



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

June/July 2025

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-5)

Dearly beloved of Bethlehem,

I am writing from Prattville, AL, just north of Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery. I am looking forward to meeting my new supervisor and new team, as many of the airmen that I have worked with have moved on to their new assignments. Hopefully, I will be able to get all my readiness items and training accomplished AND be a blessing to my team and to the unit. I also have set aside my last duty day to wrap up all my paper-work, write a rough draft for my Officer Performance Briefs, and design a presentation to give to the congregation on June 22. Time will fly by!

In our monthly elders' meetings, I have been leading training for the elders based on the Pastoral Care Companion. The goal is to equip the elders to address a myriad of situations with an appropriate Bible verse and prayer to members of the congregation. One of the previous trainings included "Anniversary of Baptism." In our discussion, I described the Baptismal Birthday Celebration service that we do quarterly at Bethlehem Lutheran School. One of the elders asked, "Why don't we do that for the congregation as well? We could add it to the quarterly Matins service." Great idea! Therefore, on June 29, we will celebrate April, May, and June baptism birthdays.

We will use a portion of the Baptism/Confirmation Rite that includes the questions, "Do you renounce the devil?" And, "Do you believe in God..." based on the Apostles' Creed. We will sing a Baptism hymn and then continue with the Matins Service. While it may seem "new", this is an established practice at our Lutheran school for over 10 years.

After all, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism forms and shapes the Christian life as each day the child of God repents, turns to Christ in faith, and lives in the newness of life by the Holy Spirit. Together, we celebrate and remember the one hope to which God has called us—in one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

There is a list of baptism birthdays compiled in each STAR. The office will double-check church records. If you believe that there are names missing in the Baptism Birthday list, please contact the church office.

Your dear pastor, Pastor Chaplain Keith Witte



Vacation Bible School

June 9-13, 9 am—noon

Vacation Bible School this year is from 9 am to noon on Monday through Friday, June 3-7. Register with the QR code or website below. All children from potty trained three year olds to just having finished grade 5 are welcome to come and join the Epic Australian Adventure!



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Invites You to:

The Ohio Winkel for Laity 2025

With close to a dozen LCMS pastor presenters from around the district, join us to strengthen your knowledge on a variety of topics pertinent to the laity. Enjoy also plenty of time for fellowship with Ohio District Lutherans of all ages.

When: August 9th 2025

Registration: 8-9 AM

Closing Service: 2:30 PM

Singles Mixer: 3:00 PM (Ages 21-40)

Where: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
766 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43206

Cost: Free Will Donation

Breakfast and Lunch provided.

RSVP: RegisterForOWL@gmail.com

Please include name and home church of each attendee.

Please also let us know if you plan to attend the singles mixer.

More information on presenters, topics, and schedule will be on ZionLCMS.org as it becomes available.



The 7th graders are excited for the end of the year and summer. We have just finished state testing and are winding down the school year. The grind of the school year is coming to a close and the much needed break is almost here.

We will soon be 8th graders in our last year of our time at Bethlehem. For many of us it feels like yesterday we were coming into the classroom as kindergarteners. Time moves fast. We are grateful to the Lord and all that he has provided for us this year.

Mr. Zaage

Birthdays &



June Birthdays

Jonathan Fiene	3
Anne Ausserer	5
Joseph Ausserer	
Molly Whitt	10
Jean Robinson	11
Laura Card	13
Kyla Miller	14
Kevin Green	16
Jamie Hensley	17
Alex Giese	21
Dalton Miller	29

June Anniversaries

Adam & Laura Card	7
Jared & Keri Johnson	10
Mike & Jane Jones	15
Richard & Lisa Thibeault	17
Tyler & Erika Ewing	20
Art & Joyce Casci	22



Dianah Williamson	1
Mira Sadowski	2
Jonathan Fiene	3
Raymond Saunders	
Kyla Miller	14
Annika Nelson	
Donna Oda	
Jennifer Ramsey	
Nathaniel Witte	
Tessa Card	17
Mary Smith	19
Charley Houck	27
Doris Humphreys	
Daniel Ausserer	28

Birthdays &



July Birthdays

Jeff Ramsey	1
Helga Hemphill	2
Daylond Hooper	
Ezra Miller	3
Stellan Tangeman	4
Richard Thibeault	
Carol Bruesewitz	6
John Nowicki	12
Nathan Huffman	13
Brett Williamson	
Charleen Carlson	14
Devon Sadowski	
Aidan Fry	19
Christopher Ausserer	20
Cayden Crewe	21
David Hemphill	
Terri Thompson	
Dianah Williamson	
Pat Woodworth Green	22
Jim Hensley	23
Gregory Campbell	25
Eileen Hitzeman	29
Zoe Witte	30

July Anniversaries

Pastor & Alison Witte	2
Joe & Helga Clark	4
Jared & Kerri Johnson	10
Eric & Terri Thompson	12
Brett & Paula Fiepeke	22



Larry Barnhard
Nancy Beaty
Norma Dupre
Jonathan Fiene
Erma Haggerty
Nesta Harris
Helga Hemphill



Tom & Eileen Hitzeman
Doris Humphreys
Jean Robinson
Marilyn Scheu
Elaine Schultz
Robyn Shipman
Pastor & Lynda Viken
Sue Williamson



Anne Ausserer	3
Elayna Humphreys	5
Emilie Humphreys	
Ezra Miller	
Gladys Zink	6
Cayden Crewe	7
Kevin Green	8
Logan Green	
Jean Robinson	10
Richard Thibeault	11
Stellan Tangeman	13
Louise Hellickson	15
Marcia Vail	
Jamie Hensley	17
Laura Card	18
Helga Hemphill	21
Otha Lowe	24
Phil Maffett	
Eileen Hitzeman	26
Aidan Fry	27
Julia Bell	29

The Bethlehem STAR

June/July 2025

Rev. Keith F. Witte

Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School

1240 S. Maple Avenue, Fairborn, OH 45324

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



June 9 —13
9 am to noon

Address Correction Requested

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.

**Online: churchstreamer.org (live at 8 am service,
previously recorded services under "Live" tab)**

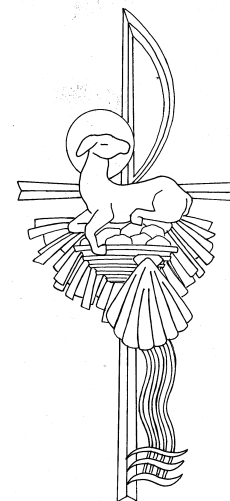
Sunday School & Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m.

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



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August 2025 issue deadline: Sunday, July 20th.