



BETHLEHEM STAR



NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - May 2025

On Easter Sunday the flowers, so colorful in front of the Altar and up the cross, sang to us to the beauty of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus! Music, word, community gathered, and our Lord presence in bread and wine all spoke of the power of love, in which God chose life over death, hope over fear, and servanthood over power. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We continue the celebration of Easter for a "week-of-weeks", seven Sundays of Easter, seven Sundays during which we explore the gift of the resurrected Jesus. And then, between Sundays 6-7, we come together with the disciples, and watch as our Lord ascends into Heaven. Alleluia!

So, what happened? Where did He go? For the 1st Century believers it was clear that He went "up" into the heavens. But we, who are beneficiaries of the views of space rockets know that "above the clouds"



doesn't make sense.

No, God does not live on the clouds. God, being God, dwells everywhere and breathes through everything. From the far-flung universe to the inside of the smallest atom, God is. Jesus did not have to go "up" to go to God. But He did leave the sight of the disciples (even to today)

After the Resurrection the disciples grew in their understanding that the death of Jesus took all the brokenness between us and God, between us and each other, away. All that, crucified with Jesus. During the 40 days after the Resurrection Jesus proved to them that he was alive, had a physical body (although different), and that He was calling them to

a life of witness and service.

What I find important on Ascension Day is not so much "where" Jesus went, but "with Whom." Jesus went back into the unity of the Most Holy Trinity, where He was (and always will be) One with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus fully God and since His birth fully human, is God. And therefore (follow this logic) where God is, Jesus is. And where is God? Everywhere! Even in my heart!

Jesus said to the disciples, "I will not leave you alone." Always, in the midst of our joy, or sorrow, or change, or lack of change, or...God is fully with us, always, no matter what. Death is conquered. There is no final enemy. Everything turns on God's love in Jesus. We are wrapped in that grace. And it's all good!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

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President

Susie Rahe

Vice-President

Luann Snyder

Treasurer

Renee Farmer

Secretary

Jen Schuerman

220 Cedar Street

PO Box 344

Pemberville, OH 43450

419-287-4182

bethlehempemberville.org

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

9:00am - 2:00pm

9:00 am- 12:pm Friday

If you need to update your contact information including if you have a

PO Box, please call the office

or email

office@bethlehempemberville.org

Worship on Memorial Day Sunday

One of the blessings of our community is the gift of joint worship with Christians of other denominations. Again, we gather on Memorial Day Sunday, May 25, at 10:30, joining with other Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Methodists to offer our worship and praise. In light of the importance of the weekend we will meet outside, at Troy Township Cemetery, located at the east end of Luckey. Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets as together we give thanks to our awesome God for so many blessings!

Future services this year include: July 6 at Sonfire By The River, August 17 (the Sunday before the Free Fair) at the Presbyterian Church, and August 31 at Bethlehem

Long-Range Planning Committee

If you or your organization sees a need in the community or the world, please complete a request for funding from the Endowment Fund, identifying how you or your group would use the money. The Long-range Planning Committee will review submissions and disburse money as deemed appropriate. Money will be distributed into categories such as poverty, global missions, congregational support, leadership, and disaster relief. Forms are available in the office and the deadline for submission to the office is June 2, 2025. The decision on disbursements will be made by the end of July.

Spring North Central Conference

May 3, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church, Williston

8:30 a.m. Registration (\$10) and continental breakfast 9:00 a.m.. Bible Study

Speaker: Lisa Eisenbach, founder

Nightingales Harvest

Support for families dealing with cancer.

Kelly Morse, CGC : Advantages of genetic testing

Lunch & more information coming

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.



Blessing of the Fields

There has been a tradition from the early Church that fields be blessed the days before Ascension Day. Pastor Tim was able to visit several farms and ask God's blessing on the growing of the crops, and on the safety and health of the farm families.

This year, I will be coming around to bless the fields (Rogation) between Sunday, May 25 and Thursday, May 29. Let me know if you would like to be part of this blessing.

Also, our North-Central Conference of our Synod will hold an Ascension and "Rogation" service on Thursday evening, to which all are welcome.



BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

March, 2025	<i>Beg Balance</i>	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Operating	\$84,668.40	\$35,001.13	\$19,691.97	\$99,977.56
Memorial	\$8,038.18	\$50.00		\$8,088.18
Benevolence	\$16,275.54	\$4,684.00		\$20,959.54
Outreach	\$48,527.19	\$4,669.37	\$6,579.14	\$46,617.42
Pass Through				

Mission Honduras

The next Mission Honduras brigade will take place from May 20-29, in collaboration with the John Carroll University medical brigade. During the brigade, we will distribute approximately 300 water filters to new households! While a few filters will go to new homes in villages where we have previously distributed, most new filters will be distributed to residents in two new villages, Limones and Las Haguas, and to families living in homes scattered in the countryside near Mata.

