

September 2025

Volume 19, Issue 1

The House of Daily Bread

I have often preached and written in the newsletter about the importance of individual and family devotions. Our love of God's truth drives us to continually hear, read, mark, learn, and take it to heart. Father's and mothers are given the duty by God to bring their children up in God's Word. Additionally, the constant use of the Small Catechism sets a foundation for ourselves and our families in those basic teachings. Daily recitation of the Catechism will engrain those words in our minds so that we learn them by heart and better learn the Scriptures and our Lutheran faith.

To aid in this effort I introduced a couple of weeks ago, a new resource which is made available to you in the Sunday morning bulletin titled *House of Daily Bread*. This is an expansion on the recitation and prayer for school and home which we have had for the past five years. *House of Daily Bread* includes more resources for the week including selected psalms, readings, and prayers, as well as a "hymn of the week" that can be spoken or sung each day. I encourage you to use this great resource. To aid you in introducing it, here is a quick walk-through.

It begins with the invocation, calling upon God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is present in His Word and has given us His name to call upon Him in prayer and praise. A hymn of the week may be sung (or spoken). Another hymn could also be used. The Ten Commandments and Apostles' Creed are spoken and then the section from the Small Catechism is recited. This aids children and adults in learning these parts by heart.

The Psalm for the week and/or another Psalm or Psalms can then be prayed. Included is a listing of Psalms divided between morning and evening Psalms. This schedule is designed to go through the entire Psalter in 60 days.

Then follows the readings. Two different readings are listed for each day (except for Saturday and Sunday). The first reading is a Bible story from the Old or New Testament which relates to the section of the catechism for that week. The second reading follows from the Daily Lectionary for the Old Testament and goes through various Old Testament books.

Then come the prayers. The Collect for the previous Sunday is given to be prayed throughout the week. Then there are specific intercessions given for each day as well as the specific people who have asked for the prayers of the saints of Bethlehem. You may fashion these prayers as you see fit or simply give the bid, "for [specific petition] let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy!" You may also pray Luther's Morning and Evening Prayer from the catechism and, of course, the Lord's Prayer.

Finally, listed are the readings and hymns for the upcoming Sunday that you may read and sing at some point during the week (or at least become familiar with them). These readings are specifically designed to be read on Saturday.

Of course, this resource can be adapted to fit the needs, size, and age of your family. All you will need is the devotion, a hymnal, and your Bible. Overall, I pray this provides you with a full resource for your daily devotional life and further encouragement for you and your families to take time out of your busy days to rest in the Word and prayer. As Luther wrote, "Put aside the work you do so that God may work in you. Have mercy" (LSB 581:4).

Rev. Samuel 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



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day NO SCHOOL	2	3 10:00a Chapel 7p Spoken Service	4	5	6 WOB Trip to Shipshewana
7 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC SS Rally Day	8 2p WOB Bible Study 6p Holyfit	9 6p Visual Faith	10 10:00a Chapel 7p Spoken Service	11 6p Holyfit 7p WOB Bible Study	12	13 5p Ossian Days Parade
14 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS 11:30a Elders 4p Fall Festival 6:30p LYF	15 2p WOB Bible Study 6p Holyfit	16	17 10:00a Chapel 7p Spoken Service Adult Choir Practice	18 6p Holyfit 7p WOB Bible Study 5:30 Board of Christian Ed Meetig	19	20 Craft for Cause
21 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS	22 2p WOB Bible Study 6p Holyfit	23	24 10:00a Chapel 7p. Spoken Service Adult Choir Practice	25 6p Holyfit 7p WOB Bible Study	26	27
28 9a Divine Sev 10:30a ABC & SS Noon Adult Fellowship Group 6:30p LYF	29 6p Holyfit	30				



Church Membership

Death: Charlotte Bultemeier

Transferred out: Kelly Meyer

Transferred out: Danielle Campbell
and 4 baptized children

Death: Justin Rekeweg



VISUAL FAITH MINISTRY - THANK YOU to everyone who has donated paper crafting supplies for our VFM workshops. **Our first workshop will be on Tuesday, September 9 from 6 - 8 pm** in the Art Room. We will be exploring a scripture/prayer writing practice called 'open spaces' and creating faith mail to give/send to a friend. Please register online at <https://blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry/> or reach out to Deann Oliver via text at 616-894-0144 or email deannrene@outlook.com. No cost to attend, but donations will be accepted to help offset supply costs.

Save the Date—Right to Life Workshop at St. Paul, Preble. Many people today reject or are indifferent to the pro-life view, often because they've never heard the pro-life position presented in a compelling manner. This workshop will prepare you to confidently communicate the pro-life position to others. Come learn to speak intelligently and graciously to the most pressing moral issue of our time: abortion. You'll leave prepared to confidently persuade others by exposing the logical fallacies of abortion-choice rhetoric without the need for vitriol and angry dialogue. **When: September 20th, 2025 9am-12pm. The workshop will take place at St. Paul Lutheran Preble (4510 W 750 N, Decatur, IN 46733). This workshop is open to adults and students 7th grade and older.** *Please register at www.ichooselife.org/prebleworkshop. \$5 at the door or online. For questions, please call 260-471-1849 or email lucy@ichooselife.org. Registration by cash is available at the door.

LWML Upcoming Events.

Saturday, September 13, Fall Gathering at Emmanuel-Soest,

Registration 8:30 to 8:55. Program: The Hope Clinic Many new doors are opening, and, by the Grace of God, many women are choosing life. Come hear the exciting news! (Suggestions for in-gathering items will be in September bulletins.). Following a brief meeting a light lunch will be served by Emmanuel-Soest. All welcome.

October 5 LWML Sunday

October 14. Donation Day at CTSFW; LWML Choir practice and recording.

For questions please contact Marilyn Bulmahn, LWML Decatur Zone president 260-919-5007

Bridge 20/30 – Young Adult Group

Bridge 20/30 is a group for young adults in their 20s & 30s to connect in faith and fellowship. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Join us this month! See Flyer in today's newsletter for more information.

- Sep 2: Porch Night @ The Garden (3308 N Anthony Blvd) – Series on "Vanity" *Study of Ecclesiastes*
- Sep 9: Anchor Devotion Night – "Failure Isn't Final" with Brian Loesel
- Sep 16: Sand Volleyball Free Play @ Empowered Sports Club (12124 Lima Rd)
- Sep 23: Meetup @ Hop River Brewing Co. (1515 N Harrison St)
- Sep 30: Meetup @ The Club Room at The Clyde – Todd Harrold Band (Live Music)

All young adults in their twenties & thirties are welcome! Questions? Contact Dawn Schuller at dschuller@clhscadets.com

Enjoy the convenience of Electronic Giving!

Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

If you wish to make a single online donation or set up recurring donations, you may do so on our website, www.blcsossian.org through our third-party provider-Vanco Payment Solutions. Online giving may be done as a credit card payment or ACH bank transfer. Please note, the church will incur a processing fee on each online transaction. Credit card transactions will be charged at least 2.75% fee. For ACH bank transfers, there is a fee of 1% of each dollar charged. This may affect how you wish to direct your online donations. You may also elect to increase your gift to cover the cost of the transaction fees.



Being Totally Committed September 7, 2025 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Scott Zeckzer
Being a disciple of Jesus is more than just contributing; it is being

totally committed to Jesus. How far are you willing to be committed to Jesus? How far is Jesus committed to you? Sermon Text: Luke 14:26 Readings: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 14:25-35 Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, Ga.

