



BETHLEHEM STAR



NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - January 2026

January. Christmas seemed to come so quickly, and now it's over. 2025 seems like a breeze. And suddenly, we are in a new year. Of course, this last year is the same number of days as 2024 was, but it sped by, and is now history.

So, we enter into a new year. There are many things that will be the same as the last year – the world still offers beauty and blessing, the gift of Jesus' presence in the washing of baptism and in the eating of bread and wine, the family gathered around the table – here at Bethlehem, and at homes across the world; and, of course, sin abounds – in hurtful ways, in prejudicial ways, in tyrannical ways, in selfish ways, and in death.

But whether you stick with your New Year's Resolution or not, 2026 offers a new start. That new start bubbles up each day through our baptism, as we repent and rejoice in God's forgiveness, as we remember that we are clothed in God's grace and love, and as we remember our call to love and



serve those in need.

The new start also brings the promise of justice for all people. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that "the hand of God moves slowly, but it always arcs toward justice." This year is one more step toward a nation and a world in which no one is hungry, or hurt or alone, a nation and a world at peace and joy, a nation and a world centered on the life giving grace of the love of Jesus. One step closer.

The new offers a chance to make a difference in our own lives: how we use and support

our bodies and minds, what we use to grow (such as Scripture and prayer), how we learn the lessons of forgiveness and peacemaking.

The new offers a chance to make a difference in someone one else's life (or lives): how we reach out towards those without food or shelter, how we use the gift of forgiveness towards those who have harmed us, how we act for justice and peace in our own world, and how the light of Jesus shines through all we say and do.

Maybe the sense of the "new" year is really the reality of the new moment we have in Jesus – each breath is a new time to experience the forgiving love of Jesus, and to share that with those around us. Each day is new. Each contact with someone is new. Each second is new. And it's all centered in the resurrection of Jesus, whose newness surrounds us.

So, blessings to you this new year, as you live your days in the newness of Jesus.

Table of Contents

Pastor's Message Pg. 1
 Climate Weather Pg. 1
 Silent Auction Pg.2
 Financial Office Numbers Pg. 2
 Tithe.ly QR Code Pg. 2
 Mission Honduras Buckeye. Pg. 3
 Council Minutes Pg. 4
 Mission Action..... Pg.5
 Food Pantry Needs Pg.5
 Praying..... Pg.5
 Serving in Worship..... Pg.5
 80+ Birthdays Pg.5
 Thank You Pg.6
 Kid's Page Pg.7
 Calendar Pg.8

President

Luann Snyder

Vice-President

Susie Rahe

Treasurer

Kelli Young

Secretary

Shelly Albright

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

Climate Weather

As we enter the winter season, we want to ensure everyone is informed about our inclement weather policy and knows what to expect should hazardous conditions arise.

Level 2 Weather Advisory - If Wood County is placed under a Level 2 snow emergency the church will remain open for those who can travel safely. Please use your best judgment and do not take unnecessary risks on the roads. Church services will proceed for those able to attend.

Level 3 Weather Emergency - If a Level 3 emergency is declared, all church services and activities will be cancelled. In those situations, local authorities prohibit non-emergency travel, and your safety is our top priority. We will do our best to share updates regarding any closure.

Soup & Dessert Cookoff

Silent Auction

Bring your favorite dessert, soup and bottle of wine to share.
And don't forget some money to vote!

There will be a winning dessert and soup chosen by the one with the most votes given. A silent auction will also be taking place with all proceeds from the evening benefiting the local Food Pantry. We hope you will join us even if you don't have a dish to share.

Saturday, February 7th

First United Presbyterian Church, 6pm

Dessert and soup signup in the church sanctuary or you can text Jody Eaton at 419-833-3362 with what you are planning to bring. If you have a silent auction item you would like to donate for the evening please also let Jody know prior to that evening. Thank you and look forward to a fun filled evening!



BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

December, 2025	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance
Operating	\$225,699.85	\$27,050.15	\$17,260.37	\$235,489.63
Memorial	\$31,654.68			\$31,654.68
Benevolence	\$16,057.04	\$2,463.00		\$18,520.04
Outreach	\$59,968.14	\$3,511.67	\$2,006.11	\$61,473.70
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.



DECEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Guests: Joe Stribrny- Organ Repair; Denise Corns

Denise Corns would like to add a security system to the church for the pre-school and extended care Denise and Teri Hansen visited several church preschools and spoke to the administrators regarding their systems. Denise presented an option of adding glass doors at the top of the 2nd and 3rd floor, along with new classroom doors that will include riot glass. The Preschool will do fund raisers to obtain money to cover the cost, and would like to have the project completed this upcoming summer. Council would like to see a floor plan and will discuss further prior to a decision being made. Council also reminded Denise that all building maintenance needs to be approved by the Trustees before any changes are made.

Joe Stribrny-Reviewed Muller Pipe Organ Company Service Report which advised organ repair. Joe will get back to Council about the needed organ repairs.

Observations of Bethlehem living our mission

1. Terra Community Concert was well received with 137 people attending
2. Christmas Program
3. Response to the Angel Tree
4. Preschool kids sang for Senior Center
5. Carols and Beers program 50-60 in attendance

Reports of Office:

A. Pastors report:

Pastor's report reviewed

B. Treasurer's report: Report reviewed

Doing an agreed upon audit with auditor which is in motion

C. Trustee Report-

The Cross out front has been removed

Pews removed for bell choir

There is a dumpster from roof repair in parking lot that needs removed

CO detectors all taken care of inspection in January

Parking lot repairs will happen in Spring 2026

Stain glass windows need paint and caulk

Discussed windows for replacement

Request to make lights in the lounge LED

Committee Reports:

A. Strategy Planning-

- Set a goal of \$500.00 and we sent \$480.00 for ELCA Good gifts
- Started the Advent program on the app. Next years focus on making disciples and improvement on group study
- Sprint team template made by Corey Bettenbrock
- Mentors for new people coming in-so that they can make a connection
We need to have a welcome for new members
- Discussed Synod and they also have a strategic plan, discussing having synod come to a meeting to discuss their strategic plan vs having a small meeting to discuss resources and purpose.

B. Call Committee- The call committee will have a meeting with the call facilitators after the 1st of the year.

No updates

C. Long Range Planning -

Meeting set for January

Old Business:

No old business to review

New Business:

A. 2026 Noisy Offering Schedule

Remove Friendly Center for April and replace with BLCW to Cocoon Shelter from July. Food Pantry will be added to July

B. January 11th Church Service- Installation of Officers

C. February 8, 2026- Annual Meeting

D. 2026 Synod Assembly- May 30,2026; Registration 1/1-3/31/2026

E. New Members - Kevin & Monica Brueggemeir, and family

F. Food Pantry Freezer - The Fair Board offered a freezer at no charge to the food pantry. The freezer- Height 4'9", Width 2'3", Depth 2'4", will be kept in the kitchen, making it more convenient for the food pantry to store frozen food.

G. Help a family in need by paying 1 month rent of \$900.00 &- having a special noisy offering which will be given to family

H. Approved up to \$400.00 for floor cleaner for janitorial staff.

I. Council further discussed the security system the preschool is requesting. Corey Bettenbrock will do a floor plan of what was proposed and what will be required

Next Meeting: January 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Graham, Council Secretary



Happening This Month: January

January & February Mission Action Project: Personal Care Kits

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 contents in plastic bags.



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Terri Reinhart, David Randall, Randi Parton (friend of Lois Hansen), Jean Ladd,

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

FOR ALL YOUTH

FOR OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

January:

- Crackers
- Apple Juice
- Canned Fruit
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo

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

Jo Lynn Gerwin

Altar Guild

Deb Helm
Luann Snyder

Office Window

Leslie Shiffler

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!

- ◆ 1/7 Jean Melcher
- ◆ 1/8 Wayne Buchman
- ◆ 1/8 Marilyn Johnson
- ◆ 1/12 Lois Hansen
- ◆ 1/20 Joanne Brunung
- ◆ 1/21 Ruth Phillips
- ◆ 1/22 Myra Dierksheide
- ◆ 1/22 Judith Keiser
- ◆ 1/23 David Moenter
- ◆ 1/27 Donna Alexander

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

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

December 9, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 220 Cedar Street
 Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation of items for Adopt-A-Resident in support of Luther Home of Mercy's ministries!

