and Heroes the Musical



Book and Lyrics by
Grace Hawthorne

Music By John F. Wilson

Produced in conjunction with
Hope Publishing Company

Please join us

Friday, May 9, 2025

at 6:30 p.m.

Students should arrive at 6:00 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

MAY
YOUR MONEY OR YOUR...



In April we had our last bible study of the school year. The girls hunted Easter Eggs after the study.

NOT-SO-NICE BIBLE STORIES

MASTER CRIMINALS



Middle School Youth Group

May

15TH
Examination

18TH
Confirmation

NO bible study in May
Kick off in August TBD

In April we had our last bible study of the school year. We had a farewell and thank you party with the Vicar along with a hymn sing.



ENDURE
HEBREWS 12:1-3



DEACONESS DISCUSSION

24

 Vacation Bible Study

MAY

We had so much fun learning about VBS at our last Deaconess Discussion! Many of the children have been attending for several years. It was wonderful to hear their excitement about VBS.

This years theme is "Big & Bold Faith" which focuses on prayer. Each grade made decorations to go along with our theme (circus/carnival).

The kids did such an great job, their help is so appreciated!

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Lutheran Summer Camps

Summer Camp is right around the corner and it's a place where children and adults get to experience not only tons of fun, but also the wonder of God's love and creation. It can also be an opportunity for children to develop self-confidence, leadership skills, identity in Christ, responsibility, friendships, and nurture their faith.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Camps are available for students of all grades (grades are based on the 2025-26 school year). Come for one camp or many! Options include: volleyball, robots, video games, basketball, cheer, rocket, soccer, tech theatre and many more.



CAMP LUTHERHAVEN

Each summer, Lutherhaven picks a theme that guides our spiritual growth times. For summer 2025, our theme is "Cuz Why?" The theme verse is John 3:17. There are many camps throughout the summer and in the fall. Check out their website for more info including Family Retreats, Women's Retreats, Personal Retreats and more.



ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Fine Arts Camp (FAC) is a week-long summer day camp at St. Michael Lutheran Church that provides an opportunity for youth to connect faith, creativity and community. The week culminates in a Friday evening program where students will share their talents and art work with family and friends! June 23-27 Explore God's Word while learning multiple art forms and fun music. Eligible to all incoming 1st-8th grade youth. Camp Times: 9am - 3:30pm Aftercare Hours Offered



CAMP ARCADIA

Nestled in small town Arcadia, Michigan, Camp Arcadia is a charming, 100-year-old Christian family camp with Lutheran roots located right on the shores of Lake Michigan. Open from Memorial Day through the last weekend in October, Camp Arcadia offers retreats for individuals and families of all ages including: Family Retreats, Summer Teen Retreat, Fall Confirmation Retreat, Women's Retreats, Men's Retreats, and more!



CAMP LAKEVIEW

Nestled in small town Arcadia, Michigan, Camp Arcadia is a charming, 100-year-old Christian family camp with Lutheran roots located right on the shores of Lake Michigan. Whether you have been coming to camp for years or are considering it for the first time, we're glad you're here. For over 50 years Lakeview Ministries has been focused on providing incredible faith-filled experiences for kids of all ages and maintaining the highest standards for the safety and well being of every person who comes to camp. We can't wait to welcome you to camp!

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- [HTTPS://WWW.CLHSCADETS.COM/](https://www.clhscadets.com/)
- [HTTPS://LUTHERHAVEN.ORG/](https://lutherhaven.org/)
- [HTTPS://STMFW.ORG/](https://stmfw.org/)
- [HTTPS://CAMP-ARCADIA.COM/](https://camp-arcadia.com/)
- [HTTPS://LAKEVIEW.CAMP/](https://lakeview.camp/)
- [HTTPS://NLOMA.ORG/CAMP-DIRECTORY/](https://nloma.org/camp-directory/)



Petals & Potting

CELEBRATE MOM!!

MAY 10th, 2025

STAUFFER FARMS

- Food Truck
- Kid's Corner where kids get to decorate their own pot and plant their own flower for Mom
- Spring flowers in greenhouses

Summer Art and Music 2025

Tree of Life

Tuesday May 27th-
Thursday May 29th
9-11:30

Ages: Students entering 2nd-8th Grade

Registration and more information here:

Register no later than May 5th.

Spots are limited so register ASAP!

Zion Friedheim Family Life Center
10653 N. 550 W.
Decatur, IN 46733



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Jen H., earns for hockey

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Organization enrollment code: 43ALE7851441

For questions, contact our coordinator: Mariah Trammel at (260)2671614



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Bethlehem Lutheran Scrips Order Form [Orders due on Monday]

Date: _____ Student _____

Name _____ Circle One: **BLS** Student(named above)

