



**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 December 2024

*Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. (Psalm 33:1-5)*

Dear Bethlehem,

One of the greatest treasures and traditions that we have at Bethlehem (and in the LCMS and the church as a whole) is the gift of singing! We have such a rich heritage that provides beauty and structure to our shouts for joy in the LORD.

I still enjoy hearing the congregation sing unaccompanied during worship. In our first short communion service on the Matins Sunday last October, we sang “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” (LSB 192) and “O Jesus Blessed Lord to Thee” (LSB 632) unaccompanied. Your singing was absolutely beautiful. Almost every Sunday, we sing at least one verse unaccompanied. Your singing still comes forth strong and often delves into harmony. On December 22, we are going Christmas caroling to various nursing facilities and homes of our shut-in members. It’s a great time to praise the LORD with music and to bear witness to the LORD’s faithful work and steadfast love in the birth of a long-awaited Savior, Jesus.

In our Advent midweek services and for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will hear the Christmas angels give good news of great joy for all the people. We will also sing with the angels in praise to God. For the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

The children at Bethlehem Lutheran School literally shout for joy in the LORD when we sing, “This Is the Feast” during chapel. Right before Thanksgiving break, their singing might’ve been a little too loud. But I was blown away with their enthusiasm and joy as they bore witness to the LORD’s work done in faithfulness. I look forward to singing of Christ’s birth with the school children and visitors at chapel services. I look forward to hearing them sing at the Christmas Program on Dec 6 at the John Legend Theatre.

I also look forward to hearing and singing with our congregation’s Sunday School. Their program will be on Sunday, Dec 15 at 9:30am. This is a wonderful time of the year—to sing (and maybe even shout) loudly, songs of praise to our God.

*Looking to Jesus,*

*Pastor Witte*





# PRINCIPAL'S PAGE



Advent Greetings to the entire Bethlehem community! We are busily preparing for the season and all of the teachers are decorating their doors to celebrate Christmas. The winning door will be the one that captures the spirit of, and reason for, the season in the most creative way. Walk down the hallway off the lunchroom on Sunday morning and you can see the Kindergarten - 5th grade classroom doors all decorated.

Our Christmas program will be at 7pm on Friday, December 6th at the John Legend Theater in Springfield. Our Christmas Band Concert will be on Thursday, December 12th here at Bethlehem at 7pm. We will also have a special Christmas chapel on Friday, December 20th at 11am. All of you are invited to all three events as we celebrate the birth of our Savior through drama and song.



During the week you are always welcome to worship with us for chapel. Chapel is on Wednesday from 8.45am - 9.15am. Just come to the wooden doors and someone will be there to greet you.

We are excited that our middle school students will be getting into the spirit of the season by helping the church youth to prepare the meal prior to the Advent service on December 4th.



Though we celebrate and have fun during this time, we are still hard at work. Students are continuing to learn more about God's love for them, his creation, and the people in it. From the A, B, C's to five paragraph essays, students are developing their knowledge and skills. This is all led by the wonderful, hard working, and caring staff of teachers that have been called to serve here at Bethlehem this year.

Something fun the staff is doing to celebrate the season is to have an Ugly Christmas Sweater making party. Teachers will be wearing their creations on the last day before Christmas break and students will be voting on their favorite sweater.





December 20th will be Bethlehem Lutheran School's last day before Christmas break. Students will be off December 21st - January 5th with school resuming at the normal time on Monday, January 6th. During this time when we gather with family and friends both from far and near, I encourage students to ask family members about stories of when they were young. Maybe how they celebrated Christmas, or what their school days were like. I bet you will learn something unique about your family.

For our chapel offering we are still collecting items for the holiday baskets that Bethlehem distributes to residents of Fairborn. We are collecting non-perishable items like boxes of stuffing, canned vegetables, and packages of potatoes. There is a bin right outside the sanctuary where students can place their items as they enter before our chapel service. The deadline is December 11th, with distribution on December 14th.



