



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

November 2025

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.” (LSB 821, v1)*

Dearly beloved of Bethlehem,

Our Lutheran School Ministry THEME, “Let’s make a joyful noise” has brought many things to mind that I have often overlooked. As we celebrate the Reformation and All Saints’ Day this year, I noticed how “noisy” a lot of our Psalms, Scripture readings, and hymns are. Have you noticed it, too?

Consider the hymn above from “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus.” It pictures the saints and angels in heaven singing songs, thundering like a mighty flood. Martin Luther’s Sanctus hymn, “Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old”, captures the noise in heaven that takes place in Isaiah chapter 6. The seraphim praise the Lord in response to one another:

“Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
His glory fills the heavens and the earth!”
The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

Imagine the noise of heaven shaking in anticipation as we are about to receive Christ’s true body and blood at His Supper!

If you’ve ever been at a packed stadium for a game or at a rock concert, the noise level can be deafening, enveloping, invigorating. The walls shake. You might even “feel” the noise in your chest or from your feet. I picture heaven at that level—or close to it. However, without the pain—as our resurrected bodies will be able to tolerate whatever level God sees fit.

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Until the Lord graciously takes us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven, we still make a joyful noise together here at Bethlehem. I love hearing the school children singing their hearts out to “This Is the Feast” at chapel. I love hearing the congregation singing the liturgy and favorite well-known hymns—accompanied by organ or even unaccompanied. It is a delight to hear your singing! I hear Luther’s Small Catechism being recited as a group, by reading or by memory, at both our church and school. I hear Psalms spoken and chanted. I hear “Amen!” and “Alleluia!” “Thanks be to God!” spoken by young and old. I hear little ones cry out their prayers unto the Lord in His sanctuary. Bethlehem is a noisy place—and that is good.

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
With the lyre and the sound of melody! (Psalm 98:4-5)*

Your dear pastor,

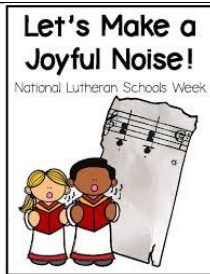
Pastor Witte



Bethlehem Lutheran School is holding a special Veterans Day chapel on Tuesday, November 11. The service begins at 8:45 am with the presentation of the colors by some very excited 5th grade students. If you are a veteran or currently serving in the military, we encourage you to come and let the students honor you. We want to recognize your service and the citizenship that this service displays. Your service and your presence here helps us connect young students to the living history of service in America.



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 am on Sunday, November 2nd. Turn your clocks back Saturday night before you go to bed or you run the risk of showing up for church before Pastor does.



Bethlehem Lutheran School

2025—2026 School Year News

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

On October 31st we celebrated Reformation Day with various activities throughout Bethlehem Lutheran School. Students celebrated our heritage as Lutherans using activities such as using the solas (Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Solus Christus, and Soli Deo Gloria) and coloring Luther's rose while learning its background.



We are very happy to have our second and third grade students participating in worship on Sunday, November 2nd at the 10.45am service. We love the opportunity to join together as church and school celebrating God's gifts.

The PTO is busy planning the annual Fall Festival, which is its largest fundraiser. **This will be happening on Friday November 7th from 6pm - 8pm.**

You are all invited to this fun event. Each of the classrooms is busily preparing their basket to be bid upon. In addition to the auction items, there will be fun carnival style games for children to play. A special thank you to those of you who donated items or helped in any way in organizing this event. The PTO does a lot throughout the year in supporting the teachers and students here at Bethlehem.



On Tuesday, November 11th we will be having a special program to honor our veterans. We will be starting at 8.45am with a special chapel followed by a presentation to all of our students by one of our parents who is a veteran. We then have a veteran lined up to speak to each class about their experiences. All of our Bethlehem parents who are veterans are invited to attend our chapel and even if you are not a veteran, we would love it if you joined us for chapel.

Speaking of chapel, you are all invited to chapel each week on Wednesday at 8.45am. Just come to the church doors and there will be someone to greet you. We love it when visitors worship with us. Our chapel offerings for November and December are to collect items for holiday baskets for residents of Fairborn.

We are grateful for all of the many gifts and blessings that God has given us. There will be no school for Bethlehem students on November 26th, 27th, and 28th to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. We will resume school at the normal time on December 1st.



As we move into November, our practices for our Christmas activities are in high gear. Our Christmas program will be on Friday, December 5th at the John Legend Theater in Springfield and our Christmas Band Concert will be on Thursday, December 11th here at Bethlehem. You are invited to attend one, or both, of the performances.