The holiday season is alive with joy and activity across the LHM ministry! Friends and supporters are stopping by with thoughtful gifts to ensure everyone we serve has presents to open on Christmas, along with wish list items for our day programs and homes to enjoy. Our day programs and cottages are busy crafting beautiful decorations, and excitement is building for celebrations with family.

Just as God's love shone brightly that night in Bethlehem, we see His love today through the generosity of faithful partners like you. Your support makes this ministry possible, and we are deeply grateful for the blessings you share.

May the peace and joy of Christ fill your heart this Christmas and carry you into a hopeful New Year!

With Gratitude,

 Megan O'Brien
 Vice President

Thank you

 Melissa Gregg
 Director of Mission Advancement



 **EASTWOOD LOCAL SCHOOLS**
 HOME OF THE EAGLES
 PO BOX 837
 120 E. COLLEGE AVE.
 PEMBERVILLE, OH 43450
 P: 419.833.6411 F: 419.287.4245
 www.eastwoodschoools.org

William B. Welker
 Superintendent

Monica Leppelmeier
 Treasurer

11/24/2025

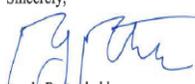
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 PO Box 344
 Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

The Eastwood Board of Education would like to thank you for your generous donations of \$176 to the Eastwood Local Schools Family Fund.

It is people and organizations such as you that make Eastwood a better place for our children.

Sincerely,


 Randy Rogenhubler
 Eastwood Board of Education, President


 Ashley Culp
 Eastwood Board of Education, Vice President


 Denis Helm
 Eastwood Board of Education Member


 Darlene Krukemyer
 Eastwood Board of Education Member


 Eric Rutherford
 Eastwood Board of Education Member

Dear Pemberville Churches,

Thank You for participating in our Trunk-O-Treat at the Halloween Parade. We really appreciate your support of Eastwood Elementary.

Thanks again,
 Emily Mennif Joe Wank

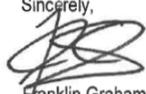
December 04, 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Christmas will be different for many Jamaicans this year after Hurricane Melissa ravaged their island, killing dozens and leveling homes, churches, and hospitals. Much of the nation lost power. Within days of the storm's landfall, Samaritan's Purse airlifted emergency supplies including water filtration units, shelter material, and our Emergency Field Hospital to provide critical care to those suffering in its wake.

Your gifts and prayers equip us to "give knowledge of salvation to His people ... [and] light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death" (Luke 1:77,79). Thank you for partnering with us in this eternal work. God bless you.

Sincerely,

 Franklin Graham
 President

Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund
 Committee @ Bethlehem
 Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for choosing the snack pack program for the Thrivent Choice dollars. The money will help to provide a nutritious weekend meal for many families in the Eastwood community.

The snack pack team
 Cyndi Walters, Deb Helm,
 Becky Scholt, and Janice Smith



KIDS ACTIVITIES

Escape to Egypt

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 2:13-23



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

LORD	KILL	JOSEPH	APPEAR	MAGI
NAZARETH	ESCAPE	HEROD	MOTHER	EGYPT
ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	SEARCH	NIGHT	CHILD



Copyright ©Sermons4Kids | All Rights Reserved | www.sermons4kids.com

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page.



He was in the _____, and though the world was made through him, the world did not _____ him. He came to that which was his _____, but his own did not _____ him. Yet to all who received him, to those who _____ in his name, he gave the right to become _____ of _____ – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The _____ became _____ and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the _____, full of grace and truth.

John 1:10-14 (NIV)

Word recognize	believed God	receive world	own children	Father flesh
----------------	--------------	---------------	--------------	--------------



JANUARY

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 344
Pemberville, OH 43450

*Return service requested
Dated material. Do not delay*



Worship

9:00 AM

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

11:30

Broadcast on 99.1 FM