



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPRING
2025



Happy Spring!

*"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."
– Psalm 126:3*

This spring has been a season of joy and growth at Bethlehem. We've opened a brand-new **Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare center**, confirmed **eight new members** in their faith, received vicars and interns, and launched **Bethlehem Lutheran School**—a microschool fully operated and funded by our church, serving children in North County St. Louis. Each of these moments testifies to God's faithfulness and your continued support. We've also seen our youth and coalition ministries flourish. From basketball championships and a **50+ student Youth Lock-In**, to deeper partnerships across the **Northside Urban Ministry Coalition** (NUMC), God is at work—building unity and drawing more people to His Word.

Looking ahead, we're excited to send our students to the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Thank you for walking with us. Your support makes all of this possible.

God's Peace,
Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling

Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling - Lead Pastor

We're excited to officially introduce **Bethlehem Lutheran School**, a new K-5 school in North St. Louis that builds on the strong foundation laid by our CCLS Micro-School partnership. For the past three years, we've worked alongside Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) to provide quality Christian education in our neighborhood, and now we're launching out as our own school, carrying forward the same commitment to faith, excellence, and care for each child. The history of Bethlehem Lutheran School goes back over 100 years, and we're thrilled to bring the name and its legacy back to life as we **#BringBackTheBulldogs!**

Scan the QR Code below to learn more about how Bethlehem Lutheran School is growing out of something familiar and stepping boldly into something new.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION TO NORTH CITY AND COUNTY, ST. LOUIS, SCAN HERE!



Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare at Chapel of the Cross Ribbon Cutting!

At the beginning of May, we celebrated a huge milestone at Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare! We officially opened our **second location!** With the launch of Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare at Chapel of the Cross, we're deepening our strong partnership with Chapel of the Cross Lutheran in North City, St. Louis.

This expansion marks an exciting chapter for our ministry as we continue to grow and serve more families on the Northside through the work of the Northside Urban Ministry Coalition (NUMC). We're thankful for all God is doing and can't wait to see what's next.

Have a child between 6 weeks and 5 years old?
Find a location near you and learn more at:
www.bethlehemstlouis.org/childcare



Your involvement fuels BLC's mission, making a tangible difference in lives. Give today to uplift, empower, and transform communities. Together, let's shape a brighter future for North St. Louis.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP!



Thank You Lord of Life

Deaconess Intern Pam picked up a van full of diapers, wipes, and toys donated by Lord of Life in Chesterfield—thank you to Pastor Freudenberg and Anne for making it happen! These gifts will bless families at Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare in a big way. Please keep Lord of Life and our growing childcare ministry in your prayers!



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**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SEE
HOW YOU CAN HELP!**



THANK YOU CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE!

ON EASTER SUNDAY, WE WERE BLESSED TO SHARE THESE SPECIAL BOOKLETS WITH OUR KIDS—BIBLE STORIES WRITTEN JUST FOR THEM.

THANKS TO THE GENEROUS DONATION FROM CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE, 100 CHILDREN WENT HOME WITH STORIES OF JESUS IN THEIR HANDS. WHAT A GIFT TO BE ABLE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THIS WAY!



CALL DAY

CALL DAY

On Call Day at Concordia Seminary we received a lot of very exciting updates about the seminarians and ministry leaders connected to our Bethlehem community. God is doing big things through this next generation of church workers, and we are honored to walk alongside them in this season of preparation, formation, and faithful service.



Pam Vue's Deaconess internship focuses on early childhood education, strengthening our programs with care, clarity, and leadership. She'll also coordinate social ministry and volunteer engagement, using her heart for service and organizational gifts to help Bethlehem better serve our neighborhood with compassion, excellence, and growing community impact.



Luke Symmank begins his vicarage with us here, supported by our partnership with Lutheran North. He'll preach, teach, and lead tech and mission work at Bethlehem, serve as a Religion teacher and coach at Lutheran North, and support ministry across North Urban Ministry Coalition sites.



Chuck Wallace will serve his vicarage at Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran in North County! In addition to preaching and teaching, Chuck will help connect ministries like EAC and childcare into the life of Chapel, deepening a five-year partnership with Bethlehem. His wife, Katrina will continue in her role as Director of Worship Arts at Bethlehem!



Stephen Wareham will serve as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Valdosta, Georgia!