Zealous for Your Salvation September 14, 2025 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III
That you have been brought to faith in Jesus and have forgiveness and everlasting life is not by coincidence. No, this is because God is zealous for your salvation. God wanting you to be saved is seen in the history of Israel, in the earthly life of Christ, and in your own life. All this shows that you are precious to the Lord. Sermon Text: Ezekiel 34:11-16 Readings: Psalm 119:169-176; Ezekiel 34:11-16; Luke 15:1-10 Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Concordia, Mo.; Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gainsville, Ga.

The Buck Stops Here September 21, 2025 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer
Material riches are a wonderful thing ... rightly understood and ordered. Jesus teaches us to love the right things in the right order. Understanding this, we can faithfully say, "The Buck Stops Here!" Sermon Text: Luke 16:10-13 Readings: Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13 Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; Holy Cross Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: All Saints Lutheran Church, Blairsville, Ga.

Heaven and Hell September 28, 2025 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Shayne Jonker So, who would you rather be? The rich man or Lazarus? We are all Lazarus: Helpless and hopeless in our poverty, sick unto death, and longing to even eat the crumbs that fall from God's table. Lazarus is each of us, and unless we see ourselves in him, we cannot be saved. In fact, we won't want to be saved. Sermon Text: Luke 16:31 Readings: Psalm 146; Amos 6:1-7; Luke 16:19-31 Featured Choirs: St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dahlonega, Ga.

Birthday Blessings! SEPTEMBER



- 01) Kari Baker
Brian Bauermeister
Mike Meyer
Amelia Phillips
Lee Werling
- 02) Luke Harkless
Julie Werling
- 05) Lane Harkless
- 07) Owen Lesh
Emma Roembke
Vincent Schumm
- 09) Brad Meyer
- 11) Otto Clausen
- 12) JT Holtzclaw
Jasson Werling
- 13) Clyde Holtzclaw
- 14) Graham Stoppenhagen
- 16) Susan Graft
Lacey Meyer
Aralee Price
Robert Trammel
- 18) Carlee Bryant
Piper Krumma
Beckett Streeks
- 19) Caleb Rekeweg
Grant Scheumann
Jessica Schumm
- 25) Melissa Avey
Heather Crayner
Emily Werling
Garrett Werling
- 26) Nick Krick
- 28) Shelby Evans

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

- Sept. 2 Peyton and Destiny Laley (2)
- Sept. 6 Ben and Heather Crayner (11)
- Sept. 9 Mark and Deb Patrick (30)
- Sept. 27 Denis and Joyce Glisson (50)

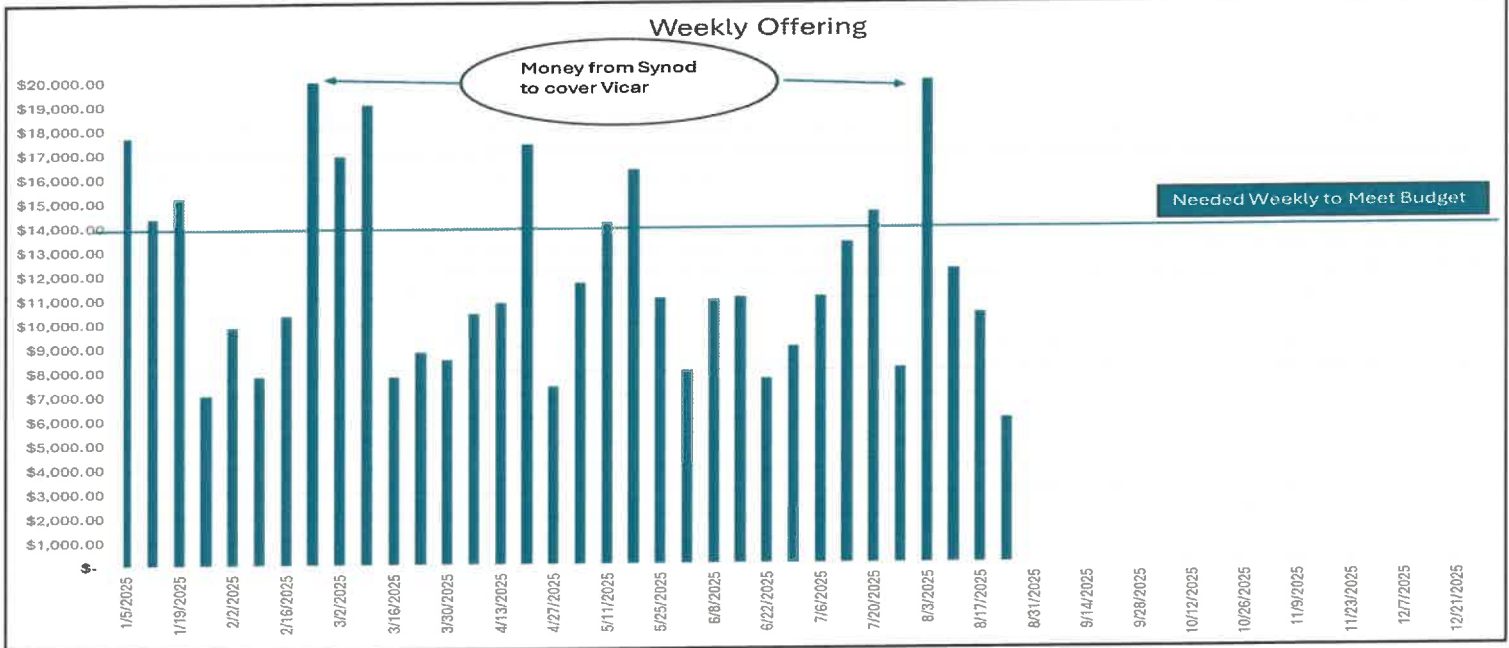


**The Endowment Committee thanks the Lord and the congregation
for the generous gifts to the Endowment Fund.**

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of June 30, 2025:

\$366,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
 223,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
 355,220.27 - Amount generated since 2009
 -179,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$765,531.09 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2025

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund
 \$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
 5,307.79 - Amount generated since November 2024
 -10,000.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2024
\$ 85,386.72 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of June 30, 2025



As of: August 28, 2025

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) to Pay Operating Bills \$ 3,376.35

Savings Fund Balance:

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Account Balance
Improvement Fund:	\$ 30,441.71	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 6,441.71
Scholarship Fund:	\$ 14,936.45	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,936.45
Music Fund:	\$ 3,417.43	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 417.43
Relief Fund:	\$ 4,156.18	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 156.18
Organ Fund:	\$ 3,719.18	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 719.18
Reserved (TBD):	\$ 2,469.18	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 469.18
Totals	\$ 59,140.13	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 13,140.13

Borrowed Amounts

From Restricted Savings Account	\$ 46,000.00	
Operating Loan	\$ 29,500.00	(of \$30,000 max available)
TOTAL BORROWED	\$ 75,500.00	

Total cash available to pay operate church \$ 16,516.48

Bills due week of 9/1 \$ 5,000
 Bills due week of 9/8 \$ 15,000

YOUTH Newsletter

SEPTEMBER
2025

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Kick Off Event

We kicked off our first event of the school year on August 24th at New Hope Lutheran with hot dogs, hamburgers, and lots of fun! Families enjoyed making tie-dye designs, creating bracelets, playing kickball, and spending time in God's Word by reading from Galatians—plus we wrapped it all up with a parent meeting.

Galatians 1:10-24

September 14th
New Hope 2nd year Seminarian
Seminarian William Harr.

