



# BETHLEHEM STAR

NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO



## Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - August 2025

August – the month of the Free Fair! All things come together in Pemberville for this awesome event – rides, animal showings and judging, food, people and friends, games, parades – what a spectacle of Pemberville life! And you can enter it for free!

Ah, so I'm going to center in on that "free" word. As you all know when you go to county or state fairs there is an admission price. But not in Pemberville. You can come and enjoy.

Now it's time for the theological switch: You and I have been given the gift of life here and life forever – and it's free!

Of course, there has been a cost. God, in all of God's fullness and love, became human through Mary and the Holy Spirit, lived our life, taught of love and forgiveness and the importance of each person. Because Jesus,



God-in-flesh, taught that God's way of love was more important than the power way of this world, the authorities put him to death. Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate price to be paid for our freedom.

But freedom then reached its pinnacle on Easter Morn. Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again, and granting us the joy of resurrection through God's grace. Alleluia!

Others in the month of August offered themselves to the love of God, willing to die by the power of this world: Lawrence, in the 300's, was roasted on a grill; Claire, the friend of Francis of Assisi, taught

the love of God's creation in the 1200's; Mary, our Lord's mother, died on August 15, having carried in herself all the pain of her Son; and Bartholomew, one of the 12 Apostles, was martyred in this month.

Luther, breaking from the bonds of the Roman Catholic Church of his day, posted two opposed concepts that must be held together for true freedom: "A Christian is a free lord of all, subject to none," and "A Christian is a servant of all." In this understanding our freedom in Christ is given so that we may serve others. Thus our true joy is in care for the Other. Hence, freedom.

So, blessings, sisters and brothers. May this month be one for you of grace and joy as you celebrate summer, The Free Fair, and the blessings of our Lord, Jesus!

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### President

Susie Rahe

### Vice-President

Luann Snyder

### Treasurer

Renee Farmer

### Secretary

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PO Box 344

Pemberville, OH 43450

419-287-4182

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### Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

9:00am - 2:00pm

Friday: Closed

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)

## Community Worship

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

# In Loving Memory

## IN MEMORY OF JOYCE BRINKER

Doug & Shelly Albright  
Carolyn Borcheding  
Bob & Joanne Bruning  
Willie & Wendy Fisher  
Evelyn Gerwin  
Tim & Gail Gerwin  
Roger & Teri Hansen  
Cathy Kutzil  
Terry & Sharon Nigh  
Brian & Denise Pickerel



Luann Snyder  
Faye Schuerman  
Vic & Eileen Schuerman  
Rick & Cyndi Walters

## BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

May, 2025	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance
Operating	\$252,789.62	\$15,544.25	\$26,471.46	\$241,589.63
Memorial	\$28,888.18	\$1,330.00	\$258.50	\$29,959.68
Benevolence	\$19,604.04	\$1,774.00		\$21,378.04
Outreach	\$48,375.59	\$1,290.62	\$254.46	\$49,411.75
Pass Through				

## BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

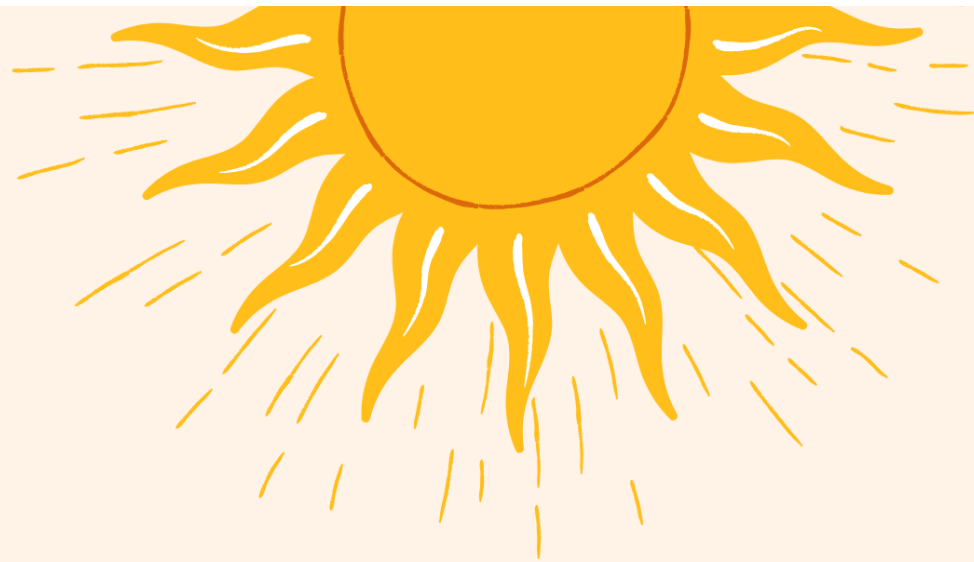
June, 2025	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance
Operating	\$241,589.63	\$24,388.40	\$114,482.47	\$245,495.56
Memorial	\$29,959.68	\$300.00		\$30,259.68
Benevolence	\$21,378.04	\$1,936.00		\$23,314.04
Outreach	\$49,411.75	\$12,412.48	\$119.33	\$61,704.90
Pass Through				

