



# BETHLEHEM STAR

NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO



## Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - February 2025

Brothers and sisters, Bethlehem is in a time of change. All around this congregation is change – another year around the sun, another administration in the White House, winter to spring, to summer, fall, and back to winter, and maybe an ending to some of our wars. Change is constant.

But within the church, change too: Another Church council to lead us this year; our children are getting older and taller (even our no-longer-young people are getting less young); baptisms, funerals, weddings; and the Transition Committee and Call Committee are working on discerning just who God is calling to be the next Pastor of this congregation. Change is constant.

Here in the midst of these changes we may see God's hand. The world has been changing since it's very beginning, and God has been continually massaging it/us with love and truth, so



that we may reflect God's gift of grace. Of course, God kind-a stopped the change for a brief time as Jesus was born, lived a very human life, taught, forgave, nurtured, loved, spoke truth to power, and then took all of the world's brokenness onto Himself on the cross. (We already were used to pain, suffering, and death.) The Big Change came about on Sunday morning, when Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, expecting to anoint her friend and found instead that God had conquered death, raising Jesus, and bringing that gift to God's family.

It seems like the world is turning like it has for millennium, but the

truth is that the Change already embraced us at the Resurrection, so that when the Last Day comes, we will see the truth of God's relentless grace, forgiveness, and love.

Love – ah, that hasn't changed. As St. Paul reminds us in Romans, "nothing can separate us from the love of God." Not even time or change! No matter what is going on in your life, God never lets go of you, but holds on, continue to massage you with grace, bringing you to the conclusion of eternal joy. No matter what.

So, enter in to February! Embrace the change! Love that which is different while holding on to the good that is. Believe that God's hands are not only on you but on Bethlehem as well. And know that God is present with always! Amen! 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](http://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](mailto:office@bethlehempemberville.org)

## BLC Preschool

You are invited to attend BLC Preschool's ART SHOW on Saturday, February 15 from 10 a.m. - noon in the Fellowship Hall!

The annual SPRING FLING is Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2025 after church in the Fellowship Hall. Bagels & donuts will be served. It is important to have everyone's input regarding the important work of the church. We will be reviewing the "Strategic Plan" and will provide an update on the Call Committee. Reports will be available for pickup by January 26th.

## In Loving Memory

### IN MEMORY OF WILMA ROLF

Donna Alexander  
Carolyn Borcharding  
Bob & Joanne Bruning  
Joanne Busdeker  
Larry & Mary Dickens  
Evelyn Gerwin  
Mickey Gerwin  
Tim & Gail Gerwin  
Lois Hansen  
Mid Morning Belles c/o Lois Hansen  
John, Judy & Christopher Keiser  
Melvin Karns  
Cathy Kutzli & Bruce Rutter  
Lavon Linkey  
Lyle Linkey  
Marilyn Linkey  
Aaron & Pam Marten  
May & Marlene Meyer  
Ruth Phillips

Vic & Eileen Schuerman  
Joan Slebos  
Andy Witker  
Janet Witker  
Jim & De Witker



## BLCW Gatherings 2025

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the following BLCW Gatherings for 2025:

**March 22 Saturday**, Fellowship Hall, 9:00 a.m.  
Studying the Bible through Journaling  
Kathy Brandt, presenter

**July 12 Saturday**, Fellowship Hall, 9:00 a.m.  
Topic to be determined  
Pastor Tim Philabaum, leader

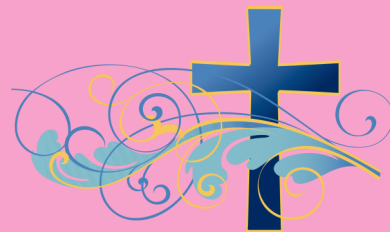
**November 13 Thursday**, Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.  
Make-It, Take-It  
Sandy Leuck, planner  
Assisted by Mission Growth Committee

## Lent Schedule

Worship on Wednesdays during the Lenten season will be both at 11am and 7pm. The morning service is designed so that worshippers may attend the Senior Center lunch following worship. There will be an evening meal at 6pm, before the 7pm Worship Service. All of Pemberville will join at Bethlehem for these services, with each congregation planning and preparing the service and the meal. As we are all in full-Communion partnership, there will be Holy Communion at each of the services. "There will be a sign up sheet on the table outside the church office for volunteers to bring soup, salad or desserts for the days Bethlehem is hosting".

