BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Bethlehem Star

Volume 20 Issue 2 October 2026

Worship Schedule

Sunday: Divine Service 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion
Chapel: Wednesday – Matins 10:00 a.m.
Midweek: Wednesday Spoken Service 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Dates: October

3 Fall Festival - Stauffer Farms

4 LWML Sunday

9 WOB - Leaf & Lore Movie Event

11 Elders Meeting - 11:30 am
Pork Chop Dinner-Drive Thru
Youth Group- 6:30-8pm

13 Visual Faith 6-8pm

18 Church Council Meeting 11:30 am

SUBSCRIBE:
Subscribe to individual calendars on our website:
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONTACT INFO

Senior Pastor
Rev. Samuel Wirgau
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Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com

Associate Pastor
Rev. Anthony Dodgers
616-648-6489

Kantor
Richard Brinkley
260-705-4105

Deaconess
Deac. Wendy Boehm
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Church & School Secretary
Heidi Kleppinger
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YouTube

REFORMATION POINTS US BACK

BY REV. DR. CHRISTIAN PREUS

Rev. Dr. Preus serves as Senior Pastor of Mt. Hope Lutheran Church & School in Casper, Wyoming. He also sits on the Board of Regents of Luther Classical College and is currently teaching Greek to pre-seminary students at LCC.

The Reformation was not a re-forming of the church into something new. That "re" in Reformation points us back. That's what "re" means in Latin: back. The Reformation formed the church back to what it used to be.

There is an old saying, "the church always needs to be reformed" (ecclesia semper reformanda), and liberal, unthinking, or perhaps sinisterly thinking, theologians have suggested that this means we need to keep moving with the times, re-forming the church to suit modern sensibilities. But it's quite the opposite. Exactly the opposite. The fact is that contemporary ideologies and faddish thinking continually seep into the church and try to form it in an unbiblical direction. The task of "always reforming" is the task of always going back to what the church is.

The question is: what is that? What has the church always been? What was it from the beginning?

It's ironic and tragic that people will try to find the answer to this question by looking at anything except the Bible. So we see the trend today of Lutherans (including Lutheran pastors) leaving the Lutheran Church for the Roman Catholic Church or the Eastern Orthodox Church. And the reason is always the same. They find something more "ancient" or "traditional" there.

We need to call foul here for two reasons. First, the Roman Catholic Church is not a traditional church. It literally changes its doctrine and practice continually. They used to teach the existence of limbo (where unbaptized babies go, instead of hell or heaven). Now, by decree, it stopped existing. Amazing! They used to say that you could only go to heaven if you were baptized and knowingly confessed Christ. Now they say that a Muslim who is a really good guy will get into heaven, or a Jew, because he sincerely believes his Talmud, or a pagan, because he treats his wife well and is a good father to his children. The Roman Catholic Church changes with the times. That's not traditional, conservative, or ancient.

What about the Eastern Orthodox Church? They still have many of the old liturgical prayers and ceremonies, and unlike the Roman Catholic Church, they don't constantly feature lady lectors and girl communion assistants at their Supper, but they base their teaching not on the Bible, but on tradition that is simply new in comparison with the Bible. The Eastern Orthodox have no doctrine of original sin. The atonement for them is not Christ answering the wrath of God



against sin. It is only a victory over death and a healing of human nature. What is left looks old, looks ancient, but looks are deceiving.

Second, it is simply and obviously the truth that the Bible came before any other church traditions. Martin Chemnitz calls the Bible the most ancient tradition. It is. Tradition is what is handed down to us. What could be more ancient, more genuine tradition, than the words of Jesus Himself? What could be more ancient than the words He gave His Spirit to inspire the apostles to write? If you are looking for the oldest tradition, you have to begin and then end with the Bible.

That is what reformation is about. It's what the Reformation was about. "The church always needs to be reformed" means we need to continually form it back to what Jesus gives us in His Word. If feminism teaches us that women should preach publicly and have authority in the church, and this seeps into the church, then we reform, we go back to St. Paul's words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that teach men to be men and lead the church in love (1 Tim. 2:12). If wokism teaches that a man can be a woman or a woman a man, and this seeps into the church, then we reform, we go back to the words of Jesus who said, "From the beginning it was not so. God made them male and female" (Matt. 19:8). When sappy pop rock takes over society and this seeps into the church, so that praise bands run the church service, then we reform, we go back to the words of Paul, "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1). If it becomes unpopular to talk about sin and judgment, and that seeps into the church, and pastors shrink away from condemning sin and proclaiming Christ the atonement for them all, then we reform, and return to St. John's words, "If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 2:1-2).

We Lutherans are Lutherans because we believe in reformation. And that is not a freedom to change with the times. It is a commitment, the heritage of our Baptism, to always go back to God's Word and find there our greatest tradition, our everlasting hope, and our salvation, bought by the blood of our God.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

October 18th we will observe St. Luke, Evangelist with Divine Service at 9:00 am
November 1st we will observe All Saints Day with Divine Service at 9:00 a.m.

All Saints Day Insert - In remembrance and thanksgiving for all the saints who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors, we would like to have a special "All Saint's Day" memorial on Sunday, November 1st. If you have a loved one you would like to add, please contact Deaconess Boehm or the church office with their name(s) by October 28th. There will be a special bulletin insert and those who have passed away in the last year will have their name read during the prayers. Please consider sharing in this special remembrance.

Church Membership

Membership

Deaths

Hildegarde Bauermeister 9-2-2026

Transfer In

Steve and Susan Bienz 9-13-2026

Mary Blackman and son Gabriel 9-13-2026

Weddings

Landon and Sierra Geiger 8-22-2026

Wedding Anniversary

Oct. 6 Ron and Jean Anderson (58)
Oct. 7 David and Natalie Brege (19)
Oct. 9 Anthony and Betsy Dodgers (5)
Oct. 11 Graham and Megan Stoppenhagen (1)
Oct. 11 Scott and Nicole Williamson (23)
Oct. 17 Glen and Julie Werling (28)
Oct. 19 Dale and Janelle Klingenberger (13)
Oct. 21 Jeff and Lisa Gresley (37)
Oct. 23 Bruce and Heather Bultemeier (33)
Oct. 28 Brett and Grace Cornman (3)

Church Officers

Chairman - Dave Flesch
Vice Chairman - Stan Meyer
Secretary - Josh Boehm
Treasurer - Ed Black

