

BETHLEHEM STAR

Newsletter of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Pemberville, Ohio

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - November 2025

Birthdays! I love birthdays! I love the blessing God gives when a new one is born, and then a celebration each time the earth makes another circle around the sun. In the midst of this we know that life can be difficult, yea even painful. But birthdays can remind us of the continuing care God has for all of God's people, especially in the tough times.

Baptisms! I love Baptisms! The first birth is and now the new Christiam, young and old, comes to the fount for a second baptism. In my first birth I received the family name, "Philabaum." I also was given the first name, "Timothy," and the second name, "Paul" both known to us from their witness in Scripture. In the second birth, May 16, I was baptized into the family of "Christian." How awesome is that - - part and parcel with all the baptized here and everywhere, of all

time and place, under the love

of Jesus.

On November 10. 1483 Hans and Margarette Luther were blessed with a new son. What a gift to this family, and a promise of hope that each child brings. Then the next day they took him to be baptized – his 2nd birth. He was washed and claimed into a new family, that of the Family of God. He was given the name, "Martin," since Nov 11 is the day we remember St. Martin of Tours, the 4th Century soldier who converted to Christianity and witnessed to the love of Jesus. What a great 2nd birthday!

As you well know, Luther went on to protest against abuses in the Roman Catholic Church, leading to a separation. A symbol of Luther's theology is encapsulated in the picture attached: "A black cross in a red rose, representing our faith in the crucified Christ, on a white rose of joy, comfort, and peace in Jesus, surrounded by the blue of



heavenly joy and finally a golden ring calling forth the bliss of heaven."

All this from a birthday. From the time of the first humans through history, even through grandparents and parents, we are blessed with having been born. We are here in this world that God loves so much that He sent His Son, Jesus. And our baptism into the Holy Trinity has washed us into a new family exceeding all time and place. We are siblings with Marten and Katie, with prophets and teachers and parents and protesters and lovers. We are children of The Most High. What a gift!

Blessings to you on both your birthdays, and on the presence of Jesus in your lives.

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PresidentSusie Rahe

Vice-President Luann Snyder

Treasurer Renee Farmer

Secretary Brenda Graham

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419-287-4182
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Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs.
9:00am - 2:00pm
Friday: 9:00am-Noon
If you need to update your contact
information including if you have a
PO Box, please call the office

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting today, Sunday, November 2, 2025 after the church service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect 2026 officers, approve the spending plan for 2026, to vote on funding for a carbon monoxide system to bring our fire alarm system code compliant in the amount of \$8694.00, and to ask the congregation to participate in a survey

regarding our Sunday service.

Thank you to the nominating committee, (Corey Bettenbrock, Renee Farmer, Willie Fisher, Ken Gerwin, Teri Hansen and Steve Rife) for their work to compile a slate of members running for office. A big thank you also to those who agreed to putting their name on the slate. We were able to fill a name for each office, but we can still add names, if anyone is willing to run. The following are the names of those who have accepted the call to run for office:

Vice President: Susie Rahe

Elder: Ken Gerwin

Deacon: Andrew Derr, Andrew Kreais and Dan Rife

Trustees: Daniel Smith Secretary: Shelly Albright Treasurer: Kelli Young

ELCA Good Gifts:

In Christ, we receive the gift of God's love with others. ELCA Good Gifts are a fun, meaningful way to honor friends and family with Christmas gifts that go on to make a difference in the world. Choose from more than 50 gift-giving options (goats anyone?), each with the ability to make a real difference in the life of someone in need. Give in honor of someone special and you can print, mail or email a card to let them know.

Catalogs and order forms are available outside the office. Complete an order form and submit your payment to the office with checks made payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with ELCA Good Gifts in the memo line. We will send the orders to ELCA as a group with a goal of sending at least \$500. Please submit your order forms by Sunday Dec. 14, 2025.

All Saints Sunday

On November 2 we pause in worship to give thanks for those who have completed their baptism and have been called to join God's Kingdom in eternity. Even in the midst of mourning, we are thankful for God's presence in their lives, and the promise of eternal life with them through Jesus. Those who have died since last All Saints Sunday are:

Alton Beeker, Wilma Rolf, Harold McArthur, Carson Bonito, Julia Coon, Joyce Brinker, Darla Rahe, Kris Nuffer, Ken Wasserman, William Fisher Sr., Mark Skowren & LaVern Sieving Gondry.

This is also the time to remember those who have been baptized this year, who are washed and claimed in the Name of Jesus. What a joy to have them in our community. What a joy to hear their voices as together we lift up in song. What a joy it will be to see them grow in God's love. Those who were baptized since last All Saint's Sunday are:

Barrett Bettenbrock, Aldon Pizarro, Aurora Pfeiffer & Henry Roller.

