



May 2026

Volume 19, Issue 10

The Bethlehem *Star*

Luther on the Law of Christ in Galatians

We wrap-up our look at Luther's lectures on Galatians, looking particularly at his comments on Galatians 6:2 where Paul writes, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ."

Luther writes, "The Law of Christ is the law of love. After redeeming and regenerating us and constituting us as His church, Christ did not give us any new law except the law of mutual love (John 13:34): 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you'; and again (v. 35): 'By this all men will know that you are My disciples.' To love does not mean, as the sophists imagine, to wish someone else well, but to bear someone else's burdens, that is, to bear what is burdensome to you and what you would rather not bear. Therefore a Christian must have broad shoulders and husky bones to carry the flesh, that is, the weakness, of the brethren; for Paul says that they have burdens and troubles. Love is sweet, kind, and patient - not in receiving but in performing; for it is obliged to overlook many things and to bear with them. In the church faithful pastors see many errors and sins which they are obliged to bear. In the state the obedience of subjects never lives up to the laws of the magistrate; therefor if he does not know how to conceal things, the magistrate will not be fit to rule the commonwealth. In the family many things happen that displease the householder. But if we are able to bear and overlook our own faults and sins, which we commit in such great numbers every day, let us bear those of others as well, in accordance with the statements: "Bear one another's burdens" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18)" (Luther's Works, American Edition, Volume 27, pages 113-114).

May God grant us such "broad shoulders and husky bones" both as individuals and as a congregation, that we may bear one another's burdens in this household of faith as Christ has loved us and borne the burden of our sin upon the cross. We are justified by His grace alone through faith alone and not by works of the Law. Strengthened in our faith in Christ and our freedom in Christ, let us look for every opportunity for love and good works in our congregation, families, community, and the world.

Rev. Samuel Wirgau



077

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A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



May 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 8a WOB Meeting 9a Divine Service 10:30a ABC/SS	4	5	6 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Service Adult Choir Practice	7	8	9 9a WOB Event
10 Mother's Day 9a Divine Service NO ABC / SS	11 6p PTL Meeting	12 6-8 Visual Faith	13 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Ascension Eve Divine Service	14 7p Public Examination Service	15	16
17 9a Divine Service Confirmation Sunday NO ABC/SS 11:30 Elders Meeting	18 Confirmation	19 30p Board of Christian Education Meeting	20 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Service	21	22	23
24 9a Divine Service NO ABC / SS	25 Memorial Day NO SCHOOL	26	27 10a Chapel 5:30p Adult Catechesis 7p Spoken Service	28 9:30a Last Day of School Chapel Service	29	30
31						



You Are Chosen! May 3, 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Easter Rev. William Mueller We live in a world where everyone wants to be special; everyone wants to receive a trophy. As the redeemed people of God in Jesus Christ, we are so much more than special.

We receive so much more than a trophy! We are chosen and “mercied,” and Christ has given us a glorious mission! Sermon Text: 1 Peter 2:2-10 Readings: Psalm 146; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14 Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Emmaus Lutheran Church, Wauseon, Ohio

Keep on Keeping May 10, 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter Rev. Scott Zeckzer Keepsakes – we all have them – those special things that remind us of special people, places, or events in our lives. God has given you keepsakes to remind you of what He’s done for you. He also has sent the Holy Spirit to help us to “Keep on Keeping.” Sermon Text: John 14:21 Readings: Psalm 119:89-93, 105; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21 Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Convoy, Ohio

Lifted to a Higher Reality May 17, 2026 – Ascension of Our Lord (observed) Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III Why celebrate Christ’s ascension? He visibly left this earth, and we cannot see Him! There are wonderful reasons to celebrate this event. Christ’s ascension lifts us to a higher reality. Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53 Readings: Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53 Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. James Lutheran Church, Archbold, Ohio

