



April 2026

Volume 19, Issue 8

The Bethlehem *Star*



Luther on Freedom in Galatians

We continue our look at Luther's lectures on Galatians, looking particularly at his comments on Galatians 5:1 where Paul writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Luther writes, "This is the freedom with which Christ has set us free, not from some human slavery or tyrannical authority but from the eternal wrath of God. Where? In the conscience. This is where our freedom comes to a halt; it goes no further. For Christ has set us free, not for a political freedom or a freedom of the flesh but for a theological or spiritual freedom, that is, to make our conscience free and joyful, unafraid of the wrath to come (Matt. 3:7) This is the most genuine freedom; it is immeasurable. When the other kinds of freedom—political freedom and the freedom of the flesh—are compared with the greatness and the glory of this kind of freedom, they hardly amount to one little drop. For who can express what a great gift it is for someone to be able to declare for certain that God neither is nor ever will be wrathful but will forever be a gracious and merciful Father for the sake of Christ? It is surely a great and incomprehensible freedom to have this Supreme Majesty kindly disposed toward us, protecting and helping us, and finally even setting us free physically in such a way that our body, which is sown in perishability, in dishonor, and in weakness, is raised in imperishability, in honor, and in power (1 Cor. 15:42-43). Therefore the freedom by which we are free of the wrath of God forever is greater than heaven and earth and all creation. . . .

"Therefore let us learn to place a high value on this freedom of ours; not the emperor, not an angel from heaven, but Christ, the Son of God, through whom all things were created in heaven and earth, obtained it for us by His death, to set us free, not from some physical and temporary slavery but from the spiritual and eternal slavery of those most cruel and invincible tyrants, the Law, sin, death, the devil, etc., and to reconcile us to God the Father. Now that these enemies have been defeated and now that we have been reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is certain that we are righteous in the sight of God and that all our actions are pleasing to Him; and if there is any sin left in us, this is not imputed to us but is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Paul is speaking very precisely when he says that we should stand in the freedom for which Christ has set us free. Therefore this freedom is granted to us, not on account of the Law or our righteousness but freely, on account of Christ."

(Luther's Works, American Edition, Volume 27, pages 4-6).

Rev. Samuel Wirgau



1972

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Ossian, Indiana 46777
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Email— samuel.wirgau@gmail.com
A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



April 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 7p Maundy Thursday Service	3 NO SCHOOL 7p Good Friday Service	4
5 Easter 6:30a Divine 7:45 Breakfast 9a Divine Service No ABC / SS	6 NO SCHOOL 	7	8 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Service	9	10	11
12 9a Divine Service 10:30 ABC / SS 11:30 Elders	13 5:30p Holyfit 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice	14	15 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Service	16 5:30p Holyfit	17	18 8a WOB Book Club (Crimson House) 5-8p Youth— East of Chicago
19 9a Divine Service 10:30 ABC / SS 11:30 Church Council	20 5:30p Holyfit 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice	21	22 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Service	23 5:30p Holyfit 5:30p Board of Education Meeting	24 Grandparents Day—school Dismissal at noon.	25 Fish Fry— Lighted Gardens
26 9a Divine Service 10:30 ABC / SS 11:30 Voter's Assembly Meeting	27 5:30p Holyfit 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice	28	29 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Service	30 5:00p Endow- ment Commit- tee Meeting 5:30p Holyfit		





Jesus' Death – Good News April 3, 2026 – Good Friday Guest Pastor – Rev. Douglas Punke It's Good Friday, but do you feel good about it? Or on Good Friday, do you feel bad for what Jesus suffered and why that was necessary?

Jesus suffered and died for you – for your salvation, but He died and rose again for your everlasting good. Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:3; Isaiah 53:5 Readings: Psalm 31; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 19:17-30 Featured Choir: Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Easter Is About Life! April 5, 2026 – Easter: The Resurrection of Our Lord Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III Death is the reality confronting all of us because we are sinners. But Easter is about life! Because Jesus lives, we shall also live! Sermon Text: Matthew 28:1-10 Readings: Psalm 16; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10 Featured Choirs: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.; LWML Indiana District Choir Featured Art and Architecture: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Dahlonega, Ga.

A Living Hope April 12, 2026 – Second Sunday of Easter Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer Wishful thinking or rock-solid certainty? The Christian understanding of "hope" differs radically from that of the unbeliever. A blood-stained cross and an empty tomb create an eternity-changing hope, "A Living Hope." Sermon Text: 1 Peter 1:3-9 Readings: Psalm 148; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 Featured Choirs: St. John Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind; Indiana District LWML Choir Featured Art and Architecture: Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Alpharetta, Ga.

Opened Eyes April 19, 2026 – Third Sunday of Easter Rev. Shayne Jonker Two disciples walked with Jesus and their hearts burned. The Emmaus road teaches us that Jesus walks with us and talks with us in the Scriptures. Do you want to have an Emmaus walk with Jesus? Then take God's Word and read. Come to the church and hear. Take a stroll through the Scriptures searching for Jesus' death and resurrection, and your slow, sad hearts will burn too. Sermon Text: Luke 24:35 Readings: Psalm 116:1-14; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35 Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: All Saints Lutheran Church, Blairsville, Ga.

