

## A Look at *O Morning Star* (LSB 395)

January can be a hard month. The days continue to be short and the nights seem extra dark. The novelty of winter weather is long past and spring seems an eternity away. A new year seems to bring the same old problems and struggles. And of course it seems like everybody is sick, getting over being sick, or worried about catching a bug.

Of course it is not all bad. We still have those things we enjoy and opportunities to exercise some creature comforts in the midst of the cold. More importantly, in January the Church is directed to the season of Epiphany and the words of Isaiah 60:1-2: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you." There is a darkness worse than winter nights, the darkness of sin and death. But our Lord has come, the Light shining in the darkness. He is our Morningstar, fair and bright, as seen in the words of Philipp Nicolai's famous hymn, appropriate not only for Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, but for the entire season of Epiphany. I invite you to open up, read, and sing *O Morning Star* (LSB 395) as you read the rest of this article.

Nicolai wrote this hymn following two years of devastating plague in Westphalia where he served as a pastor. Our troubles perhaps pale in comparison to what Nicolai and his congregation endured, or maybe our troubles are enough. Either way, Nicolai's hymn speaks the Gospel into the darkest situations of sin and death. Indeed and in truth that is why the Christ has come and why His presence was made known and is made known among us.

Stanzas 1 and 2 employ two beautiful biblical images of Christ. First it describes Him as our Morning Star, shining with truth and light, grace and mercy. Second it describes Him as the heavily Bridegroom, emphasizing the work of Christ in loving us, His bride, even to the point of laying down His life for us to save us and make us holy. Likewise we are united to Him who is our head, finding our life in Him even "as living branches of a tree." This was true for Nicolai's plague-effected parishioners as well as for us even as "earth's deep sadness may perplex us and distress us."

All of this is made known in the love of the Father in sending His Son. Such love is at the heart of stanzas 3 and 4. God delivers this to us in the ministry of the Gospel in His means of grace given for our good in the midst of our distresses. Stanza 3 sings, "Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood/Refresh our souls with heavenly food/You are our dearest treasure!" As stanza 4 sings, "This is Your great salvation."

The *Lutheran Service Book Companion to the Hymns* wonderfully summarizes the concluding stanzas. "Stanzas 5 and 6 must be counted among the greatest in Lutheran hymnic writing, as they express the joyful expectation of an eternity in the very presence of Jesus, the One who 'ransomed us in love.' Stanza 6 is particularly rich with reference Revelation: 'first and last, the end and the beginning.'" (I:179) And the final words of "Amen! Amen!/Come, Lord Jesus!/Crown of gladness!/We are yearning/For the day of Your returning!"




May our Morning Star strengthen and keep you with the light of His Gospel this January, this Epiphany season, and for the rest of our lives even to eternal life.  
Rev. Samuel Wirgau



017



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9a Divine Service NO ABC & SS 7p New Year's Eve Service	1 New Year's Day	2	3 5:30 Catechism 7p Divine Spoken Service Adult Choir	4	5 	6
7 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS	8 Back to School 7p Handbell Choir Practice	9	10 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Divine Spoken Service Adult Choir	11	12 Epiphany	
14 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS 11:15a Elders Meeting	15 7p Handbell Choir Practice	16	17 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Divine Spoken Service Adult Choir	18	19	20
21 9a Christmas Eve Service 10:15 ABC & SS 11:15a Special-Voters Meet Noon-3:00 Open House for School	22 6p PTL Meeting 7p Handbell Choir Practice	23 5:30 Board of Christian Educ.	24 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Divine Spoken Service Adult Choir	25 	26 	27
28 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS	29 7p Handbell Choir Practice	30	31 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Divine Spoken Service Adult Choir			

December 29, 2023

## BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills \$171.50

### Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Account Balance
Improvement Fund	\$30,690.85	(\$ 0.00)	\$30,690.85
Scholarship Fund	\$ 7,496.02	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 7,496.02
Music Fund	\$ 2,464.61	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,464.61
Reserved (TBD)	\$ 2,369.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,369.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$43,020.48</b>	<b>(\$ 0.00)</b>	<b>\$43,020.48</b>

### Checkbook Balance

\$ 171.50

### Savings Account Balance

\$43,020.48

Total Savings and Checking Balance

\$43,191.98

### Borrowed Amounts

Restricted Savings Account	\$ 0.00
Operating Loan Amount	<u>\$18,750.00</u>
<b>TOTAL BORROWED</b>	<u>\$18,750.00</u>

Bills due week of December 31—\$12,000

Bills due week of January 7—\$6,000

December 28, 2023

Dear Saints of Bethlehem,

Bethlehem has historically had a strong relationship with Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and has been active in assisting the Seminary in the pastoral formation of its students. Since the early 1980s we have given many seminarians fieldwork experience as they have assisted in the worship services, youth group, and Sunday School, along with many other activities. Members of Bethlehem have also served on the Seminary Guild and we have supported students financially. You see how vital the seminary is for the future of our congregation and the Church at large.