Board of Elders	Steve Conrad, Jeff Gresley, Brian Scheumann, Mike Schumm, Dan Springer, Andrew Stoppenhagen
Board of Trustees	Dan Kleppinger, Gary Oliver, Todd Ottinger, Darrin Werling, Jay Werling, Lee Werling
Board of Finance	Brian Bauermeister, Dan Buchinger, Rory Geiger, Collin Laley, Jason Laley, Jay Louison
Board of Education	Aaron Anthony, Jeff Holtzclaw, Nathan Householder, Jacob Meyer, Darren Patrick, Brandon Schumm

happy BIRTHDAY

October

02) Cohen Karns
Kaden Laley
Gail Werling
04) Tyson Flora
Lauren Schumm
05) Rob Meyer
06) Holdon Eisaman
Jason Laley
07) Jeff Gresley
10) Maisie Patrick
11) David Bowman
Evan Delaney
Alex Fuhrmann
Alicia Krick
Emma Lesh
Jennifer Meyer
12) Allan Graft
14) MacKenzie Price
Mark Sauer
15) Maxine Nahrwold
17) Kyle Kleppinger
18) Noah Fowler
Grant Mishler
Shelby Todd
22) Avery Geiger
24) Ted Schumm
Ian Tolson
25) Evelyn Wanner
27) Ezra Karns
28) Katie Kleppinger
Brian Nahrwold
30) Tisha Laley
Haley Williamson
31) Greyson Mishler
Susan Sauer

Endowment

The Bethlehem Endowment Committee thanks the Lord and our congregation for the generous gifts to thee School 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 July 31, 2026:

$381,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
238,283.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
460,817.25 - Amount generated since 2009
-219,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
$861,028.07 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of July 31, 2026

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund
$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
16,898.39 - Amount generated since November 2024
-10,000.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2024
$ 96,977.32 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of July 31, 2026

Library Fund
$5,000.00 - Amount sent in since March 2026
331.47- Amount generated since March 2026
$5,331,47 - Value of the Library Fund as of July 31, 2026

E-Giving

Enjoy the convenience of the Electronic Giving Option!!

Single OR reoccurring gifts can be attributed to a particular fund(s).
More information can be found on our website, www.blcsossian.org
OR
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. You may your also elect to increase your gift to cover the cost of the transaction fees.

vanco

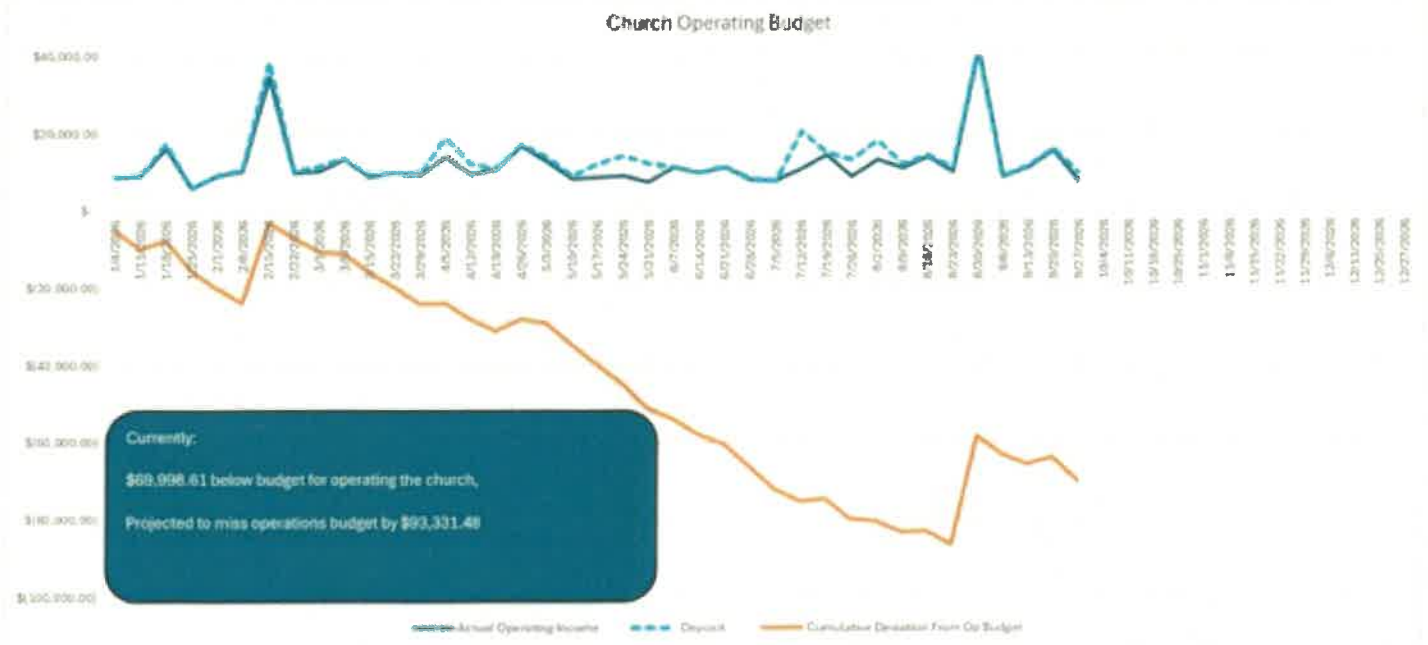
Financial Report

NOTE: There is pending approximately $35,000 for the parsonage roof and a school HVAC unit not in these figures. This will essentially eliminate the improvement fund. Additionally, the offerings are projected to underfund the budget by $93,000 at our current rate.

As of October 1, 2026

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash			**Special Accounts**	
Checking	$ 30,465.55		Improvement Fund:	$ 35,729.23
Savings	$ 101,390.59		Scholarship Fund:	$ 17,871.10
			Music Fund:	$ 4,419.00
Total Cash	***$ 131,856.14***		Relief Fund:	$ 1,681.83
			Organ Fund:	$ 8,123.49
Operating Loan	$ -	of $30,000 max available	Endowment:	$ 20.00
			Synod/Seminary Fund:	$ -
			Reserved (Sing, Pray, Praise)	$ 5,000.00
Special Account (Pavilion)	$ 85,572.51		Special Account - Vicar Program	$ 44,690.43
			Reserved (TBD):	$ 2,469.26
			Total	***$ 120,004.34***
	$ 18,613.75	added to checking account from special accounts to operate church		
Bills Due:	10/5/2026	$15,000.00		
	10/12/2026	$ 5,000.00		



IMPROVEMENT FUNDS NEEDED - We have two major projects starting up: replacing a failed HVAC unit and replacing the roof on the parsonage. These necessary repairs will use nearly all of the funds currently in our Improvement Fund. We humbly ask you to prayerfully consider giving above your usual contribution to help offset these expenses. Every gift, no matter what the amount, will make a difference in maintaining our church property and supporting our church family. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and continued support!

