



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church and School is a community of sinners trusting in the forgiveness given by the crucified and risen Christ, offering peace, joy, stability, and purpose to a despairing and chaotic world by sharing this gospel through our words and deeds.

The Bethlehem STAR August 2024

*Let Your work be shown to Your servants,
and Your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands! (Psalm 90:16-17)*

Dear Bethlehem,

Psalm 90, a profound prayer of Moses the man of God, is usually known for expressing our grief and pain as we wrestle with our own mortality. Yet, we have hope! Even though our time on earth is short, we trust in our everlasting God. Our hope, wisdom, and strength are in Christ, who faced death for us and gives us everlasting life in His resurrection! Secure in our everlasting God, we may rejoice and be glad all our days, even when affliction, evil, and death accompanies our days on earth.

Notice, at the end of the Psalm, a great pattern that summarizes the flow of work for God's children. This pattern provides hope and strength for God's people. Work starts with God. God's children see and recognize His good and glorious power. The Lord our God works—extending His favor in Christ crucified and risen upon us. Then, God's work extends personally to His children: "Establish the work of our hands upon us."

This pattern is established every Sunday. God's children gather for worship where God's glorious and gracious power is shown to us in Word and Sacrament. Through the Gospel, God's favor is freely extended to us. We hear and believe it! We are forgiven, renewed, restored, re-established with a right heart and with a clean conscience to work in our daily callings. Thus, God establishes the work of our hands upon us!

This pattern is also established in Bethlehem's ministry rhythm which starts in August/September. During this time of the year, many of our ministries start back up including youth Catechism instruction, fellowship groups, monthly meetings, Lutheran School academics and activities, etc. Through these things, we teach and learn God's great works in creation and for our salvation. And then, God extends His work and favor through our works, as He establishes them through the Holy Spirit.

Just remember, you're never too busy for God and His work! For without receiving His work first, you will trudge forward in your labors without His favor, strength, and joy. Therefore, we pray, "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands."

Looking to Jesus, Pastor Chaplain Witte





PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

August has come around again and we are busily preparing for the new school year. The start of a school year is always a special time, filled with anticipation and new opportunities. It is a time when we come together as a community, ready to embark on another journey of learning, growth, and discovery. I want to express my gratitude to all of our dedicated teachers, for their unwavering commitment to education and their tireless efforts in preparing for the year ahead.

We have two new teachers this year, Mrs. Brock in 4th grade and Mrs. Murphy in 5th grade. We are very excited to welcome them to the Bethlehem community and know they will bring joy into their classrooms and with their students. Mrs. Strong has moved from 5th grade to 6th grade and will love her new learning environment with the expanded classroom from our construction over the summer.

We will have a Back to School Bash on August 4th from 2pm - 4pm in the parking lot. We will have a petting zoo and bounce house for the kiddos and popsicles for everyone. This is a time for parents and students to fellowship and for us to celebrate the beginning of the school year.

Teachers officially start on August 5th with our Back to School Meetings. Between meetings and working on their classrooms, teachers will be busy getting ready for the school year.

We start our 26th academic year officially on August 15th. Students will arrive at the normal time of 8:15 and we will have our BooHoo/Yahoo Breakfast for parents. I promise we will not ask parents to declare if they are Boohooing or Yahooing that the school year has started, but they can have coffee and pastries anyway. Parents are invited to mingle outside and are then invited to our opening chapel which starts at 8:45am and goes until around 9:15am. Parents and church members are always invited to chapel which is normally on Wednesdays from 8:45am - 9:15am.

One favor to ask. If you wouldn't mind spending two minutes daily between lifting up the school year, the teachers, and the administrators in prayer. We know the prayers of the saints availeth much and we want to cover the year in prayer.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in the Gospel as we help students grow in grace and knowledge,

In His Service,

Mr. Ferguson



Please pray for our school staff as they prepare to be the hands, feet and voice of Bethlehem Lutheran School to the children whom God has sent to us to make disciples for life:

Scott Ferguson	Principal
Michelle Zulfer	Vice Principal of Administration & Human Resources
Jessica Raby	Preschool 3 & 4
Amy Mattern	Preschool 3 & 4 teacher aide
Kassie Puterbaugh	KinderReady and K-2 teacher aide
Cheyenne Hanvey	Kindergarten
Mallory Brewer	First Grade
Riley Zulfer	Second Grade
Serena Ford	Third Grade
Gabby Brock	Fourth Grade
Lisa Murphy	Fifth Grade
Rebecca Strong	Sixth Grade
Scott Zaage	7 & 8 grade Math & Science, K-8 PE
Tiffany Kearns	7 & 8 grade ELA & Social Studies
Mariah Morley	6-8 Health, Life Skills and Information & Technology
Patty Weaver	Reading Specialist
Tiffany Knapp	Librarian
Jennifer Koostra	1-8 Spanish
Blair Hughes	K-8 Art
Tommy Beeker	4-8 Band
Jessica Ellington	K-3 Music
Jeremy Adams	Custodian



