

October 18, 2026 and Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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- 9am-12pm

419-287-4182

ANNOUNCEMENT

+GATHER+

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity,+God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through+Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: God Is Here ELW# 526

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.

GLORIA: Insert in the back of the hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN MESSAGE

SYNOD MEMORY VERSE: (1 John 4:19)

“We love because God first loved us.”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him

and to strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you

and level the mountains;

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,

the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob

and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name;

I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the Lord do all these things.

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

Psalm 96

Psalm 96:1a

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain

Sing to the Lord; O sing a new song.

Sing to the Lord; O sing a new song.

PSALM: 96:1-9 [10-13]

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods. R**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord. R**
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peoples with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is
therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O
Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia No. 2

Joseph Stribrny

Al - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! Lord, to whom shall we go?

5

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al le - lu - ia!

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent

their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality.”¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?”¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?”²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON-SAM Eric Corns

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lift Every Voice and Sing **ELW #841**

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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: Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters **ELW#445**

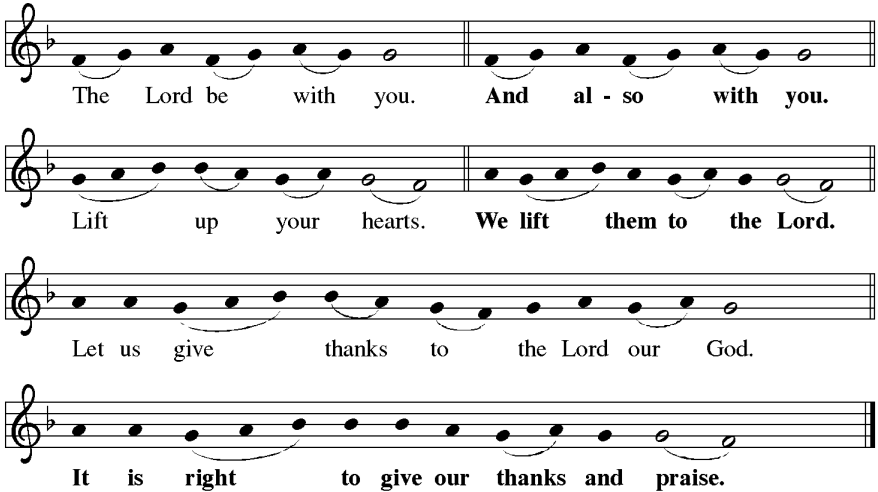
Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.

Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart’s delight.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third staff has a double bar line at the end. The fourth staff has a double bar line at the end.

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, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Toussaint Creek Mass

Joseph Stribny (b. 1996)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of hosts. Hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in - the
high - est. Bles-sed is he whcomes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Lamb of God

Toussaint Creek Mass

Joseph Stribny (b. 1996)

pp 4
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
[1.2.]
ff
world. Have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.
[3.]
pp *ff*
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise and Thanksgiving **ELW#689**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

+SENDING+

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
+you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: O God of Every Nation **ELW # 713**

DISMISSAL

What is our mission?

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

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

LAST WEEKS

Attendance: In Person-127 Online- 54

Offering: \$5,697.00 ELCA Benevolence: \$415.00

Special Envelope MIA Haiti:\$400.00

Additional Gift Food Pantry: \$250.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.

Radio Broadcast is given to the glory of God.

Online Streaming is given to the glory of God and in honor of Bethlehem's church and Preschool staff from Roger and Teri Hansen.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

10/18, Sun	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
10/19, Mon	6:45 p.m.	Yoga
	7:30 p.m.	Dartball
10/20, Tues	11 a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	6 p.m.	Bible Study
10/25, Sun	9:00 a.m.	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mission Action project for October 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).

Food Pantry items for October are blueberry or corn jiffy muffin mix, hamburger helper, pasta sauce, canned fruit, wipes and paper towels.

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.

If you have someone you wish to be put on the All Saint list please contact the office thru email office@bethlehempemberville.org or call 419-287-4182 by October 26.

Both of the proposed projects were approved by ballot vote on October 4, 2026

Approval of the Preschool Security Systemd: Yes 54 No 4

Approval of the Expenditure of up to \$55,000 for Flooring Project: Yes 62 No 2

Church Carpet Replacement – Donations Welcome

As we prepare to replace the carpeting at Bethlehem, we welcome and appreciate donations to help offset the cost of this project.

If you would like to contribute, simply designate “**Carpeting**” on your check or offering envelope. Special donation envelopes are also available in the back of the church.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support in helping us maintain and care for our church home!

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.





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

Visit the online store at the link or QR code:

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

