

Bethlehem Star

NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO



Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - October 2026

Change. Sometimes I like change, sometimes not. It's great when I see someone gain their rights that had been denied them. It's also good to see young people grow up into adulthood in Christ, but it's not so good to have that change of family go so quickly! And the seasonal change moves so quickly, from one to another.

Change. St. Francis of Assisi (Oct 4) brought change in his time, leading the Church back into a simplified understanding of the glory of God in creation, and our connectedness with all God's creatures. William Tyndale (Oct 6) brought change to the English-speaking world with his translation of the Bible into English, for which he was condemned. St. Theresa of Avila (Oct 15) broke the mold of outward repetition of faith, changing such faith as each of us explore the "interior castle" of God's Holy Spirit in our midst. St. Luke (Oct 18), along with



other New Testament writers, changed the world by bringing to us the Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Change. October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Statements so that they could be discussed. Little did he know that his actions would spark the Reformation, changing the Christian Church, and European history, and the speaking of the German language, and our heritage.

We live in the heritage of Luther, reading our Bibles

and worshiping in our own language, reaching out to care for "the least of these" as we are priests to each other, giving thanks for the Real Presence of Jesus in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and lifting up the reality of grace in everything we do or say.

Change begins in us at our Baptism, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As we hear Scripture, as we ingest Jesus in Holy Communion, as we care for the neighbor, we are changed. Changed to be more loving, more grace-filled, more grateful. Until that great and final day when we are changed in the Kingdom of God, surrounded by saints, in worship of the Most Holy Trinity forever. Alleluia!

So, sisters and brothers, observe how the Holy Spirit is changing you, you a disciple of Jesus making disciples. Blessings on this journey!

Bethlehem Apparel

Bethlehem apparel is available! Choose from T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and more in a variety of colors and styles.

Visit the online store with the link or QR code:

https://stores.inksoft.com/bethlehem_lutheran_church_/shop/home
to browse the selection and place your order today!



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Mon. - Thurs.
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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

October Bible Study

Beginning October 13 at 6pm Pastor Tim will launch into a different kind of “Bible” study, using *The Book of Concord* as the beginning text. Each week we will explore the foundational documents of the Lutheran Church, such as the Small Catechism, delving into their biblical roots. Each week will stand on its own, so you may enter the study when you are able. Come!

All Saints’ Day

Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints’ Day. On this day we will especially remember those in our midst, called and loved by Jesus, who have died in this past year. We would be honored also to remember others who are in the arms of Jesus. So if you would like to include someone you know/love in our recognition and prayers, please contact the Office.

Please join us for a special congregational meeting in the sanctuary immediately following the service on October 4, 2026. We will be voting on two agenda items.

1. Approval of the preschool security system. The system will be funded through a grant and fundraising efforts of the preschool.
 2. Church facility and flooring improvements. Amount requested for approval is up to \$55,000. The project will include:
Replacement of carpet in the sanctuary along with polishing the tile floor
Removal of existing tile in the second-floor hallway
Required asbestos abatement
Installation of new glue-down LVT flooring in the second-floor hallway
-

Ongoing Church Maintenance

Rob Sanford of Sanford's Fine Coat is refurbishing the west side stain glass windows. Maintenance to the outside of the windows includes scraping, caulking, priming and two fresh coats of paint. Thank You, Matt Meyer, for the use of your bucket truck.



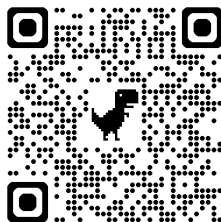
Celebrate World Food Day with ELCA World Hunger on Oct. 16!

Join people around the world in raising awareness and taking collective action to end hunger for good.

World Food Day is one of the most celebrated days on the United Nations calendar, with opportunities in more than 150 countries and more than 50 languages to raise awareness of hunger. This year's theme, "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.," highlights how we can combine traditional knowledge with forward-thinking solutions to ensure that everyone has access to nutritious food.