The Perfect Shepherd April 26, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter Rev. Paul Shoemaker One of our favorite images of Jesus is that of the Good Shepherd. This Good Shepherd guides us, His sheep, to the glory and majesty of heaven. It cost Him dearly to do so. That is because He loves us so. Sermon Text: John 10:1-10 Readings: Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10 Featured Choirs: LWML Indiana District Choir; Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Birthday Blessings!

April

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



Wedding Anniversary Blessings

- April 5 Brian and Jennifer Bultemeier (18)
April 8 Ted and Susan Graft (48)
April 12 Terry and Shalynn Saalfrank (29)
April 13 Ed and Lisa Black (35)
April 14 Ron and Mariah Trammel (8)
April 18 Logan and Marissa Geiger (11)
April 21 Ralph and Hildegard Bauermeister (69)
April 27 Allan and Sandra Graft (52)
April 30 Brian and Sheryl Bauermeister (32)



Come to your next **Visual Faith Workshop** on Tuesday, Apr 14 from 6-8pm. Explore Bible Journaling 101 - an introduction to what Bible journaling is, different types of bibles, materials, supplies, kits and techniques. Copies of Bible pages will be available for use but feel free to bring your own Bible to journal in. Register at <https://blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry/>

Church Membership

BAPTIZED TODAY into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is Harper Lee Miller, daughter of Dakota Miller and Samantha Tolson. Sponsor for Harper is Ian Tolson. We welcome Harper as a member of the Kingdom of God and joint heir with us of all God's blessings.



Death: Jerry Springer –Funeral held at Bethlehem on Tuesday, April 7th

Transfer in: Tyler and Brittany Karns and children; Cohen, Ezra, Bennett, Arden



Bethlehem will be hosting a FISH FRY-
Saturday, April 25th from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Carry-out only at Lighted Gardens.
\$15.00 adults, \$8.00 children.

Menu: Fish, cheesy potatoes, green beans, roll and cookie. Funds will benefit the Wells County Backpack program and the church Pavillion Project. More details are coming.



Hosted by Pastor Timothy Appel

with guest
Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Friday, April 10, at 8:00 a.m. CT

for a segment on
"In the Beginning"
Genesis 43:16-44:2

Listen Live or On-demand at:
kfuo.org/sharperiron



Emmanuel Lutheran Church
(Soest), 9909 Wayne Trace, Fort
Wayne, will be having their
Spring Rummage &
Bake Sale on **Friday, April 17th,**
from 10am-5pm and on **Satur-**
day, April 18th, from 9am-
noon. Bag Sale will be on Friday.

Spring Hymn Sing

Sunday,
April 19th, 3:00

Featuring Adult
Choir, Wyneken
Singers, and
Handchimes

Join us for an afternoon of
uplifting singing and
fellowship! The concert and
refreshments will both take
place in the Family Life
Center.

Zion Friedheim Lutheran Church
Family Life Center

10653 N. 550 W., Decatur, IN 46733

faith hope love



Call Day this year is April 28, 2026.
Assignments and calls will be an-
nounced and celebrated during two
worship services in the Chapel of St.
Timothy and St. Titus: **Assignment
of Vicarages and Deaconess Intern-
ships** at 3 p.m. (CDT)
and **Assignment of Calls** at 7 p.m.
(CDT). You can join us in-person,
via [livestream](#) or
on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)

Ossian United Methodist Church
Garage Sale
April 16-18

Baby, Children, Adult Clothing
Home Décor
Pots, pans, dishes
Books, furniture, and much, much more!!!
Donations are appreciated!
201 W Mill Street
Ossian, IN 46777

YOUTH Newsletter

APRIL
2026

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Bible Study

Thank you to all who helped prepare food and joined us for the Lenten suppers. Your support and fellowship have been such a blessing.

We are now preparing for Easter Breakfast, with all proceeds going toward the Higher Things Conference at Washington University in St. Louis, June 23–26, 2026.