\*\*\$94,000.00 was moved from Capital Improvements into the General Operating Fund as the first payment for the roof paid on June 30, 2025.

## 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.





BETHLEHEM IS SPONSORING A

# Free Swim

Sunday, August 17th, 2025

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

At the Pemberville Pool

Please come join the fun and enjoy  
fellowship with our community  
members.

Bethlehem invites the Pemberville Community to

# Holy Hoedown

Enjoy a fun & relaxed community event at no charge

Sunday, September 28, 2025  
4-7 p.m.

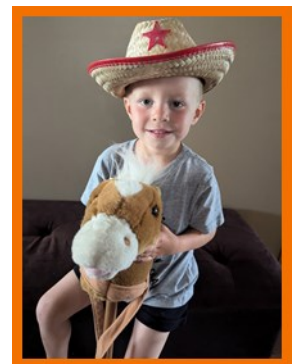
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
220 Cedar Street, Pemberville, OH  
Church Parking Lot

Donations of nonperishable foods accepted for Eastwood Community Food Pantry and Back Pack Ministry



**Food:**  
**Chili Cook-off**  
(Small prizes for top 3 winning chilis)  
**Hot Dogs**  
**Assorted chips**  
**S'mores**  
**Donut holes**  
**Assorted beverages**

**Kids Zone: Games for the children**



**Adult Zone: Corn hole, music, entertainment**

Bring lawn chairs for seating

Planned by Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

## Mission Honduras 2026

We're returning to Honduras this January, and we're inviting YOU to be part of the mission team! No special skills required.

**Dates:** Friday evening, Jan. 23 – Tuesday, Feb. 3 Optional early return: Saturday, Jan. 31

**What You'll Be Doing:** We're partnering once again with the Amigo de San Carlos brigade, focusing on two key efforts:

- **Week One:** Filter checks, filter distributions and assisting the with medical brigade
- **Final Days:** Filter checks and new filter distributions
- If you prefer small maintenance projects at children's homes? Let us know—there's plenty for you too!

### Health & Fitness:

- You don't need to be an athlete but should be in good overall health and have a reasonable fitness level.
- Since we will be around the children at the homes and at the brigades, proof of measles vaccination or a blood test showing prior infection or vaccination is required.
- Other vaccinations are optional—please consult your healthcare provider.

**Spanish Required?** No. Translators will be provided where needed.

**Cost & What's Included:** Estimated: \$1,600–\$2,100. Includes airfare, room and board, laundry, one night hotel stay, travel medical insurance, and a mission t-shirt. Expect additional costs for passports, vaccines (as advised by your doctor), meals during travel, and any personal purchases.

**Interested or have questions about the trip or our mission? While we do not need a firm commitment quite yet, please let Eric or I know by August 15th if you are interested in going so we can begin to finalize our plans. Let's go be the hands and feet of Jesus in Honduras!**

Darla Boyk  
dboyk@amplex.net  
419-575-0078

Eric Corns  
419-341-8664



## Celebrating Students and Teachers

We will celebrate our Sunday School and Preschool students and teachers on Sunday, Sept. 7th during the church service. The students and teachers will receive a special blessing as they start a new school year. Join us following the service for some light refreshments and fellowship.

## 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.



# JUNE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## Observations of living our mission:

1. Pastor's celebration of his 45th anniversary with other churches involved
2. Movie night
3. Attendance at Bible school with 106 attending

## Reports of Officers:

- Pastor rec'd a phone call regarding a gentleman that wanted to have a 5 minute talk about Christians in Israel and bring carved items from artisans to sell since tourism is down in Israel. He has gone to other Lutheran Churches. Council suggested other venues for him to offer items.