Living Water May 24, 2026 – Pentecost Guest Pastor – Rev. Thomas Eggold People who think they are healthy don’t go to the doctor, and those who are satisfied in themselves can’t accept a Savior. But to those whose sin has left them desolate — to the one whose life is dry and whose spirit is wilting; to the one who is cracked and broken by their sin; to the one who finds no fulfillment in this world; to the one who rightly despises his own skill and wisdom and sees the futility of his own efforts at salvation; to the one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness — these words mean everything! Sermon Text: John 7:38 Readings: Psalm 25; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39 Featured Choirs: Indiana District LWML Choir Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Let God Be God! May 31, 2026 – The Holy Trinity Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer Christians across the world gather today to worship the Triune God. In Jesus Christ, we encounter the true God — One who challenges our expectations yet gracefully comes to us with purpose and promise. The invitation given to us is simple and profound: Let God Be God! Sermon Text: Matthew 28:19 Readings: Psalm 8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Matthew 28:16-20 Featured Choir: Holy Cross Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, Ind.

Birthday Blessings! May



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



May 12 is our next Visual Faith Workshop from 6-8pm. We will explore how to pray using scripture and make a fun envelope booklet to store your scripture prayers and/or sermon notes. Sign up to reserve your spot! <https://blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry/> This will be our last workshop until we start back up again in the fall.

Church Membership

BAPTIZED into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is Wyatt Paul Graham, newborn son of Preston and Makena Graham. Sponsors for Wyatt are Grant Scheumann and Landon Geiger. We welcome Wyatt as a member of the Kingdom of God and joint heir with us of all God's blessings.



"My name is Erik Preus and I have almost completed my second year of seminary studies. My wife, Bethany, and I have been married for nineteen years. We have six children: Madelyn (16), Levi (15), Adam (12), Ian (11), Anna (7) and Grace (5). Before starting at CTSFW in the fall of 2024, I worked in the software industry for just over twenty years. While I enjoyed my previous career and was blessed to meet and work with many different people, I give thanks to God that I have had the opportunity to study His Word within the seminary setting. What a joy it has been to learn under so many wonderful professors and to be surrounded by other men that are also studying to be pastors. As a family, we enjoy music, reading, and playing soccer and tennis. We are thrilled to join the Bethlehem Lutheran community and I especially look forward to serving as your vicar. My prayer is that God will bless our work together to His glory!"



LWML Mite Boxes- Just a reminder that mite boxes can be found by the church bulletins in the church entrance. These mite boxes (for small offerings) are used to support mission outreach, church worker scholarships, and humanitarian aid projects. When a mite box is filled, it can be dropped off in the LWML slot in the church office. Thank you!



Please join us as this year's Confirmands are publicly examined in the knowledge and understanding of the Lutheran Doctrine, on Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday, May 17th at 9:00 am

Savannah Nichole Fuller

Parents: Nick Fuller and Nathan and Melissa Householder

Verse: *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Romans 12:9*

Caroline Quinn Haiflich

Parents: David and Katy Haiflich

Verse: *For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1 Corinthians 1:25*

Lucas Ralph Andrew Werling

Parents: Jay and Barb Werling

Verse: *The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Psalm 121:7-8*

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

- May 7 Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (60)
- May 13 Jason and Erika Lesh (20)
- May 14 Karl and Peggy Goede (49)
- May 14 Gary and Darlene Werling (21)
- May 18 Preston and Makena Graham (2)
- May 22 Jason and Danielle Rekeweg (16)
- May 26 Jake and Lindsay Wright (14)
- May 31 Colby and Grace Mandeville (1)
- May 31 Andy and Melissa Price (18)
- May 31 John and Betty Roembke (57)
- May 31 Rev. Samuel and DoRena Wirgau (18)

Election results for the 2026-27

Church Officers:

Vice Chairman: Dave Flesch

Board of Elders: Dan Springer, Brian Scheumann, Jeff Gresley

Board of Christian Education: Brandon Schumm, Jacob Meyer, Aaron Anthony

Board of Trustees: Jay Werling, Gary Oliver, Todd Ottinger

Board of Finance: Dan Buchinger, Brian Bauermeister, Jay Louison

Installation of Officers will take place at a date to be announced.