Galatians 6:1-10

April 12th

New Hope 2nd year Seminarian

Middle: Seminarian William Harr

High: Vicar Charles McLain

Galatians 6:11-18

April 26th

New Hope 2nd year Seminarian

Middle: Seminarian William Harr

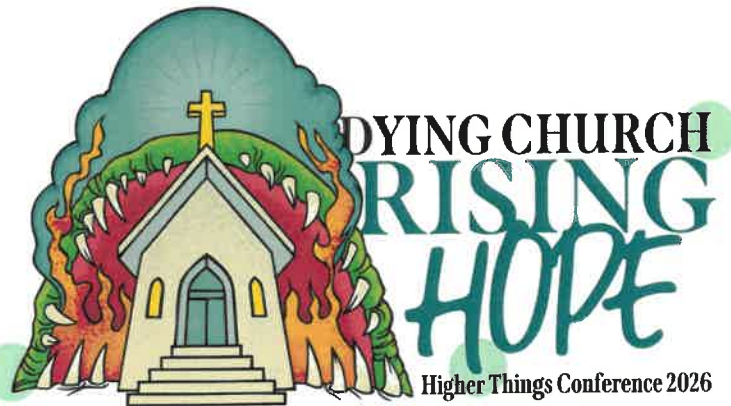
High: Vicar Charles McLain

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Galatians 5:16

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bible Study: April 12
(6:30pm-8:00pm)
- Bible Study: April 26
(6:30pm-8:00pm)
- **Upcoming:**
 - May: NONE
 - June: HT June 23-26



REFRESHMENTS

Doughnut Duty: Wirgau

Bible Study 12th: Wirgau

Bible Study 26th: Boehm

**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 February 28, 2026:

\$373,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
230,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
426,857.52 - Amount generated since 2009
-179,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$851,168.34 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of February 28, 2026

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund
\$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
13,202.41 - Amount generated since November 2024
-10,000.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2024
\$ 93,281.34 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of February 28, 2026

**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.

**Support
our School Endowment**

Every year, our church and school are given a dollar amount to match by The Lutheran Foundation as we contribute to Bethlehem's Endowment. This current year, that amount is \$14,900. We have currently sent about \$9,000 to the Endowment. Our final contributions need to be in by June 1. We have met this match every year so far. Would you please consider donating to the Endowment as you are able? Every gift is a blessing to our students and every gift counts! Thank you for all your support!

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) to Pay Operating Bills:

Balance: \$24,928.25
 Outstanding Checks Paid: \$ 6,695.58
Total Checking: \$18,232.67

Savings Fund Balance:

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Actual Balance
Improvement Fund:	\$ 34,183.26	\$ 12,378.81	\$ 21,804.45
Scholarship Fund:	\$ 16,651.10	-	\$ 16,651.10
Music Fund:	\$ 4,043.36	-	\$ 4,043.36
Relief Fund:	\$ 4,181.83	-	\$ 4,181.83
Organ Fund:	\$ 6,485.61	-	\$ 6,485.61
Endowment:	-	-	-
Synod/Seminary Fund:	\$ 70.00	-	\$ 70.00
Special Project - Flooring	\$ 5,000.00	-	\$ 5,000.00
Reserved (TBD):	\$ 2,469.26	-	\$ 2,469.26
Totals	\$ 73,084.42	\$ 12,378.81	\$ 60,705.61

