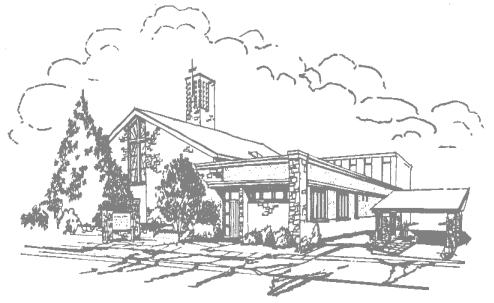


Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan

Pastor Matt Smith

June/July 2025

*Heaven is declaring God's glory;
the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.*
Psalm 19:1 (CEB)

This passage beautifully describes how creation itself, through its very existence, speaks of God's glory and handiwork. It's a wonderful verse to reflect on when giving thanks for the wonder and beauty of the world God created. As you travel in these summer months, to visit friends or family, or to your cottage 'Up North', take moments to marvel at the beauty of all that God has made.

That's the first thing – **Give Thanks!** And the second is like that, **Worship**. When you are out enjoying God's creation this summer, worship in a congregation where you are. You can find an ELCA congregation by visiting www.elca.org/directory/congregations. You could also join us online at www.youtube.com/@bethlehemplansing/streams, to participate in our live streaming worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

Third, this summer we encourage you to **Stay in Contact**. Keep track of your fellow church members, whether they are away from home enjoying God's creation or staying right here. *Reach out* to fellow members and friends you have not seen in worship or other church activities. A phone call or card will go a long way in letting people know that they are on your heart and mind.

And finally, **Continue to Support** God's ongoing mission and ministry that happens through Bethlehem with your prayers and financial support. If you want to set up regular electronic giving while you are away you can contact our financial secretary, Susan Mahoney, or you can visit our website, www.bethlutheran.org, to set up a one time or recurring contribution. Just click on the 'Online Giving' button at the bottom of the page.

Pentecost & Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday, **June 8**, is Pentecost Sunday. We encourage everyone to **wear red** because red is deeply symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the events of the first Pentecost. Red reminds us of the *Tongues of Fire* in Acts 2, where the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and other followers. Red also symbolizes our *Passion and Zeal* and transformative power that the Holy Spirit ignited in the disciples, empowering them to boldly spread the Gospel. Pentecost is the *Birth of the Church*, the moment the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles and led to the conversion of thousands. Red can also represent the vitality and new life of the nascent Christian community. Pentecost Sunday is also one of the traditional days in the church when young people make their Affirmation of Baptism or **Confirmation**. This year we will participate in the confirmation of Annabele Halbakken.

Annual Congregation Meeting

On Sunday, June 22, following worship, we will have the annual meeting of the congregation. We will hear reports from our various ministries of how God has been active in the lives of our members and community. We will also elect **22** people to serve as *Officers*, and on our *Congregation Council*, *Boards of Buildings and Grounds*, *Education*, *Outreach Ministries*, *Stewardship and Finance*, and *Worship Life*, as well as our *Endowment Committee*. If the eight people eligible to run for an additional term where they have served runs, we would still need **3** people to serve 1-year terms and **11** more to serve full terms.

New Bishop Elected

At the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly, May 18-20, Pr. Julie Schneider-Thomas was elected to serve as our next bishop (the first female bishop in this synod), succeeding Bp. Craig Satterlee, who has served faithfully for the past twelve years. Bishop Elect Schneider-Thomas will begin serving on September 1, 2025, and we look forward to her joining us for worship some Sunday after her term begins.

Schneider-Thomas was elected on the fifth ballot, with 166 votes. Pastor Dana Hendershot, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant, received 73 votes. *I did receive two votes on the nominating ballot but chose to remove my name from future ballots.* The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Comstock Park, since 1996. She also has been serving Hope Lutheran Church in Rockford, since 2016. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in religion and philosophy from Adrian College in 1991, and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, in 1995.

