



February 2026

Volume 19, Issue 6

The Bethlehem

Star

Luther on the Work of the Holy Spirit in Galatians

We continue our look at Luther’s lectures on Galatians, looking particularly at his comments on Galatians 4:6 where Paul writes, “ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”.”

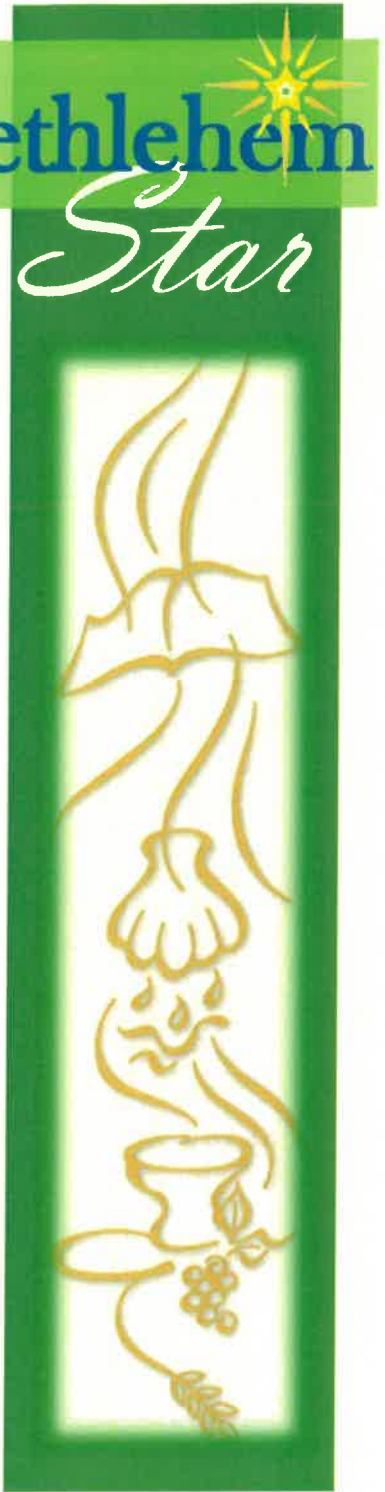
Luther writes, “The Holy Spirit is sent forth in two ways. In the primitive church He was sent forth in a manifest and visible form. Thus He descended upon Christ at the Jordan in the form of a dove (Matt. 3:16), and upon the apostles and other believers in the form of fire (Acts 2:3). This was the first sending forth of the Holy Spirit; it was necessary in the primitive church, which had to be established with visible signs on account of the unbelievers, as Paul testifies. 1 Cor. 14:22: ‘Tongues are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers.’ But later on, when the church had been gathered and confirmed by these signs, it was not necessary for this visible sending forth of the Holy Spirit to continue.

The second sending is that by which the Holy Spirit, through the Word, is sent into the hearts of believers, as is said here: ‘God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts.’ This happens without a visible form, namely, when through the spoken Word we receive fire and light, by which we are made new and different, and by which a new judgment, new sensations, and new drives arise in us. This change and new judgment are not the work of human reason or power; they are the gift and accomplishment of the Holy Spirit, who comes with the preached Word, purifies our hearts by faith, and produces spiritual motivation in us. Therefore there is the greatest possible difference between us and the enemies and perverters of the Word. We, by the grace of God, are able to declare and judge with certainty, on the basis of the Word, about the will of God toward us, about all laws and doctrines, about our own lives and those of others. . . .

. . . we must not judge according to the feeling of our heart; we must judge according to the Word of God, which teaches that the Holy Spirit is granted to the afflicted, the terrified, and the despairing in such a way that He encourages and comforts them, so that they do not succumb in their trials and other evils but conquer them, though not without very great fear and effort.”

(Luther’s Works, American Edition, Volume 26, pages 374-375, 383).