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) to Pay Operating Bills:

Balance: \$ 14,733.31
 Outstanding Checks Paid: \$ 2,929.00
 Total Checking: \$ 11,804.31

Savings Fund Balance:

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Actual Balance
Improvement Fund:	\$ 34,233.26	\$ 12,354.34	\$ 21,878.92
Scholarship Fund:	\$ 16,776.10	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 15,776.10
Music Fund:	\$ 4,063.36	\$ -	\$ 4,063.36
Relief Fund:	\$ 4,181.83	\$ -	\$ 4,181.83
Organ Fund:	\$ 6,535.61	\$ -	\$ 6,535.61
Endowment:	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00
Synod/Seminary Fund:	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ 325.00
Special Project - Flooring	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Reserved (Sing, Pray, Praise)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Special Donation - 7th/8th grade trip	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Special Project - Pavillion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Account - Vicar Program	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Reserved (TBD):	\$ 2,469.26	\$ -	\$ 2,469.26
Totals	\$ 83,484.42	\$ 13,354.34	\$ 70,130.08

Borrowed Amounts

From Restricted Savings Account	\$ 13,354.34	
Operating Loan	\$ -	(of \$30,000 max available)
TOTAL BORROWED	\$ 13,354.34	(\$0.00/day for interest)

Total cash available to pay operate church

\$ 111,934.39

Bills due week of: **5/4/2026** \$ 15,000
 Bills due week of: **5/11/2026** \$ 5,000

Weekly Offering



**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 currently have \$10,700 of that goal. 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!

**FÖRGÖTTEN
CHILDREN**
WORLDWIDE

GIGANTIC
Garage  **SALE**

MAY 14th-16th


Thurs./Fri. May 14 & 15 9-5

Saturday May 16 9-2

Saturday: BAG SALE DAY

small bag: \$8

large bag: \$13

 **650 N Main St. Bluffton, IN 46714** 

NEW ITEMS EVERY MONTH

**Toddler Bed; Furniture;
Summer Clothing;
Plus Much More!**

Sponsored By:

Forgottenchildren.org

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

@ForgottenChildrenWorldwide


AdamsWells
INTERNET TELECOM TV



WELLS COUNTY
COUNCIL ON AGING

Senior Citizens Expo

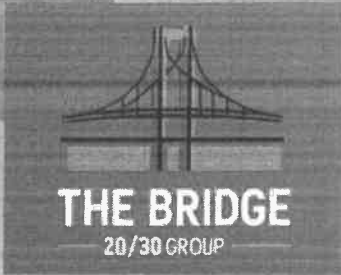
Thursday, May 7, 2025

9 am – 2 pm

**Wells County 4-H Community Building
1240 4-H Road, Bluffton, IN**

• **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- **Over 70 vendors, FREE parking-admission-food!**
 - **Breakfast** – served 9 am – 10 am
Provided Christian Care Retirement Community
 - **Lunch** – served 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Provided by Ossian Health Communities
 - **Afternoon snack** – served 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Provided by Markle Health and Rehab
 - **The Wells County Emergency Management and Attorneys from Dale, Huffman & Babcock Lawyers** presentations in dining area 10-11 am and 12:30-1:30 pm
- **University Dermatology** – Free Skin cancer screening all day
 - **Bluffton Animal Clinic** - Reduced cost cat and dog vaccinations 11 am – 1 pm (enter back hall door-no pets allowed in food area)
- **Non-perishable food giveaway by Peyton's Northern Distribution / Kroger** –
1:30 – 2:00 pm – must be present to receive
- **Wells County residents** – Call Wells on Wheels (WOW) at 824-4969 to schedule FREE transportation for the Expo



MAY EVENT SCHEDULE

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

5
MAY 2026

THE PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON ¼ LIFE CRISIS
7 PM HOLY CROSS YOUTH CENTER
3420 N. ANTHONY BLVD

12
MAY 2026

MEETUP - MI PUEBLO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT
\$1.99 TACO TUESDAY | \$2.99 MARGARITAS
7 PM 2419 W. JEFFERSON BLVD
NEW HAVEN, IN