ELCA World Hunger has been at work for more than 50 years, addressing root causes of hunger around the world and here in the United States through innovative, sustainable projects. Your gifts connect people with training and resources so they can enjoy a fruitful harvest, access clean water, send their kids to school, get adequate healthcare and strengthen their income streams.

This World Food Day, you are invited to join ELCA World Hunger in taking action. When we work together, we can build a just world where all are fed.



From The Financial Office

BY THE NUMBERS

August, 2026	Beg Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Balance
Operating	\$214,386.51	\$19,128.98	\$30,649.60	\$202,865.89
Memorial	\$36,077.56	\$200.00	\$2,864.82	\$30,552.74
Benevolence	\$14,597.04	\$1,695.00		\$16,292.04
Outreach	\$64,610.41	\$4,618.71	\$222.71	\$69,006.41

Note from the Financial Office: Transitioning from summer to fall is a time to "get back on track" for everyone. As we monitor the monthly financials at Bethlehem, we see our giving down about 10% for the year while our expenses have tracked right on budget as of August 31, 2026. We would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness in giving as we head toward closing out the year. Thank you.



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.

Thrivent

Please join us on Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 7:15pm in the fellowship hall for an informational meeting entitled Giving, Planning, and Generosity with Mick Sayen, Thrivent representative. He will be discussing Qualified Charitable Distributions, Required Minimum Distributions, and Thrivent Choice Dollars etc. Everyone is welcome.

Mission Honduras

Our next brigade is less than four months away! If you are interested in joining us from January 23 through February 2, please let Eric Corns or I know. There is also an option to return on January 30 if that better fits your schedule. The estimated cost for room, board, and airfare is \$1,500 to \$1,800, with airfare being the largest variable due to fluctuating fuel costs.

During this brigade, we plan to distribute 300 to 400 water filters to new families. We will also conduct filter checks and provide clean water education for households that received filters during our recent brigades. No Spanish language skills or special experience are required (I don't speak Spanish either!). We would love to have you join us!

In late October, our Honduran team will visit several villages where filters have already been distributed. This additional follow-up brigade will help us continue supporting families who have received filters and will free up more time during our January trip for our new filter distributions.

Buckeye sale: On November 15, we will be making buckeyes for our annual buckeye candy sale. We will need plenty of help rolling, dipping, packaging, and, of course, enjoying the buckeyes! If you would like to help, please let me know. Buckeyes will be available for pre-order beginning in early November.

Thank you for your support of this ministry.

Darla

419-575-0078



Summer Accomplishments

Lucas Gerwin

- ♦ 5th place Junior Dairy Beef Feeder Showmanship at Wood County Fair

Landry Gerwin

- ♦ Eastwood 12U Baseball League Champions
- ♦ Champion Junior Beef Project at Wood County Fair
- ♦ 3rd overall Dairy Beef Showmanship

Josie Gerwin

- ♦ Participated in Eastwood softball
- ♦ Participated in the pee wee beef and swine shows at the Wood County Fair

Lyla Nachtrab

- ♦ She continued to work hard and improve her softball and basketball skills
- ♦ Her softball team worked well together over the summer to improve each week

Lucy Nachtrab

- ♦ Her volleyball team won their Premier league tournament in May
- ♦ She made the 7th grade volleyball team in August

Graham Nachtrab

- ♦ His 9U Nobbl baseball team won the league tournament in July
- ♦ His 9U baseball team took 2nd in the Wapakoneta tournament

It is time to **CELEBRATE** the **Eastwood Community Helping Ukraine Committee!!!!**

We have been successful helping 10 Ukrainians resettle in the US, away from the war.

We could not have done this without **YOU!!** Volunteers and those who donated.

Using the US sponsored program U4U (Uniting for Ukraine) we sponsored 3 families.

Melnyk Family, Vova, Olena, Karina, and Artem

The family lives on Rees Rd just outside of Pemberville.

Maruniak Family, Rosti, Lesia, and Andrii

The family continues to live in Solomon Lutheran Parsonage in Woodville.