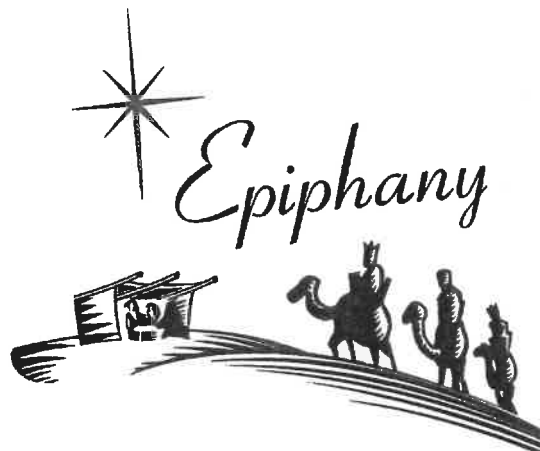
The vicarage year is an important time of pastoral formation in the seminarians' career. At the beginning of November of this year I received a letter from the Vicarage Placement Director, Dr. Todd Peperkorn. The letter was sent to local congregations with schools. It informed me of an opportunity from the Lutheran Foundation to help fund local vicarages for the upcoming (2024-2025) year with the caveat that they be largely involved in the Lutheran school as well as the congregation. I discussed this with Pastor Dodgers, the Board of Elders, and the Church Council to see if Bethlehem might pursue getting a Vicar for the upcoming year. I also spoke with Dr. Peperkorn. All were favorable in pursuing this. With the blessing of the Elders and the Council we submitted an interest form.

At the beginning of December I spoke with Dr. Peperkorn again, and he informed me that the grant from Lutheran Foundation had been approved and who encouraged me to fill out the vicarage application form and grant application. This was also approved by the Council in December. That brings us into the coming months. Chairman Stoppenhagen is calling a special Voters' meeting for Sunday, January 21 to discuss and potentially vote on getting a vicar for the upcoming year. This would be a one year commitment and not a permanent addition. Though this vicarage would largely be funded by the Lutheran Foundation grant, it would involve financial commitment from Bethlehem. The Council determined this is a matter for discussion by the Voters.

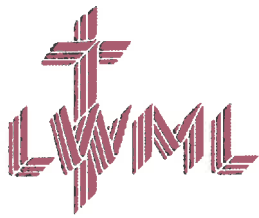
If it would be financially feasible, I believed that Bethlehem would offer a wonderful opportunity for a vicar for the 2024-2025 school year. He would be given full-time parish experience not only on Sunday mornings but also in the day-to-day workings of the church and school. This would include shadowing me on visitation to the homebound and hospitalized, preparing to preach regularly, teaching and assisting in the school, and many other opportunities that arise in the life of a congregation. Bethlehem is a strong and active congregation and school and the experiences it could give a vicar would be most beneficial for preparing him for the pastoral ministry. Pastor Dodgers and I both agree that Bethlehem would make a great vicarage congregation.

For the time being, please keep this process in your prayers, plan to attend the Voters' Meeting on January 21, 2024, and bring your thoughts and questions to the meeting or before hand to Chairman Stoppenhagen, Pastor Dodgers, and/or me. May God continue to keep us steadfast in His Word even as we pray for Him to send laborers into the harvest.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Wirgau







June 21-23, 2024 will be the Indiana District LWML Convention in Danville, Indiana. Each congregation can send 2 voting delegates to the convention. If you are interested in being a delegate from Bethlehem, contact Vicki Schallhorn or Judy Moehring. Ruth Armel Scholarships are available for anyone who has never attended the District Convention. Contact Marilyn Bulmahn if you are interested in this scholarship. The theme of the convention is Rooted in Christ- Ephesians 3:17b



This year marks the 55<sup>th</sup> year for sessions of the **Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute (LBI)**, which will take place January 23, 30 & February 6, 13, 2024 from 7-9:00 pm at Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School. These continuing education courses, open to students and adults, are conducted by LCMS churches of the Decatur circuit and taught by local pastors and seminary professors.

