



## **BETHLEHEM'S STATEMENT OF MISSION (2017)**

**Bethlehem is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who gather around the Word and the Sacraments whereby we are strengthened, encouraged, and sent to serve our Lord in the world.**

### **We Gather . . .**

We gather around worship experiences which are rooted in deep and lively traditions of evangelical proclamation and sacramental celebration; we make exceptional use of music and the visual arts as we strive for worship that is meaningful, authentic, and responsive to community contexts.

We invite and welcome anyone and everyone, members and non-members, to worship with us and enjoy our fellowship in Christ.

We strengthen our bonds with one another through fellowship events.

We provide ministries that engage, affirm, and nurture children and youth as an integral part of the congregation.

We offer adult religious education for members and visitors.

### **We Are Sent . . .**

We address hunger in our community through food pantries as well as our own food drives.

We also work to alleviate human suffering and injustice, both directly and through community and government institutions.

We support members in times of crisis through Stephen Ministry and in other ways.

We minister on the Butler campus in partnership with the Episcopal Church through Grace Unlimited, and we welcome their students (and others) in our worship and fellowship.

We offer our building to the community as a meeting place for non-profit organizations and activities such as Narcotics Anonymous, the Dulcimer Society, and for voting.

We support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its Indiana-Kentucky Synod, and through them engage in ministries far and wide.

All these things and more express our faith, our hope, and our love for others, as a people who are thankful to God for the Gospel which shapes our lives.