Phone # _____ Check # _____ Total _____

		QTY.	Total
A	Amazon.com	1.6%	\$25
	Amazon.com	1.6%	\$100
	Applebee's	8%	\$25
	Arby's	8%	\$10
	Arby's	8%	\$25
B	Barnes & Noble	8%	\$10
	Barnes & Noble	8%	\$25
	Bath & Body Works	12%	\$10
	BP	1.5%	\$50
	BP	1.5%	\$100
	Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$10
	Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$25
	Burger King	4%	\$10
	Burger King	4%	\$25
C	Chipotle	10%	\$10
	Colliers Comfort	5%	
	Cracker Barrel	8%	\$10
	Cracker Barrel	8%	\$25
	Culvers	10%	\$10
D	Dairy Queen	6.5%	\$10
	Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	\$25
	Disney	3%	\$25
E	East of Chicago	10%	\$10
	East of Chicago	10%	\$25
F	Fazoli's	9%	\$25
G	Galley	10%	\$20
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	\$25
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	\$50
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	\$100
	Gordons Food Service	4%	\$25
	Gordons Food Service	4%	\$100
H	Hall's	10%	\$15
	Hall's	10%	\$30
	Happy Moments	10%	\$25
	Hardees	5%	\$10
	Hills Market	4%	\$25
	Hills Market	4%	\$50
	Hills Market	4%	\$100
	Hollywood Nails	17%	\$20
I	iTunes	5%	\$15
K	Kohl's (can NOT use to pay bill)	4%	\$25
	Kohl's (can NOT use to pay bill)	4%	\$100
	Kroger	4%	\$25
	Kroger	4%	\$100
L	Little Caesars	8%	\$20
	Lowe's	4%	\$25
	Lowe's	4%	\$100

		QTY.	Total
M	Marathon	3%	\$25
	Marathon	3%	\$100
	Marathon	4%	\$250
	McAlister's Deli	6%	\$25
	McDonalds	5%	\$5
	McDonalds	5%	\$10
	McDonalds	5%	\$25
	McDonalds	5%	\$50
	Meijer	3%	\$25
	Meijer	3%	\$50
	Meijer	3%	\$100
	Menard's	3%	\$25
	Menard's	3%	\$100
	Mike's Carwash	20%	\$11
N	Nine Mile	8%	\$20
O	O'Charley's	13%	\$25
	Old Navy	14%	\$25
	Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	\$25
	& Longhorn Steakhouse		
	Outback	10%	\$25
P	Panda Express	8%	\$25
	Panera Bread	8%	\$5
	Papa John's Pizza	8%	\$10
	Pizza Hut	8%	\$10
R	Richards	10%	\$20
	Red Lobster	8%	\$25
S	Speedway	4%	\$25
	Starbucks	4.5%	\$5
	Starbucks	4.5%	\$10
	Starbucks	4.5%	\$25
	Steak & Shake	8%	\$10
	Subway	6.0%	\$10
	Subway	6%	\$50
T	Taco Bell	5%	\$10
	Target	2.5%	\$25
	Texas Roadhouse	8%	\$25
	T.J. Maxx/ Marshalls	6%	\$25
V	prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$25
	prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$50
	prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$100
	prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$250
W	Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$25
	Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$50
	Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$100
	Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$250
	Walgreens	5%	\$25
	Walgreens	5%	\$100
	Wendy's	6%	\$25
Z	Zurcher Tire	5%	

STUDENT REGISTRATION

BIG & BOLD FAITH VBS 2025
BLCS-OSSIAN, IN



***There is also an online version of this form available if you go to our website (blcssain.org).
The online form makes registering multiple children/volunteers easier by using one form for all.**

SINGLE CHILD REGISTRATION FORM: CHILD INFO

First and last name:

Allergies/Medical issues or special needs:

Gender: Male Female

Grade going into:

Preschool
(age 2-4
potty trained)

Pre-K
(age 4-5)

Kindergarten

1st Grade

2nd Grade

3rd Grade

4th Grade

5th Grad

***If your child is going into 6th grade and above, please consider a volunteer position instead.**

T-Shirt Size:

XXS

XS

YM

YL

YXL/AS

***Forms submitted after June 10 are not guaranteed a t-shirt**

Same group as:

Home church (if applicable):

PARENT INFO

Full Address:

Parent/Guardian
first and last name:

Parent/Guardian phone number:

Parent/Guardian email:

Emergency Contact
first/last name:

Emergency contact phone number:

Name, phone number AND relationship of ALL people authorized to pick up your child:

***The first day of VBS you will enter through the main doors and pick up a number that is assigned to your child for pick up/drop off, after you have your number you can drive around to the side parking lot to pick up your child each day. If someone comes who is not an authorized pick up person, they will not be allowed to take your child.**

Medical Release: I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I grant Bethlehem Lutheran Church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above for any purpose lawful.

***Note:** Each student will receive a picture frame with their picture in it to take home. Photos from the week will be used in the VBS Closing Ceremony presentation at the Church that evening.

Permission to attend: I give permission for my child to attend the VBS listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

BIG & BOLD FAITH VBS 2025
BLCS-OSSIAN, IN



***There is also an online version of this form available if you go to our website (bethlehemossian.org).
The online form makes registering multiple volunteers easier by using one form for all.**

SINGLE VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM: VOLUNTEER INFO

First and last name:

Allergies/Medical issues or special needs:

Gender: Male Female

T-Shirt Size:

XS S M L XL 2x 3x 4x

*For smaller children accompanying adult please write their size:

*Forms submitted after June 10 are not guaranteed a t-shirt

Home church (if applicable):

Options for area preferred:
(check all that apply)

Decorating Photography Registration Storytelling Chapel
 Craft Stacks Games Music Group Guide

Options for days available:
(check all that apply)

Monday AM Wednesday AM Thursday PM
 Tuesday AM Thursday AM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Address:

E-Mail:

Phone Number:

Parent/Guardian
first and last name
if under 18:

Parent/Guardian phone number
if under 18:

Emergency Contact
first/last name:

Emergency contact phone number:

Medical Release: I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I grant Bethlehem Lutheran Church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above for any purpose lawful.
Photos from the week will be used in the VBS Closing Ceremnoy presentaiton at the Church that evening.

Permission to attend: I give permission for my child to attend the VBS listed above. i understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church.

Signature of volunteer or
Parent/Guardian if under 18: