

Ordering our Lent in His Peace

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. We commonly hear of people giving something up for Lent. Some may be critical or skeptical of such practice, considering it self-serving, legalistic, or showy. I don't believe we should be too critical. All our works and Christian discipline can be twisted by our selfish hearts away from the good for which they are given, but that doesn't make the thing itself, nor our practice of it, bad. Our Lord speaks of fasting and almsgiving in Matthew 6 (the reading for Ash Wednesday). To give up food for certain times or to give up your money or resources to those in need are good Christian disciplines (for more on this see Pastor Dodgers' message in the Tiger Tales).

We must remember however that Christian discipline is not just about giving stuff up, but Lent is also a time to take things on. In particular, our Lord puts prayer with fasting and almsgiving. In fact, we give up other things to have time in God's Word and prayer. We put aside the work we do so that God may work in us. This requires both dedication, intentionality, and sacrifice but is worth the effort. God's Word bears fruit. You don't go at this alone, we do this as a congregation.

The times of the Church year guide our lives to be reminded of God's promises and to at times increase our devotion and dedication to the hearing and reading of God's Word and the calling upon Him in prayer and praise. In this way we have our regular midweek lenten services on Wednesdays at 7pm, where we are able to take on more of the hearing of God's Word and our prayers. We will also once again have specific time set aside during this season for individual confession and absolution where you are able to come confess your sins and be so strengthened by God's Word of Absolution to love and forgive your neighbor.

This "taking on" of Lent finds its way into our homes as well. Since September, newsletter articles have focused on ordering our days in God's grace and peace through the reading, hearing, and meditating upon God's Word and prayer. Lent affords us the opportunity to continue in (or begin) that in our homes, be they large or small. Taking on, strengthening, and sticking with family devotions (hearing God's Word and praying as a family) is good and is of utmost importance for you.

Because we believe this to be so Bethlehem is once again making available a book of devotional material for Lent as we did in Advent and Christmas. Deaconess Boehm has assembled this resource and the students of Bethlehem Lutheran School have once again included illustrations. I pray that by taking this on we will continue to be pointed to Christ and His Work for us, to be taught and catechized, and to be strengthened in our faith in the hope and promise of the Resurrection, even as we prepare for the discipline of Lent. May God bless the hearing and preaching of His Word and the reception of His gifts this season and always.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Wirgau



1072

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

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS	5 7p Handbell Choir Practice	6	7 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Divine Spoken Service Adult Choir	8	9	10
11 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS 11:15a Elders Meeting	12 7p Handbell Choir Practice	13	14 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Ash Wednesday Divine Service Adult Choir	15	16 NO School Teacher Inservice	17
18 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS	19 NO School Presidents Day 7p Handbell Choir Practice	20 5:30 Board of Christian Educ.	21 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Lenten Divine Service Adult Choir	22	23 5:30 Kids Vs Parents Basketball	24
25 9a Divine Service 10:15 ABC & SS 11:15 Church Council Gym Cleaning	26 7p Handbell Choir Practice	27	28 10:00a Chapel 5:30 Catechism 7p Lenten Service Adult Choir	29		

February 1, 2024

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills (\$15,443.35)

Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Account Balance
Improvement Fund	\$33,143.84	(\$ 0.00)	\$30,143.84
Scholarship Fund	\$ 7,496.02	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 7,496.02
Music Fund	\$ 2,843.20	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,843.00
Reserved (TBD)	\$ 2,369.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,369.00
TOTALS	\$45,852.06	(\$ 0.00)	\$45,852.06

Checkbook Balance

(\$15,443.35)

Savings Account Balance

\$45,852.06

Total Savings and Checking Balance

\$30,408.71

Borrowed Amounts

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

Bills due week of February 4—\$2,000

Bills due week of February 11— \$12,000



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



SPECIAL GUEST – On Sunday, January 14th, Bethlehem welcomed Dr. Alexey Streltsov, President of the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk Siberia, and his wife Elena. Dr. Streltsov preached for the morning service and gave a presentation during the Bible Study hour. Please continue to give thanks to God for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Siberia.

A DOOR OFFERING was also taken on Sunday, January 21st. Over \$1,400 was collected and sent to the Save the Seminary Campaign. Thank you for your gracious gifts.

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



Jesus Lifts You Up February 4, 2024 – Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany Rev. Shayne Jonker Think of every healing you experience, whether it be getting over a cold or the flu, or

something even greater, as more than dodging the bullet or getting a little favor from God. Think of it as a little resurrection. A little instance of being lifted up by the hand of God. Think of it, not as an end, but as a little sneak preview of a greater coming attraction, the day that Jesus comes to you and extends His hand to you and lifts you up from death to eternal life. Sermon Text: Mark 1:31 Readings: Psalm 147:1-11; Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

Significant Days Ahead February 11, 2024 – Transfiguration Observed Rev. Paul Shoemaker Jesus transfigured Himself, revealing His glory to Peter, James, and John. He knew there would be significant days ahead, especially during Holy Week. By revealing His glory Jesus was sharing with His disciples what was in store for them in the glory of heaven. As we have significant days in our lives, we remember the transfiguration of Jesus to encourage us in our life's journey. Sermon Text: Mark 9:2-9 Readings: Psalm 50:1-6; Exodus 34:29-35; Mark 9:2-9

What Good is This? February 18, 2024 – First Sunday in Lent Rev. William Mueller Genesis 22 takes us to one of the more challenging sections of God's Word. Does God condone sacrificing your children? Of course not! But what is God up to in this incident where He tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? What good is God up to in our lives when He allows all sorts of pain and problems? Sermon Text: Genesis 22:1-18 Readings: Psalm 25:1-10; Genesis 22:1-18; Mark 1:9-15