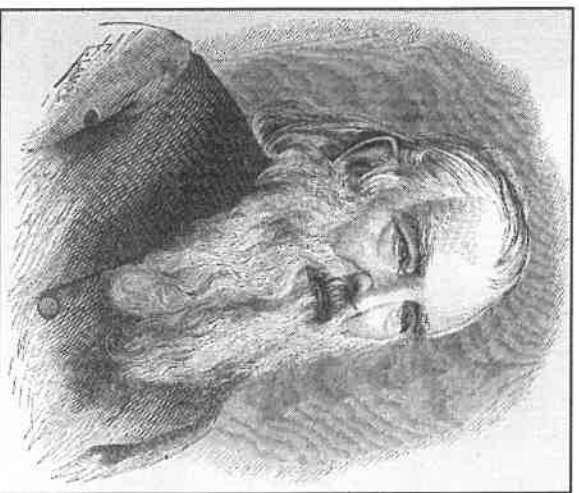
19
MAY 2026

BRIDGE SUMMER KICKOFF SOCIAL
SPEED MEET, VOLLEYBALL & BACKYARD GAMES
7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

26
MAY 2026

GAME NIGHT W/ MICHAEL!
7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

Rev. Friedrich Wynken - LCMS Pioneer Leader



May 4th marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Rev. F. C. D. Wynken, known within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) as the “Father of Home Missions”.

Wynken was born in Germany in 1810 and came to the United States in 1838 to serve as a missionary to the German Lutherans living on the American frontier. After a brief stay in Baltimore, Maryland, he traveled to northeast Indiana where he became the pastor of two congregations - St. Paul’s Lutheran in Fort Wayne and Zion Lutheran, Friedheim, in northern Adams County. Wynken also served as a circuit rider to the scattered Lutherans living “in the bush” around Fort Wayne.

Wynken soon realized he couldn’t adequately care for the spiritual needs he was encountering by himself. He returned to Germany in 1841 to recruit men to serve as Lutheran pastors and teachers for the ever-increasing stream of German immigrants. While in Germany, he visited Rev. Wilhelm Loehe in Neuendettelsau. Loehe responded to Wynken’s plea for church workers by sending men, money, and instructors to establish a practical seminary in Fort Wayne during the fall of 1846. Thanks to the efforts of Pastor Wynken, Pastor Loehe and others, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne has been training pastors to share the Gospel for nearly 180 years.

In the fall of 1845, Wynken helped organize a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio where the creation of a new, confessional Lutheran synod was discussed. This meeting eventually led to the organization in 1847 of *Die Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Synode von Missouri, Ohio und andern Staaten*, known today as the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Although Rev. C. F. W. Walther and the Missouri Saxons are often credited with founding the LCMS, eleven of the synod’s fourteen charter congregations had ties to Wynken and Loehe, compared to three congregations with connections to Walther and the Saxons.

Wynken was elected president of the synod in 1850, a position he held for 14 years. During his presidency, the synod grew dramatically as German immigrants flooded into the country. Wynken’s excellent organizational skills and his focus on outreach and Christian education helped shape the synod during its early years and continue to influence it today.

Wynken died in California on May 4, 1876 while visiting his daughter and her family. A funeral was held in San Francisco, and his body was transported east by train to St. Louis where a second funeral was held. On May 15th, Wynken’s body arrived at the train station in Fort Wayne. His casket was carried to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church where a third funeral was held. Rev. Wilhelm Sihler based the sermon for his close friend’s service on Proverbs 10:7: “The memory of the just is blessed.” In attendance were parishioners from Wynken’s earlier years at St. Paul’s, as well as members of his wife’s family from Zion, Friedheim.

Wynken’s fourth and final funeral was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cleveland, where he served as pastor during the last twelve years of his life. Today, a granite lectern marks his grave in Cleveland’s Lutheran Cemetery. This unique tombstone is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to sharing the Good News of Christ’s love and salvation with others.

