



**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

## October 2024

*[Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)]*

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School,

When we pray, “Thy kingdom come,” we are asking our dear Heavenly Father that the Holy Spirit would bring us and many others under God’s gracious reign. As His children, we want God’s Word to be proclaimed throughout the world, including by us, wherever we go.

The Word of God will continue to be proclaimed! How will we honor it and receive it? How will we share it, that it may speed ahead and be honored by others? Let me highlight a few of Bethlehem’s opportunities—past, present, and future—to share the Word, that it may be honored by more.

On September 22, we held a service and ministry fair. We set aside time for members and guests to see what our congregation does and offers. What a great time to learn more about the various groups and ministries, and a few signed up to join or try something new.

On October 12, our Dayton Circuit LCMS congregations have pooled resources together to bring a Seminary Professor from Fort Wayne. Rev. Gary Zieroth will present on “Marriage and Family in the United States Today.” The presentation will be at Bethlehem from 9:00am to noon, with snacks starting at 8:30 and lunch afterwards, until 12:45pm.

Every week, from Monday through Friday, Bethlehem Lutheran School continues to teach the Word of God. Pray that it may speed ahead and be honored by every student and their families! If you’re available, join us for chapel services on Wednesday mornings, 8:45am.

Every Sunday, the Word of God is read, preached, sung, and taught in Worship and Sunday School. There still is a little room left in Adult Bible Class at 9:30am. We are currently studying the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. On October 20, we will offer Matins non-communion services and a short communion service at 9:00am. On October 27, we will observe the Reformation, celebrating that the Word of God sped forth and was honored in the churches of the Holy Roman Empire once again. A group of students from our school will also sing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> service on October 27.

Every penny (or dollar) that we earn or are given provides an opportunity for the Word of God to speed forth and be honored. While there is no mandated requirement for offerings, a good practice that has withstood the test of time is 10%. It's easy math—move the decimal one place to the left and round off the last number. For some, giving 10% is too easy—consider giving more. For others, giving 10% may be difficult. If so, consider a smaller percentage. Even if it's 1%. And as God trains you and provides, slowly build up to 10% as a goal. It's good every once and a while to double check what God has provided through your income and what you give in return—and make adjustments as God guides, that the word of the Lord may speed forth from Bethlehem and be honored as it has happened among you.

*Looking to Jesus and encouraging  
others to do the same,  
Pastor Chaplain Witte*



## News from Bethlehem's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:


Third grade is often referred to as the year where students transition from “learning to read,” to “reading to learn.” Students have learned the foundational phonics skills they need to read, and the focus now shifts to comprehension skills and understanding what they read. Students have enjoyed reading time in the comfy chairs in our classroom “reading garden.” Students are looking forward to soon learning multiplication in math, and the class has enjoyed learning about ecosystems in science and going outside to study the ecosystem of our school's playground. Additionally, the K-3rd grade classes are all looking forward to our upcoming field trip to Carillon Historical Park! Our class is excited to see what God has in store for us for the rest of the year!

*Miss Ford*



# PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

ENDURE  
HEBREWS 12:1-3



As of October 1st we will have been in school thirty days and the school year has settled into its familiar rhythm. Students are growing in grace and knowledge as they learn more about the world around them, and more importantly, God's love for them through Christ. The end of the first quarter is October 18th and report cards will be available to view soon after that. You don't have to wait until then though, with our school program Schoolcues, you can always keep up to date on your child's grades.

One way that you can support the ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran School is through a night out! We are having a fellowship night at Donato's in Fairborn on Tuesday, October 15th from 5.00pm - 8.00pm. Last year we did this and from 5.30pm - 7.15pm the restaurant was full of Bethlehem people enjoying time with each other along with their excellent pizza. We do receive 20% of the proceeds from people who mention Bethlehem that night and we will use that to help fund costumes for our Christmas program.



My brother, on the birth of his first child, asked the hospital staff where the manual was on how to raise his new daughter. Then, once you figure out one child, you have another one who has a completely different personality and what worked with one doesn't work with another. If this describes you or if you think you could use a little more knowledge when it comes to parenting, or you are just curious, come to a free parenting seminar run by Ms. Melody Bass from Greene County Children First on October 22nd at 6.30pm in the fellowship hall. She will be presenting tips and tricks for how to raise children from ages 5-12. If you come, it does not mean you don't have a clue as a parent, it just means that you are seeking information and that is almost always a good thing.