Can you answer Life's Greatest Question? Your eternal destiny, as well as your approach to everyday life, rests upon your answer. What's the question? How will you answer? Sermon Text: Mark 8:29-31 Readings: Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38

February



- 01 Joyce Schaper
- 03 Jennifer Lukins
Erin Schumm
- 04 Denise Schumm
- 05 David Brege
- 06 Joshua Boehm
- 08 Keith Krick
- 09 Pat Meyer
- 10 Ralph Bauermeister
- 11 Cynthia Nahrwold
Deb Patrick
Dean Stoppenhagen
- 12 Michael Bultemeier
- 13 Linda Bultemeier
Jason Glisson
Judy Moehring
Melissa Tolson
Bruce Werling
- 14 Rick Meyer
- 15 Megan Morrow
Leon Werling
- 16 Christine Biggs
Nick Fuller
- 17 Madeline Schumm
- 18 Judy Clausen
- 19 Milton Gallmeyer
- 20 Martha Bauermeister
- 22 Charlotte Bultemeier
- 24 Hildegard Bauermeister
- 25 Stephanie Conrad
Jonathon Fuhrmann
- 26 Emily Sands
Leah Werling
- 27 Wellesley Brege
Rick Krumma
- 28 Rylee Werling



**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 December 31, 2023:

\$214,927.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
201,883.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
261,264.13 - Amount generated since 2009
-124,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$553,574.95 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of December 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 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.

Ladies, please join the Seminary Guild on Tuesday, February 13, in Luther Hall at 1:00 pm. The guest speaker will be CTSFW President, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr who will speak to us about "Leading CTSFW." We will be celebrating the Guild's 85th anniversary.

SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCH AND PROGRAM at New Hope Lutheran, Ossian.

Thursday, February 8th at 11:30 a.m. A special program: Soarin' Hawk will be here to talk about the rescue of raptors. They will also be bringing birds with them including a bald eagle. For reservations, please call or text Diane Garrett 260-415-1462 or Carol Schumacher 260-223-4830 to reserve your spot.

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!

Feb. 3 Dave and Ronda Flesch (40)
Feb. 11 Doyle and Laura Werling (62)
Feb. 12 Tom and Colleen Patrick (52)
Feb. 21 Ryan and Kari Baker (15)
Feb. 25 Charles and Melissa Tolson (29)



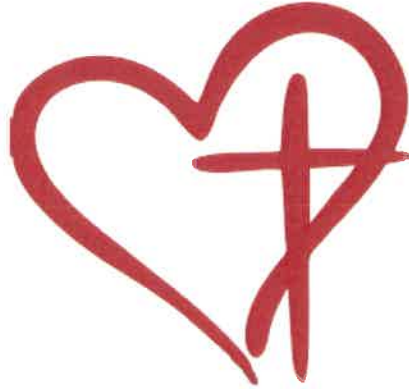
Elder Routes

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

Church Membership



Arthur David Dodgers was born to Rev. Anthony and Betsy Dodgers on January 9, 2024. He was given rebirth in the waters of Baptism on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Arthur joins big brother, Nicholas, also shown in the picture!



June Rory Lambert was born to Adam and Olivia Lambert on December 8, 2023. She was given rebirth in the waters of Baptism on Sunday, January 7, 2024. June joins big brother, Wade, also shown in the picture!

All Women Of Bethlehem Meeting Newsletter Notes

The All Women Meeting was held on 1/12/2024.

The Fundraising Committee announced On Feb 11 th we will have a Super Bowl Subs and Bake Sale. Ladies, please remember to bring in items for the Bake Sale. Orders are being taken for the Subs.

Thanks to Erin Schumm for her Proposal on the renovation to the Church Bathrooms. The proposal included costs and options for flooring, vanity, toilets, lighting and furnishings. Also in the proposal is

removal or partial removal of the dividing wall in the Ladies Room for better accessibility. The total budget is below the funds raised. Estimated timeline is 11 weeks. There will be intermittent bathroom closing during the process. Request being made to please announce ahead of time when restrooms will be closed.

Discussion on the 3 possible options was had in order to make a recommendation to the Church Council

as to the placement of the TV in the fellowship hall. The Women of Bethlehem's recommendation is for the closing in of the windows in the fellowship hall and mounting the TV as high as possible and to have

lower cabinets placed under the TV for storage.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Gresley Secretary

December 2023
2023-2025 MISSION GOAL REPORT



\$911,895.14

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

DECEMBER MITE SOURCES

MONTHLY MITE OFFERING TARGET: \$97,920



DECEMBER GIFTS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT MISSION GRANTS

MONTH	MONTHLY MITE OFFERING RECEIVED	MONTHLY OVER/UNDER TARGET	TO-DATE OVER/UNDER TARGET
DECEMBER '23	\$104,415.31	\$6,495.31	\$324,375.14

BIENNIUM TO-DATE MITE OFFERINGS REPORT

July 1 - December 31, 2023

MITE OFFERINGS COLLECTED	BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GOAL	PERCENT ALLOCATED TO GRANTS	BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GRANTS
CARRYOVER FROM PREVIOUS PERIODS*	\$445,028.39		\$742,739.10
DISTRICT OFFERINGS	\$264,744.90	90%	\$238,270.41
JOYFUL RESPONSE	\$3,430.00	100%	\$3,430.00
ROUND UP FOR MITES	\$600.50	100%	\$600.50
THRIVENT CHOICE	\$2,067.00	100%	\$2,067.00
PAYPAL GIVING FUND	\$5.00	100%	\$5.00
GOODSHOP	\$0.00	100%	\$0.00
GIVING TUESDAY-2023	\$43,042.76	100%	\$43,042.76
GIVING TUESDAY-2024	\$0.00	100%	\$0.00
CHRISTMAS APPEAL	\$1,246.00	100%	\$1,246.00
MITE OFFERINGS-RESTRICTED	\$90,921.76	100%	\$90,921.76
MITE OFFERINGS-UNRESTRICTED	\$51,191.09	90%	\$46,071.98
ENDOWMENT DISBURSEMENTS	\$9,617.74	100%	\$9,617.74
TOTAL	\$911,895.14		\$1,178,012.25

2023-2025 BIENNIUM MISSION GOAL \$2,350,000.00
AMOUNT (NEEDED)/EXCESS OF MISSION GOAL (\$1,438,104.86)

December 2023

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT DISTRIBUTIONS



MISSION GRANT SPOTLIGHT

SHINING CHRIST'S LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF DISASTER



Disaster Response Team Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Texas | \$100,000

The Disaster Response Team responds to help victims of natural disasters. They are called to serve, have a presence on the ground, and assist with cleanup. While providing help, they listen to the victims and share the love of Jesus and bring hope, encouragement, and healing through God's Word and prayer.

Mobile Kitchen Forged by Fire Services | \$85,000

Forged by Fire Services prepares food for communities following natural disasters. They will come into a community with their trailer of supplies; set up their tent and kitchen. Grant money will purchase a mobile kitchen trailer. The trailer will allow for faster setup, protection from weather changes, and require less space.



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	Orphan Grain Train	\$100,000	\$0
3	A Healing Space for At-Risk Children	\$75,329	\$24,671
4	Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND	\$0.00	\$100,000
5	Serving God's Children with Special Needs	\$50,000.00	\$0
6	Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI	\$42,500.00	\$42,500.00
7	Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment	\$0.00	\$96,500
8	Lutheran Braille Workers	\$0.00	\$100,000
9	Disaster Response Team	\$0.00	\$50,000
10	Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX	\$0.00	\$100,000
11	Mobile Kitchen	\$0.00	\$85,000
12	Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S.	\$0.00	\$35,000
13	Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach	\$0.00	\$80,000
14	LCMS Life Ministry	\$0.00	\$47,000
15	Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide	\$0.00	\$58,082
16	Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	\$28,418	\$21,582
17	Equipping Young Leaders	\$0.00	\$100,000
18	Set Apart To Serve	\$0.00	\$75,000
19	LCMS Office of Pastoral Education	\$0.00	\$74,500
20	Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job	\$0.00	\$100,000
21	Ministry in Mission, Haiti	\$0.00	\$0.00
22	Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth	\$0.00	\$106,000
23	Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA	\$0.00	\$100,000
24	Water and the Word	\$0.00	\$100,000
25	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya	\$0.00	\$0.00
26	Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	Epiphania Lutheran Mission Society	\$0.00	\$0.00
28	Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals	\$0.00	\$0.00
29	Trinity HOPE	\$0.00	\$0.00
30	Care for Street Children of Western Kenya	\$0.00	\$0.00
31	Capstone Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00
32	Nurturing Faith for the Aging	\$0.00	\$0.00
33	Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew)	\$0.00	\$0.00
34	Zoe's Home Support	\$0.00	\$0.00
35	Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO	\$0.00	\$0.00
36	Tanzania Children's Homes	\$0.00	\$0.00
37	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa	\$0.00	\$0.00
38	Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan	\$0.00	\$0.00
39	Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00
40	Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
41	Lutheran Family Services, U.S.	\$0.00	\$0.00
42	Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in U.S.	\$0.00	\$0.00
43	Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00
44	A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children	\$0.00	\$0.00
45	Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S.	\$0.00	\$0.00
46	God's Word for Central and South American Missions	\$0.00	\$0.00
47	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$0.00	\$0.00
48	Bringing God's Word to India	\$0.00	\$0.00
49	India Bible Translation Project	\$0.00	\$0.00
50	Life Connection Events and Kits	\$0.00	\$0.00
51	Lutherans for Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
52	Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
53	Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE	\$0.00	\$0.00
54	Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students	\$0.00	\$0.00
55	Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE	\$0.00	\$0.00
56	Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School	\$0.00	\$0.00
57	St. Paul Lutheran School, Cullman, AL	\$0.00	\$0.00
58	Showering Love on the Least of These	\$0.00	\$0.00
59	Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA	\$0.00	\$0.00
60	Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit	\$0.00	\$0.00
61	Camp Restore Detroit, MI	\$0.00	\$0.00

Give all thanks and praise to God! **TOTAL DISBURSED: \$502,247.00**

FEBRUARY

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For your LWML sisters.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #4.
3. For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your church organist.
5. For those fighting cancer.
6. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
7. For the country of Botswana.
8. Pray the LWML Pledge.
9. For the needs of those on the mission field.
10. For the country of Brazil.
11. For those in the Armed Forces.
12. For the President of the United States.
13. For love in your heart for your neighbor.
14. For Christ's sacrifice for us.
15. For the country of Cambodia.
16. For the LWML Kansas District.
17. For those who are caregivers.
18. For an opportunity to share your faith.
19. For the country of Cameroon.
20. For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #5.
22. For those facing the loss of a loved one.
23. For the country of Canada.
24. For the LWML Missouri District.
25. For your LWML district officers.
26. For the country of Chile.
27. For your LWML group members.
28. For the lonely to feel God's presence.
29. For God's gift of another year of your life.