## Treasurer's report: Report reviewed

Promote online Tithing as attendance in the summer is lower than the rest of the year affecting deposit amounts.

## Trustee Report-

- Looked at samples again compiling a list and put a date for a meeting regarding the shingles
- Bob's plumbing worked on a toilet in the women's bathroom and the boys bathroom.
- Boiler has been Inspected

## Committee Reports:

### Strategic Planning-

- August 17th is a free swim at the Pemberville Pool.
- Discussed Rally Day-to kick off Sunday school. Bless Sunday school teachers during service and invite preschool teachers to bless them.
- Look at September 7th. Can promote Holy Hoe Down at the Rally Day.

**Call Committee-** Met with a Facilitator that suggested that the congregation pray at the same time every day.

## Long Range Planning -

Walk through completed and get together July 8th or July 9th to discuss Talked about funding request that came in for this year- investment committee suggested \$56,000 for outreach. See breakdown below.

Endowment Fund Disbursements 2025

Category	Organization	Granted amount
Poverty	Mission International of America	\$5,300.00
Global mission	Mission Honduras	\$15,000.00
Leadership	LifeWise	\$10,000.00
Leadership	Boy Scouts Troup 9344 and Troup 344	\$1,925.00
Leadership	Cub Scouts Pack 344	\$4,950.00
Congregational Support	Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men and Pastors	\$500.00
Congregational Support	Redeemer Church	\$2,000.00
Poverty	Eastwood Area Food Pantry	\$3,000.00
Poverty	Back Pack Program	\$3,000.00
Disaster Relief	ELCA	\$10,000.00
		Total: \$55,675.00

**Old Business:** Employment practices liability coverage discussed. Discussed the importance of having Liability coverage.

## New Business::

- A. Staff evaluations- discussed who will be doing the evaluations.
- B. Nominating Committee- set up a kick off meeting in July.
- C. 5 Scholarships that were rec'd. Motion to approve \$200.00 each Pastor Pete's retirement
- D. Terra Choir from Terra college in Fremont- 12/16/2025 and 3/1/2026 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- E. Communion cups - currently has 5 different size cups - ballpark price \$1.00 per cup- council approval not needed to purchase more cups.

**Next Meeting: July 17th at 7:00pm**

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer  
Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Graham  
Council Secretary

# JULY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## Observations of living our mission:

1. Bible School
2. Pastor Party
3. Boy Scouts Travels

## Reports of Officers:

A. Pastors report: Pastors' written report was reviewed.

1. Pemberville clergy doing well, on 8/24/25 Zion will have Pastors return so Pastor Tim will be there.

Christian Life report reviewed.

B. Treasurer's report: Report reviewed

- Investment transfer came in for the roof

C. Trustee Report-

1. Left a message for Rudolph Libbey to tear down Chimney- waiting to hear back.
2. Made a punch list for facility needs and time frame to complete
  - a. Steps need to be painted
  - b. Toilet in men's bathroom had a puddle of water likely from roof/gutter
  - c.. Update on security system -installation to begin in July 2025 with anticipated project completion in early August. Current contract expires July 31st.

## Committee Reports:

A. Strategic Planning-Community Swim on August 17th 1-5:00pm

- a. Highlight people in the newsletter -1 adult and youth
- b. Rally Day September 7th, 2025
- c. Scott Scheurman working on onboarding new members

B. Call Committee- no new action, as a committee should pray regularly and asks the congregation to pray everyday at 2:20; 220 for the address of Bethlehem. Pastor Tim wrote a prayer that is in the bulletin for the congregation.

- a. Call committee will reconvene after the Pemberville Fair. To prepare for interviewing a new minister they will perform a mock interview.

C. Long Range Planning - met last week and compiled a list of potential new members of the long range planning committee and will follow up with phone calls.

- a. Duties to look at staff requirements and will wait for the new minister.
- b. Review current ministries- talked about Stevens ministry and decided to table that at this time.

D. Nominating committee- will get list out

## Old Business:

- a. Fair Week- 8/17/25- Community Church & Free Swim 8/19- Feed the workers
  - b. Staff Evaluations- 1 completed and others will be scheduled
  - c. PreSchool update- meeting with Denise Corns next Wednesday.
  - d. Landscaping/Prayer Garden-
- Fall will be the time to replace any plants that did not make it.
  - Prayer Garden update: waiting for an Eagle Scout or coming up with another plan. Memorial funds are available for the Prayer Garden.

