



# BETHLEHEM STAR



NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

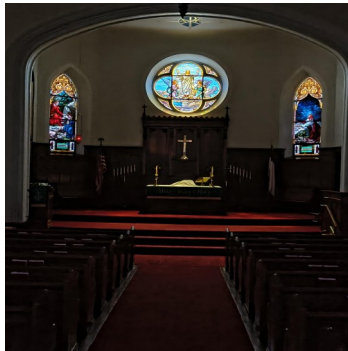
## Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - June/July 2026

Each year the earth goes around the sun. It has been doing that for oh so many years, and time keeps going, the years go by. Throughout the years there are special anniversary days that call us to remember, reflect, and give thanks. This year there are at least three:

**250.** On July 4, 1776, the group of leaders that had gathered in Philadelphia signed the Declaration of Independence. This step was pivotal in our understanding of who we are in relation with Great Britain. The war was to continue for a bit, but eventually we disconnected ourselves from the Old World, and charted a new path. It is to both of our advantages now that England is one of our greatest partners. But 250 years ago, the ancient form of democracy was placed into action, and we continually needed to keep watch so that democracy would continue.

**165.** Back in 1840 the Rev. George Cronnenwett moved to Woodville, and in 8 years founded what was then called Salem Lutheran Church, Bradner Road. Due to the distance to the newly platted Perrysburg, a decision was made to found (among 13 churches) a congregation in this village. December 20, 1861 was the official beginning of the



“German Evangelical Lutheran Church of the unadulterated Augsburg Confession in Freedom Township, Wood County, Ohio. (This year we are just 509 years after Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the Church door in Wittenberg!)”

**150.** Our town of Pemberville was platted on May 24, 1854, on the banks of the forks of the Portage River, and named after one of its early settlers, James Pember. On December 20, 1876 this village was officially organized and incorporated. We were then, “official!” This community continues to thrive in this space.

These anniversaries put us clearly in this time and place. But we can then start to add all of the births, marriages, deaths, confirmations, weddings, polka-fests, parties, Free-Fairs, families moving in and out, eating establishments, fields sowed and harvested, days

and nights, and countless circles around the sun.

All of this in God's hand. And yet, in the scope of human civilization, these anniversaries are but a bit of time. Certainly, in the eyes of our eternal God, these are but a blip.

Yet our anniversaries, and our remembrances of the trips around the Sun, are gifts of the One whose love for us is never ending. In the hands of our gracious God, who had no beginning and will have no end, are all the hopes and dreams of all people of all time, and we are all filled with unending love and grace.

Yes, the years may drag us older, and some are fearful of the days in which we are, or the days ahead. But we proclaim that God is the Lord of History and Future, and as St. Paul wrote, “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.!”

So, blessings this year, and all the time ahead, to you Pembervillians, Bethlehemites, Americans, and all from all time and all places. Some day we will be together in one amazing community singing with the angels our praise to our amazing Triune God. Alleluia!

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**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: 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

# *In Loving Memory*

**IN MEMORY OF  
JOYCE EISENHOUR**

Donna Alexander  
Keith & Denise Avers  
Virginia Baumer  
Bob & Joanne Bruning  
Roger & Kathy Burtchin  
Joanne Busdeker  
Gary & Pat Cline  
Renee Farmer  
Evelyn Gerwin  
Dennise & LouAnn Guyer  
Evelyn Hagemeyer



Roger & Teri Hansen  
Dave & Deb Helm  
Aaron & Pamela Marten  
Matt & Marlene Meyer  
Terry & Sharon Nigh  
Steve & Nancy Rife  
Vic & Eileen Schuerman  
Joan Slebos  
Rick & Cyndi Walters  
Janet Witker

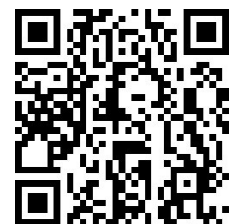
## BY THE NUMBERS

From The Financial Office

April, 2026	<i>Beg Balance</i>	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Operating	\$232,410.98	\$26,733.89	\$36,101.77	\$233,043.10
Memorial	\$33,124.68			\$33,124.68
Benevolence	\$20,633.04	\$4,191.00	\$7,217.00	\$17,607.04
Outreach	\$64,380.97	\$2,410.25	\$7,841.00	\$58,950.22
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.



# MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



**Visitors present:** Terri Hansen, Robin Richter, Preschool Board members - Chris Madaras, Emily Brown, Kaitlyn Shcokley

**Devotions** were led by Pastor Tim. Next month Kelli Young

With members of the Preschool Board in attendance, Council moved directly into discussion regarding the Preschool Security Project and the development of a Governance Agreement between Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Preschool.