Our Christian character word for the month is compassion. Our selected Bible verse is Colossians 3:12: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." We will be looking at examples of compassion during the month with the greatest example being of course, Jesus.

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

*In His Service,*

*Mr. Ferguson*

Middle school has been working hard to build a strong foundation of reading and writing skills. We started out the school year by reading a fiction novel and writing a personal narrative. Students learned about characterization and elements of a narrative. Next, we read a historical fiction novel and wrote an explanatory essay. Students learned about reliable sources, and citing text evidence. Seventh grade is currently working through a fun unit of short stories, these are great for learning literary elements. We also wrote an argumentative literary analysis, students learned how to analyze the author's use of sensory details and figurative language. Eighth grade is currently reading Navajo Code talkers and working on a presentation of their assigned Code talker.



**Middle School**  
Notes

In social studies we are learning about American history, we recently finished a unit on the presidential election. In October students enjoyed a field trip to Young's Dairy Farm where we took an informative tour and enjoyed a picnic and ice cream together. Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving break and preparation for the holidays.

# We Hear the Christmas Angels



## Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

*First Sunday in Advent*

Divine Services 8 & 10:45 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

## Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

Advent Supper 6:00 pm

Advent Worship Service 7:00 pm

*The Angel Gabriel is sent to Zechariah*

## Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

School play at John Legend Theater, Springfield 7:00 pm

## Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

*Second Sunday in Advent*

*Deadline for seminarian gift cards*

Divine Services 8 & 10:45 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

## Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

*Deadline for Christmas Food Baskets*

Advent Supper 6:00 pm

Advent Worship Service 7:00 pm

*The Angel Gabriel sent to Mary*

## Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Beginning and Advanced Band Concert 7:00 pm

## Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Basket Distribution 11:00 am

**Come and help!!**

## Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

*Third Sunday in Advent*

Divine Services 8 & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:30 am

Children's Christmas program

Fellowship Coffee 10:10 am

## Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Advent Supper 6:00 pm

Advent Worship Service 7:00 pm

*An Angel of the Lord Appears to Joseph*

## Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

*Deadline for Star articles*

Divine Services 8 & 10:45 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

Christmas Caroling 3:00 pm

## Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 pm

*An Angel Visits the Shepherds*

## Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day Divine Service 10:00 am

*A Multitude of Angels Praises God*

## Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

*First Sunday after Christmas*

Divine Services 8 & 10:45 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

## Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

New Year's Eve Divine Service 7:00 pm

## Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

*Observation of Epiphany*

Divine Services 8 & 10:45 am

*More Instructions from the Angels*

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

**For the Christmas season,** in addition to collecting baking supplies and over the counter medicines for the seminarians, we will be collecting gift cards. The seminary tries to give each seminarian a \$25 gift card to restaurants, gas stations, big box stores, DIY stores or any place you like to shop. Give your cards to Kathy Fiene or Pat Horn by December 8th and they will take or send them up to the seminary before the students leave for Christmas break.



**This holiday season,** we are sponsoring Hope Rising's Unborn Child/Adopt-a-Family program. Anything to stock their baby store (clothing, healthcare kits, video monitors, car seats for boys or girls). Please bring your donations to the corner of the Fellowship Hall .



The participation of your joyful voice is requested on Sunday, December 22nd to sing Christmas carols to shut-ins and neighbors! This is a much anticipated event by those who otherwise may not sing their favorite carols with our Bethlehem family. Meet in the Fellowship Hall by 2:50, and groups will disperse with their routes promptly at 3:00. Adults and accompanied children welcome! Chili supper will follow caroling. Please bring your favorite chili topping or dessert to share. Hear you there!!



## Something New?

Bethlehem has new communion ware (chalice, paten, pyx, flagon, and trays). You will notice that the outside appearance will be different. It'll be ceramic instead of metal. And the images will be different. Pastor and elders have reviewed and approved the new ware.