May our loving God bless us, our families, our people, our nation, as together we work to witness the love of Jesus.

BY THE NUMBERS From The Financial Office						
October, 2025	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance		
Operating	\$240,417.97	\$35,901.83	\$30,492.90	\$245,826.90		
Memorial	\$31,654.68			\$31,654.68		
Benevolence	\$18,192.04	\$1,776.00		\$19,968.04		
Outreach	\$56,190.90	\$7,026.70	\$4,574.57	\$58,643.03		
Pass Through						

Tithe.ly QR Code

Anyone is welcome to make a one time or reoccurring donation by using the QR code that links to Tithe.ly, Bethlehem's online giving portal. When you scan the QR code, you will be required to set up an account, which only takes a few minutes. There is a small transaction fee for the use of the app. The app will prompt you to indicate your choice to pay the transaction fee or have it deducted from your donation. Thank you for supporting the ministries at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.





Mission Honduras Buckeye Sale

Saturday, November 15th-Sunday, November 16th

Cost: \$10/dozen. Cash or check payable to Mission Honduras-Bethlehem.

All proceeds will be used to purchase, distribute, and maintain household water filters in rural Honduras.



To preorder sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A4A723A7F85-59970943-mission ,scan the QR code, call/text 419-575-0078, email missionhonduras.bethelehem@gmail.com, or sign up on the sheet outside of the office. Please include your name, amount (sold by the dozen), contact information (for a reminder) and pick-up day (Saturday or Sunday).

Please place preorders by Wednesday evening, November 12th.

Preorder pick-up in the Bethlehem Fellowship Hall:

- Saturday, November 15th from 12 PM-2 PM.
- Sunday, November 16th from 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM.
- No preorders will be held after Sunday 12:30 PM unless prior arrangements are made.

Didn't preorder? Sunday, November 16th, 11 AM-1 PM or until sold out. We will post on the Mission Honduras Facebook page and the Bethlehem Facebook page when the buckeyes are sold out.

Want to help make buckeyes? Bethlehem Fellowship Hall Saturday, November 15th, 8am-12 pm. RSVP helpful but not required. Sign-up sheet outside the office or text/call 419-575-0078.

Thank you for your support!



Sunday Service Survey

We would like your feedback! Whether you attend in person or watch on-line we would like your input as we seek to make our Sunday services meaningful and uplifting. Your feedback will help us grow together as a church family. The survey is anonymous unless you choose to provide your name. The survey maybe taken via paper or

on-line by the link https:/forms.gleddX1rJYrrW7YVm579 or QR code.

For hardcopy surveys there is a drop box in front of the office window. We are asking that surveys be completed by Sunday, November 16th.





2025 Christmas order form for 6 1/2" potted Red Poinsettias

Order deadline is Sunday, November 23rd.

Poinsettias are \$17 each. Proceeds from the sale of poinsettias will go towards

Snack Pack for the community.

Checks should be made to **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**.

Please put "Poinsettia" in the memo line on your check.

Drop off at the office, or mail to: PO Box 344, Pemberville, OH 43450

Your name (s) as you wish it in the bulletin:							
Phone:	Number of Plants: Red						
Amt. Enclosed: \$							
In honor of:							

Plants will be in the chancel for Christmas Eve. They may be picked up after 10pm worship Christmas Eve. Plants left after December 30th will be given away. Thank you!

OCTOBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Observations of Bethlehem living our mission

- Holy Hoe Down was a great success and the number of people attending were astounding.
- 2. Seeing new faces Sunday morning
- 3. Preschool parents loaded the bus for the Mission Action project

Reports of Officers:

- A. Pastors report: Pastor's report reviewed, Spiritual gift sermon presented at other churches
- B. Treasurer's report: Report reviewed
- C. Trustee Report- Roof update -it is coming along and looking good, Trustee report added, Rudolph Libbey wanted an additional \$3310.00 due to additional 2 days and 2 additional dumpsters required for he roofing job. Motion to approve additional \$3310.00 to Rudolph Libbey Inc. made by Renee Farmer with

the roofing job. Motion to approve additional \$3310.00 to Rudolph Llbbey Inc. made by Renee Farmer with second by Pastor Tim, Belfry is free of bees, Fire alarm update: CO detectors are to be added to have alarm system up to date at a cost of over \$8,000.00, Parking lot update- will be completed after roofing project, Paint is peeling in women's bathroom -repair date to be determined, Outside steps- Contacted Dave Andrews to purchase oil based paint, Stained glass windows - contacted a contractor for an estimate

-Snow Removal- North Branch- discussed costs associated with snow removal, Windows- replacing windows in all of the education unit and 9 windows on the 3rd floor and 1 in the basement. Anderson Windows quoted a price and Integrity will update their price. Preschool willing to put some funds toward the window replacement.