Rev. Samuel Wirgau



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



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A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



February 2026

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9a Divine Service 10:30 ABC / SS 11:30 Elders	2 5:30p Wholyfit 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice	3	4 10:00a Chapel Service 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Divine Service	5 5:30p Wholyfit	6 PTL Event Parents vs Kids Basketball	7 Chili-Cook Off New Hope
8 9a Divine Service 10:30 ABC / SS 11:30 Church Council 2:00 Folk Dancing	9 2:00p WOB Bible Study 5:30p Wholyfit 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice	10 6:00p Visual Faith Workshop	11 10:00a Chapel Service 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Divine Service	12 5:30p Wholyfit 6:30p WOB Bible Study	13 NO SCHOOL Teacher Inservice	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>
15 8a WOB Meeting 9a Divine Service 10:30 ABC / SS	16 2:00p WOB Bible Study 5:30p Wholyfit 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice	17 	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00a Chapel Service 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Divine Service	19 5:30p Wholyfit 5:30p Board of Christian Education Meeting 6:30p WOB Bible Study	20	21
22 9a Divine Service 10:30 ABC / SS	23 2:00p WOB Bible Study 5:30p Wholyfit 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice	24	25 10:00a Chapel Service 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Divine Service	26 5:30p Wholyfit 6:30p WOB Bible Study	27	28 9-11:00a School Open House
						



The Power of God February 1, 2026 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Rev. Paul Shoemaker In the early church, Christians were being challenged by people who said the Christian faith was foolish. Today, the faith of Christians

is still challenged as foolish. We know the “word of the cross ... is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Readings: Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12 Featured Choir: LWML Indiana District Choir Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Arcadia, Ind.

Salty Christians February 8, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Rev. William Mueller In His “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus pulls us deeper into an understanding of our relationship with Him. He uses the metaphor of salt and light. Just a little bit of salt brings some great flavor. In complete darkness, even a small light will change everything. Yet in all this, Jesus still has a surprise for us! Sermon Text: Matthew 5:13-20 Readings: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 58:3-9a; Matthew 5:13-20 Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind.

The Wrong Mountain February 15, 2026 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord Rev. Scott Zeckzer There are times in our lives where we have “mountain top experiences.” The problem is that they do not last; they are forgotten. There is one “mountain top experience” that changed everything. Tune in to “Worship Anew” to find the right mountain. Sermon Text: Matthew 17:1-9 Readings: Psalm 2:6-12; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9 Featured Choirs: Choir of the Council of Presidents of the LCMS; St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mason City, Iowa

The Great Exchange February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday Guest Pastor - Rev. Joe Hoem Lent isn’t about improving ourselves but about seeing what Christ has done for us. The One who knew no sin became sin in our place, bearing our guilt on the cross. In Him, we are made righteous, forgiven, and free to live as God’s beloved. Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Readings: Psalm 51:1-13; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.; St. John Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Jesus Also Was Tempted February 22, 2026 – First Sunday in Lent Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III The bad news is that we will be tempted by Satan throughout our earthly lives. The good news is that Jesus also was tempted by the devil in all the ways that we are, yet He never once sinned. He defeated Satan for us and now helps us overcome temptations of the devil. Sermon Text: Matthew 4:1-11 Readings: Psalm 32:1-7; Genesis 3:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11 Featured Choir: Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Soest), Fort Wayne, Ind.

Birthday Blessings! February



- 01 Joyce Schaper
- 03 Jennifer Lukins
Erin Schumm
- 04 Denise Schumm
- 05 David Brege
- 06 Joshua Boehm
- 08 Keith Krick
- 09 Pat Meyer
- 10 Ralph Bauermeister
- 11 Cynthia Nahrwold
Deb Patrick
Dean Stoppenhagen
- 12 Michael Bultemeier
- 13 Linda Bultemeier
Jason Glisson
Judy Moehring
Melissa Tolson
Bruce Werling
- 14 Rick Meyer
- 15 Megan Morrow
Leon Werling
- 16 Christine Biggs
- 17 Madeline Schumm
- 18 Judy Clausen
- 19 Milton Gallmeyer
- 20 Martha Bauermeister
- 24 Hildegard Bauermeister
- 25 Stephanie Conrad
Jonathon Fuhrmann
- 26 Emily Sands
Leah Werling
- 27 Wellesley Brege
Rick Krumma
- 28 Rylee Werling

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

- Feb. 3 Dave and Ronda Fleisch (42)
- Feb. 11 Doyle and Laura Werling (64)
- Feb. 12 Tom and Colleen Patrick (54)
- Feb. 21 Ryan and Kari Baker (17)
- Feb. 25 Charles and Melissa Tolson (31)



LADIES! Join us for our monthly Visual Faith Workshops on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-8 pm. Enjoy time engaging in VFM practices that enrich your time in God's Word. Register for upcoming workshops at <https://blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry>. Reach out to Deann Oliver for more information 616-894-1044



Spring Women's Bible Study: "Christ in the Psalms"

Beginning the week of February 9th, we will study the appointed psalm for each Lenten week, correlating with Bethlehem's Lenten services and our Lenten devotional. We will incorporate Visual Faith practices, explore multiple Bible translations, and reflect on key words and phrases. We will meet on Tuesday's at 2:00 and Thursday's at 6:30p.m. in the Youth Room. Please let Deaconess know if you're interested.