**The four courses offered this term will include:**

**Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss – Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne**  
**Topic: The Acts of the Apostles Through Four Windowpanes**

**Rev. Dr. Paul J. Grime – Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne**  
**Topic: The Divine Service in Detail**

**Rev. Leonard E. Tanksley – St. Peter Fuelling, Decatur**  
**Topic: The Joseph Narratives (Genesis 37-50)**

**Rev. Samuel S. Wirgau – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian**  
**Topic: Lutheran Doctrine: What We Teach and Why it Matters**

Registration for the courses will begin at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 23. Fees are \$10.00 per person for adults and are free for college, high school, and elementary students. The public is cordially invited to attend.

**2024 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE** is now posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to prepare the altar for church services. Thank you



**MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS TO BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR OR HYMNBOARD.** Simply use the 2024 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, Cheryl Louison or Deaconess Wendy Boehm.

**Announcements concerning the flowers should be given to the church office. Thank you**

# JANUARY

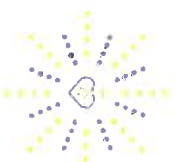
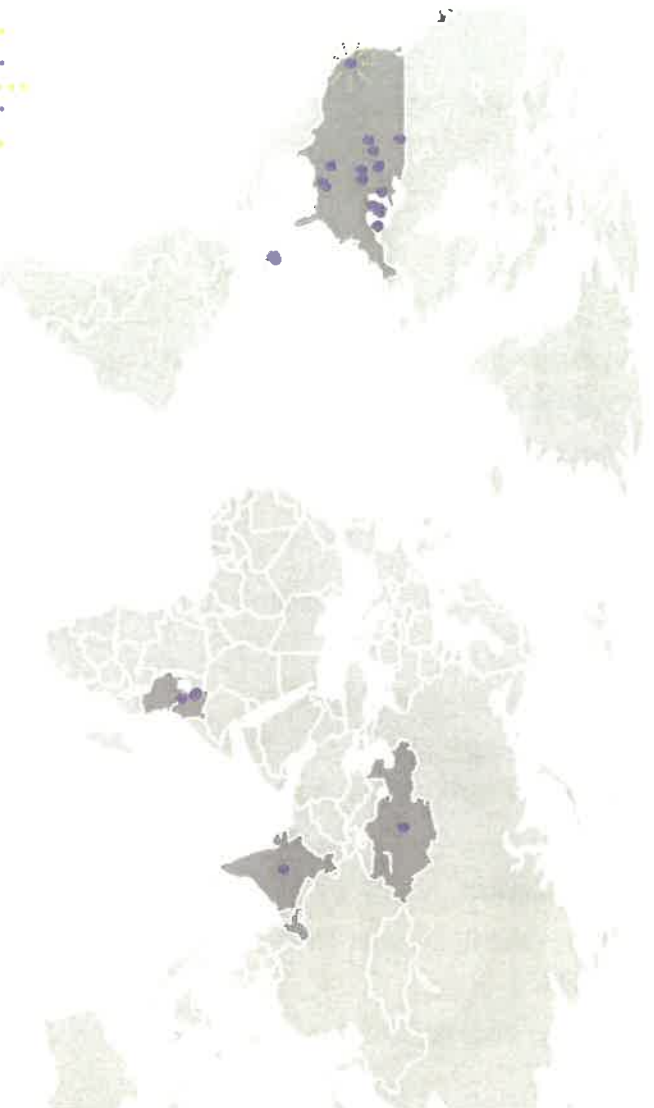
*Use this prayer guide for the month of January. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. What a joy it is to lift these needs to our Father's listening ears!*



1. For God's direction in your life during this new year.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #1.
3. For Afghanistan, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your pastor.
5. For your LWML District Board of Directors.
6. Epiphany! Thank God that Jesus came to save us!
7. For the country of Angola.
8. For the LWML Texas District.
9. For young people to follow Jesus.
10. For all church workers.
11. For the country of Argentina.
12. For your community and the opportunity to share the Gospel with other people groups.
13. For LWML Mission Grant #2.
14. For our Lutheran Women in Mission President.
15. For the country of Austria.
16. For the LWML Oklahoma District.
17. For all Lutheran Braille Workers and volunteers.
18. For all law enforcement officers.
19. For the Bahamas.
20. For your vocation.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #3.
22. For those who receive needed staples from food pantries.
23. For the country of Bangladesh.
24. Recite the Lord's Prayer today.
25. For the editors of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.
26. For the homebound in your congregation.
27. For your dear friends.
28. For countries that have not yet heard the Gospel.
29. For the homeless in your area.
30. For the country of Belize.
31. For Sunday school teachers.