VISUAL FAITH MINISTRY

Visual Faith: Scripture & Gratitude Workshop

Join us for an evening of faith, creativity and fellowship as we explore Visual Faith! Visual Faith is a hands-on way to engage with God's Word through writing, art and creative expression. No artistic experience is needed!

Our October workshop will include a Scripture Scribing practice, giving us time to slow down, reflect on God's Word, and let it speak to our hearts. We'll also create Gratitude Faith Mail—handmade cards and paper treasures to share encouragement and God's love with others.

OCT. 13 - 6-8PM

Come enjoy a relaxing evening of creativity and fellowship as we discover new ways to grow in God's Word and share His blessings!

Tuesday, October 13 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Bring a friend and join us!

Register at

blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry

For questions, contact Deann Oliver at 616-894-0144

VISUAL FAITH MINISTRY

TELLING THE STORY OF HIS FAITHFULNESS

MISSION GRANTS UPDATE

MARGIE WICKERT



We have paid our first grant for the 2026-2028 biennium! The Latino Ministry in Indianapolis and Pastoral Preparation, Trinity Lutheran Church (Cornerstone Warren) in Indianapolis received a check for $12,000 in August. Trinity is the home of one of Indiana's four established Spanish services. Rev. Daniel Fickenscher is the Lataino Outreach Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. Trinity Lutheran School has been the primary focus of Latino outreach efforts. The events reach the unchurched with the Gospel while strengthening active members in their faith and relationships with one another and Anglo members. Trinity is supporting future Spanish-speaking Lutheran pastors by inviting CTSFW seminarians to preach quarterly in Spanish. They are nurturing and encouraging students who have demonstrated gifts that would make excellent future pastoral candidates and church leaders in the future. Please pray for all those who received mission grants for this biennium.

All but one of the 2024-2026 biennium mission grants have been paid! We praise and thank God for His grace and mercy and the servant hearts of our Lutheran Women in Mission in our Indiana District who supported these Mission Grants through their participation, encouragement, prayers and mites. The Most Ministries in Elizabethtown, KY, has requested an extension of their Mission Grant into the 2026-2028 Biennium of $12,000. That request has been honored by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. We praise God for the privilege of supporting these mission endeavors, to reach out with His love to bring God's Word in so many different ways to many people.

MISSION GRANTS INDIANA DISTRICT 2026-2028

Name of Grant	Amount Requested	Amount Paid
Calvary India Mission, Indianapolis, IN	$4,500	
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op, Fort Wayne, IN	$10,000	
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op Freezer, Fort Wayne, IN	$10,000	
Latino Ministry and Pastoral Preparation, Indianapolis, IN	$12,000	$12,000
Lutheran Agency for Mission to Burmese (LAMB), Fort Wayne, IN	$12,000	
Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Fort Wayne, IN	$10,000	
Lutheran High School of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN	$5,000	
Lutheran Life Villages, Fort Wayne, IN	$12,000	
Sharing the Gospel, Classroom Expansion, St. Paul Lutheran, Columbus, IN	$12,000	
Swaddling Clothes, Demotte, IN	$5,000	
Worship Anew/Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc, Fort Wayne, IN	$12,000	
Y4Life/Lutherans for Life, Columbus, IN	$12,000	
Zion Lutheran Wiggle Church, New Palestine, IN	$4,500	

LWML Mite Boxes: Just a reminder that mite boxes are located by the church bulletins in the church entrance. When a mite box is filled, it can be dropped off in the LWML slot in the church office.

These mite boxes (for small offerings) are used to support mission outreach, church worker scholarships, and humanitarian aid projects. Thank you!

LWML SUNDAY – October 4th – The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is dedicated to supporting missions and spreading the Gospel through service, prayer and financial grants. The Bethlehem LWML ladies will be serving delicious breakfast items during Bible Class and will be collecting "Mites" (small offerings) turning them into powerful blessings around the world.

The blankets placed over the pews are made to give to residents in need and also given to families experiencing a homeless crisis. May the Lord grant us supportive hearts and allow us to support these efforts that go forth in His name.

St. Paul, Preble Ladies Aid BAKE SALE AND BAZAAR on Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 10:30-1pm at St. Paul, Preble, at the corner of 450W and 750N Decatur in Adams County. We will serve a luncheon which includes homemade soups, sandwiches, and desserts as well as drinks. We will also offer a cookie corner, decorated Christmas Cookies, bake sale items, craft items, and homemade noodles!

St. John Flatrock's 12912 Franke Road, Monroeville, IN 46773
Fall RUMMAGE SALE will be held on Friday, October 23rd from 8-5, with a bag sale Saturday October 24th from 8-12. The bag sale will be $3 for a brown paper bag, $6 for a 13 gallon kitchen garbage bag, and half off all priced items.

DINNER – St. Peter Lutheran (Fuelling) Church 1033 E 1100 N Decatur, IN is going to hold their 181st anniversary church dinner on October 11th from 10-12:30 p.m. Dinner includes: Swiss Steak / Chicken Breast, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Dinner roll, Dessert- Adults $12.00 and Children 12 and under $6.00. Dine in or Drive thru.

SENIOR DINNER – New Hope Lutheran Church is again offering a Senior Dinner on October 15th beginning at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Ed Rahn discussing railroad safety. Free will donation will be accepted. To RSVP call 260-622-7954 or 260-223-4830.

FALL RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE – Martini Lutheran Church 333 Moeller Road, New Haven.
October 29-30th Thursday 8-3:00 p.m. Friday Bag Sale 8 – Noon
Clothing, Toys, Household items, etc.

Worship Anew

.Whose Church Is It, Anyway? October 4, 2026 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer The church belongs to Jesus Christ, not us! He alone builds, sustains, and blesses His church through the saving gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Because we are His people by grace, we are freed and empowered to joyfully serve as Christ's presence in the world. Sermon Text: Matthew 21:33-46 Readings: Psalm 80:7-19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46 Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Angelis Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

The Feast Is Ready! October 11, 2026 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Shayne Jonker In Holy Baptism, God clothed you in the wedding garment of Christ's righteousness and gave you a seat at His table at the Great Wedding Feast. That table is set with His Word and His Supper. The feast is ready. Come to the table of the Lord and receive the free forgiveness, life, and salvation Christ has won for you. Sermon Text: Matthew 22:2 Readings: Psalm 23 (KJV); Isaiah 25:6-9; Matthew 22:1-14 Featured Choirs: St. Paul Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind.; Valley Lutheran High School Choir, Saginaw, Mich. Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church (Frankentrost), Saginaw, Mich.