TIMELINE | *Christ IN THE Psalms*

- 1** **INTRO TO THE PSALMS & ASH WEDNESDAY**
 - Monday, Feb 9
 - Thursday, Feb 12
- 2** **INVOCABIT - PSALM 32**
 - Monday, Feb 16
 - Thursday, Feb 19
- 3** **REMINISCERE - PSALM 121**
 - Monday, Feb 23
 - Thursday, Feb 26
- 4** **OCULI - PSALM 4**
 - Monday, Mar 2
 - Thursday, Mar 5
- 5** **LAETARE - PSALM 132**
 - Monday, Mar 9
 - Thursday, Mar 12
- 6** **JUDICA - PSALM 43**
 - Monday, Mar 16
 - Thursday, Mar 19
- 7** **HOLY WEEK - PSALM 118, PSALM 116, & PSALM 22**
 - Monday, Mar 23 (Spring Break Week)
 - Thursday, Mar 26 (Spring Break Week)

**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 The following information is accurate as of November 30, 2025:

\$373,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
230,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
397,451.70 - Amount generated since 2009
-179,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$821,762.52 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of November 30, 2025

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund
\$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
9,979.73 - Amount generated since November 2024
-10,000.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2024
\$ 90,058.66 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of November 30, 2025

**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.



Folk Dancing

**Sunday, February 8th from 3:00 to
4:30 pm in the school gym.**

Adults and children are invited to attend. No experience is required. Instructions will be given before each dance. Admission: \$1 per person or \$5 per family. For questions contact Kantor Brinkley. Please join us for this fun event!

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) to Pay Operating Bills:

Balance:	\$ 47,601.59
Outstanding Checks Paid:	\$ 17,231.39
Total Checking:	\$ 30,370.20

Savings Fund Balance:

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Actual Balance
Improvement Fund:	\$ 33,097.04	\$ 14,983.81	\$ 18,113.23
Scholarship Fund:	\$ 15,236.75	\$ -	\$ 15,236.75
Music Fund:	\$ 4,043.01	\$ -	\$ 4,043.01
Relief Fund:	\$ 4,181.48	\$ -	\$ 4,181.48
Organ Fund:	\$ 4,656.32	\$ -	\$ 4,656.32
Endowment:	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ 225.00
Synod/Seminary Fund:	\$ 940.00	\$ -	\$ 940.00
Special Project - Flooring Reserved (TBD):	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
	\$ 2,469.26	\$ -	\$ 2,469.26
Totals	\$ 69,848.86	\$ 14,983.81	\$ 54,865.05

Borrowed Amounts

From Restricted Savings Account	\$ 14,983.81	
Operating Loan	\$ -	(of \$30,000 max available)
TOTAL BORROWED	\$ 14,983.81	(\$0.00/day for interest)

Total cash available to pay operate church

\$ 115,235.25

Bills due week of:	2/2/2026	\$	5,000
Bills due week of:	2/9/2026	\$	16,000

Weekly Offering





Saturday
February 7, 2026
6:00p.m.



New Hope Lutheran Church
8643-8691 IN-1,
Ossian, IN 46777

FREE WILL OFFERING

Proceeds will go to New Hope & Bethlehem Youth for
Higher Things 2026 Trip to St. Louis, MO.

To Sign up for the Euchre Tournament/Chili Entry:

Printed copy on back of form or online registration at <http://blcsossian.org/chilicookoff>

Event Details



Menu:

Chili, Hot dogs, dessert, and drinks



Chili Info:

To enter to win the chili cook-off, please bring a large crock pot of chili. Sampling cups, bowls, and spoons provided as well as some toppings/crackers. You will be assigned a number which will allow others to vote for your chili. Prizes will be given out for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Last call for chili and voting at 7:15pm, winner announced at 7:30pm.



Euchre Tournament/Games:

Euchre Tournament with prizes for 1st place team. Tournament begins at 6:15 for those wanting to participate. 7:15pm last call for chili and voting. Winner is announced at 7:30. Kids board games, cards, coloring and other activities are available. (feel free to bring your favorites also!)