# NOVEMBER 2023

## 2023-2025 MISSION GRANT DISTRIBUTIONS



### MISSION GRANT SPOTLIGHT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED



**Fortifying Faith in Those with  
Vision Impairment**  
Lutheran Braille Workers  
\$100,000

Lutheran Braille Workers freely supplies large print and braille materials for blind and visually impaired people around the world. The \$100,000 grant, Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment, will help in developing, formatting, producing, and distributing fifty to one hundred new Scripture-based and theologically related materials to people in need around the world.

*But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).*

NO.	MISSION GRANT	DISBURSED	STILL NEEDED
1	Orphan Grain Train Servant Center	\$0.00	\$100,000
2	A Healing Space for At-Risk Children Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND	\$100,000	\$0
3	Serving God's Children with Special Needs Journneys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI	\$0.00	\$100,000
4	Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment Lutheran Braille Workers	\$0.00	\$100,000
5	Disaster Response Team Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX	\$50,000.00	\$0
6	Mobile Kitchen Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S.	\$42,500.00	\$42,500.00
7	Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach LCMS Life Ministry	\$0.00	\$96,500
8	Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	\$0.00	\$100,000
9	Equipping Young Leaders LCMS Youth Ministry	\$0.00	\$50,000
10	Set Apart To Serve LCMS Office of Pastoral Education	\$0.00	\$100,000
11	Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job Ministry in Mission, Haiti	\$0.00	\$85,000
12	Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA	\$0.00	\$35,000
13	Water and the Word Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya	\$0.00	\$80,000
14	Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach Ephraim Lutheran Mission Society	\$0.00	\$47,000
15	Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals Trinity HOPE	\$0.00	\$58,082
16	Care for Street Children of Western Kenya Capstone Ministries	\$0.00	\$50,000
17	Nurturing Faith for the Aging Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew)	\$0.00	\$100,000
18	Zoe's Home Support Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO	\$0.00	\$75,000
19	Tanzania Children's Homes Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa	\$0.00	\$74,500
20	Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$0.00	\$100,000
21	Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church Lutheran Family Services, U.S.	\$106,000	\$0.00
22	Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in U.S. Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$0.00	\$100,000
23	A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S.	\$0.00	\$100,000
24	God's Word for Central and South American Missions Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$100,000	\$0.00
25	Bringing God's Word to India India Bible Translation Project	\$0.00	\$100,000
26	Life Connection Events and Kits Lutherans for Life	\$0.00	\$70,000
27	Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE	\$0.00	\$50,000
28	Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE	\$0.00	\$20,000
29	Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School St. Paul Lutheran School, Cullman, AL	\$0.00	\$50,000
30	Showering Love on the Least of These Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA	\$0.00	\$100,000
31	Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit Camp Pastore Detroit, MI	\$0.00	\$56,988
Give all thanks and praise to God!		<b>TOTAL DISBURSED: \$398,500.00</b>	



# November 2023

## 2023-2025 MISSION GOAL REPORT



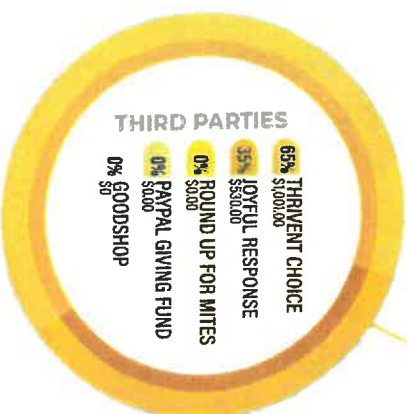
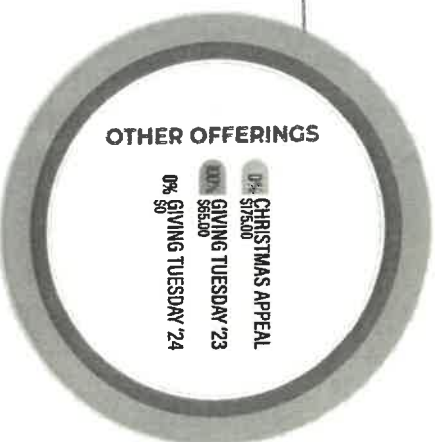
\$807,431.83

and a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins [mites], which make a penny (Mark 12:42).

