



BETHLEHEM STAR

NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - January 2024

Greetings, sisters and brothers in Christ! Even as I write this I am in the midst of Christmas decorations and Christmas Eve planning. As you know, not much snow, but a beautiful time of year. Songs, colors, families gathering, and the joy of worship at the manger of our New-born King, Jesus. Amazing.

But now, when you are reading this, life has moved on. Decorations are put away, and we enter into a time of seasonal quiet – awaiting the joy of spring. In Worship, for the next several weeks (until February 14 – Valentine's Day AND Ash Wednesday) we will take a look at how God in Jesus “manifests” God’s-self: through the gifts of the Magi, through His baptism, and into His teachings and miracles.

The Gospel of Mark, which will be our primary Gospel text, is quick and urgent – Jesus moves from one event to another, leading to the cross and the empty Grave. It’s like the Eternal God has just a few years



among us to make sure we know God’s amazing and awesome love. Just a few years.

Just a few years! January also strikes us with an urgency in life. We take the chance to make new resolutions; we take the chance to look into the future with great hope; we take the chance, but we know the year flies by quickly. But this day, this moment, this year is all we have.

We cannot “take back” what has been, neither can we change the future that we don’t know. We only have today. Now. The Present. And right here, in this moment, is where God has placed God’s self!

Yes, we know God never had a beginning, so God is there in all the past. And we believe that God will never have an end, so God is there in all the future. But God allowed God’s self to be wrapped in flesh, God chose to be in this moment, at this time, present here with us.

So: as you are putting away decorations; or still enjoying the outdoor lights; or making resolutions; or settling down for a “long winter’s nap;” or planning how 2024 will be different, take a moment to stop and be present to the now. Pay attention to the people around you, to the sights and sounds and smells of this moment, and listen for the voice of the One who has come as a Babe, and in Whose death and resurrection you find life.

I will be in Honduras for the last half of this month, supporting those who bring medicine and clean water to those who have neither. Blessings to you as you find God’s love in this new day, this new month, this new year!

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President
Luann Snyder

Vice-President
Susie Rahe

Treasurer
Renee Farmer

Secretary
Jen Schuerman

2024 Council Members

President

Luann Snyder

Vice President

Susie Rahe

Secretary

Jen Schuerman

Treasurer

Renee Farmer

Elders

Willie Fisher
Ken Gerwin

Trustees

Duane Peters
Matt Meyer
Rodger Burtchin

Deacons

Travis Ford
Steve Rife
Russ Eby
Andrew Kreais
Josh Gerwin
Neil Karns
Karen Korn

220 Cedar Street
PO Box 344
Pemberville, OH 43450
419-287-4182
bethlehmepemberville.org

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

9:00am - 2:00pm

9:00 am - 12:pm Friday

If you need to update your contact information including if you have a
PO Box, please call the office
or email
office@bethlehmepemberville.org

Dear Bethlehem members,

Our 2023 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoebox campaign was a success. We delivered 305 boxes. Donations were from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pre School and Day Care, Senior Center, Pemberville Methodist Church, Thrivent, along with generous donations from Home Depot, Meijers, Walmart, County-Line Co-op and anonymous donors. Noisy Offering was used for shipping and we thank all of you who donated to that. We also thank the ladies and children that helped pack boxes.

We sincerely thank all of you for your donations and support of this project. Please pray for the children receiving the shoe boxes, The Samaritans Purse workers and the people who share God's word to those who have never heard about God before.

Again, a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the 2023 Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign a success.

Sincerely,

Eileen & Vic
Vic and Eileen Schuerman

In Loving Memory

IN MEMORY OF JACK EISENHOURL

Karol Poth
M/M Aaron Marten
Pastora Lawrence & Doris
Nelson
Margaret Bankey
Richard Kohring
Pep Martin
Sheryl Pike
Dorothy Kubiak



IN MEMORY OF LUTHER HENLINE

Faith Lutheran Church Baltimore
Susan McLean
Pep Martin



IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY KARNS

Pep Martin

BY THE NUMBERS

From Jane Kohlenberg, Financial Secretary

November, 2023	Beg. Balance	Deposits	Expenses	End Balance
Operating	\$419,226.05	\$22,534.03	\$15,859.77	\$425,890.31
Recon Adjustment	\$2,583.19			\$2,583.19
Memorial	\$-4,038.35	\$502		\$-3,536.35
Benevolence	\$4,015.12	\$2,904.00		\$6,919.12
Outreach	\$39,782.47	\$4,018.26	\$4,211.36	\$39,589.37
Pass Through	\$190,590.95			\$190,590.95
Totals	\$652,159.43	\$29,948.29	\$20,071.13	\$662,036.59

DECEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Approval of Agenda: Addition to agenda under old business - painting quotes
Under new business: add Cedar Street and Noisy offering.

Willie Fisher made a motion to approve the agenda with second by Duane Peters-
Motion Carries

Approval of Minutes: remove Launn Snyder's name the second time in the meeting adjournment section from previous month's minutes.