Faith, Love, Hope October 18, 2026 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Paul Shoemaker The life of a Christian can be challenging. The apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian Christians with these words, "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV). May Paul's words be an encouragement to us. Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Readings: Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22 Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Michael Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Holland, Mich.

It's Still about Jesus October 25, 2026 – Reformation Sunday Rev. William Mueller Nine years ago, at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, this phrase was used to accurately capture the essence of the Reformation: "It's still about Jesus." In the nine years since, this has not changed! Celebrating Reformation Sunday is not an invitation to brag about our heritage or ethnicity; it is a time to hear the clear Word of God and to rejoice. It is still about Jesus! Sermon Text: Romans 3:19-28 Readings: Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 Featured Choir: St. Paul Preble Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

WholyFit

WholyFit Classes Begin September 14!
WholyFit is a gentle, faith-centered movement practice that blends stretching, strengthening, and meditating on God's Word. Each class offers a calm, supportive space to care for your body while grounding your heart in Scripture. Movements are slow, intentional, and adaptable for all fitness levels.

Classes will meet **Mondays** and **Thursdays**
from **5:45 -6:30 PM**
in the school music room downstairs.

You'll experience guided breathwork, purposeful movement, and a brief devotional focus designed to help you settle your heart in Scripture as you end your day.

What to bring:
· Comfortable clothing
· A water bottle
· An exercise mat

If you have any questions,
reach out to Deann Oliver at 616-894-0144.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

OCTOBER

11 Bible Study

25 Fall break

November

8 Bible Study

22 Bible Study

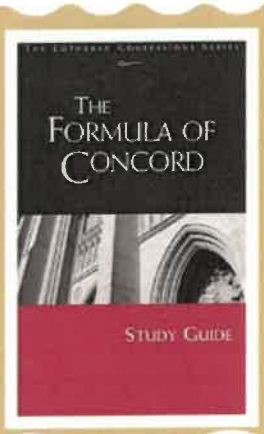
REFRESHMENTS

Donut Duty:
Fuhrmann

Bible Study:

Oct 11 Bultemeier

Oct 25 None



Follow along with the youth in their study of The Formula of Concord.

The book offers a thirteen session study that provides an overview of the Formula of Concord..

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

APOLOGETICS

FALL 2026

MONDAY 5 OCT @ 2PM	THURSDAY 8 OCT @ 7PM	BEGINNINGS
MONDAY 12 OCT @ 2PM	THURSDAY 15 OCT @ 7PM	CHRISTIAN LIFE

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

1 Corinthians 15

Sing, Pray & Keep His Ways

HOW TO? Family Devotions

God comes to us through His Word and Sacraments during worship at church, and then the family's devotional life at home keeps its members connected to those gifts all week long. "However, this keeping of the Sabbath, I...should be done daily." (Large Catechism I:85). "Whenever God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or meditated upon, then the person, day, and work are sanctified... because of the Word, which makes saints of us all." (Large Catechsim I:92)

Why do daily devotions?
Scripture makes clear that parents are to teach the faith to their children: "You shall teach them diligently to your children..." (Deut. 6:6–7). Yet household devotions are vital for everyone—families, couples, and individuals—because any gathering under God's Word is a domestic church where faith is nourished and Christ is present.

Who should lead these devotions?
The husband as head of the household should lead these devotions. If he is not present or willing, the mother or another relative should take the initiative. Daily prayer is essential to a Christian's life.

Helpful tips:

- Use spare moments throughout the day — while in the car, while waiting in line and so on — to discuss faith issues. As children are able, start applying the Small Catechism to real-world events and conversations.
- Set aside a specific time each day
- Use a ribbon to indicate the color of the Church Year
- Consider lighting a candle
- Sing a hymn together
- Pray before meals and at bedtime
- There is no right or wrong way to have family devotions, just START

Suggested books:

- Lutheran Service Book
- The Lutheran Study Bible
- Luther's Small Catechism
  - Youth:
    - Whisper, Whisper
    - My First Catechism
    - My First Hymnal
    - The Story Bible
    - Follow and Do
    - Arch Books
  - Adult:
    - Treasury of Daily Prayer
    - Abide with Us: Daily Hymn Devotions
    - Portals of Prayer



CHECK OUT:

- **resources.lcms.org/family/ OR search for "family ministry" "family devotions"**
- **AlltheHousehold.com celebrates feast days & helpful family altar suggestions**
- **Concordia Center for the Family (concordiafamily.org)**
- **CPH.org - The Essential Lutheran Library for the Family**

Book Club

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY
BY MARY ANN SHAFFER & ANNIE BARROWS

January, 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, Dawsey Adams, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name in a book?
As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of Dawsey and his friends—and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society—a book club born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island—boasts an outstanding cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all.

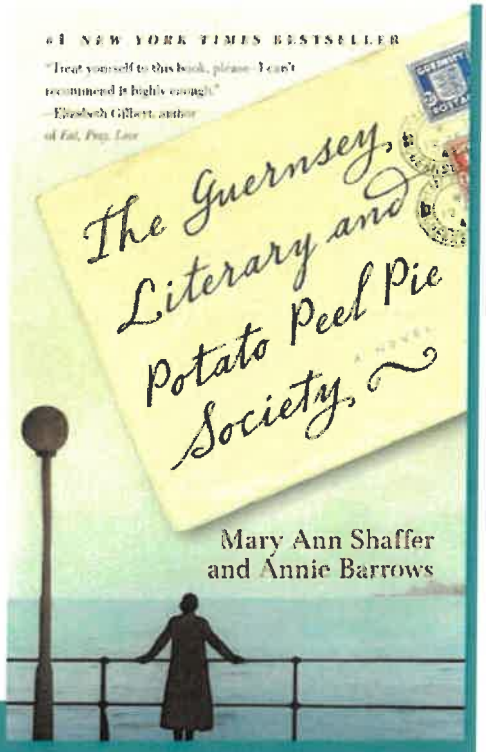
ONE BOOK ONE COUNTY
WELLS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

This book is this year's "One Book One County" which is a community read program for Wells County Public Library held in September and October every year.

The program is designed to create a countywide discussion by encouraging all residents to read the same book.

