



# BETHLEHEM STAR



NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

## Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - May 2026

There they were – the 12 soon-to-be-called Apostles, Jesus’ mother Mary, and a bunch of disciples (unknown number, but I assume male and female) – in the Upper Room, a second-floor space that they knew well.

They had been there on that Thursday night, weeks ago, when Jesus washed their feet, when He blessed the bread and cup of wine identifying them with His body and blood, when Judas then left early to betray his Lord. You know the story: from there they went to the Garden to pray. Judas came with the betrayer’s kiss and Jesus was arrested. All night in a mock trial, then early in the morning the Roman Governor Pilate sent Him off to be crucified. 9am – 3pm. Long hours of pain and sorrow. Long hours of caring for His mother, forgiving those who crucified Him, cries to God, Long hours of God entering into human sin just because God’s love is so full for us. Then, God is dead.

Mary is the first to see the Resurrected Jesus, and then over the next 40 days many people see Him, eat with Him, are forgiven by Him. On the 40<sup>th</sup> day Jesus ascends

to the Father. (of course, where is the Father? Well, everywhere! Thus the crucified and resurrected Jesus is everywhere – even in our dark!). One day, at the end of days, He will physically return

It’s been ten more days, and it’s Sunday again (this year falling on May 24), and all these disciples are gathered again, this time in joy. But here’s the surprise – the room shakes, the wind blows, what looks like flames of fire appear on their heads, and they all begin to praise in other languages! Alleluia!

What had been the ancient curse of Babel, now God transforms so that everyone can understand God’s amazing gift of love in their own language. Amazing!

Many years have passed since that first Pentecost. The Church of Christ has both followed and strayed from God’s call. But the gift of the Holy Spirit continues to work through Jesus’ Church, not just through the leaders of the Church, but through all of us, all disciples young and old. The Holy Spirit breathed through you in your baptism and



continues still to guide and fashion you in God’s image.

Even after 2000+ years we are still in a new age. Each of us are gifted to share God’s love in our own unique way. That’s your call, sisters and brothers, to let the gifts God has given you be shared, that the love you have been given may be spread around your house, your neighborhood, your district, your village, your country, your world. Remember, in your Baptism you heard, *“let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Heavenly Father.”*

So, breathe in the Presence of the Holy Spirit, Who is already with you. Rest in that grace, rejoice in that forgiveness, live your days in the beauty of that guidance, and shine with Jesus’ love until all the world knows!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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### 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](mailto:office@bethlehempemberville.org)

## Endowment Fund Forms

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 May 30, 2026. The decision on disbursements will be made by the end of July.

## Mission Honduras

I met Dr. Omar during my first trip to Honduras with the John Carroll University medical brigade in 2017. Dr. Omar sees patients at the Santa Rosa de Lima Hospital in Nuevo Paraíso as well as serving as the lead Honduran doctor for our partner medical brigades from John Carroll University, SUNY Fredonia, Amigos de San Carlos (Tacoma), and other SAN medical brigades. He has been a great resource for Mission Honduras by helping us understand the health impact of contaminated water, interpret the results of our water testing, providing insight as to how to best provide clean water education, helping navigate the culture, and has gladly answered about a million of my questions about all things water related in Honduras.

Last month, I asked Dr. Omar if he would be willing to record a video sharing his thoughts about our filter ministry. Below are his comments, which have been slightly edited for clarity. You can also watch his video at this link. It is in English: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/473ZqWkDSKtB4KtUA>

“Good morning, everyone, it is a pleasure to be able to talk with you today. First, I would like to introduce myself. I am Omar Posas, a medical doctor from Honduras. I would like to start by thanking you for all the good things you have accomplished with the water filter project. The filters have had a big impact on those living in rural communities and I see a positive impact on the health of the patients I see at the clinic as well as on medical brigades in the villages.

It is important to say that this is a very big project and has helped lot of people in rural Honduras. The filters improve people’s health, and the clean water education has changed the culture in Honduras. People are now more aware of the importance of using clean water for drinking. They also now use clean water for cooking and use it for cleaning (food/dishes/hygiene).

**The filter project has helped eliminate many health problems. For example, the patients I see that own a filter do not have as many GI problems as the patients that do not own a filter. The filters help save lives by preventing GI problems. Sadly, we used to have a lot of people dying from diarrhea and dehydration. Now that is not something we commonly see. I see it every day at work and the filters really help a lot I would like to encourage you to continue with your filter project. Thank you very much.”**

To put this into perspective, the Santa Rosa Clinic sees 60,000 patients per year. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to provide over 12,000 of those patients with clean water. Thank you--- Darla and the Mission Honduras team.