MISSION GOAL \$2,350,000

### NOVEMBER MITE SOURCES

MONTHLY MITE OFFERING TARGET: \$97,920



### NOVEMBER GIFTS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT MISSION GRANTS

MONTH	MONTHLY MITE OFFERING RECEIVED	OVER/(UNDER) MONTHLY TARGET	TO-DATE OVER/(UNDER) TARGET
NOVEMBER '23	\$63,157.02	(\$34,762.98)	\$317,831.83

### BIENNIAL TO-DATE MITE OFFERINGS REPORT

July 1 - November 30, 2023

CARRYOVER FROM PREVIOUS PERIODS*	BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GOAL	PERCENT ALLOCATED TO GRANTS	BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GOAL
MITE OFFERINGS COLLECTED			
DISTRICT OFFERINGS	\$212,123.32	90%	\$190,910.99
JOYFUL RESPONSE	\$2,650.00	100%	\$2,650.00
ROUND UP FOR MITES	\$462.00	100%	\$462.00
THRIVENT CHOICE	\$1,432.00	100%	\$1,432.00
PAYPAL GIVING FUND	\$4.00	100%	\$4.00
GOODSHOP	\$0.00	100%	\$0.00
GIVING TUESDAY-2023	\$42,797.28	100%	\$42,797.28
GIVING TUESDAY-2024	\$0.00	100%	\$0.00
CHRISTMAS APPEAL	\$996.00	100%	\$996.00
MITE OFFERINGS-RESTRICTED	\$60,918.71	100%	\$60,918.71
MITE OFFERINGS-UNRESTRICTED	\$33,254.94	90%	\$29,929.45
ENDOWMENT DISBURSEMENTS	\$7,765.19	100%	\$7,765.19
TOTAL	\$807,431.83		\$1,080,604.71

2023-2025 BIENNIAL MISSION GOAL \$2,350,000.00  
AMOUNT (NEEDED)/EXCESS OF MISSION GOAL (\$1,542,568.17)

\*For a details please refer to the Carryover from Previous Periods Report



Epiphany Light January 7, 2024 – Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed) Rev. William Mueller The prophecy from the prophet is profound. Light in the darkness. Kings and nobility

bear witness to the Light. Rare gifts given from love. This is Epiphany and so much more! Come and worship. Bow down with the Magi and discover, along with a boy named Gunther, Epiphany Light. Sermon Text: Isaiah 60:1-6 Readings: Psalm 72:1-11; Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

See Greater Things January 14, 2024 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer We SEE GREATER THINGS in daily living and eternity with Jesus in our lives. When Jesus entered a skeptical disciple's life, Nathanael's vision of God greatly increased. He promises and does the same in our lives! Sermon Text: John 1:51 Readings: Psalm 139:1-10, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51

Proper Perspective January 21, 2024 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III What a life we have! We experience God's blessings and joys. We also have sorrows. The Apostle Paul reminds us to keep this present life in proper perspective. What exactly is that perspective? Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Readings: Psalm 62:1-8; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Teaching with Authority January 28, 2024 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Rev. Thomas Eggold The Word of Jesus in synagogue wasn't a new teaching; it was a retelling of a timeless promise from the mouth of God Himself. It is the teaching that man is not capable of keeping God's Law. It is the teaching that Christianity is not about the work of the Christian, but about the work of Christ. My friends, today we have this very same Word of God...and this teaching is astonishing! Sermon Text: Mark 1:22 Readings: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

## January



- 03) Marissa Geiger
- 04) Sara Fowler
- 06) Gary Werling
- 07) Dan Kleppinger
- 08) Eden Stoppenhagen  
Sylvia Wann
- 10) Nikki Caldwell  
Marilyn Franke  
Kyle Patrick
- 11) Hallie Brege  
Judith Lockwood
- 12) Melissa Price
- 14) Brandon Schumm
- 15) Jacob Bultemeier
- 18) Joshua Brown  
Steve Conrad  
Jordin Saalfrank  
Ethan Williamson
- 19) Isla Meyer
- 21) DoRena Wirgau
- 22) Jennifer Meyer
- 24) Brittany Schumm
- 25) Briar Bauemeister
- 26) Tim Baker  
Jason Lesh  
Deann Oliver  
Kim Werling
- 27) Tom Patrick
- 29) Jared Conrad  
Olivia Householder  
Jacob Werling  
Kirsten Whitsitt
- 30) Dorothy Krick  
Tara Werling
- 31) Rhys Meyer  
Matthew Rekeweg





**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 October 31, 2023:

\$205,927.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009  
192,883.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched  
225,677.09 - Amount generated since 2009  
-124,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009  
\$499,987.91 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of October 31, 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](http://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.



