



BETHLEHEM STAR

NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO



Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - June/July 2025

Just who is Jesus?

First – a bit of history (this is just a bit. I could ramble about this time period for hours!) The Roman Empire was split between 4 emperors in the early 300's AD. One of these was Constantine the Great. In 313 AD he and another "Caesar," Licinius, put forth the Edict of Milan, which declared tolerance of the Christian Faith in the midst of a pagan world. During a civil war in 324 Constantine won, and became sole Emperor, proclaiming his Christian Faith. He then moved the center of his empire from Rome to Constantinople (not Istanbul).

With his mother, Helene's, help, he built churches in Jerusalem and Rome, finding many relics of the death of Jesus and various saints.

But in 325 there was a controversy. A "pastor" in the edge of Africa said that Jesus had been born from the Father and therefore was not of the same substance. Constantine brought together the First "world-wide" Church Council, held in Nicaea, just over the water from Constantinople. About 318 Bishops from around the Roman Empire attended, including the real St. Nicholas of Myra (whose stories have morphed into Santa Clause)



Now, the Theology. They met for several months in 325 (yes, this is the 1700th Anniversary) and made some major decisions. The primary one is that the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit are from the same substance. God has always been Triune, one God, three persons, dancing an eternal dance of love.

The Nicene Creed, one of the two we profess each Sunday, came from the efforts of this Council. (although it was somewhat modified at a later Council). We say, of Jesus: "light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father, from Whom all things were made...."

So what, after all these years? Just who is Jesus? It has become so common for us to profess the creed that we may not know its importance. Jesus is not just a great teacher, or a miracle worker, or the sacrificial lamb, but He is God. He is and always has been and always will be one with the

Father and the Holy Spirit. Our definition of God is that of Trinity: three persons yet one God. And in Jesus both the fullness of His divinity and of His humanity are present. And in the Godhead, all is love.

So, when I pray I know that the One who lived as human, who died and rose from the dead, is One with all that is God. And this Triune God holds me and all creation in arms of grace. And this Triune God will bring me and all creation to God's intended fulfillment. Ah. Peace. Ah, rest, Ah, joy!

Many other things happened at this First Ecumenical (world-wide) Council, with six more after. Again, I'd be glad to speak volumes about these ancient, important gatherings of Christians. But for now:

Jesus is Lord! Crucified and Risen!

Jesus is One with the Father and the Holy Spirit
All this is love! Alleluia!



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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

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.

Happy 45 years of Ordination Pastor Tim

We will be celebrating Pastor Tim's 45th anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, June 8th starting with the 9:00 am service. SonFire will be joining us and everyone is invited for a celebration brunch immediately following the church service in the fellowship hall. If you would like to share a special time when Pastor Tim has touched your life, please complete a memory card located in front of the office, or you may email your special time to office@bethlehempemberville.org. Your special time will be included in a memory booklet.

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.



Community Worship

Fourth of July Sunday Community Worship

The community of Pemberville is blessed with congregations who delight in joining together for worship. As we witness to the One God, and as we share in fellowship with each other we are bathed in grace.

On Sunday, July 6, 2025, we will gather at Son Fire By The River, at 11am, for our next time of worship. We will join our Methodist and Presbyterian sisters and brothers for this time both to worship, and to give thanks for the bounty God has given to our country. Come join us for this joint worship

The next two times for community worship will be:

1. August 17, in the Tent just before the Pemberville Free Fair, led by Pemberville Presbyterian Church
2. August 31, at Bethlehem, as we observe Labor Day



BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

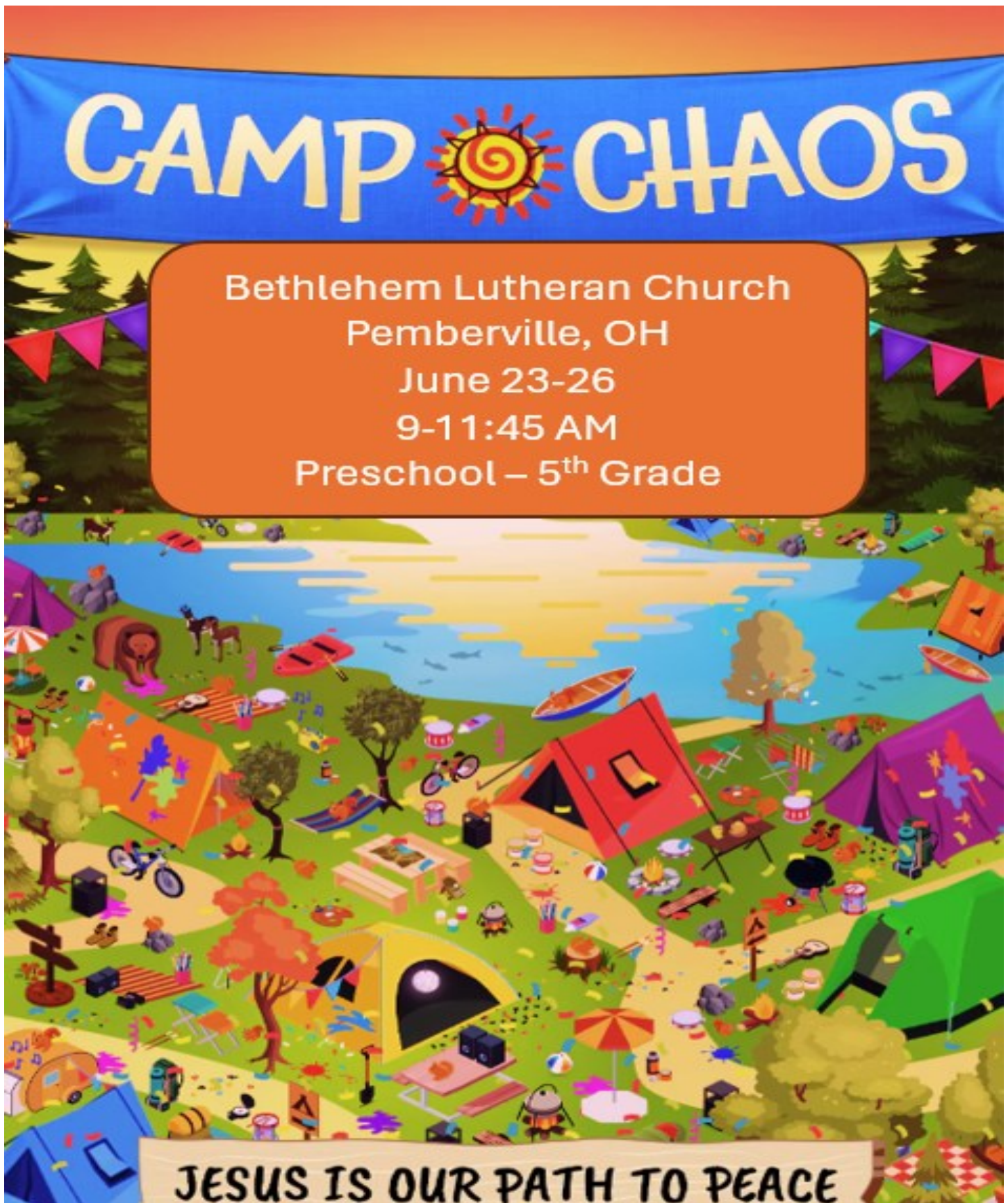
April, 2025	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance
Operating	\$266,008.28*	\$29,196.82	\$39,415.48	\$252,789.62
Memorial	\$28,888.18*			\$28,888.18
Benevolence	\$20,959.54	\$5,708.00	\$7,063.50	\$19,604.04
Outreach	\$60,117.42	\$4,790.65	\$16,532.48	\$48,375.59
Pass Through				

*Corrected Balance for Operating and Memorial funds– account adjustments are due to correction in bookkeeping dating to Nov. 2022

Vacation Bible School

The link to sign up for VBS!

<https://forms.gle/NZL7m8Z2xMF7Cesu6>





Movie NIGHT

Presented by Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Join us for a **FREE** family friendly movie **DOUBLE-FEATURE**

Saturday, June 14, 2025
1st @ 1:00pm / 2nd at 3:00pm

in the Bethlehem Fellowship Hall
(220 Cedar St, Pemberville, OH 43450)

Free admission, popcorn and drinks!

We invite you to bring a blanket to sit on in front of the screen
Limited seating will be available along the back wall

The 1st movie being shown is an animated feature film from 2015 about a young girl who is uprooted from her Midwest life when her father starts a new job in San Francisco. Like all of us, she is guided by her emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness. As her emotions struggle to adjust to a new life,

turmoil ensues. Although Joy, her main and most important emotion, tries to keep things positive, the emotions conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house and school.

The 2nd movie continues the story about the young girl who is now a teenager. Her mind is undergoing a sudden demolition to make room for something entirely unexpected: new Emotions. Her current emotions aren't sure how to feel when Anxiety shows up. And it looks like she's not alone.