### Important Dates for Sunday School

Grades PreK - 5th and Catechism  
 May 3: Last Day of Classes Until Fall  
 May 10: Confirmation for 8th Grade



### May 10: Confirmation Sunday

Please join us this year as the following eighth graders are confirmed:

Josh Finfera  
 Ava Miller  
 Lyla Nachtrab  
 Noah Schuerman



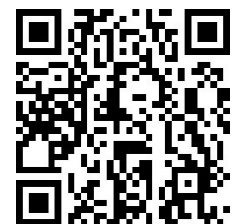
## BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

March, 2026	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance
Operating	\$233,966.26	\$25,715.14	\$27,270.42	\$232,410.98
Memorial	\$33,099.68	\$25.00		\$33,124.68
Benevolence	\$16,284.04	\$4,349.00		\$20,633.04
Outreach	\$60,827.97	\$4,507.60	\$954.60	\$64,380.97
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.



## Dartball 2025-26 End of the Year Report

Your dartball teams had very successful seasons this year!

**Bethlehem #1** finished in 2nd place with a 43-23 record during the regular season. Manager Dave Helm's team included Ken Rahe, Mark Jacobs, Dave Apgar, Scott Samson, Mel Karns, Todd Mason, Tom Sieving, Vic Schuerman, Dean Schuerman, Harry Reynolds and Linda Black.

**Bethlehem #2** won the Wood County Dartball League Tournament with a 9-2 record. Manager Mike O'Brien's team included Rick Cajka, Travis Ford, Josh Marten, Toby Marten, Ken Finley, Russ Abke, Ken Gerwin, John Keiser, Kit Keiser, Pepper Martin & Russ Eby.

Thank you for providing these teams a place to play and allowing Christians to gather on Monday nights and share in a pre-game prayer and some healthy competition.



Pemberville's Bethlehem Lutheran #2 captured the Wood County Dartball League tournament championship on Monday night after compiling a 9-2 record in round-robin play over three weeks of play. The team's post-season title was its first since 2011 and fourth since the team joined the league in 1962-63. Pictured (left to right) are: Front row-Manager Mike O'Brien, Pepper Martin, Ken Finley, and Travis Ford. Back row — Russ Eby, Russ Abke, Josh Marten, Toby Marten, Ken Gerwin, Rick Cajka, John Keiser, and Kit Keiser.

# Cub Scouts Finish The Program Season Strong!

By Russell Eby

The last few months have been busy for Cub Scout Pack 344 chartered by Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

On Sunday, February 9, Bethlehem celebrated Scout Sunday. Scouts and families of the Pack and Troops were invited to join us for worship, as well as three Girl Scout Troops that meet in our building. Scouts

assisted in acolyting, greeting, reading and offering collection. Scouts and leaders that

joined us were presented with a custom

3-D printed emblem.

Webelos and AOL Scouts who completed the God & Family religious program in the fall were presented their award.

March brought racing with the Pack 344 Pinewood Derby on Saturday, March 7. Cub Scouts were given a Pinewood Derby kit back in December which consisted of a block of wood, plastic tires and nails (axles). Working

with their families and leaders, they then created their car design. The 1st & 2nd place winners at each Den level then raced at the Wood District Pinewood Derby on March 21.

On April 26, the Pack celebrated the accomplishments of the Scouts over the 2025-2026 season at the annual Blue & Gold Banquet. Over 200 Scouts and family members attended. The event started with an opening followed

by a potluck dinner with items covering seven tables down the hall from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall. After dinner, the God & Me religious award was presented to the Wolf and Bear Scouts who completed the program earlier in the year, Den leaders then presented advancement belt loops and ranks completed by the Scouts. The event ended with the 14 Arrow of Light Scouts participating in a cross-over ceremony to signify their transition from



*God & Me and God & Family recipients and their families*



*Scouts & Families at the Blue & Gold awards ceremonies*



*Scouts & Families at the Blue & Gold potluck dinner*

# GETTING TO KNOW THE BRUEGGEMEIER FAMILY

## Welcome

Kyle, Kathryn (Kate), Hazel (7), Hattie (4),  
Lydia (2) Brueggemeier

### Some highlights of the Brueggemeier family:

- they live in Webster Township
- Kyle is a construction engineer as a project manager
- Kate is a manufacturing engineer in sales
- family interests are snow skiing, farming, boating, sports and dance

They chose to become part of Bethlehem because it is a local church with opportunities for community involvement and youth engagement.