Transfer out: Brittany Conrad-Clausius to St. Peter Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

Transfer out: Troy, Michelle, Hadley Smith to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Douglasville, Georgia

Death: Mark Jackson, passed away on December 22, 2023, funeral, and burial at Bethlehem on December 29, 2023

Current membership numbers are 497 Baptized 392 Communicant



**School Gym Use after school hours** – Before using the school gym after school hours, please be sure to contact our current Athletic Director, Josh Boehm. Please call or text him at 260-258-3998 to make arrangements. Groups using the gym on a regular basis are reminded to please give a donation to help with maintenance of the gym. A donation box and envelopes are available at the north entrance of the school. Thank you

***Happy Anniversary!***

Jan. 2 Jerry and Judith Lockwood (31)

Jan. 4 Dan and Sue Buchinger (49)

Jan. 31 Keith and Dorothy Krick (48)

**Elder Routes**

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

# YOUTH GROUP

JANUARY 2023



## Christmas

BY DEACONESS WENDY BOEHM

In December we had a our bible study the first of the month. The end of the month we had an Elf themed Christmas Party at Seminarian Phillips house. Many of the youth also participated in the Children's Christmas Service as readers. A big thank you to all who came to our advent suppers, we appreciate your support!

We recently were informed that we have received the grant to go to Higher Things this coming summer through The Lutheran Foundation. We will be attending with youth from New Hope Lutheran Church, Zion Decatur and Schumm church in Ohio.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 14:**  
LYF Bible Study 6:30pm

**Sunday, January 21:**  
LYF Bible Study 6:30pm



Doughnut  
Duty  
Macie &  
Grant S.



# Book Club

sponsored by Women of Bethlehem

*\*anyone can participate*

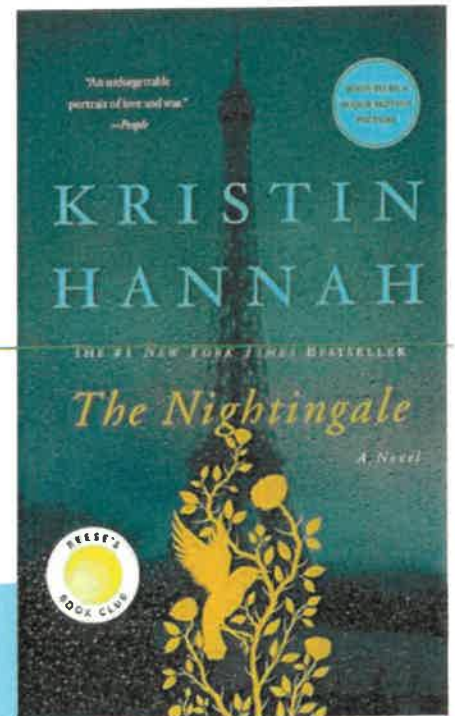


## THE NIGHTINGALE: A NOVEL

BY KRISTIN HANNAH

France, 1939 - In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France ... but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive.

The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.



## HOW IT WORKS

- PURCHASE THE BOOK (AUDIO, EBOOK OR PHYSICAL COPY)
  - WE WILL HAVE A GROUP TEXT GOING TO BOUNCE BACK QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.
  - WE WILL MEET IN PERSON AT CRIMSON HOUSE MARCH 16 AT 9:00AM TO DISCUSS THE BOOK IN PERSON.
- CONTACT DEACONESS WENDY BOEHM TO JOIN: 260-415-8526



SAVE THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY  
MISSION FUNDRAISER

# DINNER & SQUARE DANCE

*with Bill Werling and the Breakaway Band*

and  
Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, President of the  
Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk Siberia

**Mirage Banquet Hall**  
**1640 Winchester Street**  
**Decatur, IN 46733**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024**

5:00 p.m. – Doors Open for Dinner & Drinks (cash bar)

*Square Dance Lessons for Beginners*

5:45 p.m. – Comments from Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Dr. Streltsov

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Dancing and Fellowship

**\$20 per person**

Cash Bar Available  
(12 and under - \$10)

*Sponsored by the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society*  
260-580-0812



# TIGER TALES

"Connected to Christ"



Thank you to everyone for all the donations made to the Northern Wells Food Pantry this last quarter. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from all the students and staff.