Galatians 1:10-24

September 28th
Bethlehem 2nd Year Seminarian
Seminarian Brandon Streeks.

"Grace to you and peace
from God our Father
and the
Lord Jesus Christ"
Galatians 1:3

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bible Study: September 14
(6:30pm-8:00pm)
- Bible Study: September 28
(6:30pm-8:00pm)



Higher Things Conference
Concordia University, Nebraska

REFRESHMENTS

Doughnut Duty: Wirgau

Bible Study 14th:

Bible Study 28th: Bultemeier



Women's Bible Study

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Psalm 34:8

"Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma

Living a Chocolate Life is a fun, chocolate-themed Bible study for women that blends sweet fellowship, Scripture, and faith-filled reflection on God's grace in Christ.

MONDAYS @ 2PM

Intro/Session 1: Sept. 8
Session 2: Sept. 15
Session 3: Sept. 22
Session 4: Sept. 29

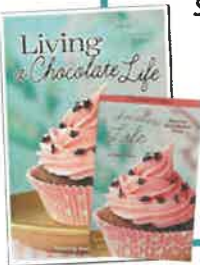
THURSDAYS @ 7PM

Intro/Session 1: Sept. 11
Session 2: Sept. 18
Session 3: Sept. 25

***8 Sessions TOTAL**

Written with a fun chocolate theme, each session focuses on one aspect of life as a Christian woman, encouraging readers toward introspection and personal reflection.

Designed to be **45 to 60 minutes long**, each session includes at least **one recipe** for a chocolate dessert item, a **Bible verse** to memorize, **chocolate trivia**, and suggestions for **group activities**.



Adult Fellowship Group

Sun. Sept. 28
Noon

The Pickle

102 E Morse St
Markle, IN 46770

Women of Bethlehem

SEPTEMBER

- Trip to Shipshewana 9/6
- Fall Festival 9/14
- Craft for a Cause 9/20
- Lakeview Ministries Women's Retreat 9/26 - 9/28

OCTOBER

- Pork Chop Dinner 10/5
- LWML Sunday 10/5

**ALL WOMEN'S MEETING
11/16**

SAVE THE DATE
October 25
4pm-7pm



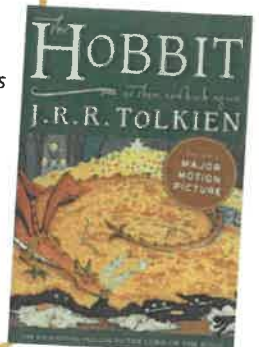
Book Club

THE HOBBIT

BY J.R.R. TOLKIEN

Like every other hobbit, Bilbo Baggins likes nothing better than a quiet evening in his snug hole in the ground, dining on a sumptuous dinner in front of a fire. But when a wandering wizard captivates him with tales of the unknown, Bilbo becomes restless. Soon he joins the wizard's band of homeless dwarves in search of giant spiders, savage wolves, and other dangers. Bilbo quickly tires of the quest for adventure and longs for the security of his familiar home. But before he can return to his life of comfort, he must face the greatest threat of all - a treasure-troving dragon named Smaug.

WE WILL MEET IN PERSON AT CRIMSON HOUSE
NOVEMBER 1 TO DISCUSS THE BOOK.





NEW Visual Faith® Workshops

Creative practices to share your faith story with others!

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of the Month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm
WHERE: Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Art Room



NO ART EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Materials & guidance provided
Just bring your Bible and an open heart!

Scan the QR code to register for workshops at
blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry
so we can have your supplies ready!

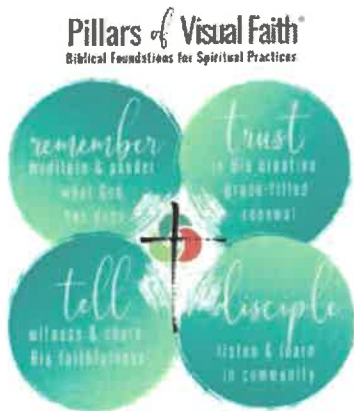
For more info: Deann Oliver | 616-894-0144 | deannrene@outlook.com

Telling the Story of God's Faithfulness

Visual Faith® Ministry is the collaborative effort of on-line and in-person communities to enrich, encourage, and enable the connections between visual and kinesthetic learning and storytelling.

What is Visual Faith?

- A way to document time with God and your faith journey through visual storytelling
- A practice that connects head, heart and soul
- A blend of process and product, rooted in prayer, that helps us slow down, focus and remove distractions in our noisy, busy media-driven lives
- A space for visual prayer, Bible journaling and a myriad of other faith practices
- A community that enjoys creating faith projects together
- Encourages creative practices that witness to God's love, care and faithfulness in our lives



Learn more at visualfaithmin.org

- Bible margins
- Children's bulletins
- Devotions
- Prayer cards
- Prayer spaces
- Prayer calendars
- Faith projects
- Memory cards
- Illustrated texts
- Lunch hugs
- Sermon notes
- Versicles & MORE!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian

Voters Assembly Meeting

June 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)

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

(37) Voters attended and (2) Voters registered an Excused Absence with the Secretary. Voters attending the meeting were: Andrew Stoppenhagen, Brandon Schumm, Brian Bauermeister, Brian Bultemeier, Brian Scheumann, Bruce Meyer, Bruce Werling, Cale Schumm, Dan Buchinger, Darren Patrick, Dave Flesch, Ed Black, Gary Oliver, Jacob Werling, Jason Rekeweg, Jay Louison, Jeff Gresley, Jeff Holtzclaw, Jerry Meyer, Josh Boehm, Lane Harkless, Lee Werling, Lloyd Meyer, Loren Dathe, Mike Bultemeier, Mike Meyer, Mike Schumm, Milton Gallmeyer, Nathan Householder, Nathan Meyer, Neil Stoppenhagen, Peter Meyer, Rev. Samuel Wirgau, Scott Bauermeister, Ted Schumm, and Toss Ottinger. Vicar Morgan Phillips also attended the meeting. Voters registering excused absences were Rev. Anthony Dodgers and Stan Meyer.

New Members / Reinstatement of Past Members - None

Reports

Secretary's Report

- Minutes from the April 27, 2025 Regular Voters Meeting were presented to the Assembly for review, additions, and corrections.

There were no corrections or additions to the April 27, 2024 Minutes from the body and a motion was properly made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

- The June 29, 2025 Treasurer's Report was presented to the assembly. (report attached)

There were no questions for the Treasurer, or comments regarding the Treasurer's Report from the body. A motion was properly made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

Senior Pastor's Report

- Official Acts since the April, 27 2025 Voters Assembly Mtg.:
 - Funerals – None
 - Holy Matrimony – Jacob & Jamie Meyer (5/24); Colby & Grace Mandeville (5/31)
 - Holy Baptism – Felicity Elizabeth Ann Phillips (4/20); Oliver Henry Springer (4/27); Hayden James Boehm (5/25 by Rev. Anthony Dodgers); Lincoln David Laley (6/18)
 - 8th Grade Confirmations – Vincent Fuhrman (5/18); Kyndal Fuller (5/18); Emma Wirgau (5/18)
 - Adult Confirmation – Destiny Laley (5/11); Alie Newnum (5/11); Ronald Trammel (5/11); Mariah Trammel (5/11)

- **Regular Duties:**
 - 21 visits made to sick and homebound since the April Voters Meeting.
 - Conducting Sunday morning services at 9:00 am and Wednesday evening Divine Services at 7:00 pm.
 - Sunday School and Adult Bible Study are on Break for the summer. Vicar Phillips finished the study of the Liturgy during Adult Bible Study last Sunday, June 22nd.
 - Pastor is planning next year's catechesis and chapel schedules for the upcoming school year.
 - Conducting services on Thursdays at Woodcrest in rotation with other Decatur District pastors and will be leading worship at Woodcrest on Ascension Thursday, July 24th.
 - Continuing to conduct worship services at Ossian Heath Care in rotation with other area Decatur Circuit pastors on Sunday afternoons on the second Sunday of the month, with Vicar Phillips assisting.

