



BETHLEHEM STAR

NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO



Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - October 2025

It's early on Sunday morning. The sun's light is bright, but it hasn't yet crested the horizon. So, the Sanctuary is dark-ish, the windows are aglow. Very peaceful.

Outside, way above, is the spotlight shining through the round window

above the Altar. It adds an extra glow to this window but also illuminates the Altar

which is set and ready for Bethlehemites and friends to come for Holy

Communion. Again, very peaceful. Just stop in your reading, visualize this picture, and sense the peace of Jesus flooding in.

This is the Table which is holding simple offerings of bread and wine. The

elements and the cloths & paraments have been lovingly and reverently prepared

and placed for the meal about to begin. We now see a Table, so that when we

celebrate Holy Communion, people are all around the Table, just like at home, just

like at the Last Supper.

This is the Table that connects us with that Last Supper, on the night before

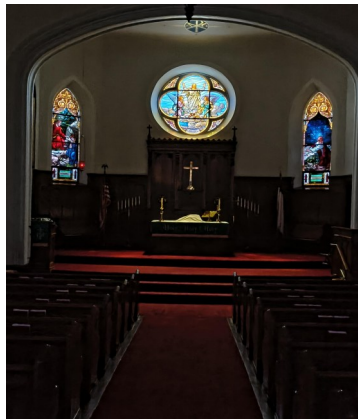
our Lord Jesus was betrayed. Thursday evening. Then after the meal all went to the

Garden in which Jesus prayed, and to which Judas came with soldiers to arrest

Jesus. Then throughout the night He was placed under a mock trial, ultimately

having a decision rendered by Pilate for crucifixion. Friday from about 9-3 He

hung, until at the last He



cried, "It is Finished." Then just before dark, He was placed in the tomb. Until Sunday – alleluia! – until Sunday when he rose!

Alleluia! This Table ties us into that weekend.

This is the Table on which we proclaim that Jesus is present, as He

promised, in the bread and wine. We "taste" forgiveness. We "receive" His

presence in, with, and under these simple elements. Jesus is here FOR YOU, and

for the whole world. And you are loved.

This is the Table that mom and dad, grandparents, families and friends have

come to and have received Jesus. Here at Bethlehem and around the world, for

about 2000 years. We all gather around this Table as the "communion of saints,"

one Body of Christ both present physically here and present in God's eternal

Heaven. We're all here, at this Table.

This is the Table at which you and I will be brought at our "end." Others will

mourn, songs will be song,

scriptures proclaimed. But here, in spite of what is visible, we know that the Resurrection is our future – for you and me, for...

This is the Table to which we come, some of us old, some very young, some

fully aware and thankful for grace and the presence of Jesus, some no longer able

to fully remember, some just learning, but trusting that Jesus is here. We come

with all our burdens to the cross and receive peace. We come with all our joys to

the tomb and receive hope. We come, and in Jesus, there is peace.

The day will come when this Table will be glorious, and around it will sing

multitudes from every time and land and place, along with angels and archangels,

cherubim and seraphim. We will sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts!" Ah,

it will all be good...forever. Alleluia! Even now, the angels and saints sing with

us each Sunday, with this specific congregation, as we give praise to the Lord of

All. Here, at this Table.

So, come to this Table. Sense the peace and presence of Jesus that surrounds

us. Rejoice in the noise and activities of young and old saints sitting in our pews.

And when you receive the gift of bread and wine, know in your heart that Jesus is

there for you – always! Thanks be to God.

(e-mail Pastor Tim if you would like a digital image of this picture)

Table of Contents

Pastor's Message	Pg. 1
All Saint Sunday	Pg.2
Congregation Meeting.....	Pg. 2
Financial Office Numbers	Pg. 2
Tithe.ly QR Code	Pg. 2
Mission Honduras.....	Pg. 3
Holy Hoedown Pictures.....	Pg.4
Council Minutes	Pg. 5
Mission Action.....	Pg.6
Food Pantry Needs	Pg.6
Praying.....	Pg.6
Serving in Worship.....	Pg.6
80+ Birthdays	Pg.6
Thank Yous	Pg.7
Kid's Page	Pg.8
Calendar	Pg.9

President

Susie Rahe

Vice-President

Luann Snyder

Treasurer

Renee Farmer

Secretary

Brenda Graham

220 Cedar Street

PO Box 344

Pemberville, OH 43450

419-287-4182

bethlehempemberville.org

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

or email

office@bethlehempemberville.org

All Saint Sunday

If you have a family member or friend you would like to be added to the All Saint list for All Saint Sunday please contact the office 419-287-4182 or email the office at office@bethlehempemberville.org with there name.

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2025 after the church service for the purpose of electing officers and approving the spending plan for 2026. A slate of members running for office will be forthcoming, or if you are interested in running, please contact the office.



BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

August, 2025	<i>Beg Balance</i>	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Operating	\$243,499.68	\$19,983.15	\$23,064.86	\$240,417.97
Memorial	\$29,879.68	\$1,775.00		\$31,654.68
Benevolence	\$16,087.04	\$2,105.00		\$18,192.04
Outreach	\$50,260.90	\$6,082.72	\$152.72	\$56,190.90
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.

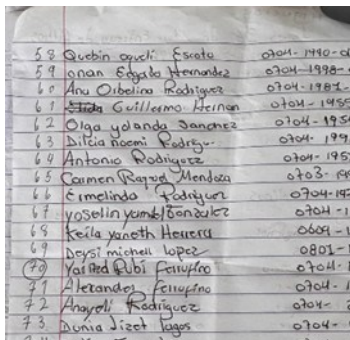


Mission Honduras: A Step of Faith in Southern Honduras

Last May, we traveled to four remote villages in Southern Honduras to begin distributing water filters. The largest village, Los Higueros, has about 140 homes. Our plan was to provide filters to half the families in May and return in January to complete the rest. But when we arrived, Santos, our local advocate, asked if we could find a way to serve all 140 homes during our visit. Families not scheduled to receive filters feared they'd be forgotten, having often been overlooked by government and aid programs.

It was a leap of faith. We'd prepared for seventy homes—just enough filters, buckets, and syringes, just enough daylight to return safely to Nuevo Paraiso, and enough supplies for the rest of the week's visits. Most importantly, we wanted to ensure there was enough time with each family—to teach, to listen, to connect. But after prayerful reflection, a discussion with our team, and checking our supplies, we said yes. It was a very busy, long day but every home in Los Higueros received a filter that week. We also promised to return in January to each of the four villages. This ministry is not just about clean water. It's also about providing hope and the knowledge that someone cares.

Thank you for your support of this ministry!



58	Quebin Ouchi Escoto	0704-1990-00
59	Juan Esteban Hernandez	0704-1990-00
60	Ana Oribelina Rodriguez	0704-1990-00
61	Stela Guillermo Hernan	0704-1990-00
62	Olga Yolanda Sanchez	0704-1990-00
63	Dilcia Naomi Rodriguez	0704-1990-00
64	Antonio Rodriguez	0704-1990-00
65	Carmen Victoria Mendoza	0704-1990-00
66	Emelinda Rodriguez	0704-1990-00
67	Yoselin Yumbi Gonzalez	0704-1990-00
68	Keila Yaneth Herrera	0704-1990-00
69	Doris Michael Lopez	0704-1990-00
70	Yolanda Rubi Ferrufino	0704-1990-00
71	Alexander Ferrufino	0704-1990-00
72	Anayeli Rodriguez	0704-1990-00
73	Dania Lizet Lopez	0704-1990-00
74		



Photos left to right: list of homes in Los Higueros, working on logistics the evening before the brigade, residents checking into the brigade, small group training with Dr. Amy, Tango teaching someone how to check the filter, practice stations to allow additional one-on-one practice for each family, a young student with our Mission Honduras coloring book, final distribution for the day, and water before/after filtering.

Holy Hoedown

What an evening of fun (music, games, pumpkin decorating, chili, hotdogs, chips, s'mores, donut holes and beverages). We are so happy that many from the village spent some time in fellowship with us in the Bethlehem parking lot on September 28, 2025.



We have lots of thank yous to give out.

Frobose IGA for donating hot dogs.
Russ Abke for donating pumpkins.
Ten people who shared their chili expertise.
Joe Stribrny, organist and Sonfire by the River praise band for a fun singalong.
Bethlehem Preschool for games with Denise Corns and Jodi Stewart in charge.
Jennifer Blausey Todd and her daughter Jodi for games.
JoLynn and Dan Gerwin for pumpkin decorating.
Wendy Fisher and Deb Helm for organizing the whole thing. You are so talented
Teri Hansen and Wendy Fisher for publicity.
Deb Helm and JoLynn Gerwin for a fantastic general plan.
Stephanie Aspacher, Administrative Assistant at Bethlehem



We are grateful for all at Bethlehem who helped set up and take down. You were indispensable.

Chili prize winners
 Third place: Carrie Derr \$15 gift card to Chili's restaurant
 Second place: Wendy Fisher \$20 gift card to Chili's restaurant
 First Place: Linda Curtis \$25 gift card to Chili's restaurant



Our biggest thank you goes to God for a beautiful evening and for allowing us to be his disciples who share of the love of God in all circumstances.

Serving In his name, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women.



SEPTEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Guests present: Denise Corns and Teri Hanson

Addition under New Business

e. Beers and Hymns possible date 12/14/25

Guests- Denise Corns and Teri Hanson provided a preschool update to Council.
The preschool has 15 employees and 9 part time employees. Total of 70 students.
There are 44 preschool students and 74 elementary students that use extended care.
There is a scholarship fund available and donations go into that fund.
Denise is working on air filters that need updates
A new grant was applied for the air filters replacement.
Preschool will be purchasing a couple of drinking fountains for 2nd floor
Discussed Security for 2nd and/or 3rd floor.
Preschool now has a new website that is linked to the church website .
Rally day had a good turn out.

