



May 2023

Volume 11, Issue 9

Star

The Significance and Joy of the Ascension

We confess in the Apostles' Creed "on the third day He (Jesus) rose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty." We all know Easter is a big deal, and the Sunday of the Resurrection of our Lord is a big day, and thanks be to God for that. But there is more. Not only does the celebration of Easter continue for the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, but in the midst of this, 40 days after Easter Sunday to be precise, the Church remembers and celebrates the Ascension of our Lord.

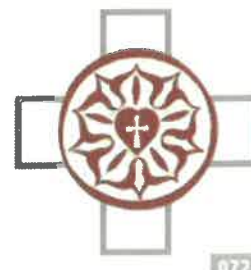
Though everyone knows the Church celebrates Easter, Ascension often gets overlooked. This ought not be. Our Lord's Ascension is of the greatest significance to His Church now as He ascends with the promise "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). He ascends in triumph not to be absent but ever present with His Church as He sends His Holy Spirit to call, gather, and enlighten by His Gospel. This is worth celebrating as we find our joy in Him who is our risen and ascended Lord.

Ascension always falls on a Thursday. This year it is May 18. We aren't used to church on a Thursday. Our lives are busy and some find it is hard enough to make the time on Sunday. I encourage you all to come and worship Christ the ascended king at our service here at Bethlehem, May 18 at 7:00pm. This is important as we find great joy in our Lord's Ascension.

The following is a brief meditation on our Lord's Ascension from Pastor Wilhelm Löhe. "It is written: 'God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet!' He triumphs over all His enemies. He has imprisoned prison and released its dead. There is jubilation in heaven as thousands upon thousands of sinners repent; He who is the sacrifice for our sins is coming, bringing with Him His reward, His spoils. For the innumerable host of the redeemed righteous are remembered by God and His angels. How magnificent is the Lord's ascension!

"If there is joy over one sinner who repents, what joy there must have been in heaven among all the angels and the elect when the Savior, in whom alone all sinners can be saved, returned! Who can describe, imagine, or even conceive of the rejoicing and the singing and the hallelujah that our Lord Jesus Christ received? Not since the morning stars praised the Lord in His creation has there been a day like Ascension. It is the greatest feast; indeed, on that day in heaven a continuous feast began whose hymns of praise have not yet been stilled nor will they ever be. Yet these are things about which we can speak but little. When our time comes, however, we will partake in all of them, when in death our souls come to Zion and our bodies ascend to heaven on the last day to meet Christ in the air, as St. Paul writes."

Rev. Samuel Wirgau



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
6514 East 750 North
Ossian, Indiana 46777
(260) 597-7121



Rev. Samuel Wirgau
260-273-7595
Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com

A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30p Board of Christian Educ. Meeting	2	3 10:15 Chapel 7p Spoken Divine Service Adult Choir Prac.	4	5	6 5K Run/Walk Event
7 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS 11:15a Board of Elders Meeting	8 6p PTL Meeting	9	10 10:15 Chapel 7p Spoken Divine Service Adult Choir Prac.	11	12 6:30p Spring Musical	13
14 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS	15	16	17 10:15 Chapel 7p Examination Service	18 7p Ascension Divine Service	19	20
21 9a Divine Service Confirmation Sunday 10:15 ABC & SS	22	23	24 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 9:30a Chapel 7p Spoken Divine Service	25	26	27
28 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS	29	30	31 7p Spoken Divine Service			

April 28, 2023

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills (\$14,758.80)

Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Account Balance
Improvement Fund	\$18,943.64	(\$ 0.00)	\$18,943.64
Scholarship Fund	\$ 6,671.02	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 6,671.02
Music Fund	\$ 5,185.78	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 5,185.78
	<u>\$ 2,369.00</u>	<u>(\$ 0.00)</u>	<u>\$ 2,369.00</u>
TOTALS	\$33,169.44	(\$ 0.00)	\$33,169.44

Checkbook Balance

(\$14,758.80)

Savings Account Balance

\$33,169.44

Total Savings and Checking Balance

\$18,410.64

Borrowed Amounts

Restricted Savings Account	\$ 0.00
Operating Loan Amount	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
TOTAL BORROWED	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>

Bills due week of April 30—\$16,000

Bills due week of May 7—\$14,000



May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter Psalm 146; 1 Peter 2:1-10; John 14:1-14 “Box Checked or Baked In?” – Sermon Text: John 14:13-14 – Rev. Dr. Thom-

as Ahlersmeyer Jesus promises to answer “Whatever you ask,” commanding us to “ask me anything” . . . with one condition! He wants requests to be made “in Jesus’ name.” This condition, far from limiting us, opens up amazing possibilities for faith, love, hope, and life!