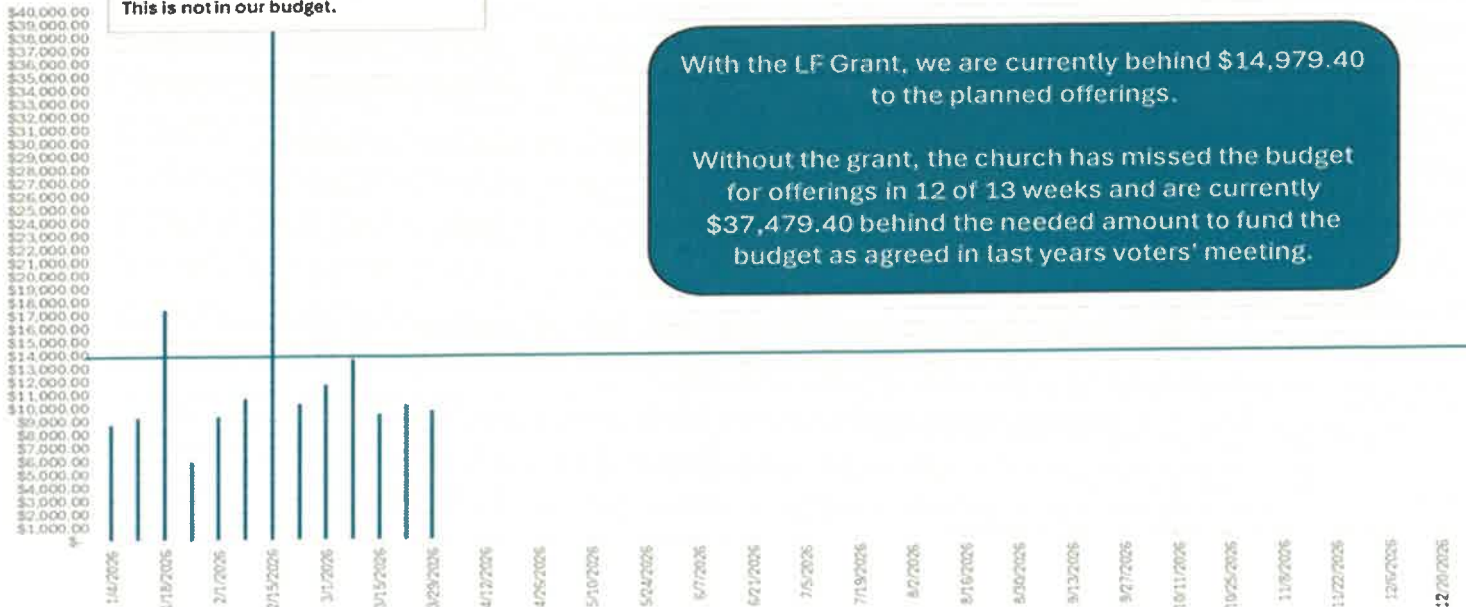
Borrowed Amounts

From Restricted Savings Account	\$ 12,378.81	
Operating Loan	-	(of \$30,000 max available)
TOTAL BORROWED	\$ 12,378.81	(\$0.00/day for interest)

Total cash available to pay operate church \$ 108,938.28

Bills due week of: 4/6/2026 \$ 25,000
 Bills due week of: 4/13/2026 \$ 5,000

Weekly Offering





Dan's Fish Fry

Carry-Out

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

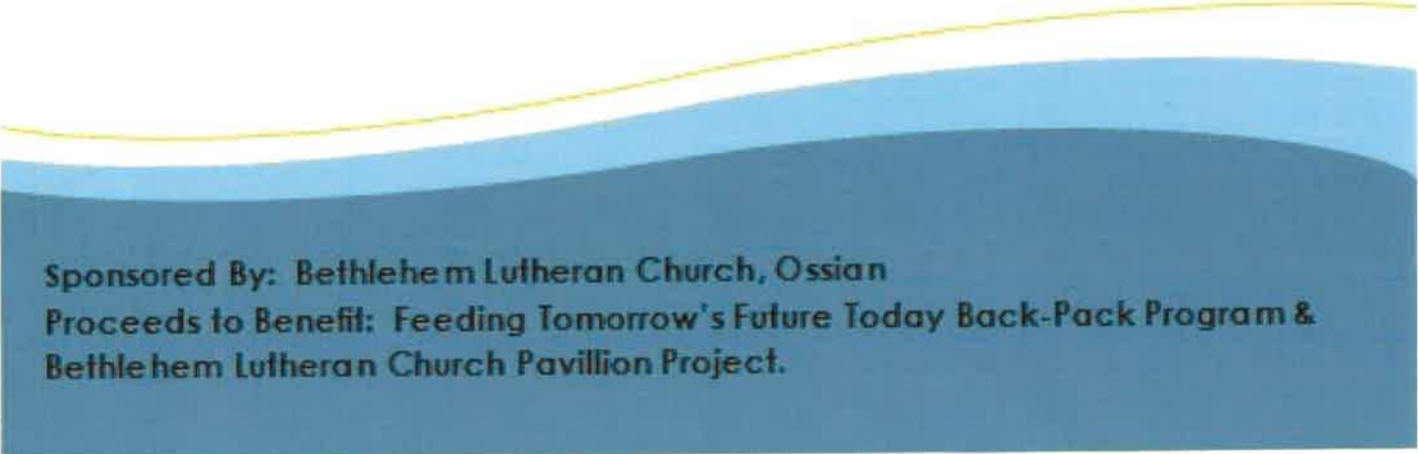
Time: 4:30 to 7:00 pm

Place: Lighted Gardens—10794 N St Rd 1, Ossian, IN

Menu: Fish, Cheesy Potato Casserole, Green Beans,
Applesauce, Roll, and Cookie

Tickets: \$15.00 per meal

Contact: To reserve meals call Pat Meyer 260-227-0400,
Email: spmeyer1982@gmail.com or
Call Lighted Gardens 260-622-4023



Sponsored By: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian
Proceeds to Benefit: Feeding Tomorrow's Future Today Back-Pack Program &
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Pavillion Project.

Cross Connections Counseling invites you to our *Celebration and Partnership Dinner*

at Salomon Farm Park Wolf Family Center
817 W. Dupont Rd.

Monday, April 13 6:00 PM

Come learn more about us and join us
for a fun and inspiring evening catered by Shigs In Pit!



Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Todd Peperkorn, STM, DMIN
Concordia Theological Seminary

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions
Vice President of Spiritual Formation
Director of Residential Pastoral Formation Programs
Director of Vicarage and Internship

Dr. Peperkorn graduated from Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE) in 1992, with a BA in pre-seminary studies and history. He is a graduate of CTSFW and completed his DMin at The Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2021.

He has spoken extensively in the Church on topics surrounding mental illness, and clinical depression.

Dr. Peperkorn and his wife, Kathryn (CUNE BS in K-12 music education 1993, Ball State MM 1999), have four children: Renata, Isabella, Richard, and Beata.

Please check appropriate box, tear off and send to 4618 East State Blvd. Suite 300 Fort Wayne 46815

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Credit card number _____ exp date _____ CVV _____

I would like to purchase a ticket/\$50 A table for 8 people/\$400

Sponsor a table with name recognition at event and in ministry communications/\$1000

Event Sponsor \$5000(includes table - call for details)

I cannot attend and would like to make a donation \$ _____.