As with the Church of the ages we will begin Lent with repentance and the imposition of ashes, leaning on the God of grace

- ♦ March 5 - Ash Wednesday/Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- ♦ March 12 - Presbyterians
- ♦ March 19 - Methodists
- ♦ March 26 - Sonfire
- ♦ April 2 - Bethlehem
- ♦ April 9 - Combined



## BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

December, 2024	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance
Operating	\$75,425.45	\$33,265.22	\$15,426.78	\$93,265.89
Memorial	\$5,646.18	\$872.00		\$6,518.18
Benevolence	\$18,744.04	\$8,795.00	\$1,142.00	\$26,397.04
Outreach	\$44,011.42	\$12,458.69	\$4,484.68	\$51,985.43
Pass Through				



# Wood County Health Department

## Mobile Health Center

**Walk-ins welcome or schedule a time.  
No insurance, ID or payment needed.**

### SERVICES INCLUDE

- Blood pressure, Cholesterol and Blood sugar checks provided by a Registered Nurse
- At home COVID test kits
- Hygiene supplies
- Health education
- Community resources



**419-352-8402**

visit us online @  
[woodcountyhealth.org](http://woodcountyhealth.org)

**Pemberville Community Food Pantry  
Located at Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
220 Cedar Street, Pemberville, OH**

**Date: Tuesday, February 18th, 2025**

**Providing services from  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

WCHD Contact: Delaney Burkett  
Phone: (734) 819-8600  
Email: [dburkett@woodcountyohio.gov](mailto:dburkett@woodcountyohio.gov)

**Come visit us today!**

**Provided by:**



**Wood County  
Health Department**

With funding from the:

Ohio Department of Health ELC Cooperative Agreement  
CK-19-1904



# JANUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## Observations of living our mission:

- Scout pack participation- 118 members. Scout Sunday coming up
- Participation in Christmas cleanup
- Higher attendance at Xmas service

## Orientation of New Officers:

- a. Signing covenant of conduct
- b. Meet with senior members Neil had a sheet of notes for Deacons

## Communications:

- a. Deadline for Star articles: 1 week ahead of the new month
- B .Deadline for Bulletin: Tuesday, usually print the bulletin on Wed
- c.2025 Important dates: list given to council members.

## Reports of Officers:

A:Pastor's report: Pastors written report was reviewed

Lenten services: all at BLC, but hosted by area churches

March 5- BLC

March 12-Presbyterians

March 19-Methodists

March 26- Sonfire

April 2- BLC

April 9- Combined

Summer non-major holidays & locations

May 25, Memorial Day @ Troy Twp Cemetery w/Methodists

July 6th, Independence Day @ Sonfire

August 17th, Fair Worship @ Fairgrounds led by Presbyterians

August 31st, Labor Day @ Bethlehem

B:Treasurer's report: Reports were reviewed

-Reviewed the special envelopes for 2026

-new envelope schedule motion by Matt M, 2nd by Tim P.- carries

-Final Brunk estate distribution has been received

C: Trustee Report-

-Windows calked where needed

-Updated more light fixtures

-worked on various smaller "fix-it" projects

-Parking lot: Morlock pricing is locked in for Spring

-Samples for sanctuary roof are coming so we can compare materials.

For standing seam vs metal shingles

## Committee Reports:

A: Transition Team- creating a ministry site profile (MSP), will meet 2/16

B: Call Committee- after MSP is complete , the next steps:

-Compensation guidelines were reviewed

-Ask the congregation to give council authority to decide the housing allowance factor rate in a compensation pack

age

-Info will be included in annual meeting packet

C : Long Range Planning-

Suggested that Strategic Plan be part of LRP going forward.

Have a member update the council on how we are utilizing the plan monthly

D: Parish Ed-

No report.