LUNCH & LEARN

Guest speaker

**JONATHAN
ZWICK**

Funeral Director /
Embalmer /
General Manager



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
6514 E 750 N • OSSIAN, IN 46777

11 am | **FEB**
10th | **2024**

Cost: Free Will Donation for meal

PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE:

- **Disposition**
What is it and who has control?
- **Pre-Planning vs. Pre-Payment**
2 different concepts
 - Is Pre-Paying right for you
 - Medicaid impact
- **Cremation questions**
What should you consider?
- **Questions from the Audience**

Questions?: Contact the Church Office (260) 597-7121



In an attempt to raise funds for the 2024 Higher Things Event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, New Hope and Bethlehem youth groups are hosting a Chili Cook-off and Game night.

Friday, 16
February 2024



New Hope Lutheran Church
8643-8691 IN-1,
Ossian, IN 46777

Sign up to RSVP for the
Euchre Tournament or bring chili

<https://www.bethlehemossian.org/chili-cook-off>

Event Details

In an attempt to raise funds for the 2024 Higher Things Event in Mequon, Wisconsin, New Hope and Bethlehem youth groups are hosting a Chili Cook-off and Game Night.

Where: New Hope Lutheran Church on Friday, February 16th at 6:00pm.

Menu: Chili, Hot dogs, dessert, and drinks

Games will include:

Euchre Tournament with prizes

Kids board games, cards, coloring, and activities are available, (feel free to bring your favorites also!)

Chili Info: This event will also feature a chili cook-off where you can sign up to bring in your signature chili (and toppings if you desire), and people will vote for their favorite. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Please bring a large crock pot of chili. Sampling cups, bowls and spoons will be provided. You will be assigned a number and that number will allow people to vote for your chili.

Euchre tournament begins at 6:15 PM for those wanting to participate.

7 PM Last call for chili and voting. Winner is announced at 7:30.

This is a free will offering event with all funds raised going to benefit New Hope and Bethlehem Youth Group for their 2024 Higher Things Trip.

Event Address: New Hope Lutheran Church - 8643-8691 IN-1, Ossian, IN 46777

For questions, contact Deaconess Wendy Boehm (260) 415-8526 or wboehm@bethlsossian.org



Chocolate Day

A+ SWEETS is coming to Women of Bethlehem

Cindy Bergdall will be presenting how she makes chocolates with participants being able to make their own caramel pretzel. There will be chocolate samples as well.

February 24

10:00am

FREE event



RSVP to Deaconess Wendy Boehm by Feb. 18

Book Club

sponsored by Women of Bethlehem

**anyone can participate*

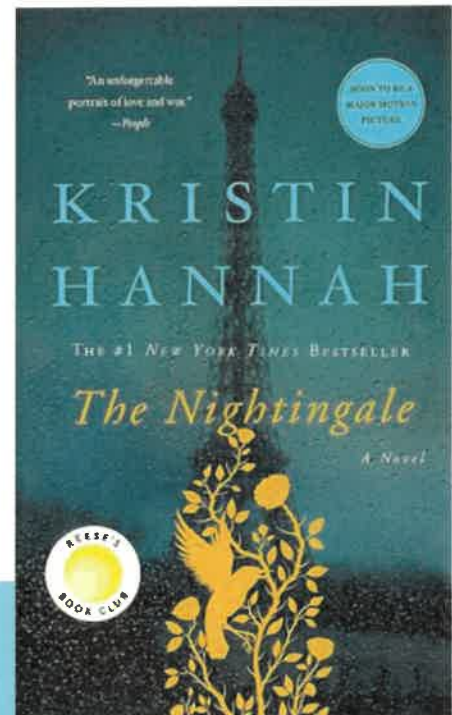


THE NIGHTINGALE: A NOVEL

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



The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

Siberian Lutheran Mission Society Board of Directors

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2905 Cooper Lane
Marshalltown, IA 50158
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Danielsjohnson356@gmail.com

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Mr. Matthew Doctor
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Mrs. Polly Wenger

Contributions to The Siberian Lutheran
Mission Society or the *Save the Seminary*
Campaign can be sent to:

The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society
8811 St. Joe Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46835-1037
260-438-1385

January 29, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Your gift of \$1,435 for Seminary July 2023 and beyond: Unrestricted

*O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: because His mercy
endures forever. (Psalm 118:1)*

What a joy it is to receive your generous gift for the work of the
Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS). Our gracious Lord has
mercifully blessed the Siberian Evangelical Church (SELC) through
your gift.

Because of the generosity of people like you, the SLMS presses on to
the goal of providing \$10,000 support for the congregations of the
SELC. We continue to support the ongoing needs of the Seminary as
well as build endowment for the future. Thank you for your help.

The Lord be with you,

Robert Kiefer, Secretary / Treasurer

Contributions to The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) or the Save the
Seminary Campaign are allowable deductions (TIN: 32-0040693) as provided by
Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. No goods or services were provided in
exchange for this donation. SLMS is an RSO of the LCMS.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian Voters Assembly

November 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Neil Stoppenhagen and Pastor Wirgau began the meeting with an opening prayer.

(34) Voters were in attendance and (6) Voters registered an Excused Absence with the Secretary. Voters attending the meeting were: Andrew Stoppenhagen, Brian Bauermeister, Brian Bultemeier, Bruce Bultemeier, Bruce Werling, Butch Bauermeister, Cale Schumm, Dan Buchinger, Dan Kleppinger, Darren Patrick, Darrin Werling, Dave Flesch, Dennis Nahrwold, Glen Werling, Jacob Werling, Jason Rekeweg, Jay Werling, Jeff Gresley, Jerry Meyer, Kim Graft, Lane Harkless, Lee Werling, Leon Werling, Mike Bultemeier, Mike Nahrwold, Neil Stoppenhagen, Otto Clausen, Peter Meyer, Rev. Samuel Wirgau, Stan Meyer, Steve Conrad, Ted Schumm, Todd Ottinger, and Tom Patrick. Voters registering an Excuse were: Aaron Anthony, Brian Scheumann, Dan Springer, Josh Boehm, Loren Dathe, and Mike Schumm.