May 14, 2023 – Sixth Sunday of Easter Psalm 66:16-20; 1 Peter 3:13-17; John 14:15-23 “Truly Loving Jesus” – Sermon Text: John 14:23 – Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III In John 14:23 Jesus speaks about loving him. What does he really mean when he talks about such love? Jesus also tells us that there is a wonderful blessing associated with our truly loving him.

May 21, 2023 – The Ascension of Our Lord Observed Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53 “Witnessing While We Wait” – Sermon Text: Luke 24:52-53 – Rev. Thomas Eggold For those who are in Christ Jesus, waiting does not mean fear. And waiting does not mean worry. In our Baptism, we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, and the purpose of that power is that we may believe the promise of life that will come with Christ’s return, and that we may witness while we wait.

May 28, 2023 – The Day of Pentecost Psalm 25:1-15; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39 “The Holy Spirit” – Sermon Text: John 7:37-38 – Rev. Shayne Jonker Today is Pentecost, the day the Church celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Jesus breathes on His Church from the right hand of God and gives His Church breath and life to proclaim the Good News of His saving death and resurrection. Thus, it is a day full of grace and gladness, a day of promises fulfilled.

May

- 01) Jude Wirgau
- 02) Grace Bauermeister
Shirley Brown
Noah Stoppenhagen
- 03) Jeff Bauermeister
- 04) Gianna Wirgau
- 05) Rory Geiger
David Saalfrank
Beverly Werling
- 06) Leroy Dawson
Rylee Hammond
Jeni Harkless
Darren Patrick
Darrin Werling
- 09) Kay Jackson
- 10) Jeremy Glisson
- 11) Wendy Boehm
Grant Meyer
- 12) Jennifer Delaney
Janelle Klingenger
- 13) Isaac Miller
- 15) Sandy Avey
- 16) Aldon Bultemeier
- 17) Emilee Whitsitt
- 18) Colleen Patrick
- 19) Vickie Graft
Martin Moehring
- 20) Aaron Anthony
Colin Delaney
Cheryl Louison
Maren Meyer
- 21) Bennett Schumm
Michelle Smith
- 23) Debra Pursifull
- 26) Paizley Price
- 27) Carolyn Brinkley
Carla Springer
- 28) Breanna Biggs
Ethan Ottinger
- 29) Peggy Goede
Chris Meyer
Neil Stoppenhagen
- 31) Kristen Meyer



**The Endowment Committee thanks the Lord and the congregation
for the generous gifts to the Endowment Fund.**

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation that just became available today. The following information is accurate as of February 28, 2023:

\$190,927.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009

177,883.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched

220,994.19 - Amount generated since 2009

-104,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009

\$485,305.01 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of February 28, 2023

Enjoy the convenience of Electronic Giving!

Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. If you wish to make a single online donation or set up recurring donations, you may do so on our website, www.bethlehemossian.org through our third-party provider-Vanco Payment Solutions. Online giving may be done as a credit card payment or ACH bank transfer. Please note, the church will incur a \$0.45 processing fee on each online transaction. Credit card transactions will be charged at least 2.75% fee. For ACH bank transfers, there is a fee of 1% of each dollar charged. This may affect how you wish to direct your online donations. You may also elect to increase your gift to cover the cost of the transaction fees.

2023 ALTAR SCHEDULE has been posted on the bulletin board or see Amy Schueler or Tisha Laley to sign up. Please consider helping prepare the altar for a few weeks or a month. We are happy to show you how to do this. Thank you.

2023 FLOWER CHART IS NOW POSTED Members are reminded to sign up for flowers to be placed on the Altar or Hymn board table. Simply use the 2023 flower chart posted on the bulletin board to sign up on the date you wish to have flowers. Purchased flowers should be brought to church before the designated date to be sure they are placed properly. For help in placing the flowers, please contact Tisha Laley or Amy Schueler. **Announcements concerning the flowers should be given to the church office.** Thank you

Happy Anniversary!