## CALENDAR

Jan. 8 Back to School  
Jan. 12 Report Cards sent home  
Jan. 22 PTL Meeting  
Jan. 23 Board of Ed Meeting  
Jan. 22-26 Lutheran Schools Week

## JANUARY 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			

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 9 Sienna Sommer  
Jan. 14 June Trammel  
Jan. 15 MaKayla Berkey  
Jan. 15 Jacob Bultemeier  
Jan. 21 Ronnie Trammel  
Jan. 31 Matthew Rekeweg



As a parent, you probably know that keeping your kids from spending all day (and night!) on their devices can be a challenge, and you're not alone. But finding a quick and easy way to manage screen time and filter the web doesn't have to be mission impossible — or cost an arm and a leg.

Bethlehem has partnered with Bark to offer our families a **free Bark Jr subscription (\$60/year value)** for life!

Use the URL below to activate your free Bark Jr account:

<https://www.bark.us/bark-jr/signup?ref=JFK944B>

**What am I getting with a free Bark Jr account?**

Ability to manage screen time on mobile devices  
Set different rules for school time and bedtime  
Filter which websites your kids can visit  
Keep up with kids with location check-ins



**What is Bark?**

In addition to screen time, Bark can help parents proactively monitor text messages, YouTube, emails, and 30+ different social networks for potential safety concerns, so busy parents can save time and gain peace of mind. Bark currently helps protect over 5.6 million kids in the US.

Thank you

Bethlehem Lutheran School

With Gradelink you can stay updated on your child's academic progress at school and get information on upcoming assignments such as assignment descriptions and due dates. Login information is available from your child's teacher or from the school office.

The following information is available to you when you log in to Gradelink:

- Current Grade in each class
- Current GPA for the term, if applicable
- Descriptions, Grades, and Teacher Comments for graded assignments
- Descriptions and Due Dates for upcoming assignments
- Assignment handouts or documents (attachments)
- Email Alerts you can configure for grades and attendance
- Attendance Information
- Transcript Information, if applicable
- Billing Information, if applicable



To access this information go to [www.gradelink.com](http://www.gradelink.com) and click on the green Log In button.

PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU NEED ANY HELP

This is the student portal Mr. Meyer maintains that gives the students quick access to a lot of our programs. Parents may also access this site to see what is going on in grades 3 - 8 grades. <https://sites.google.com/bethlsossian.org/bethlehemstudentportal/home>

## PRIVACY NOTICE

We all love to share pictures of our child's school activities and accomplishments. However, we have to be very careful where those pictures are posted and respect that other students might also be in the picture. Parents please remember to respect do not post pictures that may have students in them other than your own child. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office before posting anything. Thank you



**School Gym Use after school hours** – Before using the school gym after school hours, please be sure to contact our current Athletic Director, Josh Boehm. Please call or text him at 260-258-3998 to make arrangements. Thank you



We're mummifying a chicken! The 5 & 6th graders have been studying ancient Egypt and they're getting a hands on experience of making a mummy... of a cornish game hen. The process of using salt to dehydrate and preserve a body takes well over a month, so we'll see what happens in January and February.

Please join us on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. a special representative with the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization will be speaking at our PTL meeting. Information will be presented on how to become a donor and get a State Tax credit along with how to achieve a scholarship towards school tuition.

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 Norwell Community Schools.**

**NO SCHOOL—December 25-January 5 Christmas Break (does not follow Norwell's schedule)**



E-learning packets will be used this year for weather related closures and teachers will be distributing 5 days this week for parents to have on hand. An email will be sent on the day of closure to indicate an E-learning day.

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](http://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 HOLIDAY SHOPPING

*Everyone is encouraged to use the online "ShopwithScrip" app to buy and reload gift cards for faster turn around. Create an account on [RaiseRight.com](http://RaiseRight.com) and enter our Bethlehem enrollment code:*

*43ALE7851441. Or for physical 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. Thank you for your support.*



Help our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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





## Third Quarter Chapel Mission Project

During the 3rd quarter (Jan. 8-Mar. 8) our school families will be supporting the  
**Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries, Inc.**

*Helping veterans let go of their past, engage in the present, and have hope for the future.*

LMVFM is a Christian non-profit (501c3) faith based ministry. We are dedicated to serving military veterans, military contractors and their families in need of care and assistance, regardless of their faith or religious affiliation. We offer resources, assistance and training to congregations and other care providers to assist veterans, military contractors and their family members. In order to keep Christ at the center of this mission, LMVFM does not solicit or accept government funding.