During each distribution:

- ◇ Each family will check in at our desk, where we will create a "filter record" containing their name, date of birth, and national ID number. Each filter will receive a unique barcode, which will be recorded in the filter log. Our village advocate will work with us to ensure each household receives a filter.
- ◇ Our Honduran team will then spend around twenty minutes with each family, educating them on bacteria and parasites found in contaminated water and their impact on their family's health, emphasizing the importance of clean water in all aspects of daily life, and providing hands-on practice in cleaning their new filter.
- ◇ Following this, families will work individually with a member of our American team to practice assembling and maintaining their filters. We will also reinforce the importance of using only clean water when backwashing the filters and, once again, reinforce all the uses of clean water.
- ◇ Finally, each family will receive a Mission Honduras coloring book, which includes information on filter care, the benefits of clean water, fun activities such as mazes and coloring pages for children and select Bible verses.

During the May brigade, we will continue supporting previously distributed filters, focusing on those provided over the past year. When necessary, we will replace any Filters of Hope that have exceeded their useful lifespan with Sawyer International filters.

Additionally, we will barcode every filter we encounter, allowing us to track each one effectively. This tracking system will enable us to tailor our training, monitor filter lifespans, and improve budgeting efforts. Lastly, we will follow up on the filters distributed to children's homes in Nuevo Paraiso.

Looking ahead to January, we plan to distribute an additional 300 filters and conduct follow-ups on those provided in May. If you are interested in joining our January brigade, please let me know! Thank you for your support of this mission.

Darla

419-575-0078



APRIL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Approval of Agenda: Additional items:
Old Business: E: Landscaping

Observations of living our mission:

- Preschool Spring Fling at BLC
- New people in church & becoming members
- Recent baptism & the brunch after
- Asked to host a funeral for a non-member.

Reports of Officers:

A:Pastor's report: Pastors written report was reviewed
-Pastor shared the list of Eastwood seniors to send an invitation to apply for the BLC senior scholarships

B:Treasurer's reports reviewed

C: Trustee Report-

- 1)The heater in the sanctuary is not working, a call has been made to Bob's Plumbing to check it out.
- 2) Getting estimates on removal of the chimney before roof work gets underway.

Committee Reports:

A: Strategic Planning-

- 1.Serving our community: Ecumenical outreach
 - a .Holy week flyer was sent out
2. Enhancing Member Engagement-Christian Life Committee meeting
 - a. Social Gatherings-starting 2025 & ongoing
 - b. Enhance Sunday School & catechism
 - c. Create Interest based groups
 - d. Develop family centered events & ministry to engage new or interested members to feel connected to BLC
 - e. Identify meaningful programming for youth & young adults
 - f. Bible school
3. Ensuring a Vibrant future- Spiritual Gifts Inventory
 - a. Is this a good exercise, will people sign-up
 - b. Announce activities & see who will participate
 - c. Create an on-line version
 - d. Put the survey in the May newsletter, Pastor will have a sermon walking members through the survey.

B. Call committee-

1. Ministry Site Profile is complete
- a. Council approved the MSP completed by the Transition Team. Susie R will submit to the Bishop for approval and posting in the ELC's Mobile Database System.

C. Long Range Planning-

1. Building walk-through is upcoming to see what the needs are
- 2.Fund requests will be reviewed.

Old Business:

A.Pre School: Luann & Susie will meet with Denise Friday to discuss insurance requirements.

B. Fire Alarm: late May/June for installation

C. Pastor Tim's 45th celebration-June 8th

D. Offering plates: old plates have been refurbished. Will ask Beeker Family if they wish memorial funds to be used elsewhere

E. Landscaping:

- installation is complete , now we need to water. Groundskeeper gave a quote for \$135 per visit. Council feels we can get volunteers to do this work. will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers
- still working on prayer garden upgrade & option

New Business:

A: New members: David, Nancy & Kayla Pfeiffer

Motion to accept new members by Roger B., second by Dean S.- motion carries

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 15,2025 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Schuerman
Council Secretary



Happening This Month: May

May Mission Action Project: Luther Home Of Mercy

The Luther Home of Mercy is a 129 bed intermediate care facility for the developmentally handicapped.

