



WEEKLY CONNECTION

MAY 18, 2025

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Scripture: Acts 11:1–18, Revelation 21:1–7, John 16:12–22

Jesus Turns Sorrow into Joy

On earth “*you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy*” (John 16:20). Already the Spirit grants you peace and joy through the forgiveness of your sins. For by the cross of Christ, “*God has granted repentance that leads to life*” (Acts 11:18). His Gospel is “*a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household*” (Acts 11:14). He gives freely “*from the spring of the water of life*” (Rev. 21:6), “*and death shall be no more*” (Rev. 21:4). He dwells with His people, adorning His Church as a bride for her husband, “*making all things new*” (Rev. 21:5). Therefore, as the Son of Man is glorified by His cross, “*and God is glorified in him*” (John 13:31), so He is glorified in us by our “*love for one another*” (John 13:35), which His Spirit works in us by His grace.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – May 18

Preacher –	Rev Charles Buckhahn
Officiant –	Deacon Ken Kerouac
Lay Reader -	10:30 am Mike Weiss
Acolytes-	9 am Dakota Katzenberger and Olivia Dzuba 10:30 am Aleeyah Amos and Rolando Brewer
Elder in Charge –	9 am Kurt Engelhardt, Mike Denno 10:30 am Larry Griffin
Greeters –	9 am Paul and Andrea Wagner 10:30 am Walt and Sharon Wehner
Tech Team –	9 am Ryan Mulder, Kevin Keysor 10:30 am Jackson, Owen, Christian White
Music Team -	9 am Kloey Hall, Gerry Freiman
Music Leaders –	9 am Alex Holcomb 10:30 am George Frank

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (For more Information see blurbs below.)

May 18 – Contemporary Worship @ 9:00 am with Communion
May 18 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
May 18 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am
May 18 – Traditional Worship @ 10:30 am with Communion
May 18–23 - 7th & 8th Grade Washington DC Trip
May 20 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am
May 20 – Food Pantry @ 10 am

May 20 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room
May 20 – **Annual Congregational Meeting @ 6:30 pm**
May 21 – School Chapel 8:10 am
May 21 – Preschool Graduation @ 6 pm
May 22 – Senior Choir Practice
May 23 – Men’s Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am
May 23 – **NO SCHOOL** Memorial Day Weekend
May 25 – One Church Worship @ 9:30 am
May 26 – Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL, Church and School Office Closed

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us in celebrating Pastor Korte’s Retirement on Sunday, June 1st at the Forest Edge Banquet Center on 11 Mile Road in Auburn, MI. Please arrive by 12:30, as food will be served by 1:00pm.

Tickets are \$25 each and are on sale in the Narthex in between services until-Sunday, May 18th. Payments can be made by cash or check.

Tickets will still be available in the Church Office Monday- Friday from 7:30am-3:30pm. The last day tickets will be sold in the office is on Wednesday, May 21st. Payments can be made by cash, check or credit card. Please call or email the office if you have any additional questions. We look forward to honoring Pastor Korte’s faithful service with a memorable evening of fellowship and gratitude!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Beginning **Memorial Day Weekend, May 25** and running through the Summer until **Labor Day Weekend, August 31** the Board of Elders announces that our summer worship schedule will be one blended service beginning at **9:30 am**. Elements from both services will be used at these worship services. The one weekly service will give Bethlehem members an opportunity to get to know the other service people and worship together as a larger group. We look forward to seeing you all.

PRAYER FOCUS:

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Barbara Ruhlig, Dave Vanderlip, Jimmy Lutz, Karen Schram, Wendy Sova, Leroy Lyvere, Pastor Korte, Marian Kasper, Irene Lange, Larry Schroepfel, Gary Harvey, Connie Gnotek, Grace Korte, Mary Gallegos, Shirley Pagenkopf, Joanne Otto, Seventh & Eighth Grade Class Trip to Washington DC, Jessie Gilbert

HOSPITALIZED: Alicia Beechum, Melissa Bullard, Debbie Pappas, Herb Berlin

UPDATE FOR PASTOR CALL PROCESS: At a special Voters Meeting April 24 Bethlehem issued a divine call to the Michigan District for an **intentional interim pastor**. That process has begun and the congregation will be updated upon agreement between Bethlehem and the interim pastor. *“Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the fields.”* Lord of the Harvest,

Bethlehem has issued a call for an interim pastor. Please bless the next phase of this process and bring up to agreement. Put Your Holy Spirit upon the pastor selected to be our next interim pastor and move him to accept our call. In Jesus name. Amen.

CANDIDATES FOR BETHLEHEM ELECTED POSITIONS: In the narthex and church office are lists of those who are standing for election as Congregational President, or members of the Ministry Leadership Board, Board of Elders, or Board of Education. A short bio is included to help in your voting. Voting began on Sunday May 11 and concludes at the Annual Meeting on May 20.

ANNUAL MEETING: Bethlehem's annual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, MAY 20th at 6:30 pm** in the church. Important items considering the mission and business of the Church, School, and Pre-school will be considered.

If you are not able to make it in person to the meeting, please use the following Zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84664786639?pwd=CXm9yJfHOGkwEb8VfiDTIDyUaRFa5b.1>

Meeting ID: 846 6478 6639

Passcode: rpa8z4

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,84664786639#,,,,*654872# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84664786639#,,,,*654872# US (Washington DC)

ANNOUNCING THE SUMMER 2025 BIBLE STUDY - REVELATION

All are invited to attend our summer Sunday morning Bible Study on the book of Revelation. Seminarian Alex Holcomb and Deacon Ken Kerouac will lead the study following the 9:30 AM worship service; it will last for approximately one hour and will take place in the David Room (or lower level if a larger group). The study will be an overview of the book of Revelation, focusing on Revelation as a Living Word for the church today. For more information, please contact Alex Holcomb at aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org or via phone at 989-755-1144x107.

GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions, and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church Office at 989-755-1144 or email office@bethlehemsaginaw.org.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

UPDATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct? Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory.

It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year. Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?

If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. Copies of the current guide book are available in the Narthex for you to review. **Please do not remove these copies from the Narthex.**

The Church Office number is 989-755-1144. You can also email office@bethlehemsaginaw.org with updates or leave a note in the Joash box.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT! Bethlehem has received information from the treasurer of Lutheran Hour Ministries Program that is on the radio every Sunday morning at 8:30 AM. The program is available on station WSHM 1400 AM or 104.1 FM for one half-hour. The current cost to produce this program is \$175 per half hour.

Most support to keep this program on the air has been from area Lutheran churches and individual donations. To keep this program on air, they need additional financial help. All donations of any size would be very helpful. There are pre-addressed envelopes available in the narthex to use for donations. They are located on the table with Ministry Leadership nomination forms.

Envelopes can be mailed directly or put in the Joash Box and Bethlehem will forward to the fund treasurer. Checks should be made out to "Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour Fund." Thank you for your consideration.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

05-11-25 245 Online viewership: 31

CARING FOR OTHERS

MAY NOISY OFFERING is Alaska Mission for Christ. May Noisy Offering Supports Alaska Mission Trip It all started at Bethlehem! This year the Saginaw Area Mission Trip returns to Good News Bay to share THE Good News through Vacation Bible School, Bible studies for women and teens, and a community picnic.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR APRIL NOISY OFFERINGS Thank you for \$526 for The Gideons International. Your gifts help share God's word in over 200 countries including right here in Michigan!

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Revelation 21:1 – “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.” The things of this world are passing away. We are waiting for a new heaven and a new earth, which have been promised to us in Christ. This knowledge is foundational for our stewardship of what God has put into our hands. What is truly important? What is worthy of our support? How has God called us to use “unrighteous mammon” for the good of our neighbor and His kingdom?

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION - Your Chance to Help

Bethlehem members and friends are encouraged to join Habitat’s Neighborhood Revitalization June 17-20. Who can help? Anyone, age 14 (with parent present) and older, with or without experience. It is a chance to “care for all people.” Go to the website and pick a day to help make a difference in our community. Register at <http://sshfh.galaxydigital.com/>

TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED FOR MISSION TRIP TO LA PAZ, HONDURAS Using a very simple testing system created specifically for MOST Ministries, members of this team will distribute eyeglasses to those in need from August 16-23, 2025.

During the daily clinics, team members will test vision, fit and distribute eyeglasses all while sharing the gospel through words and actions. Depending on the number of team members, 100-300 people can be served daily. A Team Leader will be assigned to prepare, train, and lead the team on this mission.

Why MOST? We are Gospel centered & we take care of all the details, including well-vetted hosts, experienced team leaders and all travel arrangements. Cost to take part is \$3,000, which includes airfare, housing, meals, and medical insurance. Need financial assistance? You can apply for a scholarship to assist through grants from the LWML and have suggestions for fundraisers.