◇◇ Pastor Matt

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48910
Phone: (517) 482-3225
FAX: (517) 482-2458

Ministers

*All of the members of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Pastor Matthew A. Smith
pastormattsmith@gmail.com
(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor
Pastor John W. Burow
pastorjburow@yahoo.com
(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor
Tracy Baker
bethlehemlansing@gmail.com
(517) 482-3225

Congregation President
open seat

Organist
James Schippers
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director
Sue Nelson
ntimothy1@att.net

Handbell Choir Director
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:
www.bethlutheran.org

Worship Schedule

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.
Sanctuary - in person
And LIVE Streaming on
YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/
@bethlehemworship126/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams)

June Assisting Ministers

June 01 - Nancy Holderread
June 08 - Susan Mahoney
June 15 - Bob Meeker
June 22 - Don Telles
June 29 - Crystal Collins

June Children's Sermons

June 01 - Pastor John Burow
June 08 - Pastor Matt Smith
June 15 - Pastor Matt Smith
June 22 - Pastor Matt Smith
June 29 - Pastor Matt Smith



WEBSITE UPDATES

Visit bethlutheran.org and click on 'Events' for information on what's happening. Select 'Calendar' from the Events menu to view the *full* church calendar.

The screenshot shows the website header with the church name and address (549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.). The navigation menu includes Home, Events, Join Us, Printables, and Part. The 'Events' menu is expanded, showing options for Calendar, 100th Anniversary Photos, and 100th Anniversary Worship Services. Below the menu, there is a section for the 'CALENDAR OF EVENTS' for February and March 2025. The calendar shows events for February 26 (Family Growth Resource Center), February 27 (newsletter mailing, Family Growth Resource Center, TNT - Confirmation classes), and February 28.

Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

We will pursue this purpose by:

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

STEWARDSHIP

TWO POTS

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of his accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived as a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts." The pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old, cracked pot, and in his compassion, he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old, cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wildflowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the pot apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But if we allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table. In God's great economy, nothing goes to waste. Don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and you too can be the cause of beauty. Know that in our weakness we find our strength.

Author Unknown



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

**Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America**

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.

BELCW

*Bethlehem Evangelical
Lutheran Church Women*

From Treasures to Triumph: Rummage Sale Recap – After much feedback and deliberation, the rummage sale was moved back to the Spring and what a great decision that was! We made \$2,831.10 on the rummage sale and bake sale thanks to everyone's generous donations. A big shout out to the rummage sale committee (Kelly Carpenter, Peggy Teter, Joanna Alvera, Laura Halbakken, Susan Sterling, and Candy Barnes) and everyone who volunteered during the event, from set-up to clean-up. Thank you for your time taking care of our customers and helping to make this year's sale a success.

Significant – The Book Study

We're continuing our book study on Significant Women in the Bible, and whether you were at the retreat or not, you're invited to join in. The flexible, relaxed pace lets you study at your own speed, with the monthly group topics as follows:

- **April** – Sarah (done at retreat — complete when you can)
- **May** – Leah
- **June** – Tamar
- **July** – Rahab
- **August** – Ruth
- **September** – Bathsheba

Ways to connect:

- Join our Facebook group: **Significant Women** — share thoughts, ask questions, or connect for in-person chats.
- Reach out to others from the list to meet up for breakfast, lunch, or a walk-and-talk study.
- Create a text group to reflect and check in weekly.
- Join our Zoom chats: Last Tuesday of each month, May–August, 8-9pm. Link sent via email.
- Save the date: In-person social gathering in September — date & time coming soon!

Offerings to BELCW – If you would like to make an offering to the BELCW, please send checks to Keitha Snider, Treasurer, 14685 Center Rd, Bath, MI 48808.

Upcoming Events:

06/02/25	6:30 AM	Board Meeting	Zoom – Devotions: Peggy Teter
06/07/25	9:30 PM	FAB	Library
06/11/25	6:30 PM	Harmony Circle	Dinner and a Movie
06/11/25	9:00 AM	Quilting	Gym
06/17/25	1:00 PM	Rainbow Circle Potluck	Diane Miller's
07/05/25	9:30 AM	FAB	Library
07/09/25	9:00 AM	Quilting	Gym
07/15/25	1:00 PM	Rainbow Circle	Coral Gables

Prayer Corner

Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 517-881-9890.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Marilyn Bass-Huyser in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Larry & Virginia Bauman, 5314 Evergreen Ridge Dr. Cincinnati, OH
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Kurt Kollmeyer, Hamilton Trace Apartments, Fishers, IN
John Nelson in Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Joe Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
Peggy Walston (Gaspersohn), Memorial Healthcare Long Term Care,
Room 475, 826 W. King St., Owosso, MI 48867

Those at home: Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Tosha Brisbo, Kelly Carpenter
Crystal Collins, Ben Darling, Keith Ferguson, Tom & Eleanor Finn
Carl Gallagher, Emma Hicks Nancy Jackson, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski
John Leighton, Michael Mahoney Linda McClellan, Mark Nelson
Tharin Palmer, Bob & Gloria Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Connie Scott
Ken Teter, Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten

If you know of a member you would like us to include on this list or remove from this list, please call the church office.