During discussion of the Security Project, Council reviewed the actions previously taken regarding the project. It was noted that in January, Council approved the Preschool's request to begin fundraising efforts for the project only. In February, Council established a subcommittee to work with Preschool representatives on the project and communicated that architectural drawings, county permits, and any other required approvals would be necessary before construction could proceed. Council also reiterated that congregational approval would be required prior to implementation.

Corey Bettenbrock moved to establish a joint subcommittee consisting of Luann Snyder, Susie Rahe, Corey Bettenbrock, Robin Richter, and representatives of the Preschool Board to review, refine, and propose a final Governance Agreement.

## Reports of Officers

- Pastor Tim Philabaum presented his report. He reported making numerous visits with members, conducting communion services at Otterbein, and providing blessings of the fields at several members' farms. His report also included his upcoming schedule.
- Denise Pickerel presented the Treasurer's Report.
- Dean Schuerman presented the Trustees' Report.

## Committee Reports

- **Strategic Plan**
- **Youth:** FCA Bibles were distributed to students. Gift cards and t-shirts for next year are being purchased. The students were excited about the sponsorship.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Online registration has begun for both participants and adult volunteers. This year's theme is *Shine the Light*, utilizing stories depicted in the stained-glass windows in the church sanctuary.
- **Sprint Teams – Music and Worship:** Pastor Tim met with Joe regarding song selections and other suggestions.
- **Long-Range Planning:** The deadline for Endowment Fund distribution requests is May 30, 2026. Funding requests will be reviewed and distributions determined at the next meeting on June 9, 2026.
- **Call Committee:** No new updates were reported. Pastor Tim noted that the minister at the Lutheran Church on Dowling Road is part time. Past Tim indicated he would speak with the pastor regarding the possibility of filling in on Sundays when he is unavailable to preach.
- **Security System:** Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Pastor Tim Philabaum moved to accept the Committee Reports.

## Old Business

# MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



**Insurance:** No update at this time.

**Governance Agreement(s):** Discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Landscaping:** Groundskeeper is scheduled to complete mulching and replacement of plants by the end of May.

## **Memorial Projects:**

- **Office Updates:** On hold until the window project is completed.
- **Prayer Garden and Furniture:** The stumps have been removed. The next step is selecting furniture for the area. Denise Pickerel and Susan Rahe will coordinate the selection.

**Front Sign Replacement:** Willie Fisher is coordinating the project and is working with Scott Schuerman. A replacement sign is currently being planned.

## **New Business**

**Congregational Scholarships:** Jackson Schuerman was the only applicant for the Bethlehem Lutheran Church scholarship program.

Pastor Tim Philabaum moved to award a scholarship to Jackson Schuerman. Dean Schuerman

**Pastor Tim's Compensation:** Council discussed Pastor Tim's compensation in light of his serving one fewer Sunday per month at Bethlehem. It was noted that his compensation is already below current ELCA compensation guidelines and that his responsibilities extend well beyond preaching on Sundays, including pastoral care, visitation, administration, and other ministry functions.

## **Adjournment**

Andrew Kreais moved to adjourn the meeting. Dean Schuerman seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelly Albright  
Council Secretary



# Happening This Month: June/July

## June Mission Action Project: Personal Care Kits/ Lutheran World Relief

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

Need especially wide tooth combs

Nail clippers

\*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.

## July Mission Action Project: School Kits/ Lutheran World Relief

- 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.

**We need especially 4-70 sheets of notebooks paper-spiral brand, crayons, blunt scissors, pencil sharpeners**

## Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

### June:

- Pancake Mix
- Apple Juice
- Rice A Roni
- Canned Fruit,
- Shampoo
- Deodorants

### July:

- Children Cereals
- Crackers
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Toothpaste
- Laundry Detergent

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

#### June:

Deb Helm  
Luann Snyder

#### July:

Wendy Fisher

### Altar Guild

#### June:

JoLynn Gerwin  
Susie Rahe

#### July:

Karen Godfrey  
Sharon Nigh

### Office Window

VBS

### Service Org (Funerals)

#### June:

Faye Schuerman  
Trina Karns

#### July:

Janice Smith  
Cathy Kutzil

## Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ◆ 6/10 Bob Bruning
- ◆ 6/21 Marilyn Linkey
- ◆ 6/24 Mary Dickens
- ◆ 7/10 Sherry Abke
- ◆ 7/17 Dolly Buchman
- ◆ 7/20 Jan Hoodlebrink
- ◆ 7/22 Rose Corns
- ◆ 7/22 Nelore Hampshire

If your 80+ birthday is not included here, please contact the office at

**419-287-4182** so we can update our records.

## Praying...

### FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Randi Parton (friend of Lois Hansen), Tom & Leann Dierksheide, Nancy Rife, Jean Ladd, Joni Moncrief

# 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

April 13, 2026


Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 220 Cedar Street, PO Box 344  
 Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Friends,

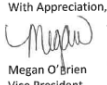
Thank you for your recent gift of \$475.00 to Luther Home of Mercy.