On the 27th of October, our 4th and 5th graders will be participating in worship at Bethlehem through signing at the 10:45am service. We are looking forward to the opportunity for members of Bethlehem to hear the songs that have been prepared as we worship together.

The PTO is busy planning the annual Fall Festival which is its largest fundraiser. This will be happening on November 8th. You are all invited to this fun event. Look for more information as we get closer to the 8th.



Thank you for continually lifting up the students and staff at Bethlehem in prayer.

*In His Service,*

*Mr. Ferguson*



ELDER  
ARTICLE



Dear Bethlehem,

Bethlehem recently had a Service Fair on 22 September, and many of you have seen (or shown) all the opportunities for service that exist in our congregation. I hope it excited and motivated everyone who attended to find ways to use their time and talents to serve our wonderful church and school. After all, we are charged by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to serve our neighbor as well as brothers and sisters in the Church.

We serve because He first served us—Jesus came “not to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45). God did not send his Son to serve mankind because we deserve it, but because of his boundless love towards us. Jesus showed us how to serve during his incarnation and continues to serve us to this day in the church whenever we partake in the *Divine Service*. He serves us both his Word and his true Body and Blood every Sunday to strengthen and preserve us throughout the week. With this example we are to go into the world and serve those around us and serve in the way that our Lord serves us—sacrificially, lovingly, and humbly.

This is especially true in the Church where there are numerous opportunities to help and support our congregation, local community, and fellow believers across the globe. Some of these may involve teaching or caring for children, some planning events, some attending meetings, some cleaning or cooking or mowing, but all are Godly service. As the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12, “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit,” and “there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.” However we choose to serve our neighbor, it is made perfect in Christ and good in the eyes of the Lord.

In our lives there are many things competing for our time. Some are noble such as vocation, family, education, etc.; however, some are distractions that the Devil and our fallen world put in our path. We must always be on guard against these temptations and remember Paul’s words in Galatians 5:13, “For you brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Let us all seek to use our liberty—or “free” time, if you will—to love, support, and serve our neighbor and the Church.

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve Christ by serving your neighbor as well as your congregation, and thank you to all who are currently serving.

*In Your Service,*

*Dalton Miller, Elder*



# Singing the Psalms of Faith

By Pastor Edward L. England, Miami Valley Zone Counsellor



The Book of Psalms is not only at the middle of the Bible, it is also a marvelous collection of songs and prayers that reveal the heart and soul of humanity. It showcases the whole range of human experiences. The writers use no clichés. The psalmists confessed their sins, expressed their doubts and fears, asked God for help in times of trouble, and praised and worshipped him.

We will study two selected psalms to understand God's counsel for us in our daily lives.

## LWML Miami Valley Zone Christian Life Retreat Saturday, October 19, 2024

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1240 S. Maple Avenue, Fairborn, OH  
Business and MITE Offerings

9:30 a.m. registration & coffee  
10:00 Welcome and Bible Study

The ladies of Bethlehem will host this fall's Retreat. If you are able to attend, please **RSVP** to Sue Saunders at [Bethlehem7@aol.com](mailto:Bethlehem7@aol.com) / (937) 878-0651 NLT **Monday, October 16th** so they know how many to expect.

The **Ingathering** will be for **Michael's House** in Fairborn. They have asked for coloring books, crayons, markers, and other art materials for the youngsters they serve.

The congregation will celebrate the Reformation with a luncheon at noon (ish) on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Meats and drinks will be provided - please bring a side dish to share. Terry Powers (our Thrivent representative) will teach us how we can support the various workings of the congregation with Thrivent Choice dollars and also by utilizing the Thrivent Action Teams. See Paula Fiepke to learn more.



### Circuit Convocation

The Miami Valley LCMS churches will be holding a Circuit Convocation at Bethlehem on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Fort Wayne Seminary Professor, Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth will be presenting **"Marriage and Family in the United States Today."** Please let Pastor Witte know if you are interested.