There are also a number of special events at the library related to themes found in the featured book and potentially an author visit.
Events start September 1

There is also a movie about the book that came out in 2018.



HOW IT WORKS

- PURCHASE THE BOOK (AUDIO, EBOOK OR PHYSICAL COPY)
- WE WILL MEET IN PERSON AT CRIMSON HOUSE NOVEMBER 7 TO DISCUSS THE BOOK.
- ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

CONTACT DEACONESS BOEHM TO JOIN: 260-415-8526

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH
6514 E 750 N OSSIAN, IN 46777

Swiss Steak Dinner

INCLUDES: MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, ROLL & DESSERT

ADULT TICKETS: $15
CHILDREN'S MEAL (HOT DOG OR STEAK): $6

SERVING
DINE IN OR
CARRY OUT
11-1:30 PM

SUNDAY
1
NOVEMBER

SHOPPING
10:30-2:00

ALSO HOSTING OUR
FIRST ANNUAL

Christmas
SIP & SHOP

Sip, Shop & Be Merry!





Bethlehem Swiss Steak Dinner
Christmas Sip & Shop Market
Vendor sign-ups

Along with our annual Swiss Steak Dinner, we will also be hosting our first Christmas Sip & Shop Market on Sunday, November 1st with serving Dine in or Carry out from 11-1:30 p.m. Shopping 10:30-2:00 p.m.We are inviting crafters, makers, and small businesses to join us as vendors for this festive community event. Booths are 10 x10, and vendors must bring their own table. Special rates for Bethlehem members: $10 for a booth, or $25 for the community. Vendor registration can be found on our church's website, blcsossian.org under the church tab.

We are also asking for 2 members to donate a Thrivent card to help support the events expenses. Please text or call Erin Schumm at 260-437-3717 if you are able to contribute.

GOOD SHEPHERD INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

The annual Good Shepherd Institute Conference at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), is November 8–10. This year's theme, "Our Living Heritage," remembers the forebears of previous generations, giving thanks for and learning from those who continue to inform the church and her practice.

Each night of GSI features a music event in Kramer Chapel that is free and open to the public. We invite you to attend each event and join us in remembering significant figures in the history of LCMS church music.

GSI Organ Recital
Sunday, November 8, at 4:30 p.m. ET
Dr. Kola Owolabi—The University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana

Choral Vespers
Sunday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m. ET
Bach Cantata 137, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
Seminary Schola Cantorum
Kantor Kevin Hildebrand and Mr. Jonathan Busarow, directors

Hymn Festival
Monday, November 9, at 7:30 p.m. ET
Celebrating the Hymns of Paul Gerhardt (on the 350th anniversary of his death) and Others
Seminary Kantorei
Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, director
Mr. Jacob Weber, organist

LEAF & LORE

with The Women of Bethlehem Lutheran

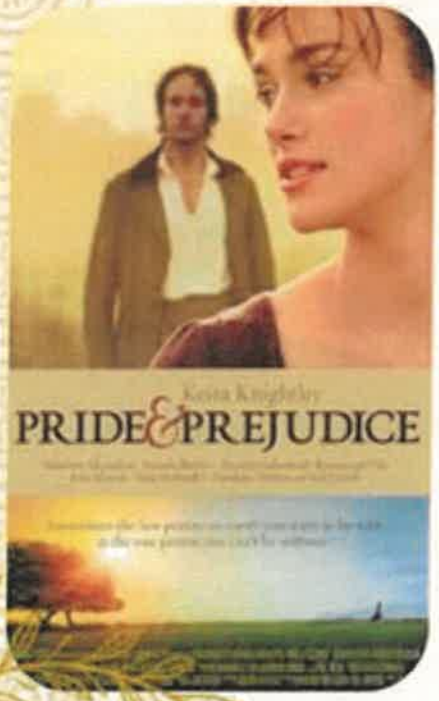
present a

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

THEMED MOVIE EVENT

Location Bethlehem Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 9th ~ 6:30PM



GET TICKETS NOW $21

A GRAND EVENING OF

- Activities · Treats and Tea · Games · Trivia and Prizes
- FULL LENGTH Feature Film

and So much More

You are encouraged to dress in your best Regency Outfit!

Please join us Friday, October 9th in the Fellowship Hall for a Pride & Prejudice Themed Movie Event! Hosted by Women of Bethlehem and Leaf & Lore, Ossian. Event Admission includes Teatime Treats and Tea Service, Goodie Bag, Activities and Prizes. Our Feature Film is showing of the 2005 Feature Film starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen. Come dressed in your best Regency-themed outfit and enjoy a grand evening! Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with the event beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $21 and available online on the Leaf & Lore Facebook page for ticket info.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

DRIVE - THRU
Pork Chop Dinner

6514 E. 750 N. Ossian

Sunday, Oct. 11th

11am—1 pm

Cost: $15.00



Dinner includes:
Smoked Pork Chop, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans and Roll

TO PREORDER YOUR DINNERS CONTACT:

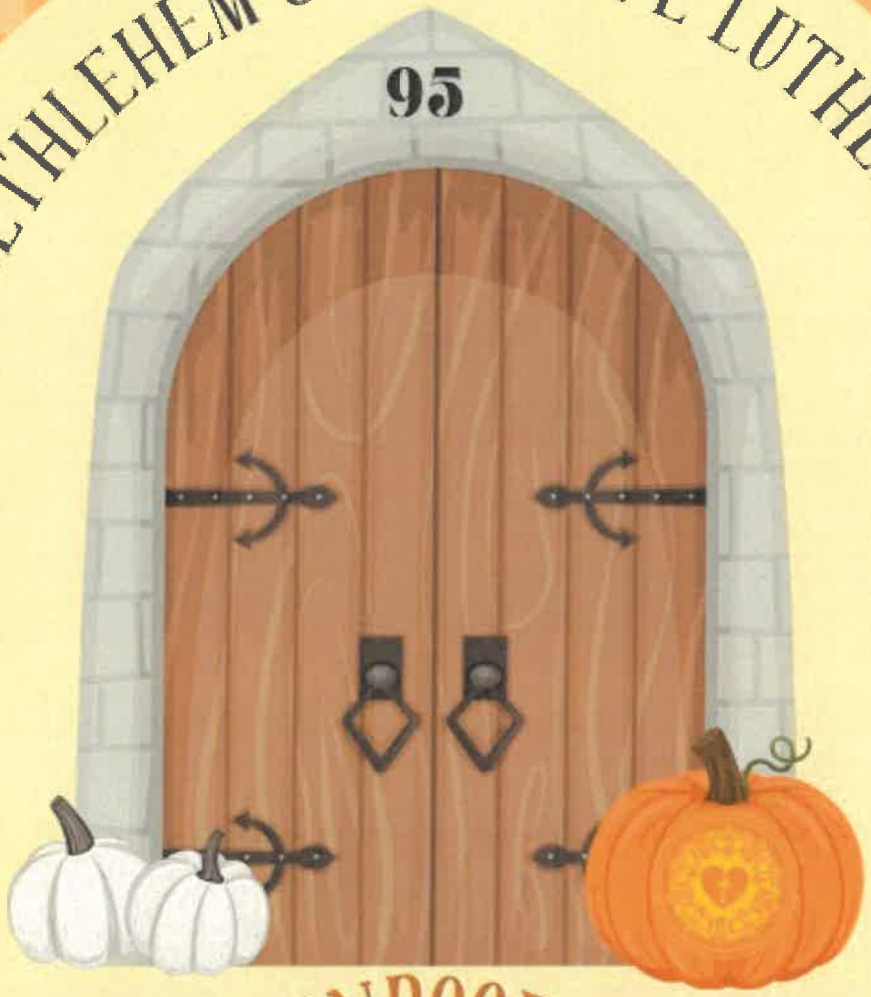
Pat Meyer 260-227-0400 - spmeyer82@gmail.com
Cheryl Louison 260-414-5526 - clouison@ymail.com