## New Business:

A. Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Village of Pemberville- Meeting July 31, 2025- Owners of Old parsonage want to have a home occupancy business. Based on the information provided it appears to be primarily an on-line business with an occasional pop up canopy in the front yard to sell items during village events. Church in agreement with the request as long as the request does not interfere with church parking. Susie will attend the ZBA meeting to find out more information, and to voice the church's parking concerns in any.

Discussion held regarding moving church service to fellowship hall based on weather/heat -

**Next Meeting: September 18, 2025**

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Graham  
Council Secretary



# Happening This Month: August

## August Mission Action Project: School Kits

- 4—70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" x 10.5" (No loose-leaf paper)
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure with a rubber band
- One eraser approximately 2-1/2" long
- 5 ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps, provided by the BLCW.

*Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in the bag provided and close. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.*

## Praying...

### FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Darla 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

## Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

### August:

- **Apple Juice**
- **Children Cereal**
- **Canned Fruit**
- **Toilet Paper**
- **Body Wash**

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

Faye Schuerman

### Altar Guild

Ruth Phillips  
Karen Schultz

### Office Window VBS

### Service Org (Funerals)

Joan Slebos

## Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ◆ 8/4 Roger Kahlenberg
- ◆ 8/8 Bob Bosse
- ◆ 8/9 Tom Rahe
- ◆ 8/12 Karol Heckman
- ◆ 8/13 Paul Rolf
- ◆ 8/14 Linda Rolf
- ◆ 8/16 Karen Schultz
- ◆ 8/20 Eulitta Ameling
- ◆ 8/25 Ruth Peters

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





# THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Tim and  
Church Members,

Another year has passed and I would like to thank you again for the use of the "piano room" on the second floor.

Please accept this gift and our recital for the seniors as a token of my appreciation.

Maybe one of my students will be your organist some day. 😊 Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Carol Slater



2021 N. McCord Road  
Toledo, Ohio 43615  
419.861.4965

July 08, 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 **\$745.00** 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](mailto:migeorge@genacross.org).

With sincere thanks,

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

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church, be competing on the track team while I am there! I plan to get my doctorate degree in OT and become a Pediatric Occupational Therapist!

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship! I am truly grateful for your support and encouragement as I begin this next chapter of my life!

I will be attending Ashland University, and major in Exercise Science. I will also

Your kindness means the world to me, and I am blessed to know I have a Church family that is supporting me and cheering me on! Thank you again for your generosity!

Sincerely,  
Kylie

Thank You! 6-2-25

for allowing us to rent your beautiful hall for our bridal shower.

Amy Good

# KIDS ACTIVITIES



## Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man

And they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. Luke 8:35 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 8:26-39 (NIV).

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

FOOT	BEGGED	PEOPLE	HAND	CHAINS
PIGS	BROKEN	REPORTED	DROWNED	CURED
GUARD	GALILEE	HILLSIDE	DRESSED	JESUS
DEMON	FEEDING	SPIRIT	LAKE	EVIL

## A Debt We Can Never Repay

"A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Luke 7:41-42a (NLT)

Draw a line to connect the first part of the word in column one to the correct second part in column two and then complete word by writing the correct word ending on the space provided.



- |               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| 1. HUND _____ | • ING  |
| 2. FORG _____ | • ELED |
| 3. KISS _____ | • FTY  |
| 4. PERF _____ | • RED  |
| 5. OW _____   | • UME  |
| 6. CANC _____ | • NEY  |
| 7. MO _____   | • ED   |
| 8. FI _____   | • IVEN |

owed money	hundred fifty	canceled forgiven	kissing perfume
---------------	------------------	----------------------	--------------------



# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube  10:15am Adult Bible Study  11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	<b>4</b>  6:45 pm Yoga	<b>5</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube  10:15am Sunday School  11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	<b>11</b>  6:45 pm Yoga	<b>12</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:00 am Community Worship  1-5p.m. Free Swim Pemberville Pool	<b>18</b>  6:45 pm Yoga	<b>19</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7-11a.m. Scouts Pancake Breakfast
<b>24/31</b> 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	<b>25</b>  6:45 pm Yoga	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Knotting  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open



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. Jesus is on the right, wearing a blue robe with a red sash. The apostles are on the left, wearing various colored robes. The table is set with bread, wine, and other items. The background of the stained glass is a warm, golden-brown color.

# **Worship**

## **9:00 AM**

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

## **11:30**

**Broadcast on 99.1 FM**