## Old Business:

A. Strategic Planning-Approval of 2025-2028 Plan Motion to accept made by Cory B., 2nd by Neil K., motion carries

B. Landscaping- more next month

C. WC Health dept in the parking lot with moblie screening lab, Jan 21 10-2:30

D. Tech updates from Russ Eby: Auto folder-cleaned up & seems to be working better, researching options

Riso duplicator: adjusted settings & seems to work better. Talking with Perry Pro Tech (copier ppl) to see if they can refurbish it . Doing a cost analysis to see if we want to keep it or they can recycle it for us for \$185. Battery Back-up: installed and seems to be working. Will follow-up with Intech rep to fine tune the unit.

## New Business:

A: Annual Meeting: Feb 9 after church service, in Fellowship Hall

B: Basement usage requested by Duke's mixture 4-H club. 10 Sunday afternoon from Feb through July

Church member so FYI item, no approval needed

**Next Meeting: Thursday February 20,2025 7pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

Jennifer Schuerman

Council Secretary





# Happening This Month: February

## January & February Mission Action Project: Personal Care Kits—Lutheran World Relief

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- 1 bath towel (approximately 52" x 27") dark color recommended
- 2 bars of new bath size soap (4-5 oz.), any brand, in its original packaging
- 1 adult-sized toothbrush, in its original packaging\*
- 1 sturdy comb, wide tooth, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clipper, remove packaging
- Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business envelope, no plastic bags or wrap.

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition.

Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its content in plastic bags.



## Praying...

### FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Darla Rahe, Christine (Dee Dee) Sieving, Mark Skowron, Vic Schuerman, Rick Rahe

### 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

### FOR OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

## Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

### February:

- Rice-A-Roni
- Peanut Butter
- Body Wash
- Laundry Detergent
- Can Fruit

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

Pat Cline  
Trina Karns

### Altar Guild

Joanne Busdeker  
Teri Hansen

### Office Window

Leslie Shiffler

### Service Org (Funerals)

Faye Schuerman  
Trina Karns

## Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ♦ 2/10 Gary Korn
- ♦ 2/12 Doris Oberst
- ♦ 2/13 Donald Gerke
- ♦ 2/19 Jean Ladd

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



# THANK YOU



## Luther Home of Mercy

5810 N. Main Street • P.O. Box 187 • Williston, Ohio 43468-0187  
(419) 836-7741 FAX (419) 972-4357  
A Ministry to persons with developmental disabilities - Since 1928

Terri Rodriguez  
President and CEO

Rev. Donald L. Wukotich  
Director Emeritus

January 10, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
PO Box 344  
Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,142.00 to Luther Home of Mercy. In the new year, we are remembering last year's blessings and looking forward to our 97<sup>th</sup> year of ministry with you by our side!



Throughout the decades, thousands of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been able to live enriching lives. Michael recently enjoyed an outing to cheer on the Toledo Walleye. One-on-one outings like this allow the individuals to have special time doing something they love with one staff giving them extra attention.

Your gift to Luther Home of Mercy not only helps our ministry to thrive but offers opportunities for individuals like Michael to flourish. Please accept our gratitude for your generosity and shared partnership in this mission. May God's love light your way and lead you into a joyful year.