Committee Reports:

- A. Strategic Planning
 - a. Sprint teams discussed
 - b. FCA meeting for kids and providing snacks goal to sponsor something at Bethlehem,
 - c. Need additional members to serve on Christian Life Committee
 - d. Sunday Service Feedback Survey add question about watching service on line, in section 4, add question about flow of service, plan was to make the Survey available on line and on paper. Plan to have survey ready at the meeting on November 2nd Congregational meeting
- B. Call Committee
- a. Met with potential candidates- not a good fit for the Church at this time. Will meet again to further de-brief C. Long Range Planning
 - a. There will be discussion about different options for giving
 - b. ELCA "Good Gifts" and making people more aware of that option
 - c. Long range planning has been posting questions in the lounge for coffee hour to encourage further discussion
- D. Nominating committee

VP- Susie Rahe Elder: Ken Gerwin Trustee: Daniel Smith

Deacons: Andrew Kreais and Dan Rife Still looking for Trustee and Deacon

Secretary: Shelly Albright

Treasurer: in conversation with Kelly Young and Amy Eisenhour

Old Business:

- A. Terra Choir from Terra College in Fremont-12/16/2025 & 3/1/2026 at 7:30 in Sanctuary and open to the public.
- B. Carols & Beers- 12/14/2025 at the Legion 6:30pm-8:30pm
- C. November Congregational Meeting will be held November 2, 2025
 - I. 2026 Spending plan-
- D. Preschool issue over the summer has been resolved.

New Business:

- A. Council Resignation- Kyle Culp has resigned from Council.
- B. Party for Ukrainian family will be on October 26, 2025 at 2:00pm at the Church as they are moving to Chicago
- C. Women's Thank Offering November 9th, 2025

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Graham Council Secretary



Happening This Month: November

November Mission Action Project: Thankoffering Boxes

Thankoffering boxes are available in the Narthex or the Mission Action room. The boxes are to be used as a collection for small offerings whenever one is thankful for something. The boxes are collected at the Thankoffering Worship Service in November. The BLCW board designates certain programs from the Women of the ELCA that these donations will help fund.



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Roger Hansen, Terri Reinhart, Pastor Pete Johnson, Eileen Schuerman., David Randall, Rick Rahe, Randi Parton, Jean Ladd

FOR OUR BISHOPS

Elizabeth Eaton and Daniel Beaudoin

FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Sociedad Amigos de los Ninos Honduras, Missions International (Haiti), Redeemer Church, Operation Christmas Child

FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

Snack Pack Program, Good Samaritan Fund, Community Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Grace's Place,

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool & Extended Care, WCOAA Senior Care, Cub Scout Pack 344, Scouts BSA Troops 344 and 9344

FOR ALL YOUTH
FOR OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

November:

- Apple Juice
- Children Cereal
- Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo (M&W)

The Food Pantry always accepts non-perishable food items such as canned fruits vegetables, boxed potatoes cereal and soups. They also accept facial tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaners, laundry detergent, fabric softener and basic personal items (soap, deodorant. toothbrushes. toothpaste. shampoo conditioner).

Food for the pantry can be left in the Mission Action Room (111) any time. The bins are located right inside the door on a table.

Monetary donations are always welcomed so that the pantry can restock items as needed.

The Food Pantry is available every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as well as the second and last Saturday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (excluding holidays) for Eastwood community residents in need of food.



Serving this month in Worship and Beyond

Altar Flowers
Marlene Hoodlebrink

Altar Guild
Pat Cline
Trina Karns

Office Window
Deb Helm

Service Org (Funerals)
Janice Smith
Cathy Kutzil

Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

Celebrate this joyous occasion with the members below by sending a card or give a greeting!

- ♦ 11/2 Ruth Kruse
- ♦ 11/23 Ron Andrews
- ♦ 11/29 Faye Schuerman

If your 80+ birthday is not included here, please contact the office at

419-287-4182 so we can update our records.



THANKY OU

Thank you so much for the money donated from the Norsy Offerining on 9-7-25. your donations will help the families in the backpack program.

Thanks again,

The backpack tean

Deb Helm, Bucky Schult,

Tanice Smill, ? Cyrdi Walter

GENACROSS®

LUTHERAN SERVICES
FOUNDATION



2021 N. McCord Road Toledo, Ohio 43615 419.861.4965

October 15, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 220 Cedar Street Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Valued Friends,

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation. Your donation of \$239.20 to our Foundation Wolf Creek Campus for the Chapel Fund will have a truly transformative impact, and we could not do this important work without you.

In the enclosed *God in Our Midst*, we've shared some of the wonderful accomplishments made possible by your generosity. These stories reflect the difference your contributions make, and we are so grateful for your part in helping to bring them to life. Every child and resident deserves a chance, and through your support, you are helping make that a reality.