The main reason for the switch is that our communion ware cannot be serviced anymore. Companies that specialize in repairing and servicing religious items made of precious metal have gone out of business. This new set of communion ware will allow Bethlehem to continually offer the Lord's Supper in a reverent manner.



The new communion ware will be blessed at the Divine Services on December 1. This is a fitting time, as it is a great way to start a new church year. Even though the cup, plate, and trays will look different, keep in mind what remains the same. Christ, your Lord is still present, in, with, and under bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins, life, and salvation.



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## December Birthdays

Ida Luebke .....	1
Doris Humphreys .....	4
Clara Maffett	
Paula Fiepe .....	7
Ray Saunders .....	9
Mike Jones .....	15
Jeanne Hooper.....	16
Bryan Miessler .....	21
Erik Denlinger.....	26
Joyce Casci.....	30
Bill Scheu	

## December Anniversaries

Ray & Sue Saunders .....	18
Hans & Betty Marlette .....	19
David & Carol Benoy .....	24
John & Michelle Zulfer.....	27
Ken & Jodi Crosby .....	31



Lauren Elliot .....	1
Ida Luebke	
Alison Witte .....	5
Pat Nowicki .....	10
Bonnie Fugate.....	12
Joyce Whitt .....	15
Bradley Hooper.....	16
George Giese.....	21
Jeanne Hooper.....	25
Chris Scheu	
Paula Fiepe .....	27
Zora Griffith .....	28

Jonathan Fiene

Matt Gregerson

Nesta Harris

Louise Hellickson

Doris Humphreys

Bob Koogler



Ezra Miller

Jean Robinson

Marilyn Scheu

Elaine Schultz

Robyn Shipman

Alison Witte



We are again making baskets for Fairborn's needy residents. We will be giving 50 boxes throughout the area. Sign-up sheets for shelf stable donations will be in the Fellowship Hall. Donated foods can be brought in by Wednesday, December 11th and left on the table at the front of the Fellowship Hall. Distribution will be on Saturday, December 14th at 11 am.

## Suggestions

Boxes of stuffing

Cans of vegetables (corn or green beans)

Packages of potatoes (mashed, flakes)

Gravy (any flavor): packets, jars, cans

Packages of cookies: any size or kind

Soups (not cream): any kind you would make for a meal

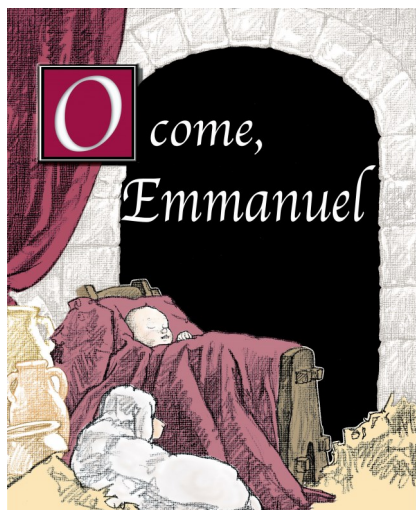
Packages of noodles, pasta

Packages of crackers: any kind

# The Bethlehem STAR

December 2024

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



come,  
Emmanuel

**Christmas Eve Worship Service**  
Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

**Christmas Day Divine Service**  
Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 am

## 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

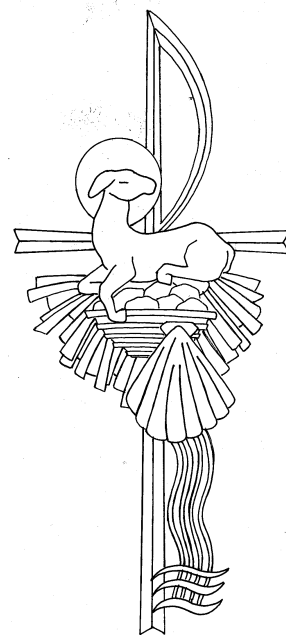
## Sunday

**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

**January, 2025 deadline: Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.**



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