Congratulations and blessings to our graduates:

First, we offer our thanks for God's care in these our High School Grads who have been connected with Bethlehem throughout the years. May our loving God continue to guide them in grace, as they step out into the world! Graduating this year are: Riley Burtchin, Andre Lewis, Kevin Lewis, Daquan Oliver, Wyatt Oestreich, John Stewart, Hayden Williams, Jason Young, Lilly Mullholand Kyrie Henline and Carys Ruck.

Second, at the other end of the spectrum we offer our blessings and thanks for this class of Preschool graduates from the Bethlehem Preschool. This picture was taken at their Graduation, held Wednesday night, May 21. Thanks go to Denise Corns and all the teachers for their faithfulness and work with these young ones, teaching not only colors and numbers, but also faith in Jesus. May they be blessed as they enter school, also working out with God's grace in their lives!



BLCW Prayer Breakfast

O God, are you listening to me? Oh, am I listening to God?? The theme for the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA this year is "Listening," listening to God speak to us, listening to our community, and listening to our world.

On Saturday, July 12, all are invited to the BLCW Prayer Breakfast. Beginning at 9am in Bethlehem's Fellowship Hall a typically delightful selection of breakfast items will be shared, and then spiritual practice of listening will commence. Using Lectio Divina, or Sacred Reading, a few scripture passages will be explored, digested, and then time spent listening to what God is saying through these readings. Bibles will be provided for those who cannot bring their own.

I (Pastor Tim) have found this a great way to delve deeper into the scriptural text, gaining understanding into the words and insight in faith, as well as spending time listening. There will be some round-the-table discussion, but most of our time will be spent one-on-one with God.

All are welcome to come and make this a part of your mid-summer activity and growth in faith. Truly God is speaking!

Spiritual Gift

On Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, Pastor Tim's sermon will focus on scripture that describes how the Holy Spirit provides different spiritual gifts to each child of God. Time will be provided during the service to complete a spiritual gift inventory which will help us discern what gifts have been bestowed upon us and how each of us might use our gifts to glorify God. Paper copies of the inventory will be available on that day. If you won't be attending that day or you will be attending online, there will be copies available in the office, or you can use this link to go to the website to complete the inventory. <https://resources.elca.org/faith-practices/finding-your-spiritual-gifts-printable-version/>

During the sermon that day, children will be excused to participate in some planned activities.

Following service, there will be a social hour in the fellowship hall with refreshments provided. There will also be a list of volunteer opportunities to help achieve goals established in the strategic plan.

Special Congregational Meeting - June 15

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2025 after the service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on approval of funding for new roofing and removal of the chimney. The current shingles will be removed and replaced with a metal shingle. A blue underlayment and battens will be installed, ridge vents and eave vents. The quote for the roof is \$235,000 and \$20,000 for the chimney removal for a total of \$255,000.



MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Observations of living our mission:

- Attendance by Cub Scouts filled the sanctuary & overflow
- Good turnout for packing clothes for Honduras
- Easter sunrise service with other congregations & good attendance for Easter
- Ministry Site Profile has been approved.

Reports of Officers:

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

- Pastor will bless local farm fields on Rogation days, 42 fields are on the list

B: Treasurer's reports reviewed

- Pass through account has been reviewed & now reflects the accurate balance

C: Trustee Report-

- 1) Fire Alarm- Install scheduled for July
- 2) State Inspection of boilers will happen next week – generally unannounced as to exact time
- 3) Bob's Plumbing replaced circulating pump & repaired heater by choir loft
- 4) Doors have been rekeyed to all be the same. 50 keys were made by McElheney Security
- 5) Parking lot is still on Morlock's calendar to complete
- 6) Waiting on an estimate from Haar painting to re-caulk the stained glass windows on the South & West of sanctuary and re-paint trim.
- 7) Roof project- Congregational meeting will be called to approve spending up to \$235,000 to remove old shingles and install a new upgraded roof system by Integrity Home Exteriors. We will also remove the chimney & repairing any damage, removal & repairs would be done by Rudolph Libbey for estimated \$20,000. Readings will be May 18, June 1 & June 8, with a vote June 8th. Request in the motion is up to \$255,000
- Motion made by Matt Meyer, second By Willie Fisher- approved
- 8) nothing further on window replacement at this time
- 9) Elevator was not responding correctly, it has been repaired
- 10) Some pipes in the Organ needed to be repaired, done by Mueller

Committee Reports:

A: Strategic Planning-

- Serving our community: Ecumenical outreach
- Including an invitation to Sunday school in the Snack Packs and at the food pantry
- VBS-June 23-26. Sign-up is live on the website
- Enhancing Member Engagement-Christian Life Committee meeting
- Working on a Visitation program to ensure members get a quarterly visit. Those interested will train with Pastor Tim about giving communion
- Ensuring a Vibrant future-
- Planning a building walk-through to see if there are more long term projects we need to be considering.