Requests for Voters Assembly Membership & Reinstatement – Gary Oliver requested membership, and Mark Sauer requested reinstatement to the Voters Assembly. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept both individuals as active Voting Members.

Reports

Secretary's Report

- There were no corrections or additions to the Minutes of the June 25, 2023 Voters Assembly Meeting from the body.
- Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

- Chairman Stoppenhagen presented the report for Treasurer Scheumann.
- We currently have borrowed \$29,750.00 from our \$30,000.00 line of credit from the bank.
- We currently have borrowed \$10,500.00 internally from our Restricted Savings account.
- A Voter noted that since money had internally been borrowed from the account, the Improvement Account balance was currently less than the \$20,000 estimated for the septic repairs which had not yet been completed or paid for. Chairman Stoppenhagen noted that additional information regarding the status of the septic repairs, and an updated estimated septic repair cost, would be discussed during the Trustees report.
- The giving total for week ending Sunday, November 12, 2023 were approximately \$19,000.
- Bills due the week of November 12th - \$10,000
- Bills due the week of November 19th - \$12,000
- Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Pastor's Report

- Official Acts:
 - Funerals – Delores Scheumann (7/22); Aldon Bultemeier (8/2); Lee Braselton (10/7)
 - Holy Matrimony – Alexander & Brittany Clausius (8/19); Peyton & Destiny Laley (9/2)

- Holy Baptism – Lucas Haiflich (8/30); Anna Haiflich (8/30); Beckett Streeks (9/27 by Rev. T. Neustel); Eva Dunham (10/15 by Rev. A. Dodgers)
- Confirmations – No youth or adult confirmations since the June Voters Meeting.
- Regular Duties:
 - 66 visits to sick and homebound since the June Voters Meeting.
 - Conducting Sunday morning service at 9:00 am and Wednesday evening Divine Service at 7:00 pm.
 - Conducting School Chapel on Monday and Tuesday, and in alternation with Pastor Dodgers on Wednesday.
 - Teaching Bethlehem In-School Catechesis on Monday and Tuesday for grades 3 - 8.
 - Sunday is going well. Finished Bible Study on Luke and now studying the Large Catechism.
 - In September began Wednesday evening Catechesis Classes for both members and non-members. Have around 12 individuals attending with 5-6 regularly in attendance.
 - Conducting services on Thursdays at Woodcrest in rotation with other Decatur District pastors.
 - Continuing to conduct services at Ossian Heath Care at 1 pm on Sundays.
 - Discontinued conducting services at Markle Health & Rehab at the end of summer due to time constraints.
- Other:
 - Serving Indiana District as chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Matters (elected to this position in June 2022)
 - Appointed to the Task Force on Classical Education and serving as chairman.
 - Serving the Decatur Circuit in assisting with regular visitations for members from New Hope Lutheran Church during their pastoral vacancy.
 - Will be teaching at the Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute, beginning on Tuesday, January 23rd for 4 weeks.
 - Pastor was invited by the Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society to teach a class on Lutheran Dogmatics at the seminary at Pretoria (Tshwane), South Africa on May 28th thru June 7th. The Board of Elders have given approval for Pastor Wirgau's participation.

Elders Report

- July
 - Glen Werling was elected as the Head Elder and Dave Flesch was re-elected as the Secretary for the Board of Elders.
 - Removed from membership Delores Scheumann due to her passing, resulting in the loss of 1 baptized & 1 communicant member.
 - Bethlehem membership at the end of July 2023 was 495 Baptized / 395 Communicant members.
- August
 - Removed from membership Aldon Bultemeier due to his passing, resulting in the loss of 1 baptized & 1 communicant member. Added to the baptized membership were Lucas and Anna Haiflich.
 - Released from membership was Abigail Springer.
 - Bethlehem membership at the end of August 2023 was 495 Baptized / 393 Communicant members.
- September
 - The Board of Elders did not meet during the month of September due to lack of quorum.

- October
 - Removed from membership Lee Braselton due to his passing.
 - Transfer out from membership were Amy and Emma Scheuler, and Cynthia and Rylee Hammond.
 - Transfers into membership were Chad and Megan Dunham, and Brandon and Erin Schumm with children Madeline, Vincent, and Emersyn.
 - Baptized in October were Beckett Streeks and Eva Dunham.
 - Bethlehem membership at the end of October 2023 was 499 Baptized / 394 Communicant members.
- November
 - Transferred into membership were Gary and Deann Oliver.
 - Bethlehem membership as of November 12, 2023, was 501 Baptized / 396 Communicant members.
- Average attendance to date for 2023 is 194 per Sunday.

