



The miniEpistle

May 2026

- 5/3 – **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion
9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!
& Lutheran Confessions Study
- 5/6 – Prayer in the Parlor at 4:30PM
- 5/9 – Men’s Breakfast & Study, 8:30AM
- 5/10 – **6th Sunday of Easter | Rogate**
& Mother’s Day!
8:30 & 11AM Praise Service
9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!
& Lutheran Confessions Study
- 5/14 – **ASCENSION DAY** (No service)
- 5/17 – **7th Sunday of Easter**
8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion
9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!
& Lutheran Confessions Study

- 5/20 – Prayer in the Parlor at 4:30PM
 - 5/24 – **PENTECOST SUNDAY & Memorial Day observance**
8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion
9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!
& Lutheran Confessions Study
 - 5/25 ☆☆☆**Blessed Memorial Day!**☆☆☆
 - 5/27 – **VBS Kickoff Dinner** at 6PM
 - 5/30 – **Council Retreat**
 - 5/31 – **Pentecost 2**
8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion
9:45AM Fifth Sunday Brunch
- Save the Date 2026!**
- Sun. 6/21: Dads’ and Grads’ Waffle Breakfast at 9:45AM
 - Sun. 7/12-Fri. 7/17: VBS, 6-8:30PM

Council Actions from April’s Meeting:

- ⚡ The Benevolence Committee is giving Sarah Stein \$500 toward her short-term mission trip to Scotland and will match any congregational donations.
- ⚡ The Scout Troops are excited to help doing work around the church.
- ⚡ A Council Retreat will be held on May 30th from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

VBS 2026 News

Time to sign up for VBS this summer! Beginning Sunday, July 12 – Friday, July 17, from 6 – 8:30PM we’ll be **plunging into **Rainforest Falls**, learning about the **Nature of God**. A registration form may be found on the last page of this newsletter. Please pray for a **deluge** of children to attend and grow in faith. Pray also for the many staff transitions to go smoothly. See Ruthann Kistler for more information or to volunteer to help.**

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 – Alecia Lick
- 4 – Dawn Wagner
- 6 – Lizbeth Lucero
- 16 – Nicole LoConte
- 17 – Nancy Cook | Emma Hoy
- 19 – Linda Jo Albertson
- 21 – Heidi Sazo
- 22 – Matthew Reppert
- 24 – Carson Reinhard
- 27 – Laura Peters
- 28 – Sharon Branigan | Megan Zahnou
- 30 – Tom Barlow
- 31 – Leah Quan

Anniversaries

- Larry & Wendi Wonderly – 5/1/83
- Jonathan & Tara Mosebach – 5/7/16
- Richard & Alyce Stein – 5/15/71
- Ed & Bettie Tkacik – 5/21/60
- Chris & Laura Peters – 5/21/16
- Steve & Jackie Fenicle – 5/27/78
- David & Madison Wodzisiz – 5/28/22

Happy Heavenly Birthday
Robert Stuber



Maundy Thursday Seder

Sixteen of us gathered for a Maundy Thursday Seder on April 2nd, including a

delicious meal of matzah-ball soup and “Poor Man’s Brisket”. A Seder is the symbolic setting of Passover, and the celebration where Jesus instituted communion at the Last Supper. It is an excellent way to pass our faith from one generation to the next (see Psalm 145:4) recalling our Christian heritage and its Jewish cultural foundation.

The Seder plate contains foods which symbolize the flight of the Jewish slaves from Egypt through God’s miraculous deliverance, and has even more meaning for us as redeemed believers. Bitter herbs symbolize the harshness of slavery the Jews endured in Ancient Egypt. A sweet, lumpy paste made of apples and nuts recalls the mortar with which the Israelites bonded bricks during their forced labor. We remember how bitter slavery is and how sweet freedom is because of Jesus. It was noted that the matzah, or unleavened bread, is pierced and striped, reminiscent of the beating and torture suffered by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Many of us found this was a meaningful way to capture the true weight of the events of Holy Week, and hope to celebrate this again next year. Congratulations to Chris Dunn who found the Afikommen!



May Bible Memory Verses - Sail the 7 'C's

The following verses are from Pastor David's *Sail the 7 Cs*.