Caleb Gustafson will serve as vicar at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville Beach, Florida!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST US IN OUR EFFORTS TO
SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR CHURCH, SCAN HERE:





Holy Week!

Holy Week at Bethlehem was a full one! We began with a joyful Palm Sunday service, shared in the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, and reflected on Christ's sacrifice during a Tenebrae Good Friday service. On Saturday, families gathered for a free Easter Egg Hunt, and on Sunday, we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus with great joy! That same morning, we also celebrated the confirmation of **eight new members**. We are thrilled to rejoice with Jahron Allen, Faye Whitlock-Houston, Laquisha Moore, Zaviera Bolar, Clark Walker, Jessie Mitchell, Lavada Rogers, and Rita Edward, who each took a big step in their faith by boldly confessing what they believe. We are so thankful for everyone who helped make Holy Week possible, and we give thanks for all the Lord has done for us through His life, death, and resurrection.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTNER WITH US IN PROVIDING CHRIST-CENTERED CARE FOR FAMILIES ACROSS ST. LOUIS, SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SUPPORT OUR GROWING CHILDCARE MINISTRY:

Welcome Darius Ozare!



DARIUS OZARE

CENTER DIRECTOR — CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

Darius Ozare - Center Director of Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare at Chapel of the Cross

We're excited to introduce Darius Ozare, our new Center Director of Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare at Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran. Darius has worked with kids for over a decade, and he's passionate about creating places where they feel seen, safe, and supported in every way. He loves cooking (especially Caribbean food!), solving puzzles, and playing games and chess—all great ways to connect with kids. He says his faith keeps me grounded, and I'm excited to grow deeper in it as he walks alongside your families and this amazing community.

Welcome Sam Dahle



SAM DAHLE

CENTER DIRECTOR — ALL NATIONS LUTHERAN AND MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Samantha Dahle - Center Director of Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare at All Nations

We're thrilled to introduce Sam Dahle, who is stepping in as the new Center Director of Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare at our All Nations Lutheran Church. Samantha's position is in partnership with Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. She brings over a decade of preschool teaching experience within Lutheran schools, along with a Master's in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's in Business Management and Marketing. She's also a proud mom of four—James, Jack, Charlotte, and Olivia—and brings that same care and perspective to every child and family she serves.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING US IN SUPPORTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR CHURCH, SCAN HERE TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:



Ash Wednesday and Consecration Week!

Consecration Week and Ash Wednesday are an important part of our yearly ministry here at Bethlehem. Across all of our EAC sites, we participate in the imposition of ashes, remembering what the Lord has done for us. Throughout the week, we fast from everyday comforts, set aside distractions, and devote more time to prayer and Scripture. Although Consecration Week has passed, if you'd like to learn more about what that week looks like go to: www.bethlehemstlouis.org/consecrationweek



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Junior Youth Field Trip

A HUGE shout-out to Ms. Wanda for organizing an amazing after-church field trip to the Museum of Illusions for our Junior Youth! We're so thankful for the energy, creativity, and heart Ms. Wanda brings every single week to support our youth. And big thanks to all the other volunteers who helped make this trip possible—it was a day full of fun, learning, and great memories!





Youth Lock-In

Our recent Youth Lock-In was a tremendous success! We are grateful for the opportunity to invest in our students, reminding them of their identity in Christ. We are so thankful for all the volunteers who made this event possible, especially Ms. Cherelle and Ms. Sherri, for their exceptional planning. We also extend our appreciation to Director of Christian Education (DCE) Daniel Meyer from Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, who delivered a powerful message that resonated with our youth.



Thank you, Epiphany Lutheran!

Pastor Bolling and Pastor Chris attended the LCMS Best Practices for Ministry Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This experience was made possible by the generosity of Epiphany Lutheran Church & Preschool in Tallahassee, Florida, who graciously covered their travel expenses. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Tim Barber—a former BLC fieldworker—and the entire Epiphany congregation for their support. Your partnership empowers us to serve our community with renewed energy.



WE ARE REMINDED OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF SO MANY OF YOU. SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE HOW LIVES WERE IMPACTED!

LUTHERAN FOUNDATION GRANT!

As we look ahead to the exciting future of the Northside Urban Ministry Coalition (NUMC), we are thrilled to announce a major milestone—The Lutheran Foundation has awarded us a \$257,500 grant to support this transformative work!