Headmaster Report

- Current Enrollment for Bethlehem Lutheran School is 56 students.
- Recent School Events held were the Fall Festival on Oct. 7th and the Silent Auction & Gala school fundraiser held on November 4th, with the fundraiser generating approximately \$6,000 for the school.
- Upcoming Event is the Children's Christmas Service which will be held on Wednesday evening, December 20th.
- National Lutheran School Accreditation
 - Bethlehem Lutheran School "Self-Study" portion of the accreditation process is completed and has been submitted to the NLSA.
 - NLSA Visit Team will be at Bethlehem Tuesday (11/14) through Thursday (11/16) and will be presenting their final report on Thursday around 3:30 pm. Parents and members of the congregation are able to attend the 3:30 pm meeting on Thursday (11/16) afternoon.
- Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO Grants) – Bethlehem School currently has approximately \$41,000 available in its SGO account. Forty students have applied for, and will receive, SGO grants for the current school year worth a total of \$20,000 which will be deducted from the current balance.
The Director of the SGO has accepted an invitation to provide SGO updates and basic grant information to the church congregation, and to the Bethlehem School PTL, sometime in January 2024.
- Lutheran Foundation School Endowment – Bethlehem School recently sent \$9,000 to the Lutheran Foundation for deposit into the school's endowment matching fund account. The school has not yet received the Lutheran Foundation's matching fund amount for 2024, but the amount is expected to be more than \$15,000.
- Headmaster Dodgers expressed Bethlehem School's thanks to everyone for their participation in, and monetary support of, Phase I of the Kindergarten & Library Relocation project. He also noted that fundraising for Phase II has begun. Phase II contributions will be used to provide new bookshelves for the library. The estimated cost for the new bookshelves is \$10,500.00.

Board of Christian Education Report

- A second scoreboard for the school gymnasium has been ordered and is expected to arrive soon. The new scoreboard was purchased utilizing monies from Mick Werling and Dan Price memorials.

- The boys and girls basketball teams have been practicing for their upcoming games and tournaments and their 1st game was this past week. Bethlehem School will be hosting their annual basketball tournaments in January.

Board of Trustees Report

- Septic System Improvements Update – The septic system improvements have not been completed to date due to project setbacks. They still anticipate that the improvements will occur prior to the 2023 year's end.
 - Trustees originally approved the proposal from the contractor for the installation of a new fiberglass tank, but apparently there was miscommunication between the contractor and the tank supplier during the proposal process. The size of the fiberglass tank that was originally proposed and quoted to the Trustees was determined to be undersized for the project during the material ordering process. When updated pricing was provided for the properly sized fiberglass tank, the cost increase was significant, so the Trustees have elected to move forward with a concrete tank in lieu of fiberglass.
 - The new concrete tank will have an interior coating designed to resist/protect erosion of the interior concrete surfaces and is currently fabricated and being scheduled for delivery.
 - The original cost for the project with a concrete tank was \$12,000. The anticipated project cost for the new tank, with coatings, is expected to be around \$15,000, so there should be a decrease in the overall cost of the project. This includes the cost of the installation of the tank and equipment.

Board of Finance Report

- 2024 Church envelopes have been ordered and should arrive by the end of November.

Cemetery Report

- No report this meeting.

Old Business

Synodical Convention Review – Chairman Stoppenhagen reported on information from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - National Convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which he attended as the Decatur Circuit Lay Delegate.

- Chairman Stoppenhagen, Headmaster Rev. Dodgers, and teacher Peter Meyer all attended the convention which occurred from July 29 to August 30, 2023.
- Around 1,000 delegates attended the National Convention.
- Significant time was spent throughout the convention electing individuals for vice-presidents, for multiple boards and for board of regents, and for the presentation, discussion, and voting of resolutions brought before the convention.
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod acknowledged or declared full fellowship with 5 international church bodies in Europe, Africa, and Asia.
 - Recognized fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan/Sudan and the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland.
 - Declared fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Uganda and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine.
 - Recognized the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka as a self-governing, full partner church of the LCMS.
- Japan Lutheran Church was removed from fellowship with the LCMS.

- Two Concordia University Colleges closed since the last LCMS National Convention. Concordia University Portland (OR) was closed in 2020 and Concordia College, Bronxville, NY was closed in 2021.

New Business

New Committee – A new, yet to be named, committee is being organized for the purpose of identifying opportunities, and providing suggestions, for church and school property cleanup, organization, and interior & exterior aesthetic improvements.

- Women of Bethlehem will coordinate and lead the efforts of this committee and will be requesting participation from other church members outside of the WOB organization.
- No church officers will be a member of this committee. However, a member from each board will be designated as a liaison to the committee to answer questions and assist with items related to their board's responsibilities.
- The Church Council will be responsible for the oversight of this committee, and for approval for the implementation of suggestions provided by the committee.
- Final structure and details of the new committee are still being finalized.

Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization – Otto Clausen provided additional information related to the SGO program.

- The Lutheran SGO is a way for individuals to donate money that is allocated to Bethlehem Lutheran School to help provide financial scholarships for low- and middle-income families to help them afford the school of their choice for their children.
- Monies donated to the SGO can be designated to be used only for Bethlehem School students.
- You will receive a "tax credit" worth 50% of the amount of your donation which can be applied directly to your Indiana State Tax liability. (If you donate \$500, you will get a "tax credit" of \$250 that can be deducted from the amount that you owe for state taxes.)
- SGO donations also qualify to be used as a tax-deductible item for your federal taxes.
- If you donate money directly from your IRA account, taxes are not deducted from the IRA withdrawal, and the full amount of the withdrawal will be allocated towards the donation.
- Forms for donations to Bethlehem Schools SGO account are available from the school, or they can be accessed via a link on the school's website under the "Admissions" tab.