Week of 5/3 Review: **Matthew 7:21; Matthew 28:18-20; John 1:29**
5/10 Review: **John 3:16; John 8:34; John 14:12**
5/17 Review: **Acts 1:8; Acts 2:24; Acts 3:21**
5/24 Review: **Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:9-11**
5/31 Review: **Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 1:1-2**

May 2026 Reformation Bible Reading Plan

If you are reading through the Bible this year, May's passages are listed, below. If you are just beginning this plan, it is recommended that you begin with the readings for the day (instead of starting from the beginning). Then when you have some extra time you can go back and read what you missed. Copies of the plan are available in the Gathering Place, or the plan may be downloaded here: <https://michigandistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Reformation-Reading-Plan-Printable.pdf>

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1: Luke 18:31-43
Deut. 12-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8: Luke 22:1-38
Deut. 28-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16: Acts 1
Joshua 10-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24: Acts 6
Judges 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2: Luke 19
Deut. 15-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9: Luke 22:39-65
Deut. 30-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17: Acts 2:1-13
Joshua 13-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25: Acts 7:1-53
Judges 5-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3: Luke 20:1-26
Deut. 19-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10: Luke 22:66-
23:25
Deut. 33-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18: Acts 2:14-47
Joshua 16-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26: Prov. 10:15-32
Ps. 70-71 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4: Luke 20:27-47
Deut. 23-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11: Luke 23:26-56
Joshua 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19: Prov. 10:1-14
Ps. 68-69 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27: Catch up day
<input type="checkbox"/> 28: Acts 7:54-60
Judges 7-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5: Prov. 8:22-36
Ps. 60-63 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12: Proverbs 9
Psalm 64-67 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20: Catch up day
<input type="checkbox"/> 21: Acts 3
Joshua 19-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29: Acts 8
Judges 9-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6: Catch up day | <input type="checkbox"/> 13: Catch up day | <input type="checkbox"/> 22: Acts 4
Joshua 21-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30: Acts 9
Judges 12-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7: Luke 21
Deut. 26-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14: Luke 24:1-35
Joshua 5-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23: Acts 5
Joshua 23-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31: Acts 10:1-22
Judges 14-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8: Luke 22:1-38
Deut. 28-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15: Luke 24:36-53
Joshua 8-9 | | |

Benevolence News

When you shop, please keep in mind our grocery cart for ELM. Families in need benefit from our contributions of canned or packaged foods. Suggested donations for our food pantry: rice, cereal bars, pasta, crackers, pasta sauce, instant soups, canned chicken or tuna, macaroni and cheese dinners, instant oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, breakfast cereal, canned fruit.





All are invited to
our Dads & Grads
Waffle Breakfast, Sunday, June
21st during the Sunday School
hour (beginning at 9:45AM).



HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL



is enrolling
students for
the 2026-27
school year.
If you know
anyone

interested, look for the brochures
in the rack in the Gathering Place.



Pentecost will be observed on
Sunday, May 24th!

The VBS KICKOFF DINNER

will occur **Wednesday,**
May 27th at 6PM.



**Come learn about this year's
theme and sign up to help!**

Attention United States Military Veterans



The American Legion Post 379 of Bethlehem has **BURIAL PLOTS** at Bethlehem Memorial Cemetery available at no cost to honorably discharged United States **MILITARY VETERANS** (proof required). There is a limited number of plots available. Contact John at 484-264-5871 for additional information.

For freedom Christ has set us free... Galatians 5:1



Do you love Holy Cross? Do you appreciate our Lutheran heritage?
As you can see in the picture, there's still plenty of room in our

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Sunday School class at
9:45AM.

As part of the NALC, we
are updating our

church constitution, and to do that faithfully, we should understand
our foundational Lutheran doctrines. These may be read online at

<https://bookofconcord.cph.org/>

Come, get an overview of the Lutheran Confessions
led by Pastor David.

Remaining faithful to the teachings of Scripture is of vital
importance to the future of Holy Cross.



Congratulations to our March 15th
Chili & Chowder Cookoff
winners, Mitch Zahnow and
Ruthann Kistler!