August Birthdays

Veronica Smith	1
Ethan Smith	3
Elayna Humphreys	4
Levi Bell.....	6
Sandy Hensley.....	7
Sherry Matsel	10
John Card	11
Helga Clark	13
David Benoy	14
Henry Olcott	
Emilie Humphreys.....	20
Rebekah Hitzrman.....	21
Leslie Lindsey	
Joe Clark.....	23
Otha Lowe.....	24
Sarah Tangeman	
Erika Ewing	25
Louis Durrenberg	31

August Anniversaries

Tom & Carol Bruesewitz.....	13
David & Brenda Hemphill	15
Steve & Bonnie Fugate	17
Tom & Stella Holcombe.....	20
Jamie & Paulette Hensley	27
John & Pat Nowicki	



Terri Thompson	1
John Nowicki	4
Zoe Witte.....	5
Mike Shipman.....	12
Nancy Beaty.....	15
John Card	17
Levi Bell	18
Mackenzie Engel	23
David Hemphill	25
Pat Green	
Jim Hensley.....	27
Leslie Lindsey	31

Jonathan Fiene
 Matt Greggerson
 Nesta Harris
 Louise Hellickson
 Doris Humphreys

Bob Koogler



Ezra Miller

Jean Robinson

Marilyn Scheu

Elaine Schultz

Robyn Shipman

Alison Witte

Construction Projects: All work for the classroom has been completed. Bathrooms will be finished by the middle of next week. On Sunday, you can take a self-guided tour, but they probably will not be ready before Wednesday, August 10th. Please be patient and alert for additional workers, trucks, equipment and closures. We will do our best to keep you informed of any potential impacts and limitations. If there are any questions or concerns please let me know. Brett Fiepke



Church Announcements

Do you want to raise awareness, ask for support, or invite members and visitors to participate in a meaningful endeavor for our church, school, or community? Make an announcement among God's gathered guests at the end of church! If you would like to make an announcement or have one read for you, please contact Pastor Witte **at least one day prior** to Sunday morning in person, by text, or by email, letting him know who will speak and what will be said.



Youth Catechism Instruction

There are two routes for youth catechism instruction (around 6th grade level) at Bethlehem. For students enrolled at Bethlehem Lutheran School and for those who are able to join instruction at Bethlehem on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons for 45 minutes, we will begin instruction Aug 20th. For students who cannot attend at that time, youth catechism instruction will take place after the 10:45am service on Sundays starting September 8th. Please contact Pastor Witte for any questions or to sign up for instruction.

The Bethlehem STAR

August 2024

Rev. Keith F. Witte

Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School

1240 S. Maple Avenue, Fairborn, OH 45324

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Thursday
August 15, 2024

Back to
School

8:15 am School
Begins

8:45 am Opening Chapel

Church Office

Phone: (937) 878-0651

FAX: (937) 878-4794

Email: bethlehem7@aol.com

Web Page—www.Bethlehem7.org

School Office

Phone: (937) 878-7050

Email: bethlehemschool@aol.com

Web Page—www.mybethlehemschool.com

Mr. Scott Ferguson, Principal

Mrs. Michelle Zulfer, Vice Principal

Sunday

Worship Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m.

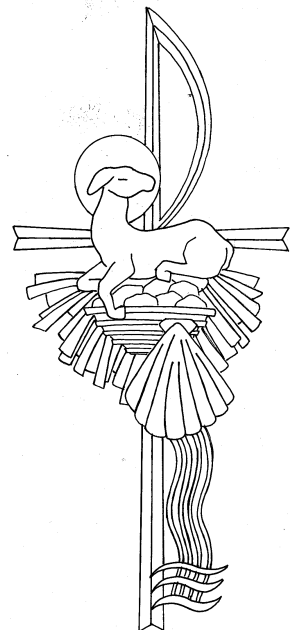
Wednesday

Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.

Chapel Matins Service at 8:45 a.m. (when school is in session)

Advent/Lenten Service at 7 pm

September 2024 issue deadline: Sunday, August 18th.



"We seek to honor and glorify the Triune God by sharing our faith in Jesus Christ as man's only Savior."