- **Other:**
 - Pastor Wirgau was installed as the Circuit 9 – Decatur Circuit Visitor on June 20, 2025 and is now serving in that role.
 - Vicarage Update – Vicar-elect Charles McLain will be installed on during the July 6, 2025 worship service.
 - Pastor Wirgau will be attending the Missouri Synod's Forum on Dying Well in Christ at St. Louis, MO on July 7–9, 2025.
 - Pastor Wirgau will be the Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society representative attending the South African FORO being held from July 31st – August 4th, 2025. Pastor will leave July 30th and return on August 5th.
 - Vicar Phillips will be completing his Vicarage Assignment with Bethlehem at the end of June 2025.

Elders Report

- June Meeting
 - Elders approved the Peaceful Release of Nick Fuller.
 - June's Approved Membership Statistics: 511 Baptized / 391 Communicant
 - Elders discussed the current vicarage and the upcoming new vicarage assignment.

Headmaster Report *(Headmaster Report presented by BOCE Chairman, Jason Rekeweg)*

- Pastoral Duties
 - Current pastoral duties continue to include regular Sunday morning duties, preaching once per month, and filling in for the pastor and vicar in their absence. Made one hospital and one home visits since the last meeting.
- Student Enrollment - The current "projected" student enrollment for the upcoming 2025 – 2026 school enrollment is 50 students.
- Special Education Update
 - LSEM Teacher: The school has renewed its contract with LSEM (Lutheran Special Education Ministries) for the 2025 – 2026 school year to provide 5 hours of instruction, one day per week. The school will fund this service/programming using Title 1 money and money from the Nahrwold Endowment Fund. Mrs. Kami Salway, last year's LSEM special education teacher for Bethlehem, will be returning. Mrs. Salway is also offering to provide tutoring services for Bethlehem students this summer at the family's expense.

- The grant proposal submitted to the Lutheran Foundation for the funding of a pilot program between Bethlehem School and the Fort Wayne Center for Learning, to provide tutoring services for students at Bethlehem, was denied. The proposed program would have involved a tutor coming to Bethlehem to provide tutorial services for 2-8 students one day per week.
- **School Endowment Fund** – The funds for Bethlehem School’s 2024 - 2025 Lutheran Foundation Matching Grant of \$15,000 were raised and the money has been sent to the Foundation. The goal was met thanks to a generous bequest, and other generous donations. Funds that were received exceeding the \$15,000 amount are being applied towards the upcoming 2025-2026 Matching Fund Grant.
- **National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA)** – Pastor Dodgers submitted Bethlehem’s NLSA Annual Report. He was able to identify that 10 of Bethlehem School’s 28 goals are now “Operational”.
- **School Improvements** – The painting of the gym, the school hallways, the lower-level school restrooms, and the school locker rooms, and the bathroom/locker room floor replacements, are complete. The refinishing and restriping of the gymnasium floor is also finished. Pastor Dodgers and Erin Schumm are working on the design for some accent/feature walls in the school.
- **School Events & Activities**
 - “Welcome Back & Orientation” is scheduled for Sunday, August 10th.
 - School begins on Wednesday, August 13th.
- **Faculty & Staff News**
 - Ms. Danielle Critchley accepted the contract for the 1st & 2nd Grade teaching position. She is exploring housing options and hopes to move to the area around mid-July.
 - Mrs. Nancy DeFrain, Bethlehem’s 3rd & 4th Grade teacher, is in the final stages of her colloquy program.
 - Pastor Dodgers will be reaching out to the congregation and school families asking for regular volunteers to help in the classrooms and perform general tasks for the school.
- Personal - Pastor Dodgers and his family are doing well and enjoying their vacation.

Board of Christian Education Report

- *The Board of Christian Education’s June Report was integral with the Headmaster’s Report above.*

There were no questions or comments regarding the combined Headmaster & Christian Board of Education report from the body, and a motion was properly made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Combined Headmaster and Christian Board of Education Report as submitted.

Board of Trustees Report

- The trustees have been helping with the school renovation work while performing their normal service work on the facilities, with a priority of getting everything in the school reinstalled prior to beginning of school in August.

There being no questions or comments regarding the Trustees Report, the Trustees Report was approved by unanimous consent.

Board of Finance Report

- The Board of Finance had nothing to report.

Cemetery Report

- The Cemetery Committee had nothing to report.

Old Business

- There was no Old Business presented or discussed.

New Business

- **Proposed 2025 – 2026 Church Budget**
 - *(See attached proposed/approved budget)*
 - Vice Chairman Flesch presented the proposed 2025 – 2026 Church Budget. Both Vice Chairman Flesch and Chairman Stoppenhagen provided additional information for several line items within the proposed church budget.

There were no questions or comments from the Voters regarding the proposed budget as presented, and a motion was properly made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Voters to accept the 2025 – 2026 Church Budget as presented.

- **Pavilion Project**
 - A member family has offered “seed money” for building a pavilion between the playground and the parking lot west of the playground.
 - Church Council has held preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of the proposed pavilion.
 - Church Council also discussed the possibility of applying for a grant from the Lutheran Foundation for matching funds for the project, so Bethlehem would only need to provide 50% of the cost if a grant was approved. Secretary Meyer will lead the effort to procure all documentation necessary, including estimates for the proposed cost of a pavilion.
 - “Rough” parameters include in the preliminary discussions included:
 - Location would be west of the playground and east of the south parking lot.
 - Pavillion would be for church and school use.
 - Approximate size would be 24’-0” x 32’-0”.
 - Pavilion would be constructed of posts and roof with a concrete floor.
 - No restrooms would be included within the structure.
 - Uncertain if there would be electrical power to structure.
 - Estimated cost for the project will need to be determined.
 - Questions/considerations from the Voters regarding the proposed project included:
 - What is the approximate cost for the project? – Will be procuring estimates.
 - Will there be tables and benches within the pavilion? – Yes, the size of proposed pavilion would accommodate 6-8 tables & benches.
 - Will the structure be open air or enclosed? – Currently being proposed as open air.
 - Who will be responsible for the final design/aesthetics for the structure? – TBD Looking to use maintenance free/low maintenance building components.
 - Will any of the existing trees need to be relocated or eliminated? – No trees should be disturbed with the current conceptual 24’-0” x 32’-0” footprint.

- **Officer Installation**

- Installation for the 2025 – 2026 Officers will occur during the July 27, 2025 church service.