The schedule is:

- |                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 8:30 am        | Coffee, juice & breakfast snacks |
| 9-10 am        | Presentation                     |
| 10-10:30 am    | break for fellowship             |
| 10:30-11:30 am | Presentation                     |
| 11:30 am       | Q&A                              |
| 12:00 pm       | Lunch                            |
| 12:30(ish) pm  | Closing devotion & dismissal     |







October Birthdays

David Smith .....	1
Pastor England.....	6
Sydney Hollingsworth .....	8
Zora Griffith .....	9
Bonnie Fugate.....	14
Charley Houck	
Bob Koogler	
Bradley Hooper .....	18
Olivia Tangeman .....	19
Lauren Green.....	21
Pat Horn	
Tamara Walters	
Emma Hensley.....	23
Tom Bruesewitz .....	24
Michelle Zulfer .....	27
Chris Tangeman.....	28
Chris Scheu .....	29
Aaron Fry .....	30



October Anniversaries

Sam & Tamara Walters .....	1
Gary & Maggie Geilenfeldt .....	4
Chris & Sarah Tangeman.....	22
Erik & Karen Denlinger.....	28

**Order Dates:**

**October 14 & 28**

Reloads and e-gift cards can be ordered at any time. You order gift cards to pay for your shopping or give as gifts. Sign up on the website at [raiserright.com](http://raiserright.com) or in the RaiseRight app using our enrollment code: 54LFL6745963.



Jonathan Fiene

Matt Gregerson

Nesta Harris

Louise Hellickson

Doris Humphreys

Bob Koogler



Ezra Miller

Jean Robinson

Marilyn Scheu

Elaine Schultz

Robyn Shipman

Alison Witte



*Fellowship Groups*

**Malachi** will meet on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at the home of Jim & Kathy Fiene. Paula Fiepke will be calling with dinner assignments. If you have any questions, please call Paula Fiepke.

**One Spirit** will meet on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in the Fireside Room, hosted by Tom & Eileen Hitzeman. The theme is *Oktoberfest*. If you have any questions, please call Steve or Bonnie Fugate.



**Baptismal Birthdays**

Lisa Thibeault.....	8
Brett Williamson .....	11
Steve Fugate.....	14
John Zulfer .....	17
Maggie Geilenfeldt .....	28
Erik Nelson	
Gene Ninnemann	

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# The Bethlehem STAR

October 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School  
1240 S. Maple Avenue, Fairborn, OH 45324  
*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*  
Rev. Keith F. Witte, Pastor



School Fundraiser  
Tuesday, October 15  
5-8 pm

Donatos Pizza

240 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Road, Fairborn

## Church Office

Phone: (937) 878-0651  
FAX: (937) 878-4794  
Email: [bethlehem7@aol.com](mailto:bethlehem7@aol.com)  
Web Page—[www.Bethlehem7.org](http://www.Bethlehem7.org)

## School Office

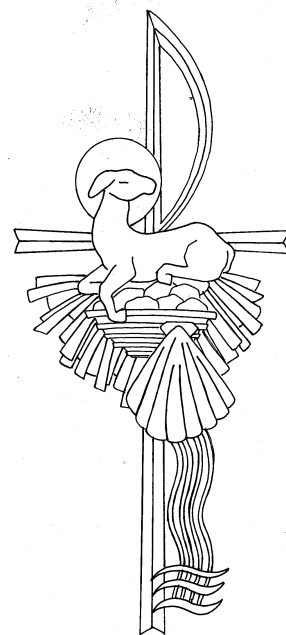
Phone: (937) 878-7050  
Email: [bethlehemschool@aol.com](mailto:bethlehemschool@aol.com)  
Web Page—[www.mybethlehemschool.com](http://www.mybethlehemschool.com)  
Mr. Scott Ferguson, Principal  
Mrs. Michelle Zulfer, Vice Principal

## Sunday

**Worship Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**  
**Online: [churchstreamer.org](http://churchstreamer.org) (live at 8 am service,  
previously recorded services under "Live" tab)**  
**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



**November 2024 deadline: Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.**

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