



Summer 2026

Volume 19, Issue 11

The Bethlehem Star



Church Membership



Confirmation

On Thursday evening, May 14, 2026 the following young people were publicly examined in their knowledge and understanding of Christian doctrine and have been declared eligible to be accepted into communicant by Bethlehem Lutheran Church by Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 17, 2026: Savannah Fuller, Caroline Haiflich, Lucas Werling.



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Ossian, Indiana 46777
(260) 597-7121



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Email— samuel.wirgau@gmail.com
A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

June 1 Jason and Tisha Laley (30)
June 2 Butch and Joyce Bauermeister (64)
June 3 Evan and Reese Springer (3)
June 4 Cale and Jessica Schumm (10)
June 5 Jerry and Jennifer Meyer (33)
June 5 Mike and Kathy Nahrwold (45)
June 5 Brian and Camilla Shelton (27)
June 7 Gregg and Dalene Springer (35)
June 11 Richard and Carolyn Brinkley (54)
June 11 Nathan and Lacey Meyer (15)
June 14 Bruce and Kim Werling (46)
June 17 Bruce and Jennifer Meyer (37)
June 17 Gary and Deann Oliver (37)
June 20 Tim and Patty Baker (45)
June 20 Dan and Heidi Kleppinger (45)
June 21 Gavin and Lillyan Laley (1)
June 23 Adam and Olivia Lambert (8)
June 28 Chad and Megan Dunham (11)
June 30 Mike and Emilie Meyer (42)



July 3 Mike and Linda Bultemeier (44)
July 8 Andrew and Shelby Todd (9)
July 10 Lloyd and Vickie Graft (33)
July 10 Greg and Rachel Roembke (22)
July 12 Ian and Jennifer Delaney (18)
July 12 Jason and Michelle Glisson (29)
July 12 Greg and Angie Mishler (29)
July 13 Milton and Patsy Gallmeyer (58)
July 13 Nathan and Ashley Green (21)
July 18 Martin and Judy Moehring (45)
July 18 Mike and Kay Schumm (45)
July 25 Lee and Danielle Werling (11)
July 29 Jeff and Jill Holtzclaw (20)
July 29 Jay and Barb Werling (26)

August 1 Don and Sandy Avey (34)
August 1 Tyler and Brittany Karns (17)
August 4 Brandon and Erin Schumm (14)
August 6 Trent and Amy Aschliman (32)
August 8 Josh and Wendy Boehm (11)
August 8 Scott and Jennifer Fuhrmann (17)
August 12 Denny and Maxine Nahrwold (59)
August 13 Collin and Lynae Laley (4)
August 18 Michael and Rise Taylor (37)
August 22 Nate and Amber Corwin (11)
August 22 Peter and Sandra Meyer (37)
August 24 Nathan and Melissa Householder (7)
August 25 Ross and Amy Adams (19)
August 26 Aaron and Emily Anthony (9)
August 26 Todd and Diane Ottinger (31)
August 29 Darren and Sierra Patrick (11)
August 30 Otto and Judy Clausen (57)



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.