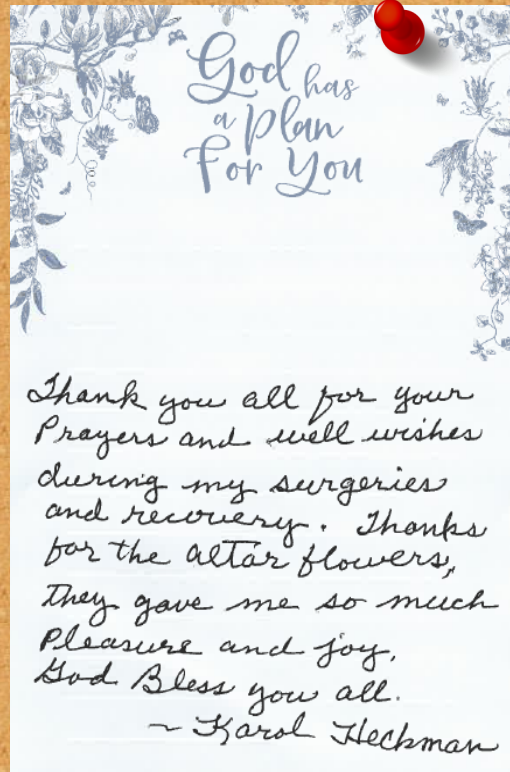
Sincerely,

Megan O'Brien  
Vice President

*Your faithful support makes a difference. Thank you!*

Melissa Gregg

Melissa Gregg  
Director of Mission Advancement



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES  
of Northwestern Ohio

*Strengthening People in Body, Mind and Spirit*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
2149 Collingwood Blvd. • Toledo, Ohio 43620-1096  
(419) 243-9178 • FAX (419) 243-4450  
E-mail: [toledo@lssno.org](mailto:toledo@lssno.org)  
[www.lssno.org](http://www.lssno.org)

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

Dear Friends at Bethlehem Lutheran Church;

As we look forward to a bright and prosperous New Year filled with new blessings, unification and peace toward our fellow man, we want to thank you for your generous support. Lutheran Social Services would like you to know how much we appreciate your gift of \$250 received on 1/10/2025 and serving LSS Ministries.

**In Isaiah 40:29, it states that God gave power to the weak, and strength to the powerless.**

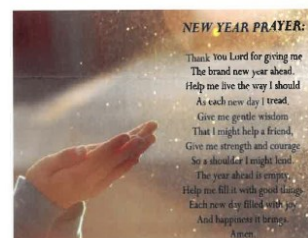
By your donation, you are living out these good deeds and helping to give power to the weak and strength to the powerless. We look forward to continue helping those who come to us in need during this time.

May your light continue to shine and may we be the face of God to those around us!

Thank you for blessing our community,

Traci Jaksetic  
Vice President

*Thanks!*





# KIDS ACTIVITIES

## Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

"Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown." Luke 4:24

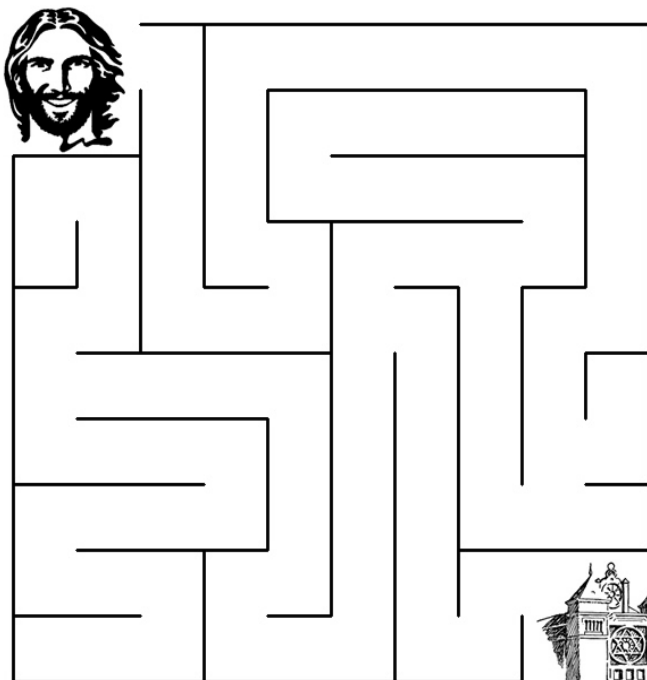
The puzzle is based on Luke 4:21-30



Jesus Goes to the Synagogue  
Luke 4:14-21

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

HILL	SCRIPTURE	ACCEPTED	CROWD	WORDS
PROPHET	TRUTH	TOWN	PHYSICIAN	CLIFF
HOMETOWN	PROVERB	PEOPLE	AMAZED	HEAL



# FEBRUARY

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



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 serves as the background for the lower half of the page. It shows Jesus seated at a table with his twelve apostles, with various items like a chalice and bread visible on the table.

# **Worship**

## **9:00 AM**

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

## **11:30**

**Broadcast on 99.1 FM**