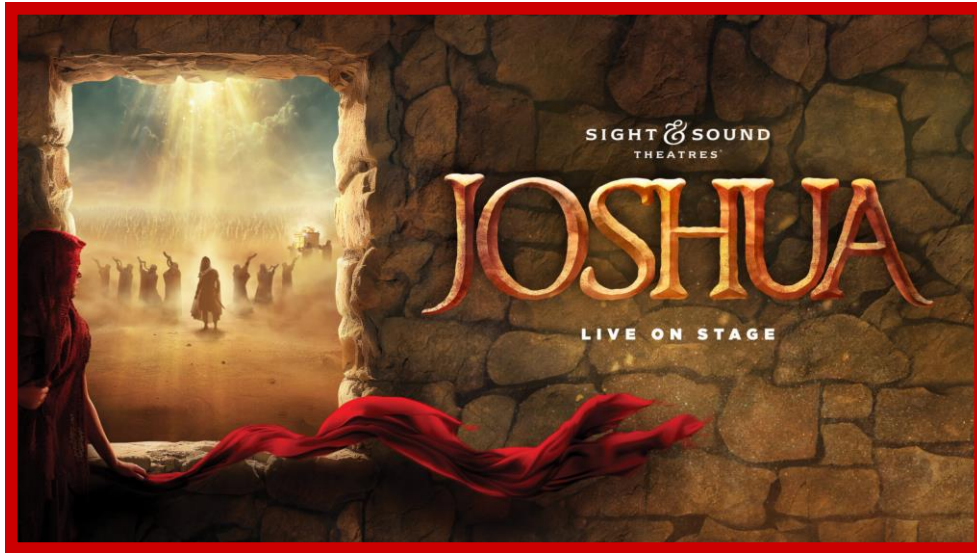
A hearty thanks to everyone who
participated and made this a
wonderfully tasty event!

Join the Choir!

It's time to start a new choir, and we're looking
for anyone interested. Please talk to Nancy Cook
or contact her at 908-339-7352.



RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW FOR



TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH

\$177 for adults, \$117 for children 13 & under

Fun bus transportation!

Your ticket to the amazing show!

A fabulous lunch at Hershey Farms Restaurant!



FINAL PAYMENT DUE BY JUNE 14TH

Cost of an adult ticket can be covered by 3 monthly payments of \$59.

Checks should be made out to Holy Cross Lutheran, Bethlehem

Day's Itinerary:

8:15 AM depart from the convenience of Holy Cross' parking lot.

10:15 AM approximate arrival to Sight & Sound Theatre in lovely Lancaster County.

11:00 AM be mesmerized by *Joshua*, Sight & Sound's latest drama!

1:30 PM wipe final tears of joy away and exit theater.

2:15 PM take short ride across parking lot to delicious Hershey Farms Restaurant.

4:00 PM finish eating/shopping and prepare for a comfortable ride home.

6:00 PM approximate time of arrival at Holy Cross, thanking God for a wonderful experience!

MAY 2026 SERVANTS OF THE LORD

		5/3 EASTER 5	5/10 EASTER 6	5/17 EASTER 7	5/24 PENTECOST	5/31 TRINITY
Communion Server	8:30 11	Patty Stein Lyn Stryker		Seth Miller Lyn Stryker	Volunteer Karen Brown	Seth Miller Lyn Stryker
Crucifer	8:30 11				Natasha Sazo Karen Brown	Seth Miller Lyn Stryker
Grass Cutters		Jim Steiner Gary Mosser	Mike Miller Nick Wechsler	Rich Stein Jonathan Miller	Lyn Stryker Jonah Kincaid Bob Kincaid	Sam Glasmire Rich Stein
Greeter	8:30 11	Sally Stein Irene Graham	Diane Hahn Sharon Branigan	Sally Stein Irene Graham	Diane Hahn Sharon Branigan	Sally Stein Irene Graham
Lector	8:30 11	Pat Gilbert Lyn Stryker	Alyce Stein Karen Brown	Ruthann Kistler Lyn Stryker	Penny Miller Karen Brown	Patty Stein Kathy Ballek
Liturgist	8:30 11	Patty Stein Lyn Stryker	Pat Gilbert Karen Brown	Seth Miller Lyn Stryker	Volunteer Karen Brown	Seth Miller Lyn Stryker
Live Stream	8:30	Jan Stryker	Jonah Kincaid	Jan Stryker	Jonah Kincaid	Jan Stryker
Prayer Care		Sharon Branigan	Ruthann Kistler	Pat Gilbert	Darlene Treisner	Jan Stryker
Song Leader	8:30 11	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook	Pastor David Pastor David	Karen Brown Nancy Cook	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook
Sound	8:30 11	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer
Usher	8:30 11	Jan Stryker Irene Graham		Jan Stryker Irene Graham	Jan Stryker Sharon Branigan	Jan Stryker Irene Graham