June	July	August
1) Jerod Evans	4) Diane Ottinger	1) Ed Black
2) Jared Meyer	5) Phoenix Whitsitt	2) Charles Tolson
3) Julia Braselton	6) Corrie Glisson	3) Stan Meyer
4) John Roembke	Don Lutz	Mark Patrick
5) Brooke Werling	8) Gavin Laley	4) Terry Saalfrank
6) Gregg Springer	9) Savannah Fuller	Leila Stuchell
Drew Werling	Sydney Maggart	5) Jean Anderson
8) Greg Roembke	10) Joshua Glisson	6) Marilyn Meyer
Samantha Tolson	Grace Mandeville	8) Jennifer Bultemeier
9) Arthur Behning	Reese Springer	Jay Louison
Landon Geiger	11) Aspen Fisher	Macie Saalfrank
Lincoln Laley	Hunter Householder	9) Katy Haiflich
10) Raven Baker	Marlene Lesh	10) Nicholas Lesh
Danielle Rekeweg	13) Caleb Biggs	Susan Stoppenhagen
11) Nolan Anthony	14) Isaac Harkless	11) Gavin Adams
Clara Conrad	16) Lloyd Meyer	12) Norman Bauermeister
Arden Karns	Michael Taylor	Norwin Bauermeister
12) Laura Werling	18) Scott Bauermeister	13) Tina Geiger
13) Heidi Kleppinger	Ronda Flesch	Leeland Huss
14) Logan Eisaman	Cecily Werling	Colton Taylor
Amanda Meyer	19) Kyndal Fuller	15) Lloyd Graft
Austin Steele	Melissa Householder	Jordan Whitsitt
15) Joel Sauer	20) Rob Gresley	16) Aaron Clark
16) Ian Stoppenhagen	Nathan Meyer	Samuel Wirgau
18) Nicholas Dodgers	21) Joyce Glisson	17) Jennifer Fuhrmann
19) Kaydence Krumma	23) Ruby Patrick	18) Jacob Meyer
22) Bryce Bowman	Sam Sommer	21) Matthew Graft
Matthew Krumma	24) Michelle Bowman	Molly Mishler
23) Ryan Baker	25) Eva Dunham	22) LouAnn Winans
Joyce Fuhrmann	Larry Eichler	23) Gay Stoppenhagen
24) Ashley Green	27) Angie Mishler	24) Owen Glisson
25) Isaac Wanner	29) Nathan Householder	27) Scott Fuhrmann
26) Lynae Laley	31) Katie Werling	Alivia Green
27) Travis Avey		28) Logan Geiger
28) Josh Flesch		Peyton Laley
Emilie Meyer		Janice Scheumann
29) Rosalie Boehm		Augustin Wirgau
29) Rachel Roembke		29) Rachel Bauermeister
Sierra Patrick		Emma Schueler
		31) Gary Oliver
		Andrew Stoppenhagen





Insiders and Outsiders June 7, 2026 – Second Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Shayne Jonker Imagine a doctor who didn't want to be around sick people. The doctor comes into the waiting room, he

looks at all those runny noses and itchy eyes, hears all the coughing and sneezing, and he covers his mouth and nose and runs out of the room as fast as he can. Not much of a doctor, is he? Nor would Jesus be much of a Savior if He didn't care for the company of sinners. That was Jesus' mission – His purpose for coming into the world – to seek and to save the lost, to become lost in our death in order than we might be found in Him. Sermon Text: Matthew 9:13 Readings: Psalm 119:65-72; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Matthew 9:9-13 Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. John Amelith Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

Our New Heritage June 14, 2026 – Third Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Paul Shoemaker Our family's heritage is precious to us. We not only have a physical heritage, tracked throughout the years, but we also have a spiritual heritage. That new heritage connects us to Jesus and the blessings He comes to bring. Sermon Text: Romans 5:6-15 Readings: Psalm 100; Romans 5:6-15; Matthew 9:35-10:8 Featured Choirs: Concordia Lutheran High School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

Be a Tool June 21, 2026 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. William Mueller We celebrate the truth that we are, at one and the same time, a sinner who deserves nothing but God's wrath. But, we are forgiven by God and declared innocent of sin because of Jesus Christ. How do we live that truth out in our lives? Do we freely and willingly sin because we know we are forgiven? Do we struggle and beat ourselves up as we try to become better people? Or do we simply consider ourselves a tool? Sermon Text: Romans 6:12-23 Readings: Psalm 91:1-10; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:5a, 21-33 Featured Choir: Holy Cross Lutheran School Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

The Elephant in the Room June 28, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Scott Zeckzer The Lord calls us to follow Him. This is difficult in a world that is against Christ. Yet, in Jesus, we have peace with Him in a hostile world. Sermon Text: Jeremiah 28:5-9 Readings: Psalm 119:153-160; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Matthew 10:34-42 Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wis.; Indiana District LWML Choir Featured Art and Architecture: Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minn.