You can read more about Pastor Wynken at <https://ctsfw.net/media/pdfs/wynkenbiography.pdf>



LUTHERAN NIGHT

2026 OUTING WITH THE FORT WAYNE TINCAPS

**TUESDAY,
JUNE 16**

**GAME TIME:
7:05PM**

SCAN TO ORDER TICKETS



DONATION

\$1.00 from each ticket will be shared with Lutheran Social Services of Indiana's Financial Stability Program that builds skills in managing money, overcoming financial barriers, and develops healthy financial habits.

SPECIAL DRAWING FOR TICKET ORDERS

(For orders received prior to Friday, May 15)

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

POSTGAME FIREWORKS

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

FAMILY FEAST NIGHT (PRESENTED BY US FOODS)

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

<- Order tickets online at by scanning the QR Code with your phone or tablet.

Only ticket orders received prior to Tuesday, June 2nd will receive the Lutheran Night discount offer.

LUTHERAN NIGHT • TICKET ORDER FORM • TUESDAY, JUNE 16

School/Church Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ ext. _____

Email: _____

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

VISA Mastercard Discover

Card #: _____ Exp: ____/____ 3 Digit # on Back (For Security Reasons): _____

TICKETS	#	PRICE	TOTAL
Lutheran Night Tickets		\$14	
Add. Donations (optional)			
TOTAL			

Please select how you would like to receive your tickets:

Text Email



TIGER TALES

“Make a Joyful Noise”



The Quest Continues

Odysseus struggles to sail home. Saint George travels to slay a dragon. The Knights of the Round Table search for the Holy Grail. Frodo and Sam take the Ring to Mount Doom. Dorothy follows the Yellow Brick Road. Indiana Jones tries to find the Ark of the Covenant. Luke Skywalker works to bring down the Empire. These are all quest stories! Or consider history: The Israelites journey to the Promised Land. The Pilgrims find a home in the New World. American pioneers settle the West. Man walks on the moon. More quests!

A quest is a journey with a purpose. The heroes have to find a treasure, or rescue prisoners, or get back home. They have a goal to achieve, but along the way they always learn something more. The heroes of a quest always find out who they really are. They build character. They become new people. They discover their true identity. That's what happens to all of us in life. We're all on a quest. We have journeys to go on and goals to work for. But along the way, we learn the really important things: we learn about who we are. Ultimately, our quest is to learn about who we are in Christ – God's children, created, redeemed, and made holy.

Bethlehem is here to help you on your quest. We teach and encourage and build up so that you are ready for the difficult journeys that life will lay before you. But your quest doesn't end here. Whether you're returning next year, or moving on to a new chapter of your story, your quest is much bigger than just getting through grade school.

This is why we emphasize the continuation of the quest in our mission statement: we are all **gaining wisdom, pursuing virtue, developing skills**. Education is a process. Life is a quest. It keeps going. You keep learning and growing and changing as you meet new challenges and learn more about who God has called you to be. So, take heart. Have courage. Keep going. And one day, you will reach the end of your quest: life with God in the world to come.

God be with you!

Your Servant in Christ

Pastor Dodgers



May 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 4-8 Choir Pizza Party Jude Wirgau 🎉	2
3	4 Ginnv Wir- gau 🎉	5	6 Alive & Well	7 4-8 Choir Field Trip	8	9
 <p>TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK</p>						
10 Mother's Day	11 6pm PTL Meeting	12 Last Library Day	13 Alive & Well 7pm Ascen- sion Service	14 7pm Public Examination Service	15 Garbriel Gardner 🎉	16
17 Confirma- tion Sunday	18	19 5:30p Board of Ed Meet- ing	20 Maren Meyer 🎉	21 Birthday Pizza with Headmaster	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day NO SCHOOL	26 All School Bowling	27	28 Last Day of School 1/2 Day	29	30
31	 <p>HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!</p>					

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY - Please join us: Ascension Eve Divine Service, Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. Public Examination Service, Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Sunday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m. God's blessings to this year's Confirmands: Savannah Fuller, Caroline Haiflich, Lucas Werling.



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.