Motion to Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

The Voters Assembly Meeting concluded with Pastor Wirgau leading the Assembly in the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Meyer
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Secretary



TIGER TALES

"Connected to Christ"



2024 Spelling Bee

Winners

1st Grade: Evelyn Wanner "today"
 2nd Grade Madeline Schumm "show"
 3rd Grade Maddox Kelley "Jacket"
 4th Grade Jonah Bultemeier "village"

5-6 Grade Matthew Rekeweg "verve"
 7-8 Grade Emma Wlrgau "vision"

Runner-ups

Maisie Patrick
 Aralee Price
 Elianna Leamon
 Nicolas Blair

Hunter Householder
 Vinny Fuhrmann
 Kyndal Fuller

CALENDAR

Feb. 2 Mid Term
 Feb. 2-3 JV Boys Tournament
 Feb. 6-8 Parent Teacher Conference
 Feb. 9 Mid-Terms sent home
 Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday
 Feb. 16 No School—Elearning
 Feb. 19 No School
 Feb. 20 Board of Christian Ed Meeting
 Feb. 23 Kids vs Parents Basketball
 Feb. 25 Gym Cleaning

FEBRUARY 2024

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		

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 5 Owen Book
 Alejandro
 Feb. 17 Madeline Schumm
 Feb. 25 Jon Fuhrmann



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** 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

Principal's Message

Fast, Pray, Give – Disciplines for Lent & Life

People often hear the word “discipline” as just another word for punishment. But really, discipline is another word for the act of teaching and learning. Think of what we call the first students of Jesus – they are called disciples. They followed the discipline of Jesus. Learning a discipline means learning a way of thinking and a way of doing things. At a Lutheran school, we teach disciplines. We teach ways of thinking and ways of doing. Above all, as a Lutheran school, we are teaching new disciples of Jesus. Our hope and goal is that all our students would learn to think and do like Jesus.

During the season of Lent, we have three specific disciplines for Jesus’ disciples to practice. These are ways of thinking and doing that Christians can learn and follow all the time, but now the Church calls us to work on these disciplines in a more purposeful way. Christians are encouraged to fast, pray, and give. We receive these disciplines from the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. You can read about them in Matthew 6:1–21. We’ll also hear this Gospel Reading at church on Ash Wednesday. These three disciples go well together. When we go without some food (fasting), we free up time and resources. We can spend the extra time in prayer and God’s Word. We can spend the extra resources (money or food) by giving to those in need. Try practicing these things this Lent. Discipline yourself to follow the way of Jesus. Think more like Him. Do more like Him. That’s our goal as Christians, not only for our time at school but for our whole life.

Blessed Lent!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Anthony Dodgers

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—February 16—Teacher Inservice-scheduled E-Learn day.

NO SCHOOL—February 19—President’s Day

E-learning packets will be used this year for weather related closures.

An email or text message 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, 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 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 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



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!



2nd Quarter Honor Roll

High Honors

Matthew Rekeweg - 5th grade



A-B Honor

Emma Wirgau (7th), Jacob Bultemeier (8th), Lucas Werling (6th), Bailey Meyer (5th), Vinny Fuhrmann (7th)

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

2024 CONNECTED NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK



Thank you for the blessing of our school!





Thank you to all of our Bethlehem families for attending the Progressive Dinner on Monday, January 29th.

We hope you enjoyed the great food and fellowship. A big thank you to our room parents for all the great food and to our PTL President, Jennifer Bultemeier for organizing the event.

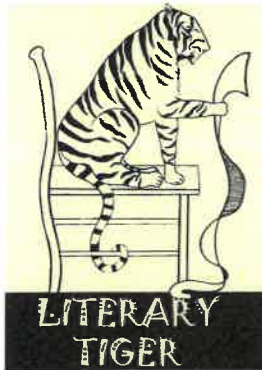
We want to remind parents to always be thinking of new families that might be interested in coming to our wonderful school. A tuition discount is given to those who refer new families that enroll.

Mark your calendars for our Kindergarten Roundup / Open House being held on March 20th.





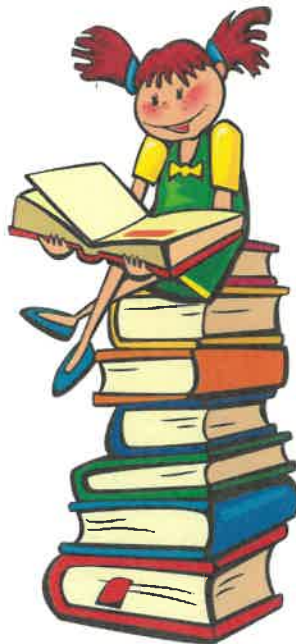
The Lady Tigers have been a joy to coach. The girls practice hard, and play harder! We started out our season with a goal: to make it to the championship game of the Bethlehem Tournament. We did it! The girls took 2nd place in our home tournament, and only lost 1 game during the away tournament at St. John Flatrock. With a winning season, the Lady Tigers did a fabulous job and had a ton of fun.
Coaches: Melissa Householder and Lacey Meyer



This month we are sharing book reviews from Mr. Meyer's 5/6th graders! The students each chose a mystery novel to read, and built a diorama representing a key scene from the story. They were told not to give spoilers, but many of these book selections were found in our school library, so if you are intrigued you can check out the book and find out "whodunit" for yourself.



Daisy Glisson
The Westing Game



Emmalee Kelley
Murder on the
Orient Express



Caroline Haiflich
The doors at the end of the World



Owen Book Alejandro
The Secret of the Cave A Hardy boys Mys-
tery



Alex Fuhmann
Greenglass House



Savannah Fuller
And then there were None



Lucas Werling

Charlie and Alice had just arrived at Miss. Gurke's house suspecting her about the catnapping incident of Lardo (Alices cat). Every time they appeared in the bushes of her backyard Charlie and Alice would hear some kind of "thump! Huff... Thump! Thump! Huff... Charlie wanted to boost Alice overhead to see what was happening and then he asked what she saw but Alice only muttered "Muh... Muh... Muh." That's when Charlie discovered that there was a giant horsefly buzzing around Alice's head. She had never been bitten by a horsefly, Charlie hadn't either. Alice couldn't balance because now the horsefly was circling around Charlie's head! It was until Charlie let go and...