CASH OR CHECKS ONLY MADE PAYABLE TO WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

Proceeds Benefit Northern Wells/Ossian Food Pantry and Women of Bethlehem Project Fund

BETHLEHEM & NEW HOPE LUTHERAN

95



INDOOR TRICK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31 4-5 PM

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE INDOOR TREAT STATIONS
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN GYMNASIUM

8643-8691 IN-1, OSSIAN, IN 46777

THE BRIDGE
20/30 GROUP

OCTOBER EVENT SCHEDULE

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE

6 OCT 2026

PORCH NIGHT: 1 PETER SERIES

7:00 P.M.
HOLY CROSS YOUTH CENTER
3420 N. ANTHONY BLVD., FORT WAYNE

This Porch Night will begin a five-part series focused on 1 Peter.

13 OCT 2026

GUEST SPEAKER: HEIDI GOEHMANN

"EMOTIONS & THE GOSPEL"

7:00 P.M.
THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD., FORT WAYNE

20 OCT 2026

SAND VOLLEYBALL NIGHT

7:00-9:00 P.M.
EMPOWERED SPORTS CLUB
12124 LIMA RD., FORT WAYNE

Free play with a cash bar available.

27 OCT 2026

FALL COSTUME PARTY & PUMPKIN CARVING

7:00 P.M.
THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD., FORT WAYNE

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2 October 2026

TIGER TALES

260-597-7366 BLCSOSSIAN.ORG /BETHLEHEMOSSIAN

SCHOOL CODE

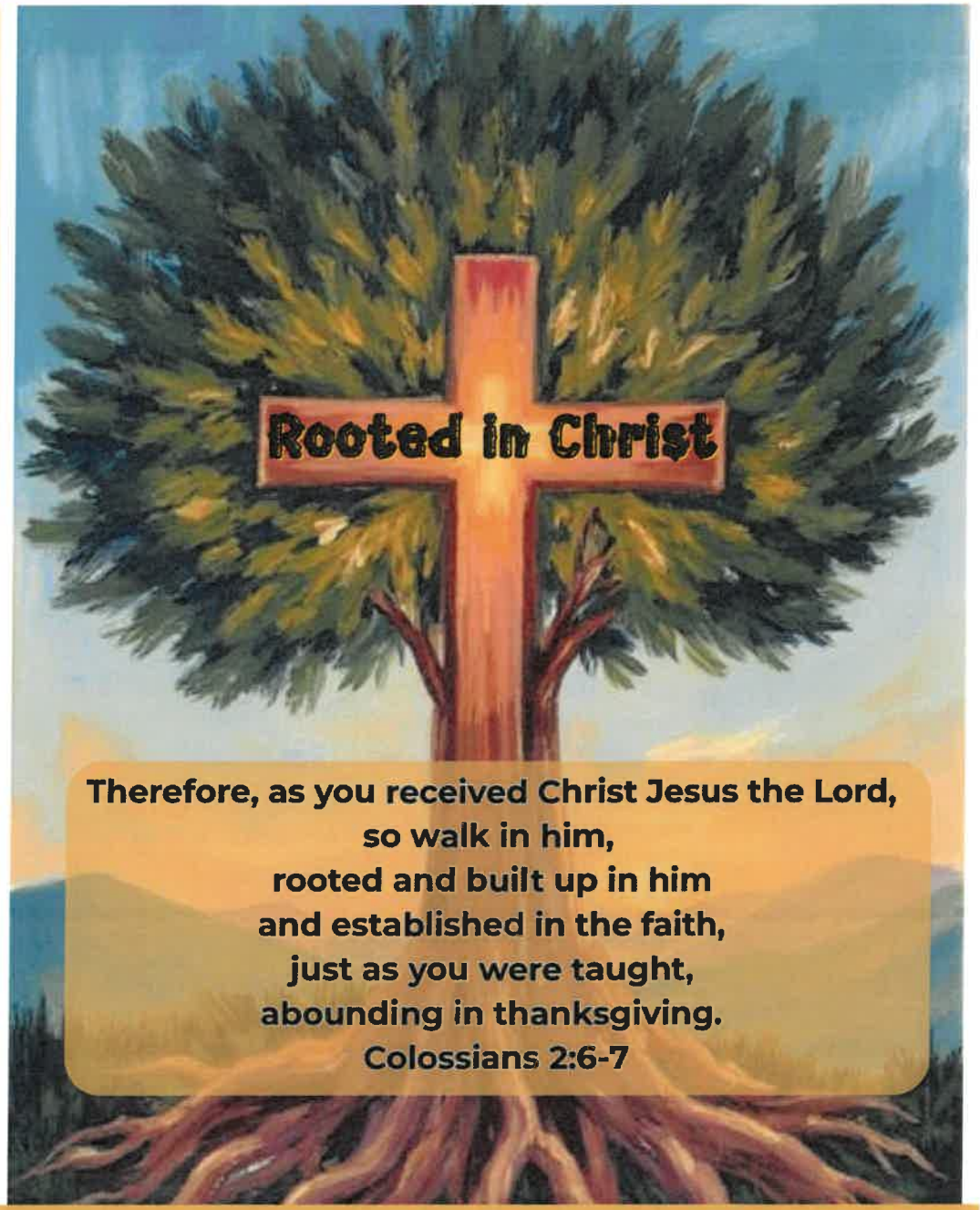
As a student of
Bethlehem Lutheran School I will:
Love, Serve, and Honor God
Love,Serve, and Honor My Neighbor
Love, Serve, and Honor Myself

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"Bethlehem Lutheran School works with parents to guide their children in gaining wisdom, pursuing virtue, and developing skills for life with God, neighbors, and self in this world and in the world to come.."

OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3 Fall Festival
- 9 End of First Quarter
- 14 2-HOUR DELAY
- 13 – 15 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 19 – 23 Fall Break
- 26 PTL Meeting
- 30 Vision Screening



Rev. Anthony Dodgers – Headmaster, Teacher Grades 7-8 pastordodgers@blcsossian.org
Mr. Peter J. Meyer – Teacher Grades 5-6 pmeyer@blcsossian.org
Mrs. Nancy DeFrain - Teacher Grades 3 -4 ndefrain@blcsossian.org
Mrs. Anabelle Demalija– Teacher Grades 1-2 ademalija@blcsossian.org
Mrs. Anastasia Loest – Teacher Kindergarten aloest@blcsossian.org
Mrs. Heidi Kleppinger – Administrative Assistant bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com

NLSA National Lutheran School Accreditation

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN SCHOOL

A Message From Our Headmaster

GOD AT WORK IN HISTORY

"In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." And in October, we remember his discovery of the Americas with Columbus Day. However, in recent years, some people have proposed an alternative holiday: Indigenous (Native) Peoples Day. It's argued that we should not celebrate the European conquest of the New World because they stole the land, and mistreated, enslaved, and killed the native people. So are Columbus and the other explorers heroes or villains?

In 7&8th grade history, we've studied Columbus, and we've learned that history is usually complicated. Whenever there are two sides to a human conflict, you can find heroes and villains on both sides. It's true, grievous wrongs were done. On the other hand, the Queen of Spain and many European missionaries opposed the slave trade and believed all people belonged to one human race created by God. Plus, the discovery of the Americas led to the creation of one of the most prosperous and free societies the world has ever known.

When studying history, it's not so much our job to judge but to learn how people thought and try to see the world through their eyes. Sometimes we might even find out that our modern ideas are in the wrong and we should be corrected by those who came before us. The blessing of history is that we are not limited only to the wisdom of our day but can benefit from thousands of years of human thought and activity.

Most importantly, as Christians, we study history with the understanding of a fallen world in desperate need of a Savior. Until Jesus returns, there will always be conflict between sinners. Yet, we know that Christ's holy blood was shed to cover all of human history in a cleansing flood. We can be honest about the sins of our forefathers, regardless of ethnicity or religion, without being so quick to condemn, for we know the human frailty in them and in ourselves. We can also give thanks to God for the good things that were accomplished even alongside acts of evil. Through all our human adventures and achievements, and in spite of all our sinful errors and tragedies, we know that God is at work for His own good purposes. One day, He will bring our history to a glorious and happy ending.



Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Dodgers

SCHOOL CREDIT

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.

WASHINGTON D.C. GROUP

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 COROGATED 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.



Weather permitting the students will be going outside for recess time.
Please have your child dress appropriately for the weather.
Temperatures below 60 degree *wind chill* will require a jacket or winter coat.
Potential delays and cancellations for Bethlehem will follow the same as Northern Wells Community Schools.

PTL Committee
Erin Schumm- President
Katy Haiflich – Vice President
Laura Nahrwold – Treasurer
Josh Boehm – Secretary

Board of Christian Education Members
Jeff Holtzclaw – Chairman
Brandon Schumm – Vice Chairman
Darren Patrick – Secretary
Nathan Householder - Sunday School
Jacob Meyer – Athletic Director
Aaron Anthony – Technology

FUNDRAISING

Shop at Kroger and help Bethlehem Lutheran School's 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.



RaiseRight

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 placing an order contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965, current PTL representative.
As you purchase SCRIP you will also accumulate a percentage of profit to be applied to your child's tuition. ***NEW: The School receives 10% back when you shop at Ginger Fresh.***
Thank you to the church congregation and school families for supporting the Scrip Program!

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!

Gradelink
School Administration System

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 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.

Bethlehem Lutheran School

Fall

FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 3, 2026
6:00 P.M.
STAUFFER FARMS
3584 NW STATE ROAD 116-90 MARKLE, IN 46777

DELICIOUS FOOD PROVIDED BY THE BETHLEHEM PTL
Loaded Baked Potato Bar, Fresh Apple Cider, Popcorn

HAYRIDES, BARREL RIDES, BOUNCE HOUSES, STRAW TOWER,
POTATO SACK RACES, TUG-OF-WAR, SAVENGER HUNT,
PUMPKIN PAINTING ....AND MORE!





As the 2026–27 volleyball season comes to a close, we celebrate everything the team accomplished together.
Each player worked incredibly hard, showing dedication, perseverance, and teamwork through every practice and match.
Their growth and commitment made this a season to be proud of.
Special thanks to our team captains:
Emma Campbell (7th grade)
and
Bailey Meyer (8th grade).
Keep practicing and hope to see you all back next year!

With Tiger Pride,
Coach Brittany
Coach Katy

A reminder to please turn your uniforms into the school office

OCTOBER
Birthday and Baptism

BIRTHDAYS
October
10th Maisie Partick
11th Alex Fuhrmann
19th Anthony Tolson
22nd Avery Geiger
23rd Gabriella Campbell
25th Evelyn Wanner

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS
October
8th Vincent Schumm
19th Anthony Tolson



Chapel

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.

As you are able please bring an Offering for Chapel on Wednesdays.
Students may place their offerings in the offering plate
as they come into chapel every Wednesday.

CHAPEL TIMES

Monday-, Tuesday,
Thursday
9:45 AM
Wednesday
10:00 AM
Friday
2:30 PM

Please join us!

Chapel Offering - 1st Quarter ending Oct.9th

Over the past few years, we have collected offerings to help support church worker students. We've adopted men and women who are preparing to serve as pastors, deaconesses, and church musicians. This year we are supporting Jenna Oberly who is studying to serve as a Lutheran School Teacher. Please read her article and support her as you are able through chapel offerings.

We currently have $179.20 of our $300 goal.