NO SCHOOL on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL is Thursday, May 28th with dismissal after lunch

Please join us for our last **PTL Meeting** of the school year on Monday, May 11th at 6:00 pm. This is an important meeting because we will be looking to fill openings for our next year's PTL Board.

This would also be a great opportunity to check out some of the artwork around the school and to take home any of the winter clothes that may still be in your child's locker. Hope to see everyone there!



**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 continued support



Please continue to 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 DC Group is once again having a **METAL RECYCLING DRIVE – NOW** till the end of May, a dumpster will be available at Jay Werling's house (4126 E 800 N Ossian) for any metal to be recycled. Aluminum cans are also welcome. Proceeds are to help the next group of students attend a class trip to Washington DC.

Embracing, Nurturing, and Equipping Christ's Children for Life



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.

Our Fourth Quarter Chapel Offering will support a seminary student, Paul Mroczenski, who is serving his vicarage in Puerto Rico. We currently have \$387.00 (WOOHOO!) of our \$300 goal. Thank you

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

Last Day of School

Thursday, May 28th

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

Afternoon bus service will NOT be available.

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

8th Grade Graduation along with Academic Awards will follow.

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

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

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

Have a great summer!

In Person Final Registration Day –Thursday, August 6th, 4-7 p.m.

First Day of School– Wednesday, August 12th

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

Thursday, May 21st

students celebrating birthdays:

Bailey Meyer, Jonah Bultemeier

Caroline Haiflich, Cora Patrick, Jude Wirgau,

Ginny Wirgau, Grady Meyer, Maren Meyer, Gabriel Gardner,
Weslynn Nahrwold, Nolan Anthony, Isaac Wanner



LITERARY
TIGER

Thank you to everyone who supported our Storyglory book fair! We earned some bonus rewards from Storyglory thanks to our high participation rate. We hope you all enjoy your new books, and greatly appreciate your support. We love the opportunity to serve our school through the library, and it is a joy to be able to update and grow our collection.

We have had another great school year in the library, and it's hard to believe it is almost over. **The last day to check out books will be May 5th, and books will be due back May 12th. Any books not returned by May 19th will be considered lost, and an invoice for the replacement cost will be sent home.**

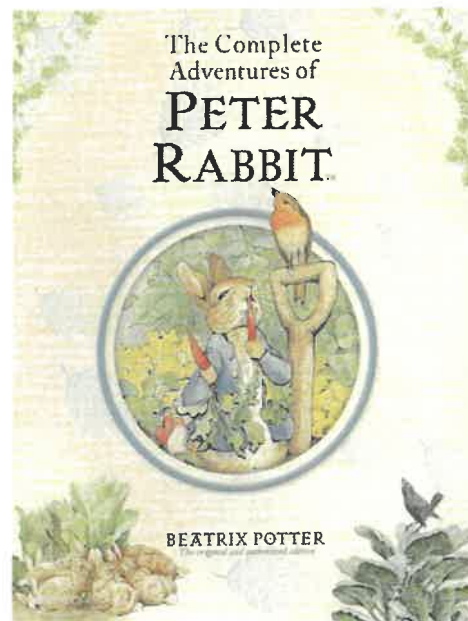
We hope when the school year ends you will make use of the public library and your own personal book collections to enjoy reading adventures all summer!

In the words of Mrs. Rabbit from the Tale of Peter Rabbit - "Now run along, and don't get into mischief."

Have a wonderful summer!

Best regards,

The Library Ladies





Where has the
TIME GONE?
HOJO'S LIFE Adventures



We ♥ Our Grandparents

& VIP's



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL

SUPPLY LIST 2026-2027

KINDERGARTEN

- School Bag
- 1 Pkg markers
- 2 Boxes 24 count Crayola Crayons
- 2 black Dry Erase Markers (wide)
- Small School Box
- 2 Large Boxes of Tissue
- 4 Large Glue Sticks
- 20 #2 Pencils
- 2 Erasers - large
- 2 - Two Pocket Folders
- 2 Primary Composition Notebook
- Scissors
- Paint Shirt (old t-shirt)
- Gym Shoes (inside school use)
- Rain Boots (for fall and spring)
- 3 Container of Clorox Wipes
- **\$50 for snacks**