May 7 Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (57)
May 13 Jason and Erika Lesh (17)
May 14 Karl and Peggy Goede (46)
May 14 Gary and Darlene Werling (18)
May 22 Jason and Danielle Rekeweg (13)
May 22 Sergei and Kelly Collins (2)
May 26 Jake and Lindsay Wright (11)
May 31 Andy and Melissa Price (15)
May 31 John and Betty Roembke (54)
May 31 Rev. Samuel and DoRena Wirgau (15)



Elder Routes

Bruce Werling	A-B
Glen Werling	C-F
Ted Schumm	G-K
Jerry Meyer	L-P
Lloyd Meyer	Q-S
Dave Flesch	T-Z

LWML NEWS

Registration now open for the LWML National Convention to be held in Milwaukee June 22 – 25, 2023 at lwml.org/2023-convention.

Also, it is not too late to GET ON THE BUS for traveling to the convention. Full bus information is available at lwmlindiana.org or you may contact Marilyn Bulmahn at 260-919-5007.

September 16th St John-Bingen Saturday, Decatur Zone SRD Workshop. 9:00 A.M.

Project: Sewing cancer pads for Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana

October 14th Zion-Friedheim Saturday, Decatur Zone Fall Rally. Reg @ 8:30; Rally- 9:00 A.M. Speaker: Pastor Michael Wakeland, Head Chaplain, Lutheran Life Villages

Keep collecting mites. Thank you.

During the month of May the Women of Bethlehem LWML will be collecting Gifts from the Heart for Phil's Friends, Orphan Grain Train, Most Ministries, and gift cards for A Place of Refuge. A list of items needed can be found in the May church newsletter. Gift cards can be placed in the LWML mailbox located in Heidi's church office. Thank you!



Bethlehem Women's Group summer 2023 trip, Monday, June 12th. It is an all-day coach bus trip to the The Ark in Kentucky. We will leave Walmart, Decatur parking lot at 7:00 am and return to the same area at 9:00 pm. The cost is \$89.00 for adults and seniors which covers the cost of admission and coach ride. Meals are not included. The bus is almost full, make your reservation TODAY. Payment needs to be received at the time of reservation. Make checks payable to Patty Baker. Call Joellen Meyer 260-273-9114 or Patty Baker 260-760-6056, if you have questions.



May 2023

Mite Challenge Calendar



BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Say a prayer for school principals. Donate 10¢	2 Treat a teacher today. Donate 90¢	3 Sing LSB #706 Love in Christ is Strong and Living. Donate 40¢	4 Participate in the National Day of Prayer. Donate 70¢	5 Invite someone for Mexican food. Donate 15¢	6 Pray for nurses today. Donate 55¢
7 Call a friend and discuss today's sermon. Donate 30¢	8 Read Matthew 5:1-12. Donate 95¢	9 Go for a walk, thanking God for His creation. Donate 50¢	10 Pray for those working overnight. Donate 20¢	11 Express how blessed you are to those you meet. Donate 80¢	12 Donate to a backpack program. Donate 35¢	13 Have a piece of apple pie with someone. Donate 75¢
14 Mother's Day Praise the Lord for Godly mothers. Donate 60¢	15 Send a "thinking of you" card. Donate 25¢	16 Count the trees in your yard and give 10¢ each or Donate 65¢	17 Clean out a drawer or cabinet today. Donate 45¢	18 Sing a praise song as you wash your dishes. Donate 85¢	19 Invite someone to share a pizza. Donate 10¢	20 Pray for those in the Armed Forces. Donate 90¢
21 Start reading a Christian book. Donate 40¢	22 Graciously tip waitstaff today. Donate 70¢	23 Read Matthew 25:35-40. Donate 15¢	24 Pray for siblings to love one another. Donate 55¢	25 Brown bag it for lunch today. Donate 30¢	26 Write out your prayer requests. Donate 95¢.	27 Tape a list of blessings where you will see it. Donate 50¢
28 Pentecost! Praise the Lord for the Holy Spirit. Donate 20¢	29 Memorial Day! Remember those who served. Donate 80¢	30 Sing LSB #848 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service Donate 35¢	31 Read Lamentations 3:22-24. Donate 75¢			



Gifts from the Heart



2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

At each convention LWML members and groups share God's blessings with others through Gifts from the Heart (GFTH). The following is the list of GFTH items to collect for the Milwaukee convention in June 2023.