Contact Kaleigh Bone at 734-929-1163 or kaleighb@mostministries.org if you are interested.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS The food pantry is in need of: canned fruit, canned pasta, jams/jelly, hearty soups and stews. Donations can be dropped off at the church/school office.

SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Preschool graduation is this coming Wednesday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. Please feel free to join us and support our Little Stars. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

Spots are filling VERY fast for our 2025-2026 school year, please call our Preschool Administrator, Mrs. May to schedule a tour or with any questions, (989) 755-1144 x 209

AROUND BETHLEHEM

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES: On Sunday, June 8 at our worship service we will give thanks to God for those who are celebrating graduations this year. We rejoice with all the young people at their achievement of graduations from grade school, high school, or college. The Bethlehem Family is proud of you and wishes you God's blessings in your coming endeavors.

VBS IS BACK! Join us for an Epic Australian Adventure at Vacation Bible School, open to all children from Preschool through 4th Grade! VBS will take place June 16–19 from 6–8pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and will include Bible stories, crafts, music, snacks, games, and more. Registration is open to the public—visit bit.ly/3S2c7go to sign up. We are also seeking a few more Thrivent Action Grant cards to help cover costs. For questions, to volunteer or to offer support, please contact the church office or Jenna Wittig-Fauske at jwittig@bethlehemsaginaw.org. Thank you!

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY TEAM -

If you would like to be part of this important ministry or if you know someone homebound who needs a bit of "Sonshine" in his/her life contact any of the Team members or email John Brandt (jbrandt@bethlehemsaginaw.org).

SHARE THE GOSPEL THRU MUSIC, ART, & TECH God has gifted us with tremendous beauty and power in the arts; the Worship Arts Team uses the arts to encourage the Church to grow in her faith. Our tech team similarly plays a vital role in communicating the Gospel. With the summer switch to one service, we have the unique and distinct privilege of working together, using the both of best services musically and artistically continuing to tastefully use tech to serve the church. Please prayerfully consider serving via music, visual arts, or tech. Contact Alex Holcomb at aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org or 989-755-1144x107 for further info or to volunteer.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474. **"Meant For Good: A Study of Joseph."**
- **Wednesdays, 8:00 am (Men)** Meeting at Immanuel Bible Church on Center Rd. in Saginaw. Men from Bethlehem, Holy Cross, Immanuel, and Peace will be in attendance. Currently in Romans. Bring your own coffee – donuts provided. Contact Bill Denno at 989-781-4851 or 989-295-8618 for more info. Bring your favorite Bible!
- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. **"The Acts of the Apostles."** For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am (Anyone)** in the lower level. We are using the study *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Jesus made Himself very clear that the Old Testament testifies of him. This study will walk us through that claim. If you have Sunday School age children and would like to join the study, please join us. Children are welcome in our class and can go to Sunday School when it begins at 9:30.

OTHER NEWS

FROM VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

The VLHS Music Department's Spring Concert will be held this Sunday, May 18 beginning at 4 pm at St. Lorenz. All are invited to enjoy this final music event of the school year!

Planning to sign up for a VL summer camp? Register by Tuesday, May 20 to take advantage of the early registration discount! Camp offerings, schedule, and registration are available at www.vlhs.com/camps.

Registration is also now open for Valley Lutheran Youth Football and Youth Cheerleading for the fall! These developmental programs are open to students from throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. Football is available for boys in 3rd - 8th grade, while cheerleading is for middle school aged girls. Head to www.vlhs.com/youthsports to learn about these programs and get signed up!

FROM ST. MARK

VBS Mon-Wed, June 16-18; 6-8p

2565 N Miller Rd, Saginaw Phone: 989-781-3205

email: stmark@stmarksaginaw.org Register online under 'ministries' at stmarksaginaw.com

LCMS FOUNDATION

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. This month we will consider the balance of future needs with present needs. Most consider family inheritance as something that happens at the end of life. Yet in current circumstances, family needs might make sense for creating a current distribution to family. How much can you give family today? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in understanding.

Contact: Julie Burgess

Gift Planning Counselor

Church Extension Fund/MI District

Email: Julie.burgess@lfnd.org

Mobile: 713-822-5284

FROM WELLSRING SENIOR LIVING CAMPUS

Join us for a Puzzle Competition! Wednesday, May 21st from 1-3pm at Wellspring Senior Living Campus located at 2825 Wieneke Road in Saginaw. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Teams of 4 will compete, no team, no problem! Please call 989-921-0283 and RSVP by May 16th.