Hadzikowska Family, Victoriia and her husband and son Artem Stepanenko

The family moved to the NY City area.

At the 9-8-26 meeting of Eastwood Community Helping Ukraine we decided

WE HAVE MET THE GOALS WE SET IN MAY, 2023

All Ukrainian family members we supported are employed or in school, integrated into their communities, increasing their English skills, and totally independent.

Therefore, the Eastwood Community Helping Ukraine committee will no longer be meeting.
(But could reconvene if a critical need arises.)

Although Eastwood Community Helping Ukraine is officially ending and dispersing all remaining money,
our Ukrainian friends are still with us, so
this is how you can continue helping:

PRAYERS

Prayers for our Ukrainian Families

Prayers for ending the war and protecting the people still in Ukraine and Russia

Prayers that the US will come up with a reasonable immigration plan

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMEN

URGE THEM TO PROTECT PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE LEGALLY

OUR FAMILIES ENTERED THE US UNDER THE U4U PROGRAM--THEY ARE HERE LEGALLY

and

If you happen to have a personal relationship with any of the Ukrainian family members do your best to maintain that personal contact!!!!

LOVE is what we all need.

God Bless You

Sincerely With Thanks,

Pat Hinds, Coordinator

Eastwood Community Helping Ukraine



July Council Highlights

Examples of ways Bethlehem is carrying out our mission: The prayer garden is almost done. We will bless the garden at the end of the church service on Sunday, July 26. A big thank you to Willie Fisher, Denise Pickerel and Aiden Lee for their time and effort in making this happen.

Reports of officers:

Pastor Tim – Shared his upcoming schedule and things he did during the past month. New members accepted into congregation were Dee Lowry and Joyce Dauer. Willie Fisher made a motion to accept these two as new members, Corey Bettenbrock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer- Report of finances was given.

Trustees- The front steps were patched by Kenny Rahe. There has been no water leaking in the basement storage room since the repair.

Willie Fisher presented a quote for the stained glass windows to be caulked, will be done yet this summer-west side of church only. Other windows will be done next year. Corey Bettenbrock made a motion to accept the bid for the window work, Pastor Tim Philabaum seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Stanley Steamer gave us a quote for carpet cleaning. Willie Fisher made a motion to accept that bid, Andrew Kreais seconded the motion. Motion carried.

We received a quote from Allen Industries for refurbishing the sign in front of the church. There was discussion as to where funds could be directed from to pay for this. There is money available from Memorial fund. Pastor Tim Philabaum made a motion to accept this bid to do the work for the sign, Aaron Marten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Willie met and talked with architect about flooring for 2nd floor of church, for the security system. Did not see drawings for 3rd floor, those will be submitted by Monday. Have 2 bids for flooring, need one more for purposed grant, waiting on the last one to move forward. Should have the third quote very soon, waiting on that.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Plan – Discussion regarding the youth conference in Minneapolis next year. Pastor Tim received an email about planning attendance with area churches. The email was forwarded to Josh and Janelle Gerwin.

Governance Agreement Sub Committee report- Had meeting in 2 weeks ago, another meeting coming up on Sunday with Preschool Board. Overall, very positive outcome so far.

Meeting on Sunday for Sunday School-objective of the meeting is to finalize curriculum choice for the upcoming year.

Long-range planning: Have not met

Call committee – No update

Security system-discussed in Trustees report



July Council Highlights

Old Business

Memorial projects:

Prayer garden and furniture – almost complete, just waiting on one bench yet. Going to bless the new garden after church on 7/26.

Sign in front yard- discussed in Trustee reports

Staff Evaluations:Reminder to complete all staff evaluations by the end of August.

Fair Activities:

Free swim August 16 – will promote by fliers out on Facebook and papers out in storefronts in town. Fair

workers meal August 18-Sign-up sheets will be put out on tables in church hallway

Passing out items during fair- going to hand out small bags during parade- will ask for kids to volunteer in bulletin/can call also if don't get enough response.