Thank you for always keeping the staff, students, and families of our school in your thoughts and prayers,

Making a Joyful Noise,

Mr. Fergusson

Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

--Abraham Lincoln

October 3, 1863

Thanksgiving Eve Service

**Wednesday, November 26, 2025
at 7 pm**



* Historical note: Thanksgiving was moved to the fourth Thursday in November in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Exciting News in Kindergarten!

Our Kindergarten class has been busy learning and growing each day! We have been talking about the Ten Commandments and how God wants us to live and show love to others. In language arts, we are learning how to write sentences, recognize letter sounds, and identify nouns and verbs. The students are becoming amazing early readers and are working hard at blending words together to read on their own! In science, we have started learning about weather and how it changes from day to day. It's such a joy to see their excitement and curiosity as they discover more about God's wonderful world!



One fun thing we have done so far is go on our field trip! We went to LaComedia Dinner Theater where the students were served hot dogs for lunch and got to see a live play of 'Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day!' The students had a great time with it and LOVED getting to interact with the play!

We are so excited to continue learning to read and learning how to serve the Lord through his word!

Spreading Joyful Noise,

Miss Hanvey



Friday, November 7th is the PTO Fall Festival from 6pm - 8pm.

We will have a silent and live auction with all kinds of cool things on which to bid. We also have a bounce house and car nival games for the kiddos. This is the largest fundraiser for the PTO and funds their priorities for the year. You are all invited.

Please join us for the next Town Hall meeting Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Voters' Assembly will be on Sunday, November 16, 2025 also at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The main topic of discussion is next year's budget for the church. Please see Brett Fiepk with any questions or concerns. Both the Town Hall and Voters' Assembly meetings will be held in person, or on Zoom.

Log in information:

Town Hall: 834 8080 4462 on the app and <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83480804462> without the app.

Voters' Assembly:

897 3148 9887 on the app and <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/897341489887> without the app.





Happy Birthday!

November Birthdays

Joshua Witte.....	1
George Giese.....	4
Dave Lauderbach	
Alison Witte.....	9
Aubrianna Engel.....	11
Kathy Brockman	12
Barb Warrick	19
Nicholas Engel	30



Edison Tangeman.....	6
Ken Crosby.....	17
Joshua Witte.....	21
Steve Wolaver	23
Alex Fry	26
Olivia Tangeman	29



November Anniversaries

Daylond & Jeanne Hooper	10
David & Leslie Lindsey	23
Joe & Elaine Schultz	25
Stephen & Meghann	29
Martinek	

Larry Barnhard

Nancy Beaty

Norma Dupre

Jonathan Fiene

Erma Haggerty

Nesta Harris

Helga Hemphill

Eileen Hitzeman

Doris Humphreys



Gene Ninnemann

Jean Robinson

Marilyn Scheu

Elaine Schultz

Robyn Shipman

Pastor & Lynda Viken

Sue Williamson

Gladys Zink



The 8th grade students are organizing a Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, November 20th at 6pm as a fundraiser to support their 8th grade class trip in May. The class decided that they would like to go to the Ark, and they need to raise the money for the trip. Between transportation, tickets, and lunch, they are looking to raise around \$1800.

The congregation is invited to help by coming to eat a delicious dinner prepared by the eighth grade class. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to reserve your seat.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Choir

meets every Wednesday in the choir loft from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. All voices are welcome. Come sing, build community, and help make a joyful noise. For more information, contact Jake Whitt.



The Bethlehem STAR

November 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School

1240 S. Maple Avenue, Fairborn, OH 45324

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Keith F. Witte, Pastor



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

7 pm Wednesday

November 26, 2025

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)**

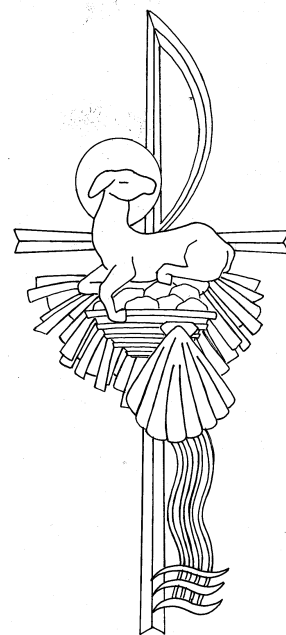
Sunday School & Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m.

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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December 2025 deadline: Sunday, November 16th.