TIGER TALES

“Make a Joyful Noise”



Firstfruits of Spring

For Spring Break, we visited family in eastern Pennsylvania. Even though the weather was cold and wet most days, we were able to visit Washington D.C. for the peak blooms of the famous cherry trees. All the other trees were still bare, nature not yet fully awake to the new season. These delicate white and pink blossoms served as the early sign of Spring to come.

Our trip also included visits to historical sites. We walked through Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, the site of the deadliest one-day battle in the Civil War. On September 17, 1862, over 22,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died. Later in the week, we stopped at the Flight 93 Memorial in western Pennsylvania, where that airplane crashed on September 11, 2001. Forty passengers and crew resisted the hijackers and so saved the U.S. Capitol from being hit. Both the battlefield and the memorial are sites of remembrance for the men and women who laid down their lives for others.

Now it's Holy Week, and our hearts and minds are drawn to the One who laid down His life as the sacrifice for us all. The night before He died, Jesus said, *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends”* (John 15:13). Jesus laid down His life on the cross, but then He also took it up again three days later (John 10:18). He died and rose again for us. And so Christ is *the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep... For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ* (1 Cor. 15:20–23).

The D.C. cherry blossoms are the firstfruits of Spring – the sign that more buds and blooms will follow. But Christ's resurrection is the firstfruits of that Eternal Spring. We live in the hope that one day all those dead in the fields of Maryland and Pennsylvania and Ossian, Indiana will rise up, and those who believe in Christ will live forever with Him.

Happy Easter!









Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Anthony Dodgers



April 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1 Alive and Well</p>	<p>2 Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>3 Good Friday NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Easter Sunday</p>	<p>6 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Alive and Well</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Bailey Meyer </p>	<p>11 Cora Patrick </p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p> 16 Jonah Bultemeier</p>	<p>17 Mid-term Caroline Haiflich </p>	<p>18</p>
<p>The 7th and 8th grade attending their Washington DC trip</p>						
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Alive and Well</p>	<p>23 Board of Ed Meeting  Grady Meyer</p>	<p>24 Grandparents Day 1/2 day</p>	<p>25 Fish Fry</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Alive and Well</p>	<p>30 Mr. Meyer </p>		

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

March 30, 31, April 1 Spoken Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 2 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 3 Good Friday Chief Service with Holy Communion at 12 noon

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

April 5 Easter Sunday Services – Sunrise 6:30 am
and Morning 9:00 am

The Bethlehem Youth- Easter breakfast between services starting at 7:45 am in the school gym.

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

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*****

Good Friday, March 3rd

Easter Monday, March 6

Early dismissal on Friday, April 24 for Grandparent's Day



Please join us for our
Annual Grandparent / VIP Day
Friday, April 24, 2026

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

Dismissal for students will be after the special luncheon served by our Bethlehem PTL. Volunteers will be needed to help with this event. If interested, please contact Melissa Householder.



**Please help us to promote our school
and get a tuition credit at the same time!**

The Bethlehem Board of Education is offering a \$200 tuition credit to any Bethlehem school family who refers a student to Bethlehem. That student will need to be enrolled for at least one school year. There is no limit on number of referrals to be eligible for this credit.

For more information, please contact the school office.

Thank you



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.



SERVING THE LORD IN

Puerto Rico

February 2026

La Cuaresma en Puerto Rico Lent in Puerto Rico



Valentine's Day in Puerto Rico

Valentine's Day in Puerto Rico is not just about romance; it is an opportunity to celebrate all types of love. It is common for friends to also exchange little gifts to express affection for one another. Fuente de Vida in Ponce held a “Dia de Amistad” (Day of Friendship) with brunch and painting activities for people to enjoy one another's company. As always, the event began with the word of the Lord delivered by one of our pastors.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to courtney.mroczenski@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



Lent in Spanish is *La Cuaresma*. The term comes from the word for forty, *cuarenta*, because Lent is forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter (not counting Sundays). This period is a time of repentance in the light of the cross of Christ which we are called to participate in as Christians. The forty days reflects Israel's 40 years in the wilderness and Christ's 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. Ash Wednesday can help us understand the spirit of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we received a cross of ashes on our foreheads and heard the words “You are dust, and to dust you shall return (*Polvo eres y a polvo volverás*). The ashes are a clear and messy reminder of our sinful condition for which we merit death. It also reminds us of the temporal nature of all things and human works. However, the cross shape of the ashes reminds us of the sure hope of eternal life in Christ who bore our death and punishment on the cross and rose again that all who believe in him shall live even though they die. Lent, therefore, is a time to abandon all hope in ourselves, our works, the world or anything in it—things which like dust are here today and tomorrow are carried away on the wind—and to look only to Christ and to his perfect work on the cross which alone has the power to take away sin and give eternal life. We, our idols, and our works shall pass away and turn to dust, but Christ shall never pass away—He is risen! And all who trust in him shall rise to new life, even though they die. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen.