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 Proposed Budget Approved by Church Council Members May 4, 2025
For Fiscal Year August 2025 - July 2026**

Salaries	8/21 - 7/22		8/22 - 7/23		8/23 - 7/24		8/24-7/25		Proposed 8/25-7/26		Proposed	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	\$ Increase	% Increase
Pastor Wirgau	54,914	54,914	56,561	56,561	58,081	58,061	59,803	59,803	61,597	61,597	1,794	3%
FICA Reimbursement	4,201	4,201	4,327	4,327	4,442	4,442	4,575	4,575	4,742	4,742	137	3%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			39,627	39,627	42,100	41,144	43,613	43,613	44,049	44,049	436	1%
Pastor Anthony Dodgers Principal	56,032	56,032	56,032	56,636	57,532	57,532	59,258	59,258	61,036	61,036	1,778	3%
FICA Reimbursement	4,286	4,286	4,286	4,286	4,401	4,401	4,533	4,533	4,669	4,669	136	3%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			39,566	39,566	42,000	41,083	43,548	43,548	43,983	43,983	435	1%
Peter Meyer	41,553	41,553	43,631	55,651	49,077	49,077	50,549	50,549	52,063	52,063	1,516	3%
FICA Reimbursement	3,179	3,179	3,338	3,338	3,754	3,754	3,867	3,867	4,060	4,060	193	3%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			17,577	17,577	18,550	18,149	19,238	19,238	19,430	19,430	192	1%
Nancy DeFrain	33,000	33,000	34,650	34,650	37,255	37,255	38,373	38,373	39,524	39,524	1,151	3%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			16,088	16,088	17,025	16,645	17,644	17,644	17,820	17,820	176	1%
Shaell Streets	41,714	41,714	31,500	31,500	35,617	35,617	36,686	36,686	37,787	37,787	1,101	3%
FICA Reimbursement	3,191	3,191	2,410	2,410	2,725	2,725	2,807	2,807	2,891	2,891	84	3%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			36,884	36,884	39,300	38,400	40,704	40,704	41,111	41,111	407	1%
Amelia Phillips	41,762	41,762	31,500	31,500	35,617	35,617	36,686	36,686	37,787	37,787	1,101	3%
FICA Reimbursement	3,195	3,195	2,410	2,410	2,725	2,725	2,807	2,807	2,891	2,891	84	3%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			28,224	28,224	39,300	38,400	40,704	40,704	41,111	41,111	407	1%
Deaconess Wendy Boehm	16,567	18,005	23,389	23,389	24,139	24,139	24,863	24,863	25,609	25,609	746	3%
FICA Reimbursement	1,736	1,377	1,789	1,789	1,847	1,847	1,902	1,902	1,959	1,959	57	3%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			2,561	2,561	2,561	2,561	2,561	2,561	2,587	2,587	26	1%
Admiral Asst Heidi Kleppinger	30,402	30,402	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,930	31,930	31,930	31,930	0	0%
Concordia Plan Ins Premium			15,689	15,689	16,625	16,245	17,220	17,220	17,372	17,372	172	1%
Kantor Richard Brinkley	3,900	3,900	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,120	4,120	4,120	4,120	0	0%
FICA Reimbursement	574	574	590	590	590	590	608	608	608	608	0	0%
Salaries/FICA Reimbursement	\$340,206	\$341,285	\$331,413	\$324,017	\$352,782	\$352,782	\$363,367	\$363,694	\$373,248	\$373,248	\$9,878	2.72%
Subtotal	\$154,500	\$151,650	\$163,500	\$170,620	\$217,780	\$212,612	\$225,386	\$225,386	\$227,840	\$227,840	2,254	1%
Concordia Plan sections below			193,655	193,655	217,461	212,627	225,232	225,232	227,640	227,640	2,254	1%
Health Insurance	115,652	112,616	120,900	170,620	179,150	178,355	185,232	185,232	187,084	187,084	1,852	1%
Disability	6,938	9,064	7,450	7,039	7,938	7,039	8,251	8,251	8,334	8,334	83	1%
Pension	31,611	37,113	27,500	27,218	30,692	27,218	31,903	31,903	32,222	32,222	319	1%
Subtotal	\$154,500	\$151,650	\$163,500	\$170,620	\$217,780	\$212,612	\$225,386	\$225,386	\$227,840	\$227,840	2,254	1%

Other Salaries/Payroll Related Items	8/21 - 7/22		8/22 - 7/23		8/23 - 7/24		8/24 - 7/25		Proposed 8/25-7/26		Proposed	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	\$ Increase	% Increase
School Janitor	7,800	8,308	8,100	8,500	9,300	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	0	0%
Church Janitor	4,000	3,900	4,150	4,150	4,150	4,150	5,300	5,192	5,300	0	0%	
Organists	5,600	5,920	5,600	5,840	6,600	6,375	6,600	6,375	7,260	660	10%	
FICA Payroll Taxes	3,278	3,278	3,278	3,278	3,278	3,278	3,278	3,278	3,278	0	0%	
Lawn Maintenance	4,750	5,120	6,000	5,070	5,750	5,000	1	0	1	0	0%	
Moving Expenses	3,000	0	5,000	7,782	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	0%	
Workman's Comp. Ins.	1,500	1,980	2,000	2,789	3,000	2,800	3,000	1,688	2,000	-1000	-33%	
Subtotal	\$29,928	\$28,506	\$34,128	\$37,409	\$37,078	\$29,628	\$31,679	\$25,033	\$1,339	-340	-1%	
Salaries/ Payroll Related Total	\$524,634	\$521,441	\$529,041	\$532,046	\$607,640	\$595,022	\$620,432	\$613,989	\$692,227	\$11,795	1.90%	

Nonsalary Items	8/21 - 7/22		8/22 - 7/23		8/23 - 7/24		8/24 - 7/25		Proposed 8/25-7/26		Proposed	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	\$ Increase	% Increase
Synod/Sem Donations (Missions)	8,000	6,084	8,500	6,500	8,500	9,200	9,000	2,229	9,000	0	0%	
Offering Envelopes	1,100	1,055	1,100	1,091	1,200	1,487	1,500	1,487	1,500	0	0%	
Pastor Business Expense/Mileage	5,000	4,115	7,000	4,210	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,995	7,000	0	0%	
Deacons-Business Exp./Mileage	2,500	436	2,500	10	1,500	125	1,000	342	1,000	0	0%	
Utilities - Electric	15,000	14,777	16,000	14,166	15,250	14,500	15,250	14,211	15,250	0	0%	
Utilities - Gas	10,000	11,262	11,250	11,771	11,500	11,500	12,000	8,631	12,000	0	0%	
Telephones	2,200	2,046	2,200	1,061	2,400	1,950	2,300	2,206	2,300	0	0%	
Supplies - Church & School	6,000	6,374	6,500	7,573	7,500	7,700	8,000	7,711	8,000	0	0%	
VBS - Vacation Bible School	500	1,110	550	1,158	1,000	1,200	1,300	958	1,300	0	0%	
Supplies - Janitors	2,200	1,685	2,000	2,676	2,100	1,800	2,100	1,974	2,100	0	0%	
Treasurer Expenses/Interest	4,000	5,266	5,250	5,401	5,750	5,000	5,500	4,733	5,500	0	0%	
Substitute Staff	2,500	3,075	2,800	5,070	3,000	5,070	5,800	8,900	5,800	0	0%	
Guest Preachers	1,200	1,250	1,500	150	450	0	450	150	450	0	0%	
Property & Liability Umbrella	9,500	9,228	10,375	18,443	12,900	13,000	16,272	16,859	19,798	3,526	21.60%	
Voice of Bethlehem	1,560	1,560	1,650	1,530	1,600	1,575	1,600	1,590	1,600	0	0%	
Trash Removal	3,000	4,032	4,000	5,127	6,000	5,600	6,000	5,587	6,000	0	0%	
Office Machines	8,000	9,969	10,000	10,126	13,000	7,500	12,000	7,613	11,000	-1,000	-8.30%	
Carpet Cleaning	700	1,582	775	954	750	1,000	1,100	1,137	1,200	100	9%	
Conferences/Conventions	1,600	513	1,500	1,241	1,500	3,500	3,500	3,553	3,500	0	0%	
Continuing Education	1,000	0	1,000	225	1,000	350	500	225	500	0	0%	
Cross Connect Council	750	400	750	588	750	1,775	1,500	1,178	1,500	0	0%	
Organ & Piano Maintenance	750	350	750	3,629	750	675	750	566	750	0	0%	
Trustee Expenses	7,500	8,852	7,500	4,174	7,500	7,500	7,500	4,500	7,500	0	0%	