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Pray for the Baker Neighborhood Partners and Community Police Officer, Morgan Parrott and other first responders.



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral

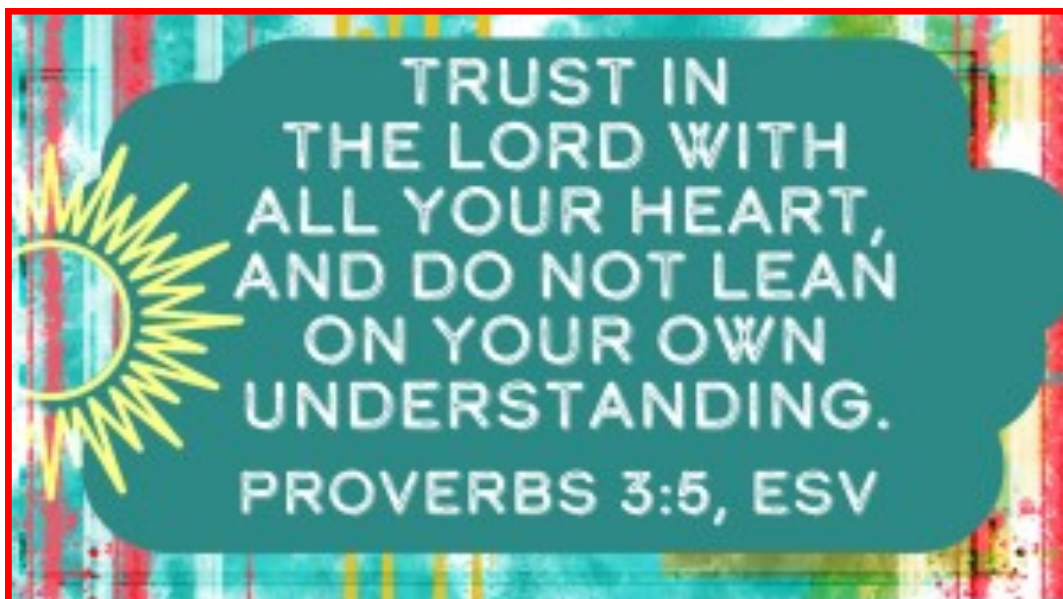
Yvonne Nelson

May 30, 2025

PRAY for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force
Isaiah Castellanos – U.S. Army
Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines
Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army
Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines

Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force
Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force
Dayton Tucker – U.S. Marines



Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our "Taking Faith Home" sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

◇◇ Pastor Matt

JUNE 2025

01 John 17:20-26
02 Acts 16:16-34
03 Rev. 22:12-21
04 Exodus 33:12-23
05 2 Corinth. 5:16-21
06 Luke 11:1-4
07 Psalm 97

08 John 14:8-27
09 Acts 2:1-21
10 Romans 8:14-17
11 Isaiah 44:1-5
12 Galatians 5:16-25
13 2 Kings 2:1-15
14 Psalm 104:24-35
15 John 16:12-15

16 Proverbs 8:1-31
17 Romans 5:1-5
18 Isaiah 55:10-13
19 Lamentations 3:22-33
20 1 John 4:17-21
21 Psalm 8
22 Luke 8:26-39
23 Isaiah 65:1-9

24 Galatians 3:23-29
25 Lamentations 3:1-24
26 Matthew 9:27-34
27 1 Timothy 6:11-19
28 Psalm 22:19-28
29 Luke 9:51-62
30 1 Kings 19:15-21

JULY 2025

01 Galatians 5:1-25
02 Leviticus 19:1-18
03 Matthew 5:43-48
04 2 Timothy 1:3-7
05 Psalm 16
06 Luke 10:1-20
07 Isaiah 66:10-14

08 Galatians 6:1-16
09 Isaiah 58:6-9
10 1 Peter 5:1-5
11 Titus 3:1-8
12 Psalm 66:1-9
13 Luke 10:25-37
14 Deuteronomy 30:9-14
15 Colossians 1:1-14

16 Genesis 39:6-23
17 James 2:1-13
18 Leviticus 19:17-34
19 Psalm 25:1-10
20 Luke 10:38-42
21 Genesis 19:1-10
22 Colossians 1:15-28
23 1 Samuel 3:10-21