Questions? Contact Deaconess Wendy Boehm 260-415-8526

Book Club



HANNAH COULTER

BY WENDELL BERRY

Hannah Coulter is Wendell Berry's seventh novel and his first told in the voice of a woman. Narrated by Hannah herself in her old age, the novel reflects on her life in the fictional farming community of Port William, Kentucky. Hannah recounts her deep love for the land and her community, her two marriages—including the loss of her first husband in war—and the joys and sorrows of raising a family.

As she remembers the people and places that shaped her, she also laments the ways twentieth-century technologies and modern pressures threaten the culture of family farming and rural life. Throughout the novel, Berry explores themes of community, place, resilience, and gratitude, ultimately offering hope when Hannah's once-wayward grandson, Virgil, returns to the family's home place to work the farm, affirming the enduring meaning of a life rooted in love, work, and belonging.

Series books in order:

1 Nathan Coulter (1960)	5 A World Lost (1996)
2 A Place on Earth (1967)	6 Jayber Crow (2000)
3 The Memory of Old Jack (1974)	7 Hannah Coulter (2004)
4 Remembering (1988)	8 Andy Catlett (2006)
	9 Marce Catlett (2025)

For more info go to:

<https://www.berrycenterbookstore.com/berry-fiction>

**HANNAH
COULTER**
a novel by
**WENDELL
BERRY**



By the author of Jayber Crow and That Distant Land

HOW IT WORKS

- PURCHASE THE BOOK (AUDIO, EBOOK OR PHYSICAL COPY)
- WE WILL MEET IN PERSON AT CRIMSON HOUSE APRIL 18 TO DISCUSS THE BOOK.
- ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

CONTACT DEACONESS BOEHM TO JOIN: 260-415-8526

YOUTH Newsletter

FEBRUARY
2026

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Bible Study

Both groups have been studying the book of Galatians.

High School youth will be having a Chili Cook-Off & Euchre Tournament at New Hope on Feb. 7. Starts at 6:00pm; hot dogs, dessert and drink provided.

Middle School youth will be joining Vicar McLain at the Christ Academy Confirmation Retreat Feb. 13-15.

Galatians 4:21-31

Middle: Seminarian William Harr

High: Vicar Charles McLain

Galatians 5:1-15

Middle: Seminarian Brandon Streeks

High: Vicar Charles McLain

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...”

Galatians 5:22

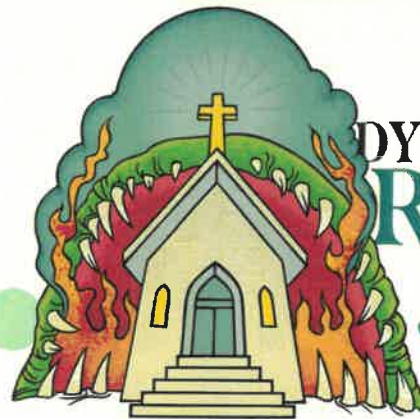
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bible Study: February 8
(6:30pm-8:00pm)
- Chili Cook-Off: Feb 7
- CTSFW: Feb 13-15
- Bible Study: February 22
(6:30pm-8:00pm)

Christ Academy Spring Confirmation Retreat 2026

Date

February 13-15, 2026



DYING CHURCH
RISING
HOPE

Higher Things Conference 2026

REFRESHMENTS

Doughnut Duty: Fuller-Householder

Bible Study 8th: Fuller-Householder

Bible Study 22nd: Bultemeier

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH FRIEDHEIM



MENU



HOMEMADE

CHICKEN NOODLE
HAM & BEAN
CHILI SOUPS
PULLED PORK,
CHICKEN PATTY,
SLOPPY JOE
& HOT DOG
SANDWICHES
VARIETY OF
SALADS &
DESSERTS
& DRINKS

FREE WILL
OFFERING WITH
PROCEEDS TO THE
CEMETERY FUND

SOUP AND SANDWICH DINNER

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
SERVING 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**ZION FRIEDHEIM'S, DAHLING FAMILY LIFE CENTER
10653 NORTH 550 WEST, DECATUR, INDIANA**

**The Wyneken Singers, directed by Allison Ulmer,
will be featured from 11:30am-12:30pm**

CARRYOUT WILL BE AVAILABLE

PLAN TO SHOP AT OUR CRAFT & BAKE SALES

**Pulled Pork, Chicken Patty & Sloppy Joe Sandwiches
Provided by Classic Café Catering – Fort Wayne, Indiana**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Senior Citizen's Dinner

Thursday February 19th 11:30am

New Hope Lutheran Church

8824 N State Road 1

**Jody Heaston a naturalist for
Quabache State Park will be
speaking.**

**Call or text 260-415-1462 or 260-223-4830 to
reserve your spot.**

Free will offering to defray cost.