Altar Guild: Sharon Branigan & Irene Graham

Children's Church: Ruthann Kistler

Phone Tree: Stephen Zeiner

Counters: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

Communion Visitors: Pr. Dave & Sharon Branigan

Prayer of the Church: Mike Zyskowski

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Pastor David L. Brown

Holycrosspastor@rcn.com

2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-867-6231 Holycrossevangelicalchurch@gmail.com

Website: HolyCrossBethlehem.com

MAY 2026

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
APRIL 26 EASTER 4	27	28	29	30	MAY 1	2
8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service 12:15P Bible Study & Lunch 2P Teddy Bear Tea Party (FH)	6:30P Dart Baseball Playoffs (FH) 7P Scouts (TR)	9A Preschool 7P Scouts (YR)	9A Preschool 10A Bible Study 12P Bear Brigade 4:30P Prayer (parlor) 7:30P AA (TR)	12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	9A Charity Sew (FH) 7:30P AA (TR)
3 EASTER 5	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30A Communion 9:45A Sunday School 11A Communion	Teacher Appreciation Week 7P Scouts (TR)	7P Property (Ofc) 7P Scouts (YR)	4:30P Prayer (parlor) 7:30P AA (TR)	12N AA (TR) 6P Worship & Music (Ofc)	10A Bulletins	8:30A Men's Breakfast (Ofc) 9A Material Girls (ASSR) 11A Eagle Ct of Honor Sanc/FH 7:30P AA (TR)
10 ROGATÉ	11	12	13	14	15	16
MOTHER'S DAY 8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service	7P Scouts (TR)	6:30P Colonial Quilters (FH) 7P Scouts (YR)	12P Bear Brigade 4P Outreach 7:30P AA (TR)	Ascension Day 12N AA (TR)	MEGA-E Deadline 10A Bulletins	7:30P AA (TR)
17 EASTER 7	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30A Communion 9:45A Sunday School 11A Communion 12:15P Bible Study & Lunch	6P Dart Baseball Banquet @ The Carriage House 7P Scouts (TR)	7P Scouts (YR)	4:30P Prayer (parlor) 6P Executive Com. 6:30P Council (ASSR) 7:30P AA (TR)	12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	1P Staff Meeting (Ofc) 7:30P AA (TR)
24 PENTECOST	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30A Communion 9:45A Sunday School 11A Communion	MEMORIAL DAY ★★☆☆	7P Scouts (YR)	12P Bear Brigade 4:30P Prayer (parlor) 6P VBS Kickoff Dinner 7:30P AA (TR)	9A Material Girls (ASSR) 12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	9A-3P COUNCIL RETREAT 7:30P AA (TR)
31 Trinity Sunday	JUNE 1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30A Communion 9:45A 5 th Sunday Brunch 11A Communion	7P Scouts (TR)	7P Property (Ofc) 7P Scouts (YR)	4:30P Prayer (parlor) 7:30P AA (TR)	12N AA (TR) 6P Worship & Music (Ofc)	10A Bulletins	10A-2P Clothing Drive 7:30P AA (TR)



VBS 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

Child's name	Last Grade	Age	Birthday	M/F
1.				
2.				
3.				

Name of parent(s)/guardian: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Home Church: _____

Permission to use child's image only (no names) on church social media (facebook, website...) YES NO

Primary phone number: (____) _____

Secondary phone number: (____) _____

Home email address: _____

Allergies/medical conditions: _____

Emergency contact (if primary contact cannot be reached):

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to child: _____