Chapel Project

Chapel Offering Project for 2nd Quarter:
October 12- December 18
Collection for the Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op
The Fort Wayne Seminary is beginning to build a new home for their Food & Clothing Co-op which helps students and families with their needs. They currently have the opportunity to match donations dollar for dollar. Please consider giving to this project that supports future servants of the church.

Along with our weekly chapel offerings, we will be collecting different items:

October 12–30	Canned Goods	150 cans
November 2–13	Personal Hygiene	50 items
November 16–December 4	Boxed Food	100 items
December 7–18	Paper Products & Snacks	100 items



Pictures of the future facility





OSSIAN DAYS PARADE



















LITERACY TIGER

Autumn reads are abundant in the school library. Students can find cozy mysteries, Reformation resources, historical fiction novels, and many other options to enjoy on a rainy fall afternoon.

We are thankful for our Bethlehem Library, and for continued support that allows us to grow. We are in the process of adding many new books acquired through generous donations and credits from our spring book fair. We will not be hosting a book fair this fall - but do plan to once again offer a StoryGlory book fair in the spring!

Whether your reading choices are new or old, we hope all of our Bethlehem families take time to make reading part of your family routine. We are here to work with parents in guiding children, and this includes their reading choices. Feel free to contact the librarians or teachers at any time if you have concerns or requests about your child's library selections. You can reach us through our Library Ladies profile on Class Dojo, or email library@blcsossian.org.

Happy Reading!

Your librarians,
Jennifer Bultemeier
DoRena Wirgau

Gathering Leaves

BY ROBERT FROST

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.

I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.

But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.

I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole shed,
And what have I then?

Next to nothing for weight,
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.

Next to nothing for use,
But a crop is a crop,
And who's to say where
The harvest shall stop?

Bethlehem Lutheran School
Library Policies

Library Purpose

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

Circulation Policies

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

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

Books may be renewed a maximum of two times. If a book is not returned after two renewals (ie, three weeks for Kindergarten students, six weeks for other students), **fines** will accrue at a rate of $0.25 per item per week. Books must be present in the library to be renewed.

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

Lost or Damaged Books

Parents will be notified when a book is **overdue**. If an overdue item is not returned within four weeks after parents are notified (or by the library deadline at the end of the school year) the item will be considered lost and a replacement fee will be charged. A handling fee of $5 will be added to the cost of book replacement.

Librarians should be notified of any damage that occurs to a library book. If a damaged item needs to be replaced due to inappropriate handling or accident (i.e. water damage), a replacement fee may be charged. A handling fee of $5 will be added to the cost of book replacement.



Bethlehem Lutheran Scrips Order Form

Date: _____ Student _____

Name _____ Circle One: BLS Student(named above)

Phone # _____ Check # _____ Total _____ Physical stock?

				QTY.	Total
A	Amazon.com	2%	$10		
	Amazon.com	2%	$25		
	Amazon.com	2%	$50		
	Amazon.com	2%	$100		
	Amazon.com	2%	$250		
	Applebee's	8%	$10		
	Applebee's	8%	$25		
	Applebee's	8%	$50		
	Arby's	8%	$10		
	Arby's	8%	$25		
B	Barnes & Noble	8%	$10		
	Barnes & Noble	8%	$25		
	Bath & Body Works	12%	$10		
	BP	2%	$50		
	BP	2%	$100		
	BP	2%	$250		
	Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	$10		
	Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	$25		
	Burger King	4%	$10		
	Burger King	4%	$25		
C	Chipotle	10%	$10		
	Colliers Comfort	5%			
	Cracker Barrel	8%	$10		
	Cracker Barrel	8%	$25		
	Culvers	10%	$10		
	Culvers	10%	$20		
D	Dairy Queen	7%	$10		
	Dairy Queen	7%	$25		
	Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	$25		
	Disney	3%	$25		
E	East of Chicago	10%	$10		
	East of Chicago	10%	$25		
F	Fazoli's	9%	$25		
G	Gallery	10%	$20		
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	$25		
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	$50		
	Ginger Fresh Market	5%	$100		
	Gordons Food Service	4%	$25		
	Gordons Food Service	4%	$100		
H	Hall's	10%	$15		
	Hall's	10%	$30		
	Happy Moments	10%	$25		
	Hardees	5%	$10		
	Hardees	5%	$25		
	Hollywood Nails	17%	$20		
K	Kohl's (can NOT use to pay bill	4%	$25		
	Kohl's (can NOT use to pay	4%	$100		
	Kroger	4%	$25		
	Kroger	4%	$50		
	Kroger	4%	$100		
	Kroger	4%	$250		
	Kroger	4%	$500		
L	Little Caesers	8%	$20		
	Lowe's	4%	$25		
	Lowe's	4%	$100		
M	Marathon	3%	$25		
	Marathon	3%	$100		
	Marathon	4%	$250		
	McAlister's Deli	6%	$25		
	McDonalds	5%	$5		
	McDonalds	5%	$10		
	McDonalds	5%	$25		
	McDonalds	5%	$50		
	Meijer	3%	$25		
	Meijer	3%	$50		
	Meijer	3%	$100		
	Menards	3%	$25		
	Menards	3%	$100		
	Mike's Carwash	20%	$11		
N	Nine Mile	8%	$20		
O	O'Charley's	13%	$25		
	Old Navy	14%	$25		
	Olive Garden/Cheddars & Longhorn Steakhouse	8%	$25		
	Outback	10%	$25		
P	Panda Express	8%	$25		
	Panera Bread	8%	$10		
	Papa John's Pizza	8%	$10		
	Pizza Hut	8%	$10		
R	Richards	10%	$20		
	Red Lobster	8%	$25		
S	Speedway	4%	$25		
	Starbucks	5%	$5		
	Starbucks	5%	$10		
	Starbucks	5%	$25		
	Steak & Shake	8%	$10		
	Subway	6%	$10		
	Subway	6%	$50		
T	Taco Bell	5%	$10		
	Target	3%	$25		
	Texas Roadhouse	8%	$25		
	TJ Maxx/ Marshalls	6%	$25		
V	prepaid VISA	1%	$25		
	prepaid VISA	1%	$50		
	prepaid VISA	1%	$100		
	prepaid VISA	1%	$250		
W	Walmart / Sams Club	3%	$25		
	Walmart / Sams Club	3%	$50		
	Walmart / Sams Club	3%	$100		
	Walmart / Sams Club	3%	$250		
	Walgreens	5%	$25		
	Walgreens	5%	$100		
	Wendy's	6%	$25		
Z	Zurcher Tire	5%			