**Thank you for supporting this project!**

December / January Birthday Pizza Lunch with Pastor Dodgers

Thursday, January 18th at 12:00 Noon

Those celebrating will be:

Annabelle Fuhrmann, Anna Haiflich, Maddox Kelley, Everett Sommer, Violet Nahrwold,  
Emma Campbell, Eliana Leamon, Sienna Sommer, June Trammel, MaKayla Berkey,  
Jacob Bultemeier, Ronnie Trammel, Matthew Rekeweg

### Donations for New Library Bookshelves - Library Improvement Phase II

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to Phase I of our room swap for the Library and Kindergarten. It was a great success! We are now beginning to raise money for Phase II, which will improve our library with new bookshelves. These will be wooden bookshelves, handmade by a member of our church. This project will also create more space for books, with shelves for all three walls of the new library, which will add room for our collection to grow. Please consider making a donation to this beautiful and useful project. Make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran School and include a memo: Library Phase II.

### **Reminder to parents:**

For those parents needing early morning drop off, we will have the doors unlocked by 8:45 a.m. However, we need your help to remind those students to sit quietly in the hallway outside their classroom until permission to enter is granted. Thank you





Many Bethlehem students regularly participate in music, dance, theater, and other arts activities outside of school. We would love to share information about upcoming performances and recitals featuring Bethlehem students! Contact the school office with any details you wish to be shared in future issues of Tiger Tales.

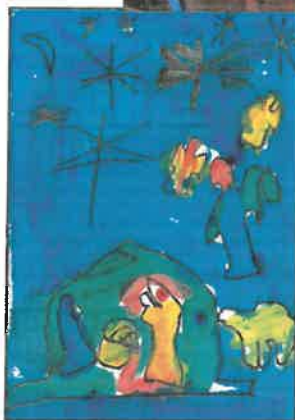
#### Upcoming Events:

Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley had our students participate in a Christmas bulletin cover contest. All of the students were asked to submit a picture of what Christmas meant to them using a variety of art.

The honorable mention winners: L-R Matthew Rekeweg, Jacob Bultemeier, Caroline Haiflich, Emma Wirgau, Micah Leamon, Jude Wirgau, Bailey Meyer, Emma Campbell, Tucker Eschenbacher, Sienna Sommer, Natalie Yoquet, Maren Meyer, Isaac Wanner, Cora Day

Winners: MaKayla Berkey (Children's Service), Anthony Tolson (Christmas Eve Service), Owen Book Alejandro (Christmas Day)

Each of our winners were awarded a certificate and a Christmas ornament made by Deaconess Brinkley. All of the artwork was displayed on the bulletin boards outside the classrooms. Great job to all of our students!



**HOLIDAY SERVICES -** Please join us for worship:December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service of Light 7:00 p.m.

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Divine Service 9:00 a.m.December 31<sup>st</sup> Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Divine Service 7:00 p.m.



National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

**Each day of the school week, students will participate in special activities and dress up days:**

**Sunday, January 21** Bethlehem Lutheran School will hold an Open House from Noon-3:00

**Monday, January 22** Hat Day with special skits by students

**Tuesday, January 23** 100th day of school—What ideas can you come up with when you think of 100? (wear a shirt with 100 things, dress up)

**Wednesday, January 24** "Dress your best" and will have a Service Project

**Thursday, January 25** Dress like your favorite decade! Dance in the gym

**Friday, January 28** Bethlehem Spirit Day—All School Games

**Connected**  
National Lutheran  
Schools Week





The Children's Christmas Service was held on Wednesday, December 20th. Thank you to everyone for coming to this joyous worship service. We would like to recognize our Tableau characters in costume: Mary-Madeline Schumm, Joseph-Lucas Haiflich, Angel Gabriel-Sienna Sommer, Elizabeth-Gabriella Campbell, Shepherds-Weslynn Nahrwold and Ronnie Trammel, Extra Angels-Maren Meyer and Aralee Price.

A special thank you to Kantor Brinkley and the Junior Choir, along with all our staff and students for this wonderful service.

Also, a huge thank you to our Bethlehem Youth Group Readers and their wonderful supper served to over 150 people.



The Bethlehem students and staff would like to thank the Women of Bethlehem for a wonderful Christmas luncheon and ornament on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The children thanked the ladies by singing some Christmas carols.



**Please join us in cheering for our Bethlehem Tigers**

Everyone is welcome!

January 5 & 6—Varsity Boys vs Flat Rock Tournament (AWAY)

January 12-13 Bethlehem Varsity Girls Tournament

January 19-20 Bethlehem Varsity Boys Tournament

January 26-27 Bethlehem JV Girls Tournament

January 31-JV Boys vs St. Louis Academy (AWAY)

February 2-3 Bethlehem JV Boys Tournament



Be sure to visit the concession stand supported by our Washington D.C. students and parents.