FEBRUARY EVENT SCHEDULE

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE | INSTAGRAM: THEBRIDGE2030

3
FEB 2026

BRIDGE BOWLING BASH

7 PM GEORGETOWN BOWLING
6770 E STATE BLVD FT WAYNE
\$10/PERSON INCLUDES SHOE RENTAL & 3 HRS OF BOWLING

10
FEB 2026

MEETUP - COUNTRY HERITAGE SINGO SOCIAL

TAYLOR & FRIENDS AND WOMEN OF R&B
5:45 PM 0185 COUNTRY ROAD 68 LAOTTO

17
FEB 2026

THE PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON VANITY: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

7 PM THE HOLY CROSS YOUTH CENTER
3420 N ANTHONY BLVD

24
FEB 2026

LENTEN EXPERIENCE WITH PASTOR CHAD

7 PM THE GREENHAUS
3504 N. ANTHONY BLVD
FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

Spring Craft FAIR

©SSIAN NAZARENE CHURCH
302 N METTS ST | OSSIAN

Saturday, May 2 | 9am-2pm



Wide variety of Crafts and Vendors
Mother's Day Gifts | Church Bake Sale

*Craft Fair and Bake Sale hosted in support of essential
church-building updates/repairs*

Indoor & Outdoor Vendor Space Available

Visit ossiannaz.org/registrations (or scan QR code) to apply
online or print application.

Call (260) 622-7449 or email ocn.churchoffice@gmail.com
with questions



Beat the Winter Blues and Join Us for

Craft for a Cause

Saturday, March 7, 2026

7am - 7pm

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

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

Registration Includes

1/2 of an 8' Table Workspace
with Electricity Provided

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*
Snack & Beverage Station

Table Gifts
Progressive Bingo for Prizes

Not Crafty? NO WORRIES!

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

SPACE IS LIMITED AND FILLS UP FAST!!!

\$45 per person**

Registration Deadline: February 27 or until spaces are full.

Proceeds benefit the Women of Bethlehem Ministry

**We are not able to accommodate all dietary restrictions. Meal plans will be emailed 2 weeks prior to the event so you can plan for your specific needs.*

***Due to limited space and fundraising nature, refunds will not be given if you cannot attend.*

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



Mail this form and check **payable to Women of Bethlehem** to
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Craft for a Cause, 6514 E 750 N, Ossian, IN 46777.

Name _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____
Email _____ Phone _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED



TIGER TALES



“Make a Joyful Noise”

Breathing

Take a slow deep breath. Let it fill your lungs and expand through your whole body. Hold it for a second. Now let it go, even slower than you brought it in. You feel better don't you? We don't even realize how shallow and rapid our breath can get. We almost never pay attention to it. It's no surprise that many people are trying to recover attention to breathing in our fast-paced, stressful world. Our breath takes us right back to our very beginning: *the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature (Genesis 2:7)*. Our need to receive breath points us to the One who first gave that breath to us.

St. Anthony of Egypt was a famous desert father from the early church—a Christian who tried to utterly reject the ways of the world and live in self-denial and spiritual contemplation. We can admire his intentions and efforts, even if we would not advocate for imitating him. But at the end of his life (AD 356), he gave some excellent advice to his disciples: “Let Christ be your life's breath, and place your confidence in Him. Live as if dying daily.”

As we come to Ash Wednesday and Lent, let's try to follow that advice and focus on our breathing. With every breath out there's a little death. *Remember you are dust, and when God's breath leaves you for the last time then to dust you shall return.* But with every new breath in we live. And of course, it's not just our physical breath that matters

most. Focus on the breath that Christ gives. With your breathing, remember to practice dying daily. What this really means is repentance, living in your Baptism, daily dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. He is your real breath. He is your true life.