This is the largest grant Bethlehem Lutheran Church has ever received, and we are deeply grateful for this incredible investment in our mission. With this funding, we are empowered to expand our outreach, strengthen our ministries, and serve our communities in new and impactful ways. We thank

The Lutheran Foundation and all who continue to support NUMC.

This is just the beginning!



THANK YOU GIRLFRIEND GATHERING!

At the recent Girlfriend Gathering hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, our childcare ministry received an incredible gift, thanks to the generosity of Chapel of the Cross, Zion, and all who participated. We are deeply grateful for the love and support from our sister churches, which continually enrich our ministry.



BULLDOGS TAKE 3RD PLACE IN NATIONALS!

Congratulations to our high school boys' basketball team for securing 3rd Place at the National Tournament! This remarkable achievement reflects their hard work, dedication, and exceptional teamwork throughout the competition. We couldn't be prouder of how they represented our community.



Support Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis as we serve our community through outreach, youth programs, and events—your generosity makes a lasting difference; scan here to give!



JOINT SERVICE AT FAITH OAKVILLE

We had a wonderful joint service at Faith Oakville which served as a reminder of the power of community in Christ. We're grateful for their partnership and support as we continue sharing the Gospel and serving our neighbors. Special thanks to Sarah Crowder for capturing this incredible day! Additionally, a significant financial gift was collected during the service and presented to us. We are so thankful for this continued relationship with Faith Oakville!



BOB SCHAPP CLASSIC BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball team for securing first place in the Bob Schnapp Classic! Their hard work, teamwork, and dedication truly paid off.



CONSISTENT GIVING
ENSURES BLC'S
FINANCIAL
STABILITY. DONATE
ONCE OR SET UP
RECURRING GIFTS
ON OUR WEBSITE.
SCAN HERE TO GIVE:



NORTH-SIDE URBAN MINISTRY COALITION NUMC

In the last two months since the North-side Urban Ministry Coalition (NUMC) officially began, we've already seen some exciting growth! We've been working closely with All Nations Lutheran Church and their worship, with seminarians preaching and pastors offering support. We've opened a new Bethlehem Lutheran Childcare location at Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, we are close to launching another site at All Nations, and have begun early development for a future site at St. Peter's in Spanish Lake. Pastors from all NUMC churches continue to meet regularly as we look ahead and seek where the Lord is leading this ministry coalition. If you'd like to learn more about what the NUMC is, scan the QR Code and watch the video below!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE VIDEO!



EAC UPDATE!

It's been a full and exciting year for our Ephratha Activity Center (EAC) camps! Across four sites, we served hundreds of kids each week—sharing Jesus' love and pointing them to His truth. And with summer just around the corner, we're thrilled to open our camps again, serving over 200 kids daily from 8:30am to 2:45pm.

Want your child to be part of it? Email Trevonte.Brock@bethlehemstlouis.org or visit www.bethlehemstlouis.org/summercamp.

Looking ahead, we're seeing God open new doors. With the development of childcare centers we are seeing real progress happening. As these ministries grow alongside EAC, we're excited to see them work together, caring for children and families in deeper ways.



IF YOU OR YOUR CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITHFUL LEADERS, SCAN THIS QR CODE:

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK!

We celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week, highlighting our exceptional students from Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) Academy and our Childcare program. We also honored students attending Lutheran North Middle and High School, Lutheran South, Lutheran St. Charles, Word of Life Lutheran School, and Grace Chapel Lutheran School.



WANT TO MAKE
A MEANINGFUL
IMPACT ON THE
LIVES OF OUR
YOUTH? SCAN
THE CODE TO
SEE HOW YOU
CAN GET
INVOLVED AND
SUPPORT THIS
MINISTRY!



PASTOR BOLLING AT CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL, PEORIA, IL.

Pastor Bolling had the privilege of preaching at Christ Lutheran School in Peoria, IL. It was a joy to connect with our sister church and see Principal Nat Schmidtke (a son of our congregation) leading faithfully. What a blessing to share the hope we have in Christ!



PASTOR BOLLING AT TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

Pastor Bolling recently led chapel at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Springfield, IL. We're grateful that their school will support Bethlehem Lutheran Church with their fourth-quarter chapel offerings. It's a blessing to see how God connects churches and schools in His mission. Thank you, Trinity Lutheran, for your generosity and partnership!





Join Us For Worship!
 Sunday Service @ 10:30 AM
www.bethlehemstlouis.org
 314-231-4702



2153 Salisbury Street,
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