Recommendation by church council of donating to the scholarship fund in the amount of \$1,800 that will come out of the outreach fund made by Matt Meyer with second by Neil Karns

The preschool employee handbook has been updated.

Observations of Bethlehem living our mission

1. Feeding the fair workers and sitting with them for fellowship
2. Sunday Cub Scout "God and Me" program attended by over 20 Cub Scouts
3. Rally Day very successful
4. Pool Party - 60 participants of all ages including fair workers

Reports of Officers:

- A. Pastors report: Pastors' written report was reviewed.
Membership-Discussed several people that go to church here but are not members. Reviewed constitution and how to make a congregant a member.
- B. Treasurer's report: Report reviewed
Report Included July and August to review.
At the next Council meeting have the 2026 budget ready to review.
- C. Trustee Report-
Trustees are working on a punch list, The fountain in the prayer garden cannot be repaired. Discussed other items that continue to need repair.
Chimney is coming down from the church roof. Material coming in for roof and repair should start on Monday 9/22/25.
Fire alarm system approved by the county and the county wants CO2 detectors in every room.

Committee Reports:

- A. Strategic Planning-Reviewed plan-
-1st Welcoming New People- Discussed that there are "Welcome Friend" folders available, Welcome cards can be put in pews for new people to fill out with pencils available.
-Process of repeat visitors- new member onboarding and how to make people feel connected. May need to find a Mentor or sponsor for new members- to get connected to the community of Bethlehem.
-New Confirmands and keeping them connected as well as their parents.
-Technology- with new software- It is a work in progress that will take time to get up and going. May have to extend the target date on the software.
- Discussed a way to evaluate worship and Kyle Culp agreed to create the first draft of a survey.
-Expand Stewardship program
- B. Call Committee-
-Mock interview completed with Pastor Tim, Synod has sent 2 candidates-1 was not a fit for Bethlehem. On October 12th the call committee will meet the other candidate
- C. Long Range Planning -
Meet next week, new members Ashley Culp, and Andrew Derr
- D. Nominating committee
Continues to Work on Nominations

Old Business:

- a. Staff Evaluations- Complete
- c. Preschool update- provided
- d. Landscaping/Prayer Garden- Reviewed plans for the Prayer garden.

New Business:

- A. Brotherhood Mutual- Annual premium increase notice rec'd to Increase by 15.81%. Susie Rahe and Ken Gerwin will be checking with other agents for a better price Insurance audit- inspection on boilers- and boilers were found safe.
- B Thanksgiving and Christmas Schedule- Thanksgiving Worship will be held- Wednesday evening at 7:00pm instead of Thursday morning, (Thanksgiving day), Christmas Eve Service will be held on Wednesday at 6:00 and 10:00 pm Children's Christmas Program to be held on December 14th, then refreshments, afterwards Beers and Hymns in the evening on December 14th, 2025- 6:30 to 8:30pm.
- C November congregational meeting- November 2nd, 2025
- D. 2026 Synod Assembly- Saturday, May 30, 2026 9:00-6:00 at St. Marks in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2025

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

**Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Graham
Council Secretary**



Happening This Month: October

October Mission Action Project: Hannah's Socks

New Socks are always needed!

* Used socks are not accepted!

Hannah collects new socks all year long for people in our area. Any size of new socks are needed...children through adult. Please help those who do not have socks. Let's fill the bin to overflowing so everyone will have new socks. Socks can be put into the container marked "October" in the Mission Action room (111). Thank you for your support.



Pr ay i n g...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Ruth Walters, Pat Bowe, Roger Hansen,
Carolyn Borcharding

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

Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

October:

- **Chunky Soups**
(Beef & Chicken)
- **Noodles**
- **Mashed Potatoes**
- **Kleenex**
- **Body Wash (M&W)**

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

Eileen Schuerman

Altar Guild

Kathy Burtchin
Diane Burtchin

Office Window

Deb Helm

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!

- ♦ 10/13 Donna Schuerman
- ♦ 10/18 Delores Moore
- ♦ 10/29 Inga Offerman
- ♦ 10/30 Melvin Karns

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

Thank you so much for
your generous donation to
The Snack Pack Program
for Eastwood students hunger
relief. Your prayers and
thoughtfulness are greatly
appreciated so that we can
continue this ministry.
The Backpack Team:
Deb Helm, Bucky Schult,
Janice Smith, & Cyndi Walters
😊

KIDS ACTIVITIES



OCTOBER

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 344
Pemberville, OH 43450

*Return service requested
Dated material. Do not delay*

A stained glass window depicting the Eucharist. Jesus, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a blue robe with a red sash, is seated on the right, holding a chalice. A woman in a green robe is on the left, pouring wine from a golden vessel into the chalice. In the foreground, a woman in a yellow and green robe is kneeling in prayer. The background shows a stone wall and a window with a cross.

Worship

9:00 AM

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

11:30

Broadcast on 99.1 FM