**Bible verse and hymn that  
holds a special meaning to them.**

A cheerful heart is good medicine.

-Proverbs 17:22

Here I am, Lord (Hymn)



# APRIL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



**Council Members present:** Luann Snyder, Susie Rahe, Shelly Albright, Kelli Young, Willie Fisher, Ken Gerwin, Andrew Kreais, Dan Rife, Corey Bettenbrock, Dean Schuerman, Daniel Smith, Pastor Tim Philabaum, Denise Pickerel

**Council Members Absent:** Andrew Derr, Aaron Marten

**Visitors present:** None

## Reports of Officers:

- **Pastor Tim's Report:** Led service at Otterbein with communion. Has gone on several parishioner visits and hospital visits.
- **Treasurer report**
- **Trustee Report:** Window replacement decided on – using Renewal by Anderson's windows. Likely will be early August installation but no date set yet. Motion made to approve window installation by Daniel Smith, seconded by Dean Schuerman. Motion carried.  
Motion made to approve officer's reports by Corey Bettenbrock, seconded by Ken Gerwin. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports:

- **Strategic plan:**
  - Youth** – Shelly Albright reported on progress with FCA at Eastwood High School. Things are moving along well and students involved in FCA are very excited about working together and are very appreciative of our support.
  - Sunday school** – Follow up meeting scheduled had to be cancelled/curriculum has been chosen. Note about that curriculum is on SS portal. Splitting classes into PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3-5 grade.  
Leslie Shiffler is stepping down from her position. We are going to recognize Leslie for her time and commitment to the Sunday School program over the many years she has served. Motion was made to recognize Leslie with a gift by Kelli Young, seconded by Willie Fisher. Motion carried. Teacher appreciation cards will be distributed to preschool staff the first week of May.
  - Sprint teams: Worship music-**  
Music at worship services was discussed and recommendations were made. Pastor Tim will talk with Joe.
- **Long Range Planning:**
  - Josh and Janel Gerwin will organize youth activities 4 x per year.
  - Susie and Luann are meeting with Fresh Expressions – invited by synod to learn new approach to new ministries.
- **Call Committee:**
  - No new information or developments/meeting with facilitator coming up.
- **Security System:**
  - Quotes have been obtained for cameras and hardware. We are actively working to secure quality blueprints needed to develop accurate CAD drawings for the architectural layout, and will continue taking steps to move this project forward.

# APRIL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## Old Business

- **Insurance:**  
Doug Ruck has employee handbooks-reviewing them as required by the church's liability insurance carrier.
- **Governance agreement(s):**  
Development of the governance agreement between the Church and Preschool is ongoing, with continued progress toward completion.
- **Memorial projects:**  
Office updates are coming, still working on plan.  
Prayer garden and furniture: this was tabled until the next meeting.  
Sign in the front yard: Willie Fisher will call Harmon Sign to see what our options are.

## New Business

- **Employee evaluations:** Need to be done by July
- **High School graduation scholarships:** There are 5 possible applicants. Pastor Tim will send letters to those eligible.
- **Quilt Show for Fair:**  
Susie Rahe was approached about housing the quilt show for the fair. After discussion, It was decided that our facility was not a good option for this.
- **Quote for Mulch:**  
We got a quote for mulching the church landscaping from Groundskeeper. That quote was awarded to Groundskeeper to replace bushes that have died and to mulch. Willie Fisher made a motion to award that job to Groundskeeper, seconded by Daniel Smith. Motion carried.
- **Wood County Children's Services:**  
Wood County Children's services have requested to share information about being foster parents at our church. There are no foster parents in our area so they would like to share information hoping to create some interest. Council thought that would be an appropriate plea.

Next meeting is Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm.



# Happening This Month: May

## May Mission Action Project: Military

**Military.** Items we are collecting are

Bibles, AA batteries, baby powder and wipes, bug spray (no aerosol anything), female hygiene products (tampons, pads, used also for wounds to stop bleeding), tooth brushes, toothpaste, mouth wash, Kleenex, cough drops, lotions, sun screen, body wash, Vicks vapor rub, face wash, shaving cream, deodorant, razors, eye drops, black work gloves, Q-tips, hair ties, bobby pins, hair clips, nail clippers, note pads, black pens, head lamps, cards, power strips, pillow cases, crosswords, magazines Food Items (think SMALL packages): instant coffee, creamer, tea bags, skittles candy, granola bars, slim Jim's, beef jerky, gum, drink mixes, salty snacks, seasoning packages, hot sauce, sunflower seeds, Oreo cookies (no homemade), Clif bars, crackers, nuts/raisin mix, Ramon noodles.