La Paz de Cristo (The Peace of Christ),

Paul, Courtney, & Jacqueline Mroczenski

Contact us:

paul.mroczeni@lcms.org
1 (715) 370-6082

courtney.mroczeni@lcmsintl.org
1 (303) 257-6913



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Families in Puerto Rico and throughout the world, that they be reconciled to God and one another in Jesus Christ.
- The continued success of our podcast and all those who labor to produce it.
- Our missionaries, that we would rejoice in the wonderful work of spreading the gospel.
- All who are tempted, that they be upheld by Christ Jesus who was tempted in every way as we are tempted but is without sin.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Four confirmations this month in Bayamón.

• PRAISE GOD FOR:

- His grace in calling sinners to labor in his harvest field and the continual mercy by which he sustains them and all believers.

Other News & Updates

Confirmations:

Thanks be to God! Four individuals in Bayamón made the good confession and were confirmed in the Lutheran Church and received into communion on February 15. Two of the confirmed were missionary children. We thank God for the work he has begun and continues in them, and we pray that he bring it completion in the day of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



*Confirmation in Bayamón,
February 15, 2026*

Men's group:

Under the passionate guidance of Pastor Sergio Maita, we held the inaugural event for an islandwide men's group. All male missionaries and about 20 men from our congregations across the island gathered in Arecibo (a potential church plant site) to hear God's word, share food and fellowship, and discuss the purpose of the group. It was a great encouragement for all who attended. The group, named *Caballeros Luteranos*, will continue to gather four times a year.

Podcast:

Don't forget about our new podcast: *Cristo en el Centro* (Christ in the Center). Liking and subscribing helps us reach people with the pure gospel of "Christ crucified for sinners." As the name suggests, Christ is always in the center of every episode.

Foro: Don't forget! Our Spring Foro is March 6-8. If you can't attend this time, make plans for the Fall Foro (info forthcoming).

Men from our three Lutheran churches gather on the beach for fellowship grounded in God's word.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Paul and Courtney Mroczeni. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include: *Mroczeni-Puerto Rico*

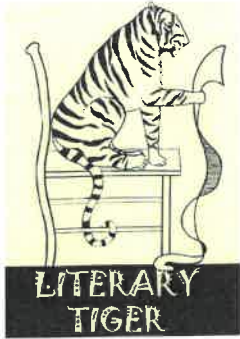
Give securely from any device: <https://www.lcms.org/givewithmroczeni>

Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438

<https://www.lcms.org/Mroczeni>
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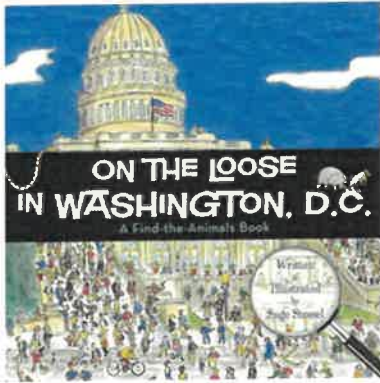
Foro:



Hello readers!

We are glad to welcome April in the school library, along with all of the exciting events for our school family coming up this month! We will begin with the joyful celebration of Easter, and then wish Bon Voyage to the 7/8th graders and their travel companions as they head to Washington, D.C. for a week of learning about our nation's history and government, and will finish out the month with Grandparents Day and our spring Storyglory book fair!

This year's fair theme will be "Happy Birthday, USA"!

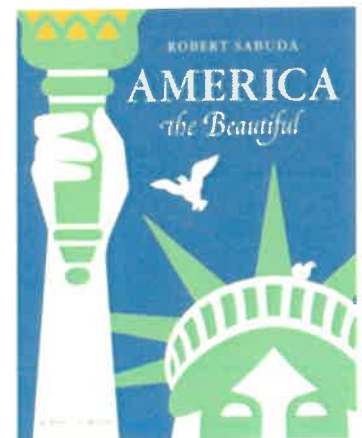
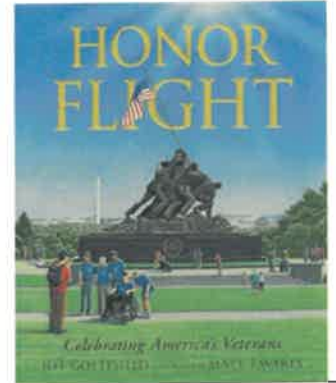


We hope you will enjoy browsing the variety of books for all ages (yes, they have great selections for grown-ups, too!). Our library will receive a profit from every order – and the more orders we receive, the higher our potential earning percentage. Please share our book club link with friends and family - orders are all

placed online and can be shipped anywhere in the USA.

Don't forget to keep working on those library bingo cards! We will be drawing a winner for a \$10 Storyglory gift card on Tuesday, April 14, so the winner can have the gift card ready when our book fair opens.