GRADES 1-2

- 1 Dozen #2 Pencils
- 2 - 24 count Crayola Crayons
- Scissors
- 1 Ruler
- 1 pencil box
- 3 Paper Mate Erasers (large pink)
- 2 pkg. Crayola Washable Markers
- 4 large Glue Sticks
- 1 large boxes of Tissue
- 2 Clorox Wipes
- 1 pkg 12 Crayola Colored Pencils
- School Bag
- 2 black chisel tip Expo Dry Erase Markers
- 2 Primary Composition Notebook (1st grade)
- 1 Primary & 1 Normal Composition Notebook (2nd grade)
- 1- 1" Square Graph Paper Notebook
- 1 pk wide-ruled paper (2nd grade)
- Paint Shirt (old t-shirt) label
- Gym Shoes (inside use) label
- Rain Boots (for fall and spring)

GRADES 3-4

- School Bag
- Small School Box
- Gym Shoes (inside school use)
- Child Size Scissors

- 1 pkg Colored Pencils
- 1 pkg Crayons
- 1 pkg washable Markers
- 1 Dry Erase Markers
- Large pkg Elmers glue sticks
- 1 highlighter
- 1 dozen #2 pencils (no mechanical)
- 3-two pocket folder
- 2 pocket folders with prongs
- 2 Spiral Notebooks (wide rule)
- 1 Composition Notebook (3rd)
- 1 Pkg small pencil top eraser

GRADES 5-6

- 2 pkgs college-ruled paper
- 4 Spiral Notebooks
- 4 Pocket Folders
- 2 - 1" 3 Ring Binder
- Lots of #2 pencils
- Red pen for proofreading
- Blue or Black Ball Point Pens
- Ruler (metric and standard)
- Colored pencils
- Scissors
- Eraser
- Crayons
- 1-large box of tissue
- 1 large glue stick
- Gym Shoes (inside school use)
- 1 Dry Erase Marker
- 1 Old Sock
- 2 Highlighters

GRADES 7-8

- Several #2 pencils
- 2 pkgs college -ruled paper
- 2 Pocket folders
- 2 - 1" 3 ring binder
- 1 - 2" 3 ring binder
- 1 ruler (cm and inches)
- 1 large boxes of tissue
- Colored pencils
- 1 Highlighters
- 1 Pkg of Dry Erase Markers
- Eraser
- Gym Shoes (inside school use)
- Calculator (Scientific)

Confirmation Class

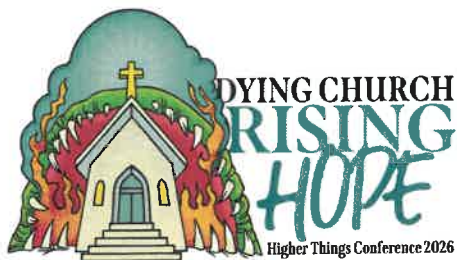
- 1 - 1" 3 ring binder

YOUTH Newsletter

Upcoming Events

MAY DONUTS: Wirgua

- **May 9:** Escape Room & Cramer Chapel Hymn Sing
- **TBD:** date to meet before conference
- **June 23-26:** Higher Things Conference at Washington Universtiy in St. Louis, MO



Thank you to everyone who supported the East of Chicago event—we raised over \$600 in one evening!

We're also grateful to the fieldworkers, Vicar, and Pastors who taught Galatians to our youth. We wrapped up with a cookout, Nerf Red Light/Green Light, and our final Bible study together.



One of the gifts for the Vicar signed by the students and youth.



Book Club

REBELLION 1776

BY LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON

MEET AUGUST
AT CRIMSON HOUSE



Deaconess Discussion

4.23 Books of the Bible

Keep practicing memory work over the summer. Challenge yourself to learn all the books of the Bible. There are several songs on YouTube to help.