Jesus Gives You Rest July 5, 2026 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III Our bodies need rest. Of greater importance is rest for our souls. Only one Person can give this, who says to us, "Come to Me, and you will find rest for your souls." Sermon Text: Matthew 11:28-30 Readings: Psalm 145:1-9; Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 11:28-30 Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Sanctuary Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Indiana LWML District Choir Featured Art and Architecture: Welcome Home Soldier Monument, Albia, Iowa Now

What? July 12, 2026 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer You have heard — or read — God's Word. Now what? The question isn't "How do we make the Word more life changing?" Instead, how does this life-changing Word shape and guide our lives as we live in response to it? Sermon Text: Matthew 13:23 Readings: Psalm 65:9-13; Isaiah 55:10-13; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Featured Choirs: Indiana LWML District Choir Featured Art and Architecture: St. John Lutheran Church, Sherwood, Ohio Weeds

Among Wheat July 19, 2026 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Shayne Jonker Christians must always contend with false teaching and false Christians. Jesus said so. There is nothing wrong with the good seed that Christ sows. The pure Gospel rightly proclaimed produces faithful Christians, but the devil deliberately sows bad seed where the good seed has been sown. Sermon Text: Matthew 13:24-25 Readings: Psalm 119:57-64, 89; Isaiah 44:6-8; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Sanctuary Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul's Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Preble Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Zion (Cicero) Lutheran Church, Edgerton, Ohio

Priorities July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Paul Shoemaker What is your priority in life? Jesus' priority was to do the will of His Father. That means that His priority was you. His priority was to pay in full the penalty of your sins so you could be in heaven forever. Sermon Text: Matthew 13:44-52 Readings: Psalm 125; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52 Featured Choir: Valley Lutheran High School Golden Voice Choir, Saginaw, Mich. Featured Art and Architecture: Lake George Lutheran Chapel, Fremont, Ind.

**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 April 30, 2026:

\$375,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
 232,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
 431,487.82 - Amount generated since 2009
-179,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$859,798.64 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of April 30, 2026

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund
 \$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
 13,702.48 - Amount generated since November 2024
-10,000.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2024
\$ 93,781.41 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of April 30, 2026

Library Fund
 \$5,000.00 - Amount sent in since March 2026
 155.75- Amount generated since March 2026
\$5,155.75 - Value of the Library Fund as of April 30, 2026

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) to Pay Operating Bills:

Balance: \$ 27,145.42
 Outstanding Checks Paid: \$ 18,635.51
 Total Checking: **\$ 8,509.91**

Savings Fund Balance:

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Actual Balance
Improvement Fund:	\$ 36,023.26	\$ 35,654.30	\$ 368.96
Scholarship Fund:	\$ 17,126.10	\$ 3,314.59	\$ 13,811.51
Music Fund:	\$ 4,063.36	\$ -	\$ 4,063.36
Relief Fund:	\$ 1,481.83	\$ -	\$ 1,481.83
Organ Fund:	\$ 6,605.08	\$ -	\$ 6,605.08
Endowment:	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Synod/Seminary Fund:	\$ 4,370.00	\$ -	\$ 4,370.00
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Project - Pavillion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Account - Vicar Program	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Siberian Lutheran	\$ 1,877.00	\$ -	\$ 1,877.00
Reserved (TBD):	\$ 2,469.26	\$ -	\$ 2,469.26
Totals	\$ 86,615.89	\$ 38,968.89	\$ 47,647.00

Borrowed Amounts

From Restricted Savings Account	\$ 38,968.89	
Operating Loan	\$ -	(of \$30,000 max available)
TOTAL BORROWED	\$ 38,968.89	(\$0.00/day for interest)

Total cash available to pay operate church **\$ 86,156.91**

Bills due week of: 6/8/2026 \$ 5,000
 Bills due week of: 6/15/2026 \$ 15,000



LUTHERAN NIGHT

2026 OUTING WITH THE FORT WAYNE TINCAPS

**TUESDAY,
JUNE 16**

**GAME TIME:
7:05PM**

SCAN TO ORDER TICKETS



**PARKVIEW
Field**

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

FORT WAYNE TINCAPS • LUTHERAN NIGHT • 1301 EWING STREET • FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
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