Field Worker Mileage	1,500	2,618	2,000	866	1,500	0	1,500	1,801	2,000	500	33.30%
Teacher Mileage	700	0	700	0	500	600	600	451	600	0	0%
Subtotal	\$96,760	\$97,019	\$108,150	\$107,740	\$113,400	\$108,607	\$123,022	\$105,385	127,148	3,126	3.35%

	8/21 - 7/22		8/22 - 7/23		8/23 - 7/24		8/24-7/25		8/25-7/26		
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Proposed	\$ Increase	% Increase
Total Budget for year	\$621,394	\$618,460	\$637,191	\$639,786	\$721,040	\$703,629	\$743,454	\$719,714	\$759,375	\$15,921	2.14%

Average Weekly Need \$11,950 \$11,893 \$12,254 \$12,114 \$13,866 \$13,531 \$14,297 \$13,841 \$14,603

Concordia Plan Projected as budgeted is \$225,232
Proposed Concordia Plan was calculated with a 1% increase

MARTINI LUTHERAN CHURCH 13TH ANNUAL

HOG ROAST

333 Moeller Road  New Haven, IN

Tickets: \$15 Adult

Child 12 and under eat FREE

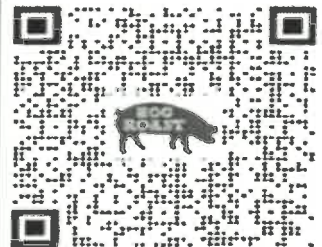
live music, raffle, door prizes
and much much more!

Saturday
September 27th, 2025
from 4:30-7:30pm



Please Scan QR Code
to purchase tickets

SCAN
HERE





September Event Schedule

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE

2
SEPT 2025

🌙 PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON VANITY: A STUDY OF
THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES
7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

9
SEPT 2025

DEVOTION ANCHOR NIGHT: "FAILURE ISN'T FINAL"
WITH BRIAN LOESEL FOLLOWED BY CARDS & GAMES
7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

16
SEPT 2025

SAND VOLLEYBALL FREE PLAY-CASH BAR
7-9 PM EMPOWERED SPORTS CLUB
12124 LIMA RD

23
SEPT 2025

MEETUP
7 PM HOP RIVER BREWING COMPANY
1515 N HARRISON ST.

30
SEPT 2025

MEETUP: LIVE MUSIC
7 PM THE CLUB ROOM @ THE CLYDE
TODD HAROLD BAND



TIGER TALES



“Make a Joyful Noise”



Bethlehem is proud to have 49 students currently enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year. Please welcome our new Kindergartners and their families: Violet Boehm, Mazie Day, Olivia Householder, Grady Meyer, Augustin Wirgau and Delaney Wood. Bethlehem is also happy to welcome our new 1st and 2nd grade teacher, Miss Danielle Critchley.

Our school hallways, restrooms, library and gymnasium were updated over the summer. Thank you to all who help with these efforts. Improving and updating our school takes creative ideas, volunteer labor and monetary resources. If any of our Bethlehem families would like to contribute to these ongoing efforts, please speak with Pastor Dodgers or contact the school office. Thank

The 2025–2026 theme for Lutheran schools is "Make a Joyful Noise,"

The theme is inspired by the Bible verse,
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Psalm 98:4

CALENDAR

- Sept. 1 Labor Day—NO SCHOOL
- Sept. 3 School Pictures
- Sept. 12 Mid-term
- Sept. 13 Ossian Days Parade
- Sept. 14 Fall Festival

SEPTEMBER 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				

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 1 Harper Miller
- Sept. 7 Vincent Schumm
- Sept. 12 JT Holtzclaw
- Sept. 13 Clyde Holtzclaw
- Sept. 16 Robert Trammel
- Sept. 19 Caleb Rekeweg



SPECIAL EDUCATION AT BETHLEHEM

My husband and I live in Willshire, Ohio (and make too many visits to the very popular ice cream stand in town!). We have 5 adult children and 7 grandchildren, scattered from Fort Wayne to Cleveland, and we love spending time with them. I knew as a freshman in high school that I wanted to be a teacher and so became licensed in elementary and special education. I've been a bit of a wanderer as far as actual jobs go and so have taught almost every age from elementary through university. I'm excited to be at BLCS, working with students who either already have identified learning challenges or students who may be struggling in the classroom and could benefit from an extra boost. Feel free to reach out if you have questions or concerns, and if you love ice cream, meet us at the Willshire Drive In.

Kami Salway

Teacher

Lutheran Special Education Ministries

Ksalway@luthsped.org

SPEECH AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT BETHLEHEM

Along with Speech and Occupational Services from Northern Wells Community Schools, the following ladies are also volunteering their services to our students:

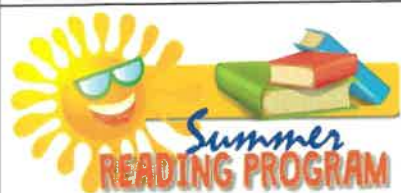
Jessica Schumm is offering Occupational Services to Bethlehem and will focus on building various skills for our students to better participate in academics, play, leisure, self-care and social activities. Feel free to reach out to Jessica at jschumm@blcsossian.org

Layne Fisher is offering Speech Therapy Services to Bethlehem and will focus on development of communication skills for students to better participate in academics and social activities. Feel free to reach out to Layne at lfisher@blcsossian.org

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



We had another successful Summer Reading Program at the Wells County Public Library with 1745 children and teens registering! The program includes children from birth to age 18. Children from kindergarten to sixth grade win prizes by tracking how many minutes they read. Cumulatively they read over 489,000 minutes. Teens record pages read. They totaled over 711,000 pages. The library staff is proud of these young people and this program, which encourages reading during summer break.

According to our records, Bethlehem Lutheran had 32 students who registered. Below is the list of Bethlehem students who successfully completed the program. GREAT JOB!

MaKayla Berkey, Violet Boehm, Anna Haiflich, Lydia Harkless, Bailey Meyer, Grady Meyer, Caleb Rekeweg, Matthew Rekeweg, Emersyn Schumm, Madeline Schumm, Vince Schumm, Anthony Tolson, June Trammel, Robert Trammel, Ronnie Trammel, Evelyn Wanner, Isaac Wanner, Brooke Werling, Ginny Wirgau, Gus Wirgau, Jude Wirgau

SGO for tuition assistance



Completed Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) application forms are due by Monday, September 15th. Forms are available from the school office or by downloading at www.lutheransgo.org. Proof of income and household size will need to be included, such as your 2024 federal tax return showing Adjusted Gross Income and household size. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

This scholarship is a donor based assistance that will be determined by how much is in the fund in order to equally distribute. If assistance is not what you need and you'd like to help another student by donating to this fund, go to www.lutheransgo.org.