Breathe out. *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.* Breathe in. *And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20).*

Rev. Anthony Dodgers, Headmaster



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6:00 p.m. Boys vs Harlan 7:00 p.m. Girls vs Harlan (HOME)	4	5 1:00 Spelling Bee	6 5:30p Parents vs Kids PTL Event	7
8 2-5 Folk Dancing in the Gym	9	10	11	12	13 NO School Teacher Inservice	14 
15	16	17 K-Fieldtrip to Kilwins Madeline Schumm 	18 Ash Wednesday 10:00a Chapel Service	19 5:30p Board of Education Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25 Mazie Day Jon Fuhrmann 	26	27	28 9-11a School Open House

**LAST HOME GAME**

Tuesday, Feb. 3rd

6:00 p.m. Boys vs Harlan (HOME)

7:00 p.m. Girls vs Harlan (HOME)

Thank you to our Athletic Director, Mr. Brandon Schumm for all his help in scheduling all of this seasons game! Also, a big thank you to all our volunteers helping with the score board, admissions table, concessions and general clean-up.

Please join us for the Parents vs Kids Basketball PTL event scheduled for Friday, February 6th beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the school gym. Pizza will be provided.



School Gym Use after school hours – Before using the school gym after school hours, please be sure to contact our current Athletic Director, Brandon Schumm. Please call or text him at 260-273-7403 to make arrangements. Thank you
***Rules for the gym include NO Roller Blading or Skateboarding. Please be diligent in wearing clean non-marking shoes. 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.

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

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 be closed on Friday, February 13th
due to a Lutheran School Teachers Inservice**



Bethlehem will NOT be following the Northern Wells Community Schools 2 hour delay on Wednesday, February 18th. 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.

School Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 5th



All grades will be participating in our annual Spelling Bee on Thursday, Feb. 13, beginning at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall (lunch room). Parents are welcome to attend!

Make-up Lutheran School Week Dress-up Days



Monday, Feb. 2- Teacher/Student Swap Dress-up: Students dress like teachers. Teachers dress like students.

Tuesday, Feb. 3- Dress as a Book Character: Dress like one of your favorite characters from one of your favorite books.

Wednesday, Feb. 4- Chapel Dress

Thursday, Feb. 5- Spelling Bee

Friday, Feb. 6- Dress as a Saint: Dress like a famous believer from the Bible or Church History.



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. Ordering dates are set to reduce shipping costs. **For questions or for placing an order, please contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current 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.

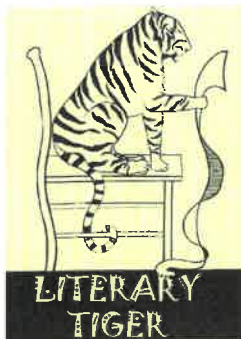
Our Washington D.C. group appreciates your support.

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 The Washington DC group would like to remind everyone that we are looking for "pop can" style cans only for collection purposes. We are starting to find trash and glass in the recycling bin here at church which slows the sorting process down. If anyone has any questions, please contact Jay Werling or Jason Rekeweg. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.



We have New books for the new year!

Remember, you can browse our library catalog online any time from

<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/BLCSOssianLibrary/>

The search page shows the books most recently added to our system. We have several new picture books perfect for winter reading.



We also invite everyone to a Bingo reading challenge!

When you complete a Bingo you can get your picture in the Tiger Tales, plus a special prize! Last month's Bingo winners are: Lucas Haiflich (4), Gus Wirgau (K), Violet Boehm (K).

You have until the last library day of the school year to work on the challenge. You have to share the titles of the books or tell the librarians about what you read. Yes, audio-books and books read aloud by parents count! Printed Bingo cards will be distributed in the school library.



Bethlehem Library Bingo

Book with a One Word Title	Historical Fiction	2nd in a Series (after reading the first!)	Nonfiction American History Book	A Librarian Favorite
Re-read a Book	A Book Older than Your Dad	A Picture Book	Biography	Write a Book Review for Tiger Tales
Recommend a Book to Someone	Suggested by your Parent	Free Read	Mystery	Book from the Public Library
A chapter or story from the Old Testament	Read in a Blanket Fort	Book Made into a Movie	10 Poems	A Teacher Favorite
Nonfiction Animal Book	Read to Someone Else	Write a Story or Poem	Memorize a Poem or Psalm	Your Friend's Favorite Book

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

JAN 21 BAAL GOES DOWN THE
FEB 18 HEAVEN'S FLAMETHROWER

SCRIPTURE: 2 KINGS 1

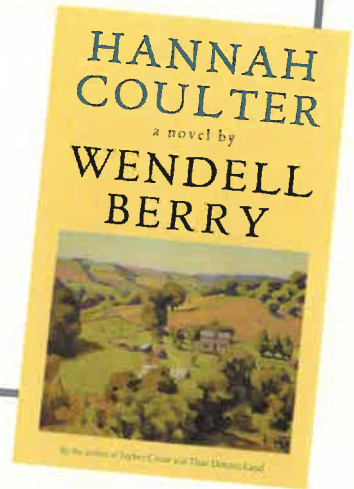
SUMMARY: TWO CAPTAINS AND THEIR GROUPS OF FIFTY MEN EACH/KING AHAZIAH DIE BECAUSE OF DISRESPECTING GOD AND TRUSTING ANOTHER GOD FOR HELP.