*"Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy."  
 Proverbs 27:9*

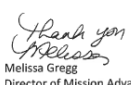
At Luther Home, friendships come in many different forms. Scout leaders, volunteers and those who stop by for a tour. Recently, our friend the Easter Bunny delighted residents with a visit and the delivery of special treats. These simple acts of kindness are a reminder to those we serve that they are cared for and loved.

 *Meghan was excited to see the Easter Bunny*

Thank you for remembering your friends at Luther Home of Mercy and for blessing us with your generosity. It is truly through your friendship and the sharing of your gifts that those with intellectual and developmental disabilities are able to thrive.

With Appreciation,  
  
 Megan O'Brien  
 Vice President

*Thank you so much for supporting our ministry!*

  
 Melissa Gregg  
 Director of Mission Advancement

**GENACROSS®**  
 LUTHERAN SERVICES  
 FOUNDATION

2021 N. McCord Road  
 Toledo, Ohio 43615  
 419.861.4965

April 7, 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 220 Cedar Street  
 P O Box 344  
 Pemberville, OH 43450-0344


Dear Valued Friends,

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of **Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation**. Your donation of **\$820.00**, will have a truly transformative impact. We could not do this important work without you.

In the enclosed *God in Our Midst*, we've shared some of the wonderful accomplishments made possible by your generosity. These stories reflect the difference your contributions make, and we are so grateful for your part in helping to bring them to life. Every child and resident deserves a chance, and through your support, you are helping make that a reality.

You and your loved ones will be in our prayers, that you might remain connected to us by our mission statement: "Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey."

Thank you for your unwavering belief in our mission and for your commitment to doing good. We simply could not fulfill our purpose without dedicated people like you!

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

*Thank you all so much!*

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church,  
 Because of your generosity, EHS After Prom was a night to remember! Our students enjoyed an incredible evening full of friends, fun and festivities in a safe environment. Thank you for playing such an important role in the success of this event.  
 With heartfelt thanks,  
 EHS After Prom Committee

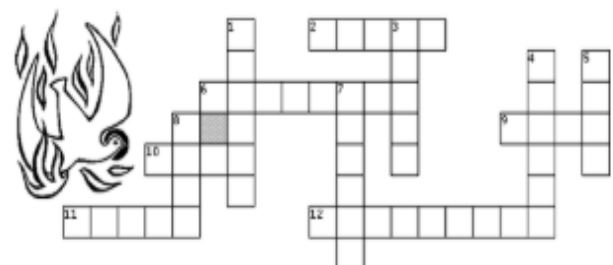
The family of Joyce Eisenhour extends a warm thank-you to everyone that has sent cards, made food for the luncheon, worked the luncheon, and helped in the service in anyway. Joyce loved to provide music for this church for services, weddings, and funerals! Her memory lives on in our hearts.  
**THANK YOU!!**

# KIDS ACTIVITIES



## The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



**ACROSS**

- 2. A building which people live in
- 6. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
- 9. Make something to be full
- 10. A destructive burning
- 11. Something that can be heard
- 12. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles

**DOWN**

- 1. The place where God lives
- 3. To say words, to use the voice
- 4. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
- 5. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
- 7. To be totally surprised
- 8. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree

**Words Used**

Pentecost	fill	holy	language
sound	house	spirit	heaven
wind	fire	speak	amazed



# JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:45 pm Yoga	2 6pm Bible Study	3	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00 am Worship n-person and on Facebook/YouTube  10:15am Adult Bible Study  11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	8 6:45 pm Yoga  7pm Priscilla Circle	9 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	10	11	12 Office Closed	13 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
14 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube  10:15am Sunday School  11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	15 VBS 9-11:30a.m.  6:45 pm Yoga	16 VBS 9-11:30a.m.  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	17 VBS 9-11:30a.m.	18 VBS 9-11:30a.m.  7pm Council Meeting	19 Office Closed	20
21 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube  10:15am Adult Bible Study  11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	22 6:45 pm Yoga	23 9:00 am Knotting  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	24	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 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	29 6:45 pm Yoga	30 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	27	28	29 Office Closed	30 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open

# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 11:00 am <b>Community Worship @ Sonfire</b>  11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	6 <b>Office Closed</b>  6:45 pm Yoga	7  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	8	9	10 <b>Office Closed</b>	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	14  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	15	16  7pm Council Meeting	17 <b>Office Closed</b>	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 9:00 am Knotting  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open  6pm Bible Study	22	23	24 <b>Office Closed</b>	25  8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
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  11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	29	30	31 <b>Office Closed</b>	

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**