Happy Reading!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY, USA IT'S BOOK FAIR TIME!

Find wholesome, high-quality books for the entire family.
Enjoy 10% off your purchase, and 10% of sales will support BLCS.

BOOK FAIR HIGHLIGHTS:

- New and classic titles for Kindergarten to 8th Grade and Parents too!
- American History selections, in recognition of America's 250th anniversary this year
- Bibles, devotionals, and outstanding Christian fiction
- Family read-alouds for all ages

HOW TO SHOP:

- 1 Select Books Online**
April 19-26 at storyglorykids.org/bethlehem
- 2 Enter Student Details on the Cart Page**
Enter your student's name and homeroom teacher
- 3 Apply Promo Code**
Enter **BETHLEHEM** to receive 10% off and benefit your school
- 4 Choose Your Shipping Method on the Checkout Page**
Receive your order at school around May 11 by selecting **free "Ship-to-school"** shipping, OR receive books at home by selecting USPS Media Mail



Storyglory Kids Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 33-2429105). To put more good books into the hands and hearts of children, visit storyglorykids.org/donate. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

MAR 18

HANGING ON TO GUILT

APRIL 22

THE TERRIBLE TREE

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 27; MARK 15; LUKE 23; JOHN 19

GORY DEATHS

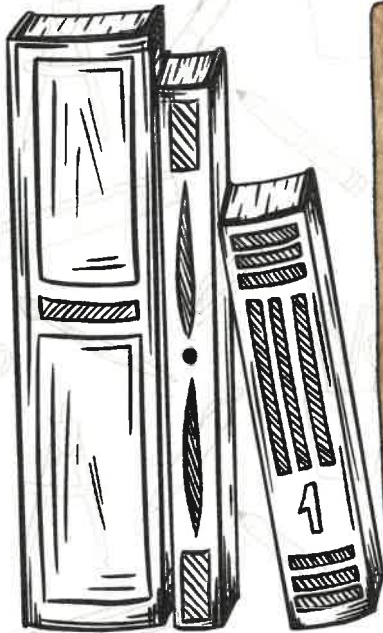


Book Club

HANNAH COULTER
BY WENDELL BERRY

MEET APRIL 18
8AM
AT CRIMSON HOUSE

HANNAH
COULTER
BY
WENDELL
BERRY



CREATED
IN CHRIST
DESIGNED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

VBS
June 8-11, 2026
9:00am-12:00pm

REGISTER ONLINE AT BLCOSSIAN.ORG/VBS



Deaconess Discussion

DATES

3.18

Easter Gifts for
Homebound

4.23

Books of the Bible

Let's
Make
a Joyful
Noise PSALM 98:4



HEALTH & WELLNESS

RESOURCES

All the Household provides guidance for living out the seasons of the Church Year at home with your families. Find month-by-month lists of Lutheran feasts, festivals and commemorations on their website allthehousehold.com

Rev. Will Weedon's book
"Celebrating the Saints"

Visual Faith Ministries
visualfaithmin.org



Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

Easter Day is the third and final day of the Paschal Triduum – the Latin term for the “three days” from Maundy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday evening. But it’s not the last day of Easter! The Octave of Easter comes to an end on the following Sunday. But Easter isn’t over then, either! Rather, the Easter season lasts a full fifty days until the feast of Pentecost, more than counter-balancing the forty days of Lent.

Starting with Jesus’ resurrection, the Easter season is filled with the manifestation of Jesus’ divine glory. Throughout the fifty days, we hear of Jesus’ miracles and his encouragement to the disciples, whether it’s on the road to Emmaus, on the Mount of the Ascension, or in the upper room.

A Brief History The holiday that we now know as “Easter” was originally called Pascha, the Greek word for Passover. Christians carried over the tradition of Pascha, acknowledging Christ as the new Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).

It’s not surprising, then, that Easter traditions sometimes echo Passover traditions; for example, the Jewish date of Passover was based on the lunar cycle, so the date of Easter moves according to the stages of the moon.

Similarly, just as Passover was an eight-day affair, so is Easter. The “Octave of Easter” is the name for the eight-day celebration of our Lord’s resurrection. The Church fathers saw in these eight days a symbol of new life and a new creation.

Easter traditionally begins at the Vigil on Saturday at sundown, the Jewish start of a new day. One of the oldest and most historic services of the Church, the Easter Vigil can be traced to the first celebrations of Easter in the years immediately after Christ walked the earth.

After the service, Christians typically begin their Easter celebrations in full force, breaking their Lenten fast and starting their observance of the Church’s most joyous season. The altar is re-decorated, and the Alleluias finally return. At dawn, Sunday morning services mark the first official day of Easter.

One of the characteristic moments of the Vigil service is when the celebrant cries out the Paschal Greeting: “Alleluia, Christ is Risen!” The people respond with joy: “He is risen indeed; Alleluia!” This greeting remains the customary Christian greeting throughout the fifty days of Easter.