B. Call committee-

1. Ministry Site Profile was approved and is on line with the Synod for potential applicants
2. Call committee meeting on May 21 and will meet with the call facilitator's on June 2nd.

C. Long Range Planning-

1. Meeting June 10
2. Fund requests will be reviewed and building walk-through

Old Business:

A. Pre School: Met with Denise Corns. The Insurance company thinks they can stay on our policy. We need to have a copy of the policies & handbooks for them accessible. They also suggest employment insurance, we can get \$300,000 coverage for an additional \$140 per year. Requesting additional information on types of things covered by the employment insurance.

B. Pastor Tim's 45th celebration-June 8th, with Sonfire. We will have a social time after the service.

C. "Spiritual Gifts" Sunday as a sermon presentation will be moved to the fall, Sept 14. We will still present the congregation with a list of opportunities to participate in this spring.

E. Landscaping:

- Drip irrigation hoses have been laid out, janitor will help to make sure the watering happens
- Asked Groundskeeper for a quote to replace prayer garden landscaping. Their quote was for \$5760. It was agreed that the estimate had more plants than we felt were needed. We will work with their mock-up photos to start smaller internally. Members might have plan-specific plants they can share from their own gardens. Matt Meyer will still try to reach out to the Scouts to see if anyone would like to do this as an Eagle Scout project.

New Business:

A. Stephanie, the office assistant turned in her resignation, but rescinded before the minutes were released.

B: Pemberville Free Fair

1. Free swim Sunday before-will do this again, it was well received
2. Meal for workers Tuesday, 8/19 - Susie & Marty Brausick will organize this

C. Faith & Family at the Mudhens – Will look for other options for 2025, will revisit this event in 2026.

Next Meeting: Thursday June 19, 2025 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Schuerman
Council Secretary



Happening This Month: June/July

June & July Mission Action Project: Honduras & The Cocoon

June we are collecting items for Honduras Flip Flops, Wash Cloths, Hand Towels, Bath Towels.

July **The Cocoon** exists to provide safety, healing, and justice across the lifespan for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, their children, and all of those affected by abuse. Services are available to anyone in Wood County at no cost. Due to the changing needs and limited storage of this facility, money will be collected during a “noisy offering” at all church services in July and donated for shelter operations.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bowling Green manages a car donation and furniture bank for women in this shelter. Call St. Mark's (419-353-6675) if you have items to share.



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Darla Rahe, 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

June:

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Spaghetti
- Stuffing
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste
- Canned Fruit

July:

- Crackers
- Macaroni
- Blueberry or Corn Muffin Mix
- Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Canned 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

June: Deb Helm

Luann Snyder

July: Wendy Fisher

Altar Guild

June: Jo Lynn Gerwin

July: Karen Godfrey

Sharon Nigh

Office Window VBS

Service Org (Funerals)

June: Faye Schuerman

Trina Karns

July: 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!

- ♦ 6/10 Bob Bruning
- ♦ 6/21 Marilyn Linkey
- ♦ 6/24 Mary Dickens
- ♦ 7/10 Sherry Abke
- ♦ 7/20 Jan Hoodlebrink
- ♦ 7/22 Rose Corns

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



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Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Thank-you for donating to LifeWise Academy during the 2024-25 school year. We appreciate your support as LifeWise continues to grow.

Kay Bunnell
Volunteer
5.21.25

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Thanks to your generosity, EHS After Prom was an incredible success! Our students had an unforgettable night in a fun, safe environment, and your support made it all possible. We truly appreciate your kindness and commitment to making this event so special.

With heartfelt thanks,
EHS After Prom Committee

KIDS ACTIVITIES



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JUNE

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

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	7 6:45 pm Yoga	8 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study	9	10	11	12 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
13 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15am Sunday School 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	14 6:45 pm Yoga	15 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study	16	17 7:00pm Council Meeting	18	19
20 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	21 6:45 pm Yoga	22 9:00 am Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study	23	24	25	26 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
27 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	28 6:45 pm Yoga	29 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6pm Bible Study	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 white robe with a red sash, looking towards the left. Other figures are seated around a table, with various items like a chalice and bread visible. The background is a brick wall.

Worship

9:00 AM

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

11:30

Broadcast on 99.1 FM