Phil's Friends:

- Puzzle books
- Journals
- Playing cards (regular)
- Fuzzy socks
- Hats (knit, crochet, or baseball)
- Walmart Gift cards* (any denomination)

A Place of Refuge:

Gift Cards in any denomination from:

- Walmart *
- Target *
- Kohl's *

MOST Ministries:

- Recycled "new and like-new" eyeglasses

Orphan Grain Train:

- Quilts, Blankets, or Comforters (all sizes)
- Hygiene Kits: (*Please donate complete kits only*)
 - 1 bath towel
 - 1 washcloth
 - 1 bath-size bar of soap
 - 1 plastic soap box holder
 - 1 toothbrush
 - 1 sturdy comb
 - 6 band-aids (½ or ¾ inch)
 - 1 small package of facial tissues
 - 1 nail clipper
 - 1 piece of strong cord or ribbon

**See note about assembling Hygiene Kits on page 2.*

Check the LWML website at www.lwml.org/2023-convention for more information about these gifts.

** It is very important that the amount of each gift card be written on each card in permanent marker.*

Thank you for your support of the 2023 Gifts from the Heart recipients & sharing the love of Christ!



Orphan Grain Train Hygiene Kits — Questions Answered Gifts from the Heart in Milwaukee


There have been some questions about the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) Hygiene Kits for Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) at the LWML Convention in Milwaukee and LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison responds below.

Can we deliver our Hygiene Kits to the OGT Warehouse near our district instead of hauling them to Milwaukee?

Response — Yes. If you have an OGT Warehouse in or near your district, you can deliver ingathering (GFTH) items there instead of bringing them to Milwaukee. We do ask that you keep an accurate count of the number of Hygiene Kits and quilts that you deliver. Bring that information with you to Milwaukee and deliver it to the GFTH collection room, so that your items will be included in the overall count.

What are the exact packing instructions for the OGT Hygiene Kits?

Response — Instructions for packing Hygiene Kits are included below. This information is from the OGT website. Due to customs regulations, it is important to follow these directions exactly.



HYGIENE KITS

CONTENTS

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 bath towel	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sturdy comb
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 wash cloth	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 band-aids (½" or ¾")
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 bath-size bar of soap	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 small package facial tissues
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 plastic soap box holder	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 nail clipper
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 toothbrush	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 piece of strong ribbon or cord

PLEASE NOTE

- Dark colored linens are recommended.
- We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not required.
- No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
- Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
- Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.
- Pack only new or gently used items.
- Do not include plastic bags.
- It costs an average of \$11 to ship each box of kits. Please consider a donation to your local OGT branch to help with shipping.

*Although well-meaning variations **are** tempting, please **do not** do this. It may result in heavy fines and/or the **entire** shipment being confiscated by customs officials.*

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay out the towel on a flat surface.
2. Fold over about 5" on each long side.
3. Place the rest of the items in the center under the folds.
4. Roll up the towel.
5. Use ribbon or cord to tie the towel together in the middle.

2023 Confirmation Class

Breanna Biggs—Daughter of Christine Biggs

Verse - John 15:4-5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Luke Harkless- Son of Lane and Jeni Harkless

Verse – Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Molly Mishler- Daughter of Greg and Angie Mishler

Verse – Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Eden Stoppenhagen—Daughter of Andrew and Gaye Stoppenhagen

Verse – Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

Sarena Wirgau— Daughter of Rev. Samuel and Dorena Wirgau

Verse – Psalm 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Rite of Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Public Examination will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday May 17th. The examination will be over the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism. Parents, sponsors, and congregational members are all invited to witness these students being publicly examined in their knowledge and understanding of Christian doctrine.



BETHLEHEM LYF



May 2023

BY DEACONESS WENDY BOEHM

We have been doing some youth room renovations, as you can see above the room is not quite complete but getting there. We also recently celebrated our seniors who are leaving and fieldworker Isaac going off to vicarage with a Mario theme party.