Book Club

HANNAH COULTER
BY WENDELL BERRY

MEET APRIL 18



DATES

1.8
NLSW Psalms

1.22
Lent Devotional

Let's
Make
a Joyful
Noise PSALM 98:4

Deaconess Discussion

Lent Devotional & Psalms Quiz

We had a short psalms quiz for NLSW the beginning of Jan.

Students worked on art for the Lent Devotional.
Keep a look out!

VBS SAVE
THE DATE

JUNE 8-11
2026

9:00AM-12:00PM



Christ
IN THE
Psalms
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY, FEB 9 AT 2:00PM
THURSDAY, FEB 12 AT 6:30PM
***MEETS EVERY WEEK**



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL

K-8TH

OPEN HOUSE

"Bethlehem Lutheran 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."



**Saturday,
28 February, 2026**

9:00-11am

7545 N. 650 E. Ossian, IN

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet teachers
- ✓ Review curriculum
- ✓ Ask questions



For more info:

260-597-7366



Visit us:

<https://blcsossian.org/academics/>

News Notes To Parents

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Services, Health and Human Sciences

February 2026

Raise Healthy Eaters in the New Year

Ring in a new year by teaching kids the importance of food, nutrition and eating skills: food to fuel busy, successful lives; nutrition to nourish strong bodies and smart brains; and eating skills to enjoy the social aspect of meals with family and friends.

As a parent, grandparent or adult caregiver, you can help to raise healthy eaters during these critical years by doing your best to:

- Serve regular, balanced meals and snacks with a variety of nutrient-rich foods.
- Provide calm, pleasant mealtimes where adults and children can talk together.
- Remove distractions such as television, phones and tablets so your attention is on each other.
- Allow children to use their internal signals to decide how much and what to eat from the foods you set out for each meal.
- Explore a variety of flavors and foods from different cultures and cuisines.
- Share an appreciation for healthful food, lovingly prepared and shared with others.
- Make food safety, such as washing hands, part of every eating occasion.
- Teach basic skills for making positive food choices away from home.

Find credible food and nutrition resources when you don't know the answer.

While this may seem like an intimidating to-do list, two family habits go a long way to making all this happen: regular family meals and involving kids in nutrition from the ground up.

Make Family Mealtimes a Priority

Sometimes a simple act can have important, long-lasting benefits. According to parenting and health experts, that's the case with family meals. For example, eating and talking together can help:

- Increase family unity
- Help prevent behavior problems at home and school
- Encourage academic success
- Improve nutrition

Promote healthy weight for kids

With that impressive list of benefits, it's worth making the time and effort to enjoy more meals together each week. Look for easy ways to add just one family meal to the schedule. If evenings seem too hectic for family dinners, set aside time for a weekend breakfast or lunch. After a month or two of this new pattern, try adding another family meal each week. Before you know it, you will be

eating together on most days.

Get Kids Involved in Nutrition

Start young and make nutrition fun. There's an opportunity for kids to learn about nutrition in a variety of places — your kitchen, the grocery store or a community garden. Every trip through the supermarket can be a nutrition lesson. Kids can learn to categorize food into groups: grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy and protein foods. They can choose new foods they want to try. For example, let children pick out a new fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruit each trip. As children get older, they can help plan the menu at home and then pick out the foods to match the menu items while shopping.

Nutrition is just one of many reasons to have a garden. The process of planting, watching over and harvesting a garden provides daily opportunities for children to learn valuable lessons and enjoy physical activity, while reaping the fruits (and vegetables) of their labor.