Rally Day Sept 13, 2026- have brunch after church, Sunday School at end of brunch/confirmation kids will go downstairs

New Business

Church t-shirts for purchase-organize these for purchase/would like to have ready for for kids to wear in the parade. A motion was made to fund shirts for kids in parade by Willie Fisher, Seconded by Pastor Tim Philabaum. Motion carried.

Preschool Parent Orientation- August 12, 2026 5:30 pm

We need a representative from church here for this, Luann Snyder and Susie Rahe will do this and hand out little Jesus bags to the families.

Preschool scholarships-Discussed previously, tabled until Sept meeting.

Thank you note – Brandon and Jackie Snyder sent a Thank You note to the church for the support for their first annual Rare Relief fundraiser to support families who are dealing with Williams Syndrome. The fundraiser was very successful.

Thrivent Advocate- After Vic Schuerman's passing, it was discussed as to whether we need to replace his advocacy role with Thrivent. Luann Snyder will call Mick Sayen, our Thrivent representative, to see if and when we should replace that position.

Next meeting is Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Albright

Happening This Month: October



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!

- ◆ 10/18 Delores Moore
- ◆ 10/29 Joanne Busdeker
- ◆ 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.



Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

October:

- ◆ Jiffy Muffin Mix
- ◆ Hamburger Helper
- ◆ Pasta Sauce
- ◆ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Wipes
- ◆ Paper Towels

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.

*When making out checks for the food pantry please make them out to

Pemberville Food Pantry. This is a community food pantry not just Bethlehem's.

October Mission Action Project: Hannah Socks, Hats and Gloves

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, hats & gloves can be put into the container marked "October" in the Mission Action room (111).



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Randi Parton (friend of Lois Hansen), Nancy Rife, Joni (Abke) Moncrief

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 Troop 344

FOR ALL YOUTH

FOR OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

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Thank You for Your Support of Our Security Project

Dear Supporters,

On behalf of our staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donations toward our security project. Your support has been instrumental in helping us move this important initiative forward.

Thanks to your contributions, we have a solid foundation towards enhancing the security measures within our center. To date, the architect has taken measurements and will submit drawings to the county for any necessary permits. Once the correct permits are acquired, Northwood Door can begin the installation process. The next phase will be the installation of additional security cameras along with the security system to operate the new doors. Any project takes longer than initially expected so the current estimate for completion is October or November.

Your generosity has not only provided financial support but has also demonstrated a shared commitment to creating a safer and more secure environment for everyone involved. We are encouraged by the positive response and remain dedicated to using all donated funds responsibly and efficiently.

As the project progresses, we will continue to provide updates on milestones achieved and remaining work to be completed. We look forward to sharing the final results with you and celebrating the successful completion of this project together.

Thank you again for your trust, support, and investment in the safety of our center.

Sincerely,

Denise Corns, Director

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool & Extended Care

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Long Range Planning Committee

Thank you so much for the funds that have been designated to the snack pack program for our use from the Endowment Funds held at the church. The Eastwood Local School students will benefit for the 26-27 school year. We send a weekend nutritional shelf stable meal each weekend through the school year.

The Snack pack team
Deb Helm, Betsy Schult,
Tamea Smith & Gynai Walters

KIDS ACTIVITIES



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Special Congregation Meeting following Worship 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	5 6:45 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dartball Team 1 Home Team 2 @ Stony Ridge	6 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	7	8	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 & Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM 150/250 Sr. Dinner	12 6:45 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dartball Team 1 @ St. Marks Lutheran Team 2 Home	13 9am-12pm Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Thrivent Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	19 6:45 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dartball Team 1 Home Team 2 Home	20 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6 pm Bible Study	21	22	23	24 9am-3pm Harvest Gathering
25 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	26 6:45 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dartball Team 1 @ New Rochester Team 2 Home	27 9am-12pm Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 6 pm Bible Study	28	29	30	31 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