Items needed:

- *Construction paper (all colors)
- *Crayons
- *Coloring books (large pictures)
- *Washable markers
- *Stickers
- *Seasonal window clings



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Darla Rahe, Kate Philabaum, Rose Corns, Matt Meyer,
Diane Swartz

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,
The Linen Closet, Grace's Place,
Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool & Extended Care, WCOAA
Senior Care, Cub Scout Pack 344, Scouts BSA Troops 344
and 9344

FOR ALL YOUTH

Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

May:

- **Rice-A-Roni**
- **Mustard or Ketchup**
- **Canned Fruit**
- **Laundry Soap**
- **Toothpaste**

The Food Pantry always accepts non-perishable food items such as canned fruits and 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 and 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
Need Volunteer

Altar Guild
Diane Lang
Marlene Meyer

Office Window

Service Org (Funerals)
Sue Gerke
Cyndi Walters

Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ♦ 5/7 John Keiser
- ♦ 5/17 Ruth Walters
- ♦ 5/20 Joyce Eisenhower

If your 80+ birthday is not included here, please contact the office at 419-287-4182 so we can update our records.



T H A N K Y O U



2021 N. McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio 43615
419.861.4965

April 15, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
220 Cedar Street
Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Valued Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Genacross Lutheran Services, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your recent donation of **\$953.00** for **Home Health Care**. Your support means the world to us and directly impacts the lives of our Genacross family. Your generosity allows us to continue our mission of "embracing individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout their journey."

With your help, we have been able to serve over 1700 residents, patients and clients with 372 staff. Genacross provided nearly \$2 million in charitable care and community benefit to those we are blessed to serve. Some of our highlights include the opening of two senior adaptive pocket parks for the residents at our Luther Crest and Luther Woods communities, a new basketball court at our Maumee Youth Center and a new library with bookshelves and tables. Generous donors provided over 700 books to open this library.

We appreciate your dedication to our cause. Your commitment has made a real difference, and we're deeply grateful for your support. We hope you take pride in what we have achieved together and look forward to continuing this journey with you.

If you have further questions about your donation and the impact it has made, don't hesitate to contact me. I am available by phone, 419.861.4964 or you can contact me by email at: migeorge@genacross.org.

With sincere thanks,

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



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES
of Northwestern Ohio

Strengthening People in Body, Mind and Spirit

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
2149 Collingwood Blvd. • Toledo, Ohio 43620-1696
(419) 243-6178 • FAX (419) 243-4450
E-mail: toledo@lssnw.org
www.lssnw.org

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
220 Cedar St.
Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Friends at Bethlehem Lutheran Church;

April is a month of hope, inspiration and Easter blessings! Thank you for being the hope, inspiration and blessing that you continue to be for the clients we serve. Your gift of \$515 received on 4/11/2025 and serving LSS Ministries.

During uncertain times, clients turn to our agency for needs that we are able to meet due to your generosity. This cannot be measured or summed up by a small thank you. Our mission is fulfilled with the assistance of wonderful individuals like you.

Thank you,

Tracia Jaksetic
Vice President



KIDS ACTIVITIES

Feed My Sheep

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 21:15-19



W Z A D S E L W S A I D R C P
A O P X F E Q J A D N J K I E
E C C S I K B N V E D I E R F
P M U P R S Y Q D A T R U T H
J S G G L O R I F Y A T Z F R
E A N G B K J Z D C R D A E K
E A M X A E A T I N G S C E G
T T H I N G S J E S U S N D U
P E J R H U R T S R I U Q D B
Y E Y J L D N L O N F P R R L
B P T H A S N B A O E I A T E
M T N E X H L A H M H N Y W L
R O D L R E D O F T B X Q P W
V F R D E E P B V G S S N B J
T U I E F P E U T E A R O W R

EATING
SAID
SHEEP

JESUS
PETER
THINGS

TRUTH
HURT
LOVE

CARE
GLORIFY
THIRD

MORE
FEED
LAMBS

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	5 6:45 pm Yoga	6 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study Preschool Mom's Night 5:30-8pm	7 6:00--7:00pm Girl Scout Meeting 6:00pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	8 5:30-8:00pm Girl Scout Meeting	9	10 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
11 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15am Sunday School 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	12 6:45 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle	13 9:00 am Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study	14 6:30--8:00pm Cub Scout Meeting 6:15pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	15 7:00pm Council Meeting	16	17
18 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	19 6:45 pm Yoga	20 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study	21 6:15pm Bells 7:30pm Choir Preschool Celebration 5-9pm	22	23	24 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
25 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	26 6:45 pm Yoga	27 9:00 am Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study	28 6:15pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	29	30	31

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 344
Pemberville, OH 43450

*Return service requested
Dated material. Do not delay*

A large stained glass window depicting the Last Supper. Jesus is seated on the right, wearing a blue robe with a red sash, looking towards the left. To his left, several other figures are seated at a table, including one in a green robe and another in a yellow robe. The table is set with a chalice, a plate of bread, and a glass. The background of the window shows a stone wall and architectural details.

Worship

9:00 AM

**In person in the sanctuary and
streaming on Facebook and YouTube**

11:30

Broadcast on 99.1 FM