*Thump! Now Alice was in Miss Gurke's backyard and Miss Gurke stepped back by shock. Turns out the thing that made the thump noise was Miss Gurke punching her punching bag outside her porch. Alice looked at Miss Gurke and was so surprised on how strong she is and Looked. Miss Gurke said with a strong voice "Were you spying on me?!" Alice knew she was caught and accepted the fate. She knew that she was going to be like that one kid who was late to school every time in Miss Gurke's class and was never to be seen in a mummy-like structure (that's what Alice heard). Miss Gurke had said that she would call the cops until she heard the doorbell in her house ring. She told Alice to stay in the backyard and not move. Alice was relieved that her luck had saved her this time. Alice spotted a line of chairs and started to move one to the fence for a nice escape route. Read to find out what happens next and who could've rung the doorbell to save Alice?



Emma Schueler

Olivia is being chased by Steven a police officer. And all of the sudden she smells smoke. she thinks its her friend Duncan making a fire to help her notice that he is there to help her get away from Steven. But insted of it being duncan its Steven! he ran and made a fire and its spreading onto the trees! Then after a cuple minutes the fire starts to make a circle around her. And then she sees a deer! It runing and Olivia falowes the deer and it found a creek. Olivia quickly went into the creek to cool of from the fire around her and then she hears a BANG whele she was under water she quickly went back up to see what it was. The deer! Steven killed the deer! she quickly when back down to hide from Steven so she would not get shot she hid under the water for 2 minuetes she tried to get back up but she struggles but she made it.

But when she comes back up does Steven kill her?



Mystery of The Roman Ransom

Hunter Householder

Mucius, Caius, Julius, Flavius, Atoninus, Rufus and Publius were going to Master Xanthos school to give him a slave for his 50th birthday. His name was Udo and they went to school and they found out about something Master Xanthos wasn't 50 he was 74! And it wasn't his birthday the boys forgot it wasn't his birthday to begin with so Xanthos excused them from class to return him back to Callon the slave keeper and they gave him Ancient Rome money sescstres 400 of them they went to the slave house and Callon was gone and Udo was a secret messenger for Polino the Governor of Germania to a ex-Gladiator named Gorgon to kill a senator who is the father of the seven boys Mucius, Caius, Julius, Flavius, Atoninus, Rufus and Publius. They need to get the letter before Gorgon does and they were starting a big journey through Rome to find it. They were finding the letter and Caius' father, Vinicus was supposed to be killed Caius ran to his father's servant the boys followed Caius got attacked by Gorgon and his dwarf man with the dagger in the scene in the shoebox this is the end before the climax.



Matthew Rekeweg

The boxcar children The Woodshed Mystery

My diorama is about the secret ammunition tunnel. The Boxcar Children's grandfather bought a barn near the woods for his sister. The children went into the woods and found a woodshed. When they went in they found it was being used as a house. But when they went back the next day they saw that everything was gone. They went back the day after that and saw that everything was back

So they looked for a tunnel and found one under the bed in the shed. They went down and saw it was an ammunition tunnel with guns and gunpowder from the Revolutionary war according to a note they found. Then the children found the user of the shed. He told them it was the end of the tunnel. So they looked in the barn basement and found stone under plaster when they knocked on it because it made a different sound than the real wall, which was wood under plaster. Then past the stone was the end of the tunnel!



Ivan Bales

The Hardy Boys Hunting for Hidden Gold by Franklin W. Dixon

The book's main characters are Frank, 18, and Joe Hardy, 17. The setting is an old Montana mining camp of Lucky Lode. Joe and Frank encounter a lot of dangers in their search for the members of a gang responsible for a robbery such as timber wolves, blizzard, and a mine cave-in. They are trying to figure out what happened to Bart Dawson who took off from his mining partners 25 years ago and where he took the gold to. Big Al aka Black Pepper is the leader of the gang that they are working against, and they are trying to find their hangout. They discover a ghost playing the piano at an abandoned dance hall. I enjoyed reading this book and watching the Hardy Boys work through the clues. You will have fun reading this book and trying to figure out if they will end up finding Bart Dawson and where he took the gold.



Bailey Meyer

Toby Montrose is a 12-year-old boy, whose parents have died and is living with his uncle Gabriel. Toby and his uncle Gabriel get invited to a contest to see who the World's Greatest Detective will be and win \$ 10,000 but his uncle does not want to go because his old business partner [the world's greatest detective] was hosting it. So, when Toby's uncle went to Gallis, Toby went to the contest without Gabriel knowing he went.

While Toby is there, there is a problem about the contest. A murder has been committed but it was part of the plan. Now there is a new contest who can be the first to figure out who had done it. Toby and a girl who he met named Ivy are going to work together to figure it out. Toby and Ivy uncover a lot of secrets as they solve the mystery.

My diorama shows Toby and Ivy in the room where someone got poisoned. The person that was poisoned is in the purple chair in the room. The back of it has the words of the invitation to the contest. The dog is Ivy's, his name is Percival.



Jude Wirgau

Detectives in Togas

My book is called Detectives in Togas, where there are these school boys who got into a bit of a fight and one of them named Rufus ends up being sent to jail. because of a mystery. First the boys go to where the boys run to their school before knowing what happened. And found their teacher locked up and almost dead in a wardrobe. If they would've gotten there he would have died and school got called off for writing clues is a double of the temple wall so the boys have to go an adventure to save their friend from prison or even death.





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