You and your loved ones will be in our prayers, that you might remain connected to us by our mission statement: "Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey."

Thank you for your unwavering belief in our mission and for your commitment to doing good. We simply could not fulfill our purpose without dedicated congregations like you!

With sincere appreciation,

Michael A. George, CFRE Executive Director Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation

Posts Philaden + Pape of 10/12/2025
Bethlehem

Thank you for the invitation
to worship both you and shore
the Word + Sacranata . There are
sor many folk who make things
happen at Bethlehem + sor
much energy present. It is a
blessing too be a port of it.

That you as well for your
continued support of the chipel
find at 96 of Creek.

Thatk you for allowing us to other your 4-H meetings.
The space worked very well for our club and we have use it again in the future. Please accept this donation as a token of our appreciation.

Thank you

Duke's nivture 4-H Chillip

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Keep On Praying

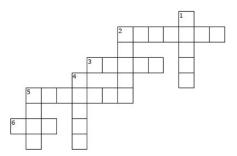
Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1 (NIV) This puzzle is based on Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)



For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14b (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 18:9-14 (NIV).





ACROSS

- 2. To be treated fairly
- 3. A woman whose husband has died and who has not remarried
- A simple story illustrating a moral or religious lesson
- The period from sunrise to sunset (light)

DOWN

- The period between sunset and sunrise (darkness)
- An official who hears and decides cases brought before a court of law
- 4. A belief that does not require proof
- To speak to or make a request to God

C	J	U	S	Т	I	F	I	Е	D	Е	L	D	W	F
F	A	F	I	N	L	E	X	A	L	T	K	0	R	Z
T	J	I	R	I	G	Н	T	E	0	U	S	X	0	R
C	C	W	C	Α	D	U	L	Т	E	R	E	R	S	K
S	Α	0	Α	Z	Н	В	C	U	D	S	K	P	V	P
E	٧	I	L	D	0	E	R	S	Т	E	M	P	L	E
C	W	Н	0	L	I	V	M	E	C	U	Т	M	P	Y
Т	R	0	В	В	E	R	S	Z	Α	N	٧	M	R	F
Н	E	A	٧	E	N	C	I	P	E	S	K	E	Α	L
S	U	В	Т	Н	Т	Н	T	D	Α	I	Т	R	Y	Y
I	E	M	P	T	T	Н	I	0	J	R	F	C	K	P
N	W	D	В	W	X	F	A	G	R	F	A	Y	В	E
N	F	Т	G	L	N	F	Z	N	C	F	D	В	K	0
E	Q	L	A	0	E	T	W	R	K	M	J	D	L	W
R	E	T	C	X	P	Н	A	R	I	S	E	E	W	E

TEMPLE	EXALT	TAX	PARABLE	LOOK
JUSTIFIED	HEAVEN	PHARISEE	RIGHTEOUS	HUMBLE
BREAST	COLLECTOR	ROBBERS	THANK	EVILDOERS
MERCY	PRAY	ADULTERERS	CONFIDENT	SINNER

justice	night	pray	widow
faith	day	judge	parable



NOVEMBER

Cundey	Constant Manufacture Touristics Westernston Thomason Fisher Catandar							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
						1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
All Saint Sunday	6:45 pm Yoga	11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	6-7pm Girl Scout Meeting		1	8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open		
Special Congregation Meeting 9:00 am Worship	6.45 pm roga	rood Pantry open	6:30 pm Bells			rood Pantry open		
In-person and on Facebook/YouTube			7:30 pm Choir					
10:15am Adult Bible Study								
11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM								
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
Woman ThankOffering	6:45 pm Yoga	9:00 am Knotting		6-7:30 pm Girl Scout				
Service 9:00 am Worship	7pm Priscilla Circle	11:00 am - 2:00 pm	6:30-8pm Cub Scouts	Meeting				
In-person and on Facebook/YouTube		Food Pantry open	6:30 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	6:30pm Make-It-Take-It				
10:15am Sunday School								
11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM								
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
9:00 am Worship In-person and on	6:45 pm Yoga	11:00 am - 2:00 pm	6-7pm Girl Scout	7pm Council		8:00 - 11:00 am		
Facebook/YouTube	, 3	Food Pantry open	Meeting	Meeting		Food Pantry open		
10:15am Adult Bible Study		6pm Bible Study	6:30 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir					
11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM								
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29		
9:00 am Worship In-person and on	6:45 pm Yoga	9:00 am Knotting	7:00 pm					
Facebook/YouTube		11:00 am - 2:00 pm	Thanksgiving Worship	Office Closed	Office Closed			
10:15 am Adult Bible Study		Food Pantry open	Office Closed					
11:30 am		6pm Bible Study						
Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM								
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