24 Proverbs 12:15-22
25 James 1:19-27
26 Psalm 15
27 Luke 11:1-3
28 Genesis 18:20-32
29 Colossians 2:6-19
30 Exodus 32:7-14
31 James 5:13-20

June / July Birthdays

Linda Telles	June 3
Nancy Jackson	June 4
Sharon Drake	June 7
Barbara Goris	June 10
Tim Nelson	June 12
Margo Devine	June 13
Jennifer Kurzynowski	June 14
Dennis Hunt	June 15
Michael R. Kosloski	June 17
Rick Ransom	June 18
John Bedford Jr.	June 22
Barb Leonard	June 22
Jeanne Smith	June 22
Peggy Teter	June 23
Marjean Hefke	June 29
Michael Mahoney	July 4
Ferris (Mike) Kosloski	July 5
Bruce Large	July 5
Tharin Palmer	July 6
Ronald Wescott	July 6
Jon Wilford	July 8

Crystal Collins	July 9
Barbara Raia	July 15
Bonnie Woods	July 15
Lou Henkel	July 23
Dave Holderread	July 23
Virginia Bauman	July 31
Dave Ware	July 31



Happy Birthday!

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

THE SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This schedule will continue through
Labor Day weekend
with no Sunday School or Adult Forum.

If you are going to be out of town on the weekend,
find a gathering of Christians and worship with them

or

**join our Live Streaming Worship
on YouTube**

**@bethlehemlansing,
Sunday's at 10 a.m.**

While you are away,
please continue to support the work of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church with your prayers and offerings.



DO YOU LOVE A GOOD BOOK? DO YOU LOVE A GOOD BIBLE STUDY?

Here is an opportunity to experience both! At the women's retreat in April, we started a study with the book Significant. It is a study of 5 significant women in the Bible, and how God uses them and us, to further His kingdom. We are going to continue the study, and come together once a month to talk about our insights and our questions.

You can join us! We have copies of the book for sale at church for \$10 each, which is half off the list price, thanks to the generous author.

Come, grab your copy and join in the conversation!

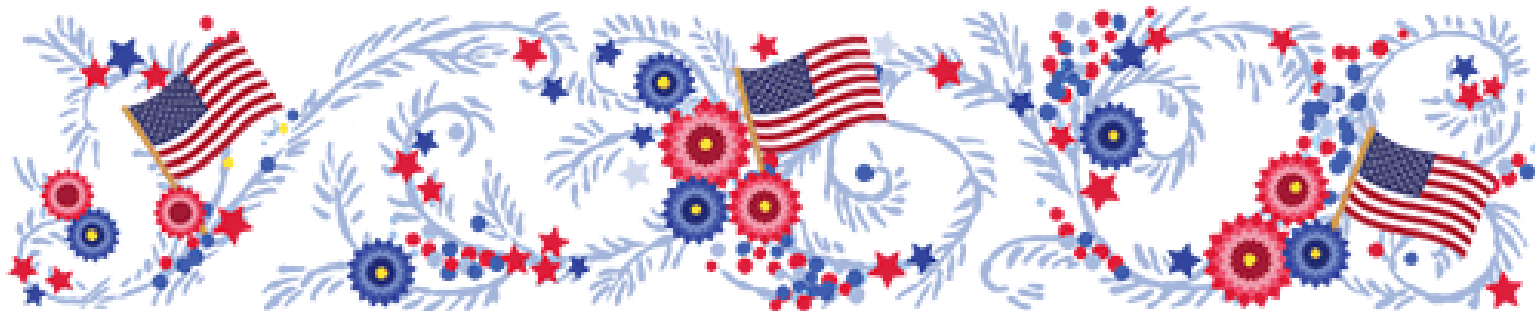
If you have any questions,
please feel free to contact Debbie Simmons at 517-927-5368 or at 0818dis@gmail.com.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

We will meet on **June 22** after worship service.

All voting members are encouraged to attend. This is a time to get reports from the pastor, the officers of the congregation and to vote on new officers.

There are openings on the Boards and Council.



GRADUATES WILL BE RECOGNIZED

On **Sunday June 15**,
graduates from BELC will be recognized.
Names of the graduates and the schools from which they are
graduating from should be given to the church office by
Wednesday, June 11. Thank you.

The Altar Guild will no longer be using artificial flowers on the Altar.