The youth will be helping some of our members who have asked for some yard work services once it warms up a bit again.

In May we will be going to Cedar Point as a group to celebrate the end of the school year. Over the summer we do not meet but the youth are encouraged to help with VBS if they are able. We will meet up again with a kick off event to star the school year up again in August.

Thank You!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Donuts:

Ben Schueler

May 29:

Cedar Point Trip



Resources and Services

- Ecclesiastical endorsement, annual training and career management for chaplains
- Operation Barnabas
- "Ministry-by-Mail"
- Armed Forces Sunday resources
- Quarterly Armed Forces newsletter So Help Me God

How to Get Involved

- Watch videos at video.lcms.org/archives/category/armed-forces-ministry
- Download resources at lcms.org/armedforces/resources
- Give a gift lcms.org/givenow/maf



"Put on the whole armor of God."

— EPH. 6:10-18 ESV —

Serving Those Who Serve

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) is authorized as the mission arm of the Synod to support and serve all military chaplains — active and reserve — their families and the veteran population. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains; sponsors annual training for all chaplains; and maintains close, pastoral relationships with chaplains after endorsement, offering counsel, training and advice throughout their entire careers.

CRAIG MUEHLER CAPT, CHC, USN (RET.), director
 LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces
 888-THE LCMS • lcmschaps@lcms.org
lcms.org/armedforces • lcms.org/operationbarnabas



Standing Ready with the Gospel

by Pamela J. Nielsen

In bunkers and fighter jets, on battleships and bases, in field hospitals and training camps, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces stand at the ready in service to our country.

With them are the 160 active and Reserve LCMS Armed Forces Chaplains stationed around the world. These pastors proclaim the Word of life, in environments often shrouded in death. Their flocks frequently come and go, providing scant opportunity for long-term ministry. Their work takes place in some of the most difficult situations any pastor could ever face, where lives can be unraveled in an instant.

Upholding these faithful servants is the Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF), the LCMS effort to care for and support military chaplains and, through them, our LCMS members and their families in uniform.

The MAF exists to recruit, prepare, endorse and support LCMS chaplains in their service to God and country.

Authorized by the Synod and registered with the Department of

Defense. Chaplain Craig Muehler is the endorsing agent for LCMS military chaplains. There is a “lifelong marriage” between his office and the LCMS chaplains that includes ongoing contact and an annual visit with each chaplain. Through these visits and regular reports by phone and email, MAF helps the chaplains to stay connected with their church.

Each year, MAF gathers the chaplains at one of two training seminars, providing a rich opportunity for Lutheran worship, fellowship and study with LCMS seminary professors. Training and conversation is focused on the unique challenges of military chaplaincy.



Operation Barnabas

Operation Barnabas, an extension of MAF, provides a network of care through trained congregations that want to reach out to members of the military, their families and the veterans in their congregations and communities.

Operation Barnabas has worked with dozens of congregations, but we realize hundreds more congregations also are caring for military families. We ask you to contact us, so we can recognize your work and encourage you as you serve military families.

America's sons and daughters are in harm's way in faraway lands, and our chaplains go with them. Their families wait in our communities, where the people of God support and care for them in our life together.

Get Involved!

- *Pray for our troops*
- *Order MAF bulletin inserts*
- *Join our Operation Barnabas network*



OPERATION BARNABAS



The vision of Operation Barnabas is that every military-connected person lives in the hope and peace of God's love and mercy as revealed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our men and women in uniform have answered our nation's call to protect and defend us. In every time and place, they have stood the watch at home and abroad, often far from their families. Both active and reserve members of our military and their families continue to bear the burden of deployments to austere and dangerous locations. We invite you to help us to help them, and while doing so, share the love of Christ.

In 2007, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces launched Operation Barnabas. Through this program — the only one of its kind in the U.S. — together with our congregations, we accomplish three key goals:

1. **Care for Reserve chaplains and their families and congregations.**
2. **Train and assist local congregations in their care and support of local military members and their families and veterans.**
3. **Serve as a resource to other organizations that provide care to military families and veterans.**

CALL TO ACTION!

