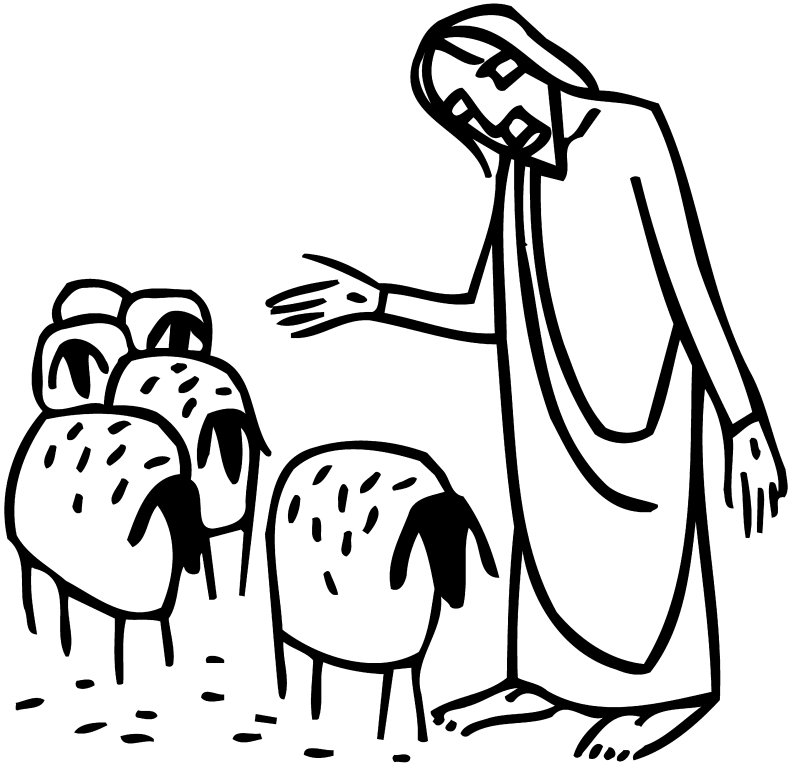


April 26, 2026 and Fourth Sunday of Easter

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
220 Cedar Street
PO Box 344
Pemberville, Ohio 43450
9 am: In Person Worship
9 am: Facebook Live Worship
11:30 am: Radio Worship on 99.1 FM



OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm
Friday, 9 am – 12 noon
419-287-4182

ANNOUNCEMENT

+GATHER+

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us, the Portage, Maumee & Lake Erie.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW#807

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.


Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN MESSAGE

SYNOD MEMORY VERSE: (1 John 4:19)

“We love because God first loved us.”

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Scottish Psalter, 1650

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain



The Lord's my Shep-herd, I'll not
want. The Lord's my Shep-herd.

Refrain text: Scottish Psalter, 1650, *alt.* (PD).

Music: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

PSALM: 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON-Pastor SAM Eric Corns

HYMN OF THE DAY: Have No Fear, Little Flock **ELW #764**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS

Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+MEAL+

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
We gather our tithes and offerings. Following the collection, we pray.

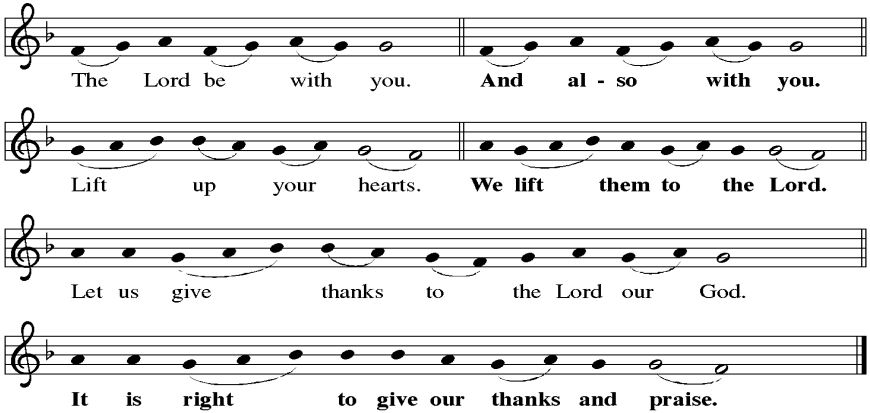
OFFERING HYMN: Jesus, Still Lead On ELW#624 Verse 4 only

Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'nly leader, still direct us, still support, console, protect us, till we safely stand in the promised land.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

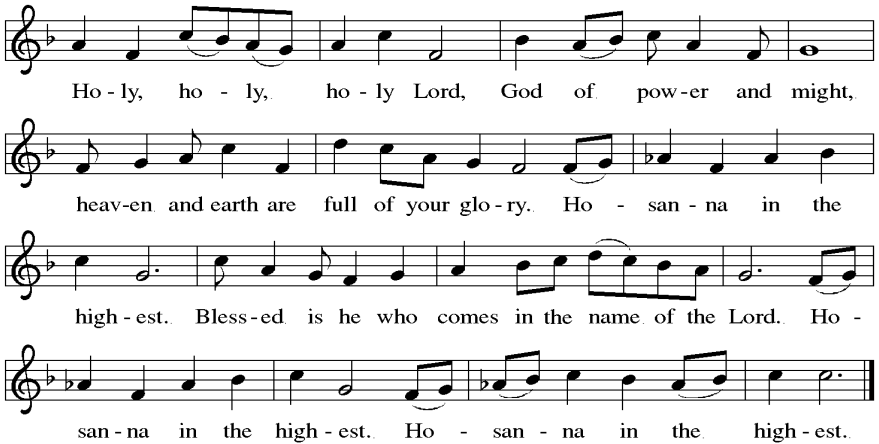
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
 beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
 through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness;
 out of exile; into the future.
We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
 at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
 beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
 and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
 saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup
 is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people
 for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way,
 at the table, and to the end,
 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering;

within this meal; among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
in your church, without end.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and
ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Come to the table of grace. Receive the risen Lord.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW#484

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

+SENDING+

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Sent Forth by God's Blessing **ELW #547**

DISMISSAL

What is our mission?

Transformed by the crucified and risen Jesus we are a loving community of disciples making disciples.

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

LAST WEEKS

Attendance: In Person-108 Online- 68

Offering: \$2,841.00 ELCA Benevolence \$139.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

For healing: Randi Parton (friend of Lois Hansen), Tom Dierksheide, Joyce Eisenhour, Calista (CJ) Ambrosia (Heckman), Lisa Whitaker, Nancy Rife, Vic Schuerman, Jean Ladd, Evelyn Gerwin

Altar Flowers and Radio Broadcast are given to the glory of God.

Online Streaming is given to the glory of God and in honor of Dale (Skeeter) Ameling from Witt Ameling & family.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

4/26, Sun	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School
4/27, Mon	6:45 p.m.	Yoga
4/28, Tues	9a.m.-12p.m.	Knotting
	11a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	6p.m.	Bible Study
4/29, Wed	6:15 p.m.	Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
5/3, Sun	9 a.m.	Worship
	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mission Action project for April Cocoon Shelter 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.

Food Pantry items for April stuffing mix, cake mix, hamburger helper, canned fruit, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Thank you to all who signed up to be involved in BLC’s prayer chain! (You can always add your name by contacting the office.) If you have a prayer request please contact the church office once you have permission from the recipient or family member. The office will contact the prayer chain volunteers once we receive a prayer request. Blessing to all involved in this specific ministry.

Prayer for New Pastor- 220 Prayer

220 - that's our address, the place where the Bethlehem community gathers for worship. You are invited to join this Bethlehem community each day at 2:20pm (or am if you are up) for a time of prayer centered on God's calling of a new pastor. You are welcome to use your own words, or use these: Most Holy God, we thank you for the gifts and ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We pray that you inspire and guide the pastor you will be calling to serve with us. We know you hold us in your hands of grace, so we give you thanks! Amen.

The Pemberville Fair Board blessed the pantry with a freezer and it has been placed in Bethlehem's kitchen. So we now have the ability to offer a package of frozen meat to our families when they use the pantry. We are looking for donations of meat for our freezer. Here are items we have been able to bless a family with in the past: 1 lb. ground beef , white or dark meat of chicken, hot dogs, venison, turkeys, ground sausage, hams
Questions: Marty @ 419-494-8191 OR Karen @ 419-349-2365

Rummage Sale May 2nd 9-2pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Benefits go to Mission Honduras. For donation call Gayla 419-265-3503 volunteer hours available Fri. & Sat.

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.



From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000800. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States.