TAKEN FROM ALL THE HOUSEHOLD
[HTTPS://ALLTHEHOUSEHOLD.COM](https://allthehousehold.com/easter-sunday/)
/EASTER-SUNDAY/

News Notes To Parents

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Services, Health And Human Sciences April 2026

Eat A Rainbow Every Day!

To be healthy, kids need to eat a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables every day. By using a rainbow as a guide, you can ensure that children benefit from a wide range of vitamins and minerals. No single fruit or vegetable provides all the nutrients that kids need. By breaking produce down into color groups of red, orange, yellow, green and purples you can make eating fruits and vegetables fun and easy for kids! Even at a very young age, kids can easily grasp the concept of eating a rainbow.

Eating colorful fruits and vegetables help protect kids from cancer and other chronic diseases. They're nutritious and delicious. The color makes all the difference. Within each color are disease fighting phytochemicals, the good guys, that fight to keep you strong and healthy. Fruits and vegetables also provide a wide range of valuable nutrients; like fiber, folate, potassium, magnesium, vitamins A and C. So be colorful! Eat a rainbow of fruits and vegetables every day.



EAT MORE COLOR

The best way to get all of the vitamins, minerals and nutrients you need is to eat a variety of colorful fruits and veggies. All forms of fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen, canned and dried) can be part of a heart-healthy diet. Choose types without added salt and sugar.

BLUE & PURPLE

blackberries	grapes
blueberries	plums
black currants	prunes
dates	purple figs
eggplants	raisins

WHITE

bananas	mushrooms
cauliflower	onions
daikon	potatoes
garlic	parsnips
Jerusalem artichoke	shallots
jicama	taro
lotus root	turnips

ORANGE & YELLOW

acorn squash	nectarines	pumpkins
apricots	oranges	summer squash
butternut squash	papayas	sweet potatoes
cantaloupes	orange peppers	tangerines
carrots	passionfruit	yams
corn	peaches	yellow apples
lemons	pineapples	yellow grapefruits
mangoes	plantains	yellow peppers
		yellow squash

GREEN

artichokes	green cabbage	okra
asparagus	green grapes	pears
avocados	green onions	peas
bok choy	green peppers	romaine lettuce
broccoli	kale	snow peas
Brussels sprouts	kiwis	spinach
celery	leeks	sugar snap peas
collard greens	limes	tomatillo
cucumbers	mustard greens	watercress
green beans	nopales	zucchini

RED & PINK

beets	red apples
cherries	red grapes
cranberries	red peppers
guava	red potatoes
pink grapefruit	rhubarb
pomegranates	strawberries
radicchio	tomatoes
red radishes	watermelons

Source: accessed 2-20-26, Kids PBS
<https://www.ksps.org/community/ksps-fitkids/eat/eat-a-rainbow/>

Photo: Carva

EAT SMART. LIVE MORE. BE WELL.

heart.org/HealthyForGood

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https://www.heart.org/-/media/AHA/H4GM/PDF-Files/Eat_More_Color_infographic.pdf?sc_lang=en

The Money Minute: April Is for "Super Savers!"

Happy April! While the flowers are blooming outside, something else is growing this month: Financial Literacy Month. This is a global celebration designed to help everyone, especially our littlest earners, get smarter with their cents.

What's making the news?

- **Tax Day Talk:** April 15 is the big deadline for adults to finish their taxes. It's the perfect time to explain that taxes are like a "membership fee" we pay to help take care of our parks, libraries, and roads.
- **Spring Cleaning Sales:** April is famous for "Spring Cleaning" discounts. Retailers are clearing out winter gear, making it a great month to teach kids about strategic shopping, buying what we need when the price is lowest.

Activity: The "Clear Jar" Challenge

To make money visual for young kiddos, here is a fun hands-on activity you can try this month!



- **The Setup:** Instead of an opaque piggy bank, find three clear jars. Label them: Save, Spend, and Give.
- **The Mission:**
 - 1. Whenever your kiddo earns a chore reward or finds a stray nickel, have them divide it among the jars.
 - 2. The "Why": Use the clear jars so they can see their money growing.
 - 3. The Bonus: On April 30, count the "Give" jar together and let them pick a local charity (like an animal shelter) to support. It teaches them that money isn't just for buying things, it's for helping, too!

PURDUE EXTENSION, NORTHEAST



Area Collaboration Page

Adams, Allen, Dekalb, Elkhart, Fulton,
Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Marshall
Noble, St. Joseph, Steuben, Wells, Whitley

Northeast Indiana has a new Area Extension Facebook Page! Check it out and follow us to stay connected with to all the great things happening in our 14 county district!
"Purdue Extension, Northeast Indiana"

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586025640905>

Abigail Creigh, Health & Human Sciences Educator www.extension.purdue.edu/Noble

News Notes To Parents is a product of Purdue Extension—Noble 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!



Extension - Health and
Human Sciences

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