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

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



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

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

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



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

Bethlehem will NOT be following the Northern Wells Community Schools 2 hour delay on Wednesday, September 17th. Therefore, unless a weather related delay or closing comes along, Bethlehem will operate on a regular schedule. Morning bus service will NOT be provided. The 7-8th grade students will be excused from their NW morning classes and are asked to be at Bethlehem by 9:15 a.m. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

NO SCHOOL—Bethlehem will be closed Monday, September 1st for Labor Day



School pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, September 3rd** by Gibby's Photo. Order forms were sent home during final registration. Please return the order form along with your payment on picture day. All students will be included in the classroom composites.

PTL NEWS

OSSIAN DAYS! On Saturday, September 13th Bethlehem Lutheran School will be walking in the Ossian Days Parade. Parents and students are to meet at the old drive-in across from the Marathon gas station in Ossian at 4:40. The parade will kick off at 5:00pm. Come join us for a fun time as we show our Bethlehem pride! Don't forget to wear your Bethlehem shirts!

July / August / September

Pizza Birthday Lunch with the Headmaster

Thursday, September 18th at 12:00 Noon

Those celebrating will be:

Cora Day, Savannah Fuller, Hunter Householder, Emma Schueler, Gus Wirgau, Harper Miller, Vincent Schumm, JT Holtzclaw, Cylde Holtzclaw, Robert Trammel, Caleb Rekeweg



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

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.

Please be sure to check out our new scrip order sheet attached to this newsletter. Physical cards from local vendors and more are now available for order. **The next order date is September 1.** Ordering dates are set to reduce shipping costs. For questions or for placing an order, please contact Mariah Trammel at 260-267-1614, our PTL representative.

As you purchase SCRIP you will also accumulate a percentage of profit to be applied to your child's tuition. Thank you to the church congregation and school families for supporting the Scrip Program.

Our Washington D.C. group appreciates your support.

This year's trip for our 7th & 8th graders will take place in April 2026

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 CARDBOARD). 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.

Aluminum cans and scrap metal are also being collected for fundraising efforts. A trash receptacle for cans is located at the north entrance to the gym. For scrap metal collection, please contact Jason Rekeweg or Jay Werling.





As you are able, please bring an Offering for Chapel on Wednesdays

Our God has given so much to us! One way that we worship Him is by giving back a portion of His gifts to Him and to His Church. Students may place their offerings in the offering plate as they come into chapel every Wednesday.

Chapel Offering Project for the First Quarter: Church Music Student

We will be using our chapel offerings to support a college student at Concordia University Nebraska who is studying to become a professional church musician. Kantors or church musicians lead congregations and schools in the worship of God by playing the organ, directing choirs and instrumental groups, and teaching music in schools. It is fitting with our school theme (Make a Joyful Noise!) that we support someone preparing to spend their life leading the church in making a joyful noise to the Lord. In the next week or two, we should have the name of the specific student we will be supporting.

Please feel free to join us for Wednesday morning Chapel at 10:00 a.m.



Make a Joyful Noise!

There's a lot of noise in our world: phone, computer, TV, news, music, social media, podcasts. We walk around with our phones in front of our eyes, earbuds stuck in our ears, or something always playing in the background. But all the noise of our world can drown out the most important sounds: the Word of God and the prayer and praise of His people. In contrast to the noise of the world, the Psalms call us to lift up our voices in confession, proclamation, and worship.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! (Psalm 98:4). Our theme for the 2025–2026 school year is "Make a Joyful Noise!" There's really only one thing we can do in response to all that the Lord has done for us: praise Him! Our God created us, redeemed us by the blood of Jesus, and is constantly at work in our lives by the Holy Spirit. As we say in the Small Catechism: "For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." At Bethlehem Lutheran School, the worship of the Holy Trinity is at the center of our life. Every day, our school gathers to hear God's Word, confess the faith, and sing praises. This also shapes the rest of our day and the rest of our lives. Worship is not only what we do in the church sanctuary. Our whole life – all that we say and do, in the classroom and out – is meant to be an act of worship for the God who loves us.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Anthony Dodgers



LITERARY
TIGER

Beautiful new custom shelves were built and installed over the summer, and our collection is freshly organized and labeled. Thank you to all those who helped support fundraising efforts over the past few years to help us successfully complete our library shelving project.

We have greatly expanded our American History, Civics, and Biography collections, thanks to a generous donation in memory of Bethlehem church member, Bob Brown. These new resources will nicely complement classroom learning, will provide sources for 5-8th grade research reports, and could help prepare students for the Washington, DC trip.



The library now has a new online catalog system, called TinyCat. Through this system, parents will be notified when students check out and return books, and will receive due date reminders.

You can browse through our collection anytime at:
<http://www.librarycat.org/lib/BLCSOssianLibrary>

Happy reading!



Talented Tigers

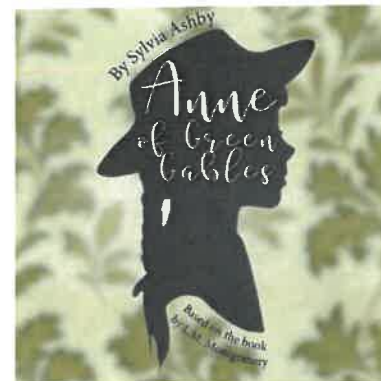


Anne of Green Gables
Presented by Creative Arts Theater
428 S. Oak Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

October 10th @ 7pm

October 11th @ 3pm

Cast includes Bethlehem Tigers:
Jonah Bultemeier, Savannah Fuller, Anna Fuhrmann, Ginny Wirgau, and Jude Wirgau.
Bethlehem Alumni:
Vinny Fuhrmann, Emma Wirgau, and Sarena Wirgau.



Admission for 12 & under is \$10. Admission for Adults is \$15.



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL LIBRARY POLICIES

Library Purpose

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

Circulation Policies

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

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

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

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

Lost or Damaged Books

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

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERN SCHOOL

BETHLEHEM LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

**Practices Tuesday & Thursdays 3-5p
(Need knee pads and no jewelry)**

CURRENT GAMES

09/02 5 pm Zion JV vs Bethlehem Ossian JV @ SPI
09/02 6 pm SPI JV vs Bethlehem Ossian JV @ SPI
09/02 7 pm SPI Varsity vs Bethlehem Ossian Varsity @SPI
09/12 & 13 St. Peter-Immanuel Tournament (Times TBD)

**Have Questions? Text or Email Coach Katy
(260-433-2562) or Coach Erin (260-437-3717) .**





FALL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 14

4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Food

Sloppy Joes

Hot Dogs

Cheesy Potatoes

Games & Activities

4:00-5:30

Bingo

5:30-6:30



Bounce House

4:00-5:30

Hay Ride

5:30-6:30

Pies and Ice Cream by WOB

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

SEPT. 17 GETTING A BELLYFUL

AUG. 20 LET IT BRIMSTONE

WHO DIED: PEOPLE OF SODOM & GOMORRAH/LOT'S WIFE

HOW THEY DIED: SULFUR AND FIRE FROM HEAVEN/PILAR OF SALT

WHY THEY DIED: EVIL & IMMORALITY/DISOBEDIENCE

WHEN: 2067 BC

WHERE IN SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 18-19

WHY IN SCRIPTURE: AS A WARNING AGAINST UNBRIDLED SIN

NOT-SO-NICE BIBLE STORIES

GORY DEATHS

DATES

- **8.21**
Set Apart to Serve
- **9.18**
Bible Trivia

Let's
Make
a Joyful
Noise PSALM 98:4

Deaconess Discussion

Set Apart to Serve



Pastor



Director of
Parish Music



Deaconess



Teacher

Vocation: God's call to serve our neighbor in love and faith through the various roles and responsibilities in life, not just a single professional job.