Kids Eat Right content is brought to you by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation, the only charitable organization devoted exclusively to supporting nutrition and dietetics professionals.

www.eatright.org

Contributors: Dayle Hayes, MS, RD

Reviewed: December 17, 2025

Source: *Kids Eat Right* www.eatright.org

Photo Credit: Canva



Needs vs. Wants: The Grocery Store Classroom

Research from the **University of Wisconsin–Madison** suggests that practicing "choice-making" is a cornerstone of future financial health. You can turn a routine grocery trip into a powerful lesson by teaching your child to distinguish between needs and wants.

The Activity: The "Need" Detective

Give your child a "mission" while shopping. Ask them to help you find three needs (such as milk for strong bones or bread for lunch) and one want (like a favorite box of cookies).

The "NEED" (Essential)	The "WANT" (Extra)
Water to stay hydrated	Juice because it taste sweet
Warm Socks for cold feet	A superhero cape for play
Apples for a healthy snack	Candy for a sugary treat

The Financial Spin: The Power of "No, Not Now"]

When your child asks for an extra toy, use it as a teaching moment for opportunity cost. Explain: "We have \$5 left. We can buy the eggs we need for breakfast or the toy you want. If we buy the toy, we won't have eggs tomorrow."

Explaining the reasoning behind spending helps children develop executive function and self-regulation. By labeling items, you aren't just saying "no," you are teaching them to prioritize. This simple shift moves a child from impulsive "I want" to thoughtful "Is this a need?" This habit can help build a lifetime of financial security!

High Protein Cottage Cheese Mac & Cheese



Ingredients:

- 8 oz elbow macaroni noodles
- 1 cup full fat cottage cheese
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 cup freshly grated cheddar cheese
- 1 Tablespoon arrowroot powder or cornstarch
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- Salt to taste

Instructions:

1. Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and set aside.
2. While the pasta is cooking, add the cottage cheese, milk, cheddar cheese, arrowroot powder, garlic powder, paprika and black pepper to a blender. Blend until smooth.
3. In a separate large skillet or saucepan pour the cheese sauce into it and heat over medium-low for about 8-10 minutes, whisking occasionally until the cheese sauce is heated and thickens slightly.
4. Add the cooked pasta to the cheese sauce and stir to fully coat the pasta. The sauce might seem thin at first but it'll start to thicken as it sits for a few minutes. Taste and add any additional seasonings if desired. Enjoy!

Storage: Store any leftovers in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 3-4 days.

Nutrition: Serving: 1/4 recipe

Calories: 417kcal Carbohydrates: 48g Protein: 22g Fat: 15g Saturated Fat: 9g Cholesterol: 49mg Sodium: 397mg Potassium: 93mg Fiber: 2g Sugar: 7g

Recipe and Photo Credit: [High Protein Cottage Cheese Mac and Cheese - Eating Bird Food](#) by Brittany Mullins

Abigail Creigh, Health & Human Sciences Educator

www.extension.purdue.edu/Noble

News Notes To Parents is a product of Purdue Extension—Wells County. If you have comments or need information, call (260) 636-2111 The office is located at 109 N., York St. Albion In 46701 **Tell someone about us!**

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Extension - Health and Human Sciences



Bethlehem Lutheran School Lunch Menu February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Chicken Nuggets Broccoli Baked Beans Applesauce Dinner Roll	3 Corndog Salad Green Beans Apple Slices	4 Bosco Sticks Marinara Sauce Fresh Vegy Mixed Fruit	5 Pancakes Sausage Hash Brown Patty Vegy Juice	6 Cheeseburger Fresh Vegy Waffle Fries Peaches	7
8	9 Pizza Cheesy Broccoli Fresh Vegy Fruit	10 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Fresh Carrots Fruit Soft Pretzel	11 Nachos w/meat and cheese Salad Refried Beans Applesauce	12 French Toast Sausage Hash Brown Patty Vegy Juice	13 NO SCHOOL Teacher Inservice	14
15	16 Chicken Patty Sandwich Fresh Vegy Baked Beans Fruit	17 Breakfast Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Fresh Vegy Juice	18 Max Sticks Marinara Sauce Green Beans Peaches	19 Soft Taco with meat and cheese Lettuce and tomato Corn Fruit	20 Cheese Pizza Broccoli Cucumber Slices Banana	21
22	23 Cheeseburger Fresh Vegy Tator Tots Fruit	24 Chicken & Waffles Hash Brown Patty Vegy Juice	25 Walking Taco Lettuce & Tomato Refried Beans Fruit	26 Hot Dog Fresh Broccoli French Fries Blueberries	27 PGJ Uncrustible Cheese Stick Fresh Vegy Pretzels Fruit Cup	28