## Praying...

### FOR HEALING AND HOPE

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

### FOR OUR BISHOPS

Yehiel Curry 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

**May:**

- **Stuffing Mix**
- **Cake Mix**
- **Hamburger Helper**
- **Canned Fruit**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Toothbrush**

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*  
Ashlee Michalak  
Kathy Burtchin

*Altar Guild*  
Diane Lang  
Marlene Meyer

*Office Window*  
Sharon Nigh

*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!

- ◆ 5/7 John Keiser
- ◆ 5/20 Joyce Eisenhour

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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**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES**  
of Northwestern Ohio

*Strengthening People in Body, Mind and Spirit*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
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Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
220 Cedar St.  
Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Friends at Bethlehem Lutheran Church;

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous gift of \$930, received on 4/6/2026 and benefitting LSS Ministries. With Easter Blessings in our heart and spring in the air, we are very blessed that you are a supporter of our Ministries.

Brighter days are on the horizon, and your support of our ministries help us serve others in our community.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Traci Thank you!*

Tracia Jaksetic  
Vice President



\*Per I.R.S. reporting requirements: LSS has provided no goods or services, in whole or part, in consideration for the above referenced donation.\*

Thank you for the  
use of the Fellowship  
Hall on Saturday.

We celebrated a  
friend's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Lard took people  
up to see our beautiful  
Windows.

God Bless

Sharon & Dave Marente

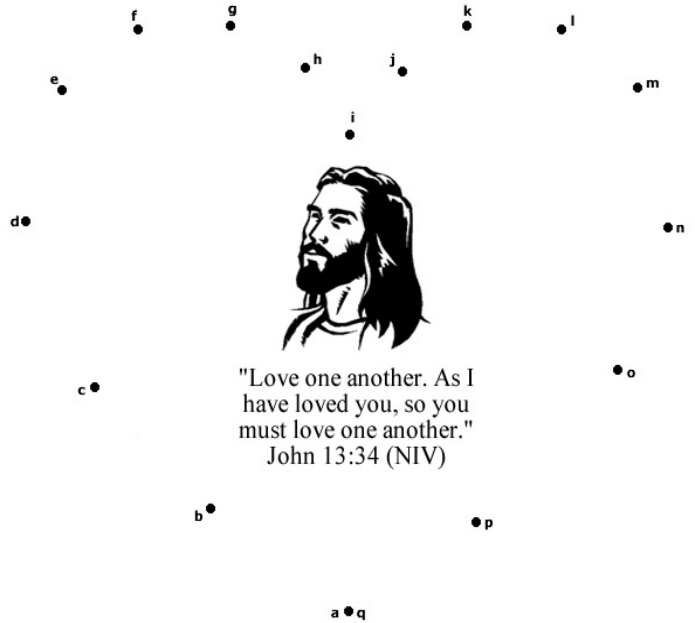
Grandma

Angelina

& Randy

# KIDS ACTIVITIES

JESUS LOVES US ALL!

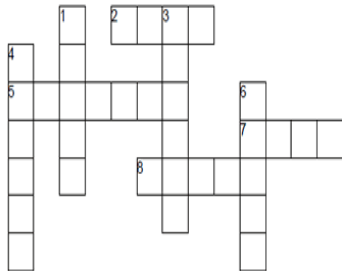


"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."  
John 13:34 (NIV)

## Guaranteed Forever

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. John 10:28 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 10:17-30



### ACROSS

2. The period between a person's birth and their death
5. Lasting forever, never ending
7. The body part used for holding things
8. Sounds that come from the throat when people speak or sing

### DOWN

1. To take something without permission
3. To move behind someone or something and go where they go
4. To die or pass away
6. Woolly animals closely related to goats

ETERNAL	FOLLOW	VOICE	LIFE
PERISH	STEAL	SHEEP	HAND



# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 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  <b>Mom's Night</b> 5:30 & 7p.m.	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm Bells 7:30pm Choir  6:30-8pm Cub Scouts	<b>7</b>  6-7:30 pm Girl Scout Meeting	<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  7pm Priscilla Circle	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Knotting  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	<b>13</b>  6:00 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir  6-7pm Girl Scout Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</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>18</b>  6:45 pm Yoga	<b>19</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir  <b>Preschool Celebration</b> 7p.m.	<b>21</b>  7pm Council Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24/31</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> Community Service</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>  <b>Office Closed</b>  6:45 pm Yoga	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Knotting  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>Office Closed</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*



# Worship

**9:00 AM**

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

**11:30**

**Broadcast on 99.1 FM**