Tapestry

WOMEN IN THE GOSPELS

Summer

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- JUNE 2 (SESSIONS 1 & 2)
- JUNE 16 (SESSIONS 3 & 4)
- JUNE 30 (SESSIONS 5 & 6)
- JULY 14 (SESSIONS 7 & 8)
- JULY 28 (SESSION 9 + MEAL & FELLOWSHIP)

**Online discussion available*

Contact Deaconess Boehm or Deann Oliver for more info

Join our Facebook Group

Details:

WE'LL BE USING TAPESTRY, A NINE-WEEK BIBLE STUDY EXPLORING THE LIVES OF SEVERAL NEW TESTAMENT WOMEN WHOSE PATHS CROSSED WITH JESUS DURING HIS MINISTRY. EACH LESSON INCLUDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEEPER REFLECTION, GROUP DISCUSSION, AND VISUAL FAITH® PRACTICES TO HELP BRING SCRIPTURE TO LIFE IN A CREATIVE AND ENGAGING WAY.





CREATED IN CHRIST

DESIGNED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

VBS



t shirts
sizes due
May 27



This year's VBS was created by the staff and volunteers at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We invite you into a vibrant, hands-on exploration of faith through art: "Created in Christ: Designed for God's Purpose."

Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17—"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation". The focus centers on God as Creator and Sustainer, at work in the daily lives of His people.

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 8-THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LOCATION:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
6514 East 750 North, Ossian, IN 46777

CLOSING CEREMONY & ART TRY-IT NIGHT:
Thursday, June 11 at 6:30pm



REGISTER AT:
blcsossian.org/vbs

Contact Deaconess Boehm for Questions
wboehm@blcsossian.org



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

SINGLE CHILD REGISTRATION FORM: CHILD INFO

First and last name:

Allergies/Medical issues or special needs:

Gender: Male Female

Grade going into:

Preschool (age 2-4 potty trained) Pre-K (age 4-5) Kindergarten 1st Grade 2nd Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade 5th Grade

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

T-Shirt Size:

YXS YS YM YL YXL/AS *Forms submitted after June 10 are not guaranteed a t-shirt

Same group as:

Home church (if applicable):

PARENT INFO

Full Address:

Parent/Guardian first and last name:

Parent/Guardian phone number:

Parent/Guardian email:

Emergency Contact first/last name:

Emergency contact phone number:

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

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

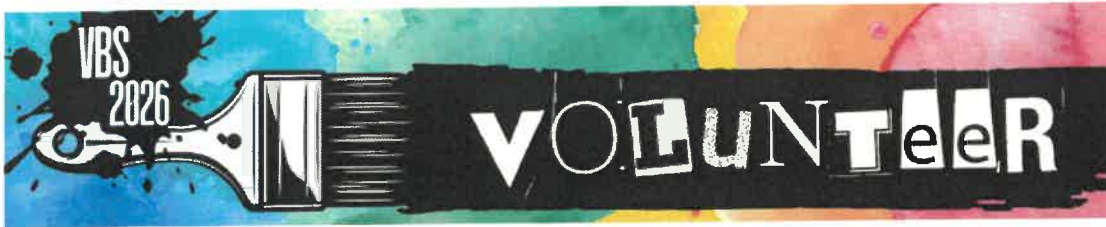
Medical Release: I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency will be paid by me.

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

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

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

Signature of Parent/Guardian:



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

SINGLE VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM: VOLUNTEER INFO

First and last name:

Allergies/Medical issues or special needs:

Gender: Male Female

T-Shirt Size:

XS S M L XL 2x 3x 4x

***For smaller children accompanying adult please write their size:**

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

Home church (if applicable):

**Options for area preferred:
(check all that apply)**

Decorating Photography Registration Storytelling Chapel
 Craft Stacks Games Music Group Guide

**Options for days available:
(check all that apply)**

Monday AM Wednesday AM Thursday PM
 Tuesday AM Thursday AM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Address:

E-Mail:

Phone Number:

**Parent/Guardian
first and last name
if under 18:**

**Parent/Guardian phone number
if under 18:**

**Emergency Contact
first/last name:**

Emergency contact phone number:

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

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

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

**Signature of volunteer or
Parent/Guardian if under 18:**