We encourage congregations who reach out to military families to include the following actions:

- **PRAY** for our troops.
- **RECOGNIZE** veterans in your congregation at least once a year.
- **CELEBRATE** LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces Sunday, and learn more about what we are doing to serve our military families. To learn more, visit lcms.org/armedforcenessunday.

In that time, congregations have focused on deployment care — with good reason. We have troops who are “still in the fight,” and we continue to offer deployment support to military families.

But we also recognize the immense drawdown our military faces. Over 200,000 military families are leaving the military to return to civilian communities. Our goal is to enable our congregations to lead their communities in welcoming these military families back home. They have borne the weight of repeated deployments, and when they return to our communities, we can prepare to receive them in concert with local chambers of commerce, schools and medical facilities.



“Over 200,000 military families are leaving the military to return to civilian communities. Our goal is to enable our congregations to lead their communities in welcoming these military families back home.”

— **OPERATION
BARNABAS**

Connecting with Congregations

Operation Barnabas has worked with dozens of congregations, but we realize hundreds more congregations also are caring for military families. We ask you to contact us so we can recognize your work and encourage you as you serve military families.

When you contact us:

- › We can share your congregation's information with military families asking us to find a local congregation near their duty station
- › We can recognize you with a certificate suitable for placement in your church.
- › We can share your congregation's outreach and encourage other congregations to learn from you!
- › We can forward information to you on a regular basis to better equip you to care for military families.

If you wish to be even more involved:

Become an Operation Barnabas Chapter. Operating in a manner similar to other chapters in your congregation — such as your Lutheran Women's Missionary League chapter — an Operations Barnabas Chapter meets monthly around a specific goal. In this case, the goal is to actively engage the military members in your community. Successful chapters depend on the volunteerism and leadership of a dedicated group of people in your congregation; this is not another task for pastor! This is a chance for your congregation to actively serve in your community and share the love of Christ with those who have borne the burden of defending our nation.



You have the opportunity to care for both those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces and those who have served in the past. Veterans and their families from every conflict are in need of your support.

If you served in uniform, thank you! Now you have the opportunity to serve again. You know the challenges, and you speak the same language as those in uniform.

Contact us:

LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces
888-THE LCMS (843-5267)
lcmschaps@lcms.org
lcms.org/operationbarnabas
lcms.org/armedforces



TIGER TALES

"Making Disciples for Life"



We hope
you enjoyed
your special
day!



CALENDAR

May 1-5 Teacher Appreciation
May 1 Board of Ed Meeting 5:30
May 6 5K Run/Walk for MaKayla
May 8 PTL Meeting
May 12 Musical
May 14 Mother's Day
May 15-17 NWEA Testing (7-8)
May 17 Confirmation Exam
May 21 Confirmation
May 24 Last Day of School

MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Jude Wirgau
May 4 Ginny Wirgau
May 11 Deaconess Boehm
May 11 Mrs. Moore
May 20 Lacey Garwick
May 20 Maren Meyer
May 26 Paizley Price



Weather permitting the students will be going outside for recess time. Please have your child dress appropriately for the weather.



Potential delays and cancellations for Bethlehem will follow the same as Northern Wells Community Schools. Sign up for text alerts at www.wane.com/text-alerts.

Elearning will be assigned on designated closings.

Last Day of School is Wednesday May 24th dismissal at noon!

Are We there Yet?

Miriam tells the story of the Exodus, how her brother Moses was called by God to lead his people out of slavery and to the promised land.

Join our students for this musical odyssey Friday, May 12, at 6:30 pm in the school gym.

Bethlehem families who shop at Kroger are encouraged to Sign up today!

Shop at Kroger and help the Bethlehem Lutheran School tuition assistance fund with the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com, be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with Bethlehem Lutheran School as your organization for the reward. **The NPO number for Bethlehem is WG595#.**

If you don't have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk. Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered card when shopping for each purchase to count.

PLAN TO USE SCRIP FOR ALL YOUR SHOPPING NEEDS Parents are encouraged to use the online "ShopwithScrip" app to buy and reload gift cards or for orders, contact our Scrip coordinator, Melissa Price at 260-433-5307. Over the years, we have been able to financially support the church general fund and participating school families who have applied credits toward their child's tuition.