If you would like to sponsor flowers for the Altar,
in Honor of, in Celebration of, or in Memory of,
please put your name on the Altar Flower Chart in the lobby,
on the date you would like to sponsor the flowers
and don't forget to include the occasion.

The arrangements are \$40 each and payment should be put in an
Altar Flower Envelope and addressed to Kris Burow.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SPONSOR FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR!

PENTECOST SUNDAY



WEAR RED and SIGN THE CHASUBLE!
JUNE 8TH IS PENTECOST SUNDAY.

In the social hall, the Chasuble is on the table for you to sign if you have not
done so in the past. Pentecost Sunday is when we celebrate
the giving of the Holy Spirit.

This event, known as the birthday of the church, was the impetus for the disciples
to begin to take the gospel to all of the world! To symbolize the giving of the Spirit,
we are asking everyone to wear red on Pentecost, as we acknowledge the Holy Spirit
who inspires our worship and our faith, and gives us the power, week by week,
to proclaim the kingdom of God. On that day, Pastor Matt will wear the chasuble,
signed by members and friends of BELC, to symbolize that we are all the Church.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Those who participated in the May 4th workshop regarding Bread For the World's two-year campaign to reduce childhood hunger, committed to writing letters to our congressional representatives on behalf of public policies that reduce hunger and food insecurity in our country and across the globe.

Mike Vedrody (future member, who has been worshipping with us almost weekly in the last several months) wrote and sent the following letter to our two Michigan Senators and a similar one to our District 7 House Representative.

"The United States is the most powerful and wealthy country in the world and the good citizens of this country have chosen you to be a leader of this great nation.

As Senator with wealth, influence and power I pray that you would see it as your duty to help and support the less fortunate people throughout the world and especially in the United States.

Food insecurity effects 18 million of U.S. households and if your influence can impact even one of these households you can change the trajectory of a child's future and the generational future of their entire family. As science has proven, 1 out 10 children who experience food insecurity drop out of school. To keep our country strong, competitive and educated we ask that you support the Child Tax Credit and WIC. To build goodwill and peace we ask you to work with and support the WFP.

With great power comes great responsibility so our congregation asks that you put your influence and power into leading our country in obeying the Golden Rule "Do unto others as you would have done unto you" Luke 6:31 and Matthew 7:12.

Please join me in prayer and with actions:

That we as a nation work diligently to follow this command and spread goodwill throughout the world to enable us to reduce the suffering that comes from food insecurity.

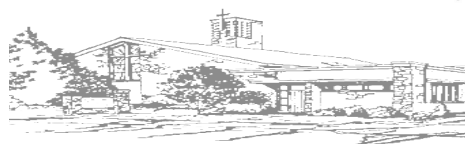
I appreciate your service and dedication to the public and your constituents."

Mike has received a voicemail from a staffer assuring him that the member of Congress was supportive of Mike's concerns. This letter is offered as an example of how we can extend the impact of our life of faith far, far beyond our church and communities.

For ways to participate in BFW's Nourish the Future Campaign, talk to Mike or one of our pastors.

Bethlehem Star

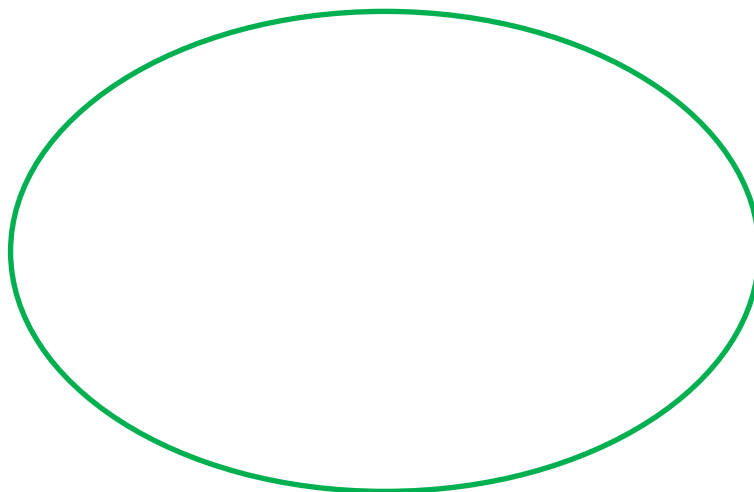
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Newsletter Deadline is **July 15, 2025**
for the **August 2025 Bethlehem Star**.

Also available at
www.bethlutheran.org

In-Home Date: Saturday, May 31, 2025
Mailed on May 29, 2025