Some are called by God into church work, where He provides pastors and other workers in His Church.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

RESOURCES

Call/Text 988
Suicide & Crisis Hotline
(Available 24hrs)

LCMS Life Ministry

“And She Was a Christian...”
and
“I Will Grieve for the
Suicide”
books by Rev. Peter Preus



NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
MONTH

The church has long struggled with how to respond to suicide. Early Christians, facing brutal persecution, sometimes sought death as escape or even as a form of martyrdom. To curb this, the Early Church issued edicts condemning suicide, but instead of offering comfort to the despairing, it stigmatized and judged them. Sadly, echoes of this remain today, where some Christians insist suicidal thoughts reflect weak faith or a lack of trust in God. Meanwhile, modern secular culture presents what seems to be a gentler alternative—empathy that validates the choice to die. Yet this “death culture” equates hope with independence, and when independence fails, hope collapses. Instead of restoring life’s meaning, it celebrates death as a dignified solution, offering only a false compassion that ultimately abandons the suffering.

In contrast, Christian hope is rooted not in independence but in Christ. Depression and despair may convince someone life is worthless, but the Gospel proclaims that worth and dignity come from Jesus’ death and resurrection. In Baptism, Christians already experience a “beautiful death”—dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. This means that even in weakness, frailty, or deep suffering, believers are not left without purpose or value; their life remains secure in God’s hands. True compassion, then, is not in affirming a choice for death but in walking with the despairing, pointing them to the Savior who promises, “I give them eternal life, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.” Christian hope does not glorify a “beautiful death” of human choice, but a beautiful life given daily through Christ, who sustains His children until He Himself calls them home.

Because of this, the church is called not to condemn or dismiss those wrestling with despair, but to meet them with the hope of Christ. By listening, praying, and reminding them of their baptismal identity as God’s beloved children, Christians can offer real comfort that neither suffering nor suicidal thoughts define them—Jesus does. In Him, even the faintest flicker of faith is guarded, nurtured, and made alive with the promise of eternal life.

LW ARTICLE
“CHRISTIAN HOPE IN THE FACE OF SUICIDE”

Bethlehem Lutheran School Ossian, Indiana Coffee Fundraiser



Instructions: Scan the QR code. Add your selections to the shopping cart. When you've finished with your selections, check out using your preferred payment method. The discount code (AHZAVZFWRH) should appear on your checkout page. \$25 minimum purchase required. **A discount of \$2 will be subtracted from your order total and BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL will be credited for your purchase.** Use this code every time you place an order. Share it freely.

If the discount code does not appear automatically, enter it manually. The code must be used to receive your discount and for Bethlehem Lutheran School to receive proper credit.

Your order will be prepared and shipped promptly.

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School Apparel 2025

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://bethlehemapparel25.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: **Sunday September 7th, 2025 (11:59pm EDT)**

Bella Canvas Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt - 1



\$36.00

Comfort Colors T-shirt - 2



\$19.50

Comfort Colors T-shirt - 3



\$19.50

Comfort Colors T-shirt - 4



\$19.50

Comfort Colors T-shirt - 5



\$19.50

Gildan T-shirt - 5



3 Colors

\$13.50

Comfort Colors T-shirt - 6



3 Colors

\$20.00

Comfort Colors Long Sleeve T-Shirt - 6



3 Colors

\$28.00

Bella Canvas Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt - 7



3 Colors

\$36.00

Port & Company Youth Quarter-Zip Pullover



\$30.00

Port Authority Men's Silk Touch Performance Polo



3 Colors

\$22.00

Port Authority Women's Silk Touch Performance Polo



2 Colors

\$22.00

Port Authority Youth Silk Touch Performance Polo



2 Colors

\$20.00

Questions?
 Kenadee Sharp
 (260) 589-2200
sportformprinting@gmail.com
<https://gotosportform.com/>

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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				QTY.	Total
A	Amazon.com	1.6%	\$25			M	Marathon	3%	\$25	
	Amazon.com	1.6%	\$100				Marathon	3%	\$100	
	Applebee's	8%	\$25				Marathon	4%	\$250	
	Arby's	8%	\$10				McAlister's Deli	6%	\$25	
	Arby's	8%	\$25				McDonalds	5%	\$5	
B	Barnes & Noble	8%	\$10				McDonalds	5%	\$10	
	Barnes & Noble	8%	\$25				McDonalds	5%	\$25	
	Bath & Body Works	12%	\$10				McDonalds	5%	\$50	
	BP	1.5%	\$50				Meijer	3%	\$25	
	BP	1.5%	\$100				Meijer	3%	\$50	
	Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$10				Meijer	3%	\$100	
	Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$25				Menard's	3%	\$25	
	Burger King	4%	\$10				Menard's	3%	\$100	
	Burger King	4%	\$25				Mike's Carwash	20%	\$11	
C	Chipotle	10%	\$10			N	Nine Mile	8%	\$20	
	Colliers Comfort	5%					O'Charley's	13%	\$25	
	Cracker Barrel	8%	\$10			Old Navy	14%	\$25		
	Cracker Barrel	8%	\$25			Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	\$25		
	Culvers	10%	\$10			& Longhorn Steakhouse				
D	Dairy Queen	6.5%	\$10			P	Outback	10%	\$25	
	Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	\$25				Panda Express	8%	\$25	
	Disney	3%	\$25				Panera Bread	8%	\$5	
E	East of Chicago	10%	\$10				Papa John's Pizza	8%	\$10	
	East of Chicago	10%	\$25				Pizza Hut	8%	\$10	
F	Fazoli's	9%	\$25			R	Richards	10%	\$20	
	Galley	10%	\$20				Red Lobster	8%	\$25	
G	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	\$25			S	Speedway	4%	\$25	
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	\$50				Starbucks	4.5%	\$5	
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	\$100				Starbucks	4.5%	\$10	
	Gordons Food Service	4%	\$25				Starbucks	4.5%	\$25	
	Gordons Food Service	4%	\$100				Steak & Shake	8%	\$10	
H	Hall's	10%	\$15				Subway	6.0%	\$10	
	Hall's	10%	\$30				Subway	6%	\$50	
	Happy Moments	10%	\$25			T	Taco Bell	5%	\$10	
	Hardees	5%	\$10				Target	2.5%	\$25	
	Hills Market	4%	\$25				Texas Roadhouse	8%	\$25	
	Hills Market	4%	\$50				T.J Maxx/ Marshalls	6%	\$25	
	Hills Market	4%	\$100			V	prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$25	
	Hollywood Nails	17%	\$20				prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$50	
I	iTunes	5%	\$15				prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$100	
	Kohl's (can NOT use to pay bil	4%	\$25				prepaid VISA	1.25%	\$250	
K	Kohl's (can NOT use to pa	4%	\$100			W	Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$25	
	Kroger	4%	\$25				Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$50	
	Kroger	4%	\$100			Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$100		
L	Little Caesars	8%	\$20			Walmart / Sams Club	2.5%	\$250		
	Lowe's	4%	\$25			Walgreens	5%	\$25		
	Lowe's	4%	\$100			Walgreens	5%	\$100		
						Wendy's	6%	\$25		
						Z	Zurcher Tire	5%		