Box Tops for Education - Use the app (BTFE.com), and scan your receipt to give credits to the school. Thank you

Help our 7th and 8th graders raise funds for their Washington D.C. class trip!



Please save your newspapers, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, old phone books, office/school papers and hard/soft cover books. Along with cereal type boxes (**NO CARDBOARD**). Bring your recyclable paper to school and dispose of in our "PaperGator."

The recycling company pays by the ton so the more you feed our Gator, the more funds we can collect!

If you need help with pick up for large amounts, please call the school and we will make arrangements to help you.

Let your family, neighbors, and friends know!

Thank you

The 4th Quarter Chapel offering is for the Orphan Grain Train.

PAGE 4



Remember Your Offerings **Mission Statement**

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

What is Orphan Grain Train?

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

Present Day

Since 1992, Orphan Grain Train's 27 regional locations have delivered more than 45 million fortified-rice meals and 4,230 shipments of humanitarian aid to needy people in several states and 69 countries on 5 continents. Orphan Grain Train built a mobile chapel with help from a grant funded by LCMS Disaster Relief division for St. John's Lutheran Church in Pilger, NE after their church was demolished by a F4 tornado. In October 2017 hurricane Michael ravaged the shoreline of Texas and a majority of Houston. Michael left behind homes and businesses in ruins and lives lost. Orphan Grain Train purchased and delivered 15 shipments of building construction materials and 5 semi-loads of groceries to help stock shelves in a food pantry feeding volunteers and those that have lost everything. In October 2018 OGT had 400 turkeys delivered for Thanksgiving meals to those still living in desperation a year later. The mission of Orphan Grain Train is uniquely dependent upon dedicated volunteers, many of whom have given numerous years of service for the sake of others. Since 1992, more than 4 million hours have been volunteered!

Orphan Grain Train is a recognized service organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Many shipments have been in cooperation with Lutheran Hour Ministries, LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief, and other Christian ministries.

info found on <https://www.ogt.org/our-story/>

April / May / June Birthday Pizza lunch with the Pastor Dodgers

Thursday, May 18th

students celebrating birthdays:

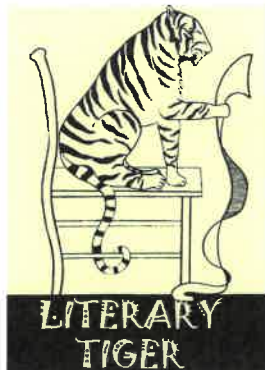


Emma Wirgau, Bailey Meyer, Jonah Bultemeier

Caroline Haiflich, Jude Wirgau, Ginny Wirgau,

Lacey Garwick, Maren Meyer, Paizley Price, Weslynn Nahrwold





"Hooray for Library Day!"

Tuesdays are a treat because we enjoy seeing all the students and helping them find books to enjoy, but we only have a few more weeks of library visits before the end of the school year! Tuesday, May 9 will be the last day for students to check out books. Remember, that doesn't mean you have to stop reading until the fall – the public library is the perfect place to spend warm summer days!

We will miss all of you over the summer but are already excited about some big changes and surprises for next year. Over these last few weeks, we hope students will share with us their favorite reads and favorite parts of library day and keep giving us those book requests.

Happy Reading! Your faithful Librarians, Jennifer Bultemeier, DoRena Wirgau

The Bethlehem Women's Group Book Club has been reading "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle. We hope they inspire you to check out a copy from the school library!

About the book:

"Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

Winner of the 1963 Newbery Medal, A Wrinkle in Time is the first book in Madeleine L'Engle's classic Time Quintet."



4 out of 5 stars from Mrs. Wanner

4.5 out of 5 stars from Mrs. Householder

From Mrs. Streeks:

A Wrinkle in Time is a wonderful book that is full of adventure. I really enjoyed reading it. The author does a great job of using the words to paint an image in your head. It was so exciting I had a difficult time putting the book down! You won't be disappointed reading this book!

From Deaconess Boehm:

A Wrinkle in Time is a perfect book for any Sci-fi lovers! It combines the perfect blend of fantasy and adventure. A definite "page-turner".

From Mrs. Kleppinger

I found this book full of adventure and science fiction fantasy! Meg Murry's father went missing after a scientific project. Along with her brother Charles Wallace and friend Calvin and with the help of 3 mysterious women (who I thought to be angels) helped them search the universe for her missing father. They encounter several mysterious obstacles along the way. If you want a quick, exciting, adventure read, this is your book! Hope you enjoy!

Last day for Accelerated Reader points to be counted is Wednesday May 3rd

So far, the winners of this year's points are as follows:

Trip to Dairy Queen on Tuesday, May 16th Lacey Garwick, Maren Meyer, Madeline Schumm, Ellie Leamon

Trip to Pizza Hut on Wednesday, May 17th Sienna Sommer, Emma Campbell

Mystery Trip on Thursday, May 18th JT Holtzclaw, Hunter Householder, Matthew Rekeweg,
Jude Wirgau, Emma Wirgau, Sarena Wirgau

Details about these trips will be sent home with each winning student in the next week.



Please welcome, Kelsey Donald Allan Phillips born on April 8, 2023. Thank you to everyone for all the gifts and well wishes as we welcome our little one. We are so grateful for all the support and generosity as we transition into first time parents.

God's Blessings,
Seminarian Morgan and Mrs. Amelia Phillips

Continued prayers and support along with meals for the Phillips family is appreciated. <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/wq4k8e>

Last Day of School

Wednesday, May 24th

As a school tradition, students will be allowed to ride their bicycles to school with parent permission and supervision. All bicycles are to be parked in the north parking lot near the sidewalk. Morning bus service will also be available.

The events for the day will start with Closing Chapel at 9:30 am. Parents are welcome to attend.

8th Grade Graduation (Luke Harkless, Molly Mishler, Sarena Wirgau) along with Academic Awards will follow.



Field Day with all the students in different stations. Then ending with a school picnic hosted by the Board of Education and PTL at 11:30 am. Parents are asked to bring side dishes to share. Hot dogs, Mac & Cheese and beverages will be provided.

Dismissal will be after lunch with NO bus service.

Please be sure to have all tuition fees paid in full and library books returned. Report cards will be sent in the mail.

Have a great summer!

Final Registration Day –Thursday, August 3rd, 4-7 p.m.

First Day of School—Wednesday, August 9, 2023



LUTHERAN NIGHT

2023 OUTING WITH THE FORT WAYNE TINCAPS

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 1**

**GAME TIME:
7:05PM**

TICKET LINK



DONATION

Proceeds from Lutheran Night will be shared with Lutheran Life Villages in support of their Employee Assistance Program, a mental health & wellness program for LLV staff and their immediate family.

SPECIAL DRAWING FOR TICKET ORDERS

(For orders received prior to Friday, June 30)

Prizes Include: \$50 gift certificate to *The Orchard* team store, an autographed team bat, a chance to throw out a ceremonial first pitch & more.

POSTGAME FIREWORKS

Enjoy a spectacular fireworks display, shot directly from the field!

FAMILY FEAST NIGHT (PRESENTED BY US FOODS)

Every Tuesday night, fans can enjoy select concession items for only \$2.00 including hot dogs, popcorn, soft drinks, and pizza slices!

Order tickets online at:

<https://www.tincapstickets.com/group/event/lutherannight2023/>

Only ticket orders received prior to Tuesday, July 18th will receive the Lutheran Night discount offer.

LUTHERAN NIGHT • TICKET ORDER FORM • TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

School/Church Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ ext. _____

Email: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: ☐ Check (Payable to Fort Wayne TinCaps)

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp: ____/____

3 Digit # on Back (For Security Reasons): _____

TICKETS	#	PRICE	TOTAL
Lutheran Night Tickets		\$12 ⁰⁰	
Shipping & Handling (if mailing tickets)	1	\$1 ⁰⁰	
Add. Donations (optional)			
TOTAL			

Please select how you would like to receive your tickets:

☐ Mail ☐ Email
☐ Text

TOTAL

Please return orders to:

Fort Wayne TinCaps • Jennifer Sylvester
1301 Ewing Street • Fort Wayne, IN 46802

FORT WAYNE TINCAPS • LUTHERAN NIGHT • 1301 EWING STREET • FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
PHONE: (260) 407-2801 • FAX: (260) 471-4678 • TINCAPS.COM