Approval of previous Council meeting minutes with amended corrections made by: Duane Peters with, second by Steve Rife - Motion Carries

Positive things happening inside the church

1. Children's Christmas Program
2. Number of participants in the Catechism program
3. Melnyk family potluck response

Reports of Officers:

- Pastors report: Motion to accept application of Corey Bettenbrock to Bethlehem Lutheran Church made by Willie
- Treasurer's report: Treasurer Books were audited and all is well. Discussed collection envelopes and adding an announcement in the bulletin regarding needing/wanting envelopes, and best way to assess need for envelopes due to cost. Discussed where to add instructions for online giving.
- Trustee Report- Contract signed for North Branch to do snow removal, Quote provided for boiler repair. Wall heater in main office is broken and estimate Provided for that repair. Shingle update- another shingle to be provided and then process for the warranty claim will begin. The cost of repairs for the boilers will be brought to the congregation for a congregational vote at a special meeting that will be announced on January, 7th and January, 14th, and then vote will be held on January 21, 2024.

Committee Reports:

- Transition team- Over 70 people attended the soup and sandwich luncheon with a lot of assistance from members of the transition team. The final focus topics the future, and we will be looking at strategic planning. Pastor Martin Billmeier, will be conducting a leadership workshop at Bethlehem on Saturday, January 13, 2024 for 9:00am - 12:30pm. Workshop is part of the Healthy Congregation and is sponsored by Northwestern Ohio Synod-ELCA.
- Long Range Planning Committee- Committee has not met recently , but will meet with Dave Boyk after the first of the year to determine the amount of money earned from the endowment fund. Long range planning will also be involved with the strategic planning.
- Parish Ed- Attendance has been good. Working with Eastwood to develop an online Catechism Class.

Old Business:

Saturday Night Chimes- Chime set for Friday night and for Saturday night

Paint Quotes: Discussed quotes for Preschool and extended care and how much repair should involve- \$4800 for ceilings and \$800 for hallway. Motion made to have Haar and Haar painting do the work made by Willie Fisher with second by Daniel Smith - Motion Carries

New Business:

Christmas Trees-The Christmas trees for the altar are over 27 years old. The Donor of the trees is in agreement with the trees being replaced. Funds for the replacement of the trees will come from the Programs and Ministry budget.

Motion to approve replacement of 2 Christmas trees and new Christmas lights made by Luann Snyder with second by Andrew Kreais -Motion Carries Microphones- discussion held regarding obtaining better microphones.

Motion to proceed with purchase of new microphones made by Duane Peters with second by Willie Fisher
- Motion Carries

Noisy Offering- Discussion held regarding the openings in the calendar for recipients for the year. Snack packs will be added for January and February, 2024 noisy offering, add Food Pantry to May, 2024, September will be the Snack Pack program, and Cherry Street Mission added to December, 2024.

Cedar Street: Pemberville Council proposed making Cedar Street a one way street. Discussion to post a no truck traffic sign or to make it a one way street option discussed. Church Council would prefer to have a no Truck sign to be added at this time.

Next Council Meeting will be: Thursday January 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm.



FROM BISHOP DANIEL BEAUDOIN



December 4, 2023
Imagining Renewal Microgrants

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert," Isaiah 43:19



2023 is the Year of Story, and some of the best stories from across Northwest Ohio have their genesis in the Imagining Renewal Microgrants initiative. Why are Microgrants so important?

Microgrants encourage God's people to dream new dreams. Microgrants seed mission and ministry beyond the four walls of our parishes. Microgrants help us connect with what God is already up to in the community.

And as Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt shares in the story below, Microgrants are nurturing communities as they come together to do ministry together!

The members of Zion have long supported and volunteered at the local feeding ministries of the Sandusky community, and were aware that many of the recipients of the food pantry were homeless or living in temporary housing with no food prep facilities.

We realized that even when food is available, it is of no value if it can't be heated or prepared and that families, especially children, were going with little or no nourishment.

The NWO Synod Microgrant Zion received allowed for the purchase of 50+ crockpots to be distributed through Care & Share of Erie County to those who are in temporary housing in motels. Necessary cooking utensils, such as can openers, measuring cups and spoons, soap and a dish cloth were also included.

Local monetary donations for this ministry continue to come into Zion so that we are able to purchase more crockpots to be distributed through a local homeless shelter. When the residential families leave to establish their own homes, the facility sends them off with necessary supplies. They are excited to be able to add these crockpots to the other necessities provided.

Because of the initial microgrant, people were made aware of the need and this ministry continues to grow, with donations coming from not only the Zion community, but from others who have heard and want to contribute.

I invite you to come and enter the story and join Deacon Carolyn and myself by making a generous donation to Imagining Renewal Microgrants. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to fully fund new Microgrant initiatives. Together, we can and do make a difference in Christ's name.



Happening This Month: January

Jan. & Feb. 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

*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.

Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Judy Hass, Henry Sundermeier, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Justin Werner, Curtis Dodd, Frank Family, Wilma Rolf, Gloria Bradley, Diane Fowler, & Louann Guyer

For the Grieving

Dorothy Bruning, Jean (Sander) Musolf, Barb Emch

FOR OUR BISHOPS

Elizabeth Eaton 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,
The Linen Closet, 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

January:

- Body Wash (Men & Women's)
- Lotion (Dry Skin)
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pancake Mix
- Noodles

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

Joanne Bruning
Jo Lynn Gerwin

Altar Guild

Jennifer Schuerman
Luann Snyder

Office Window

Leslie Shiffler

Service Org (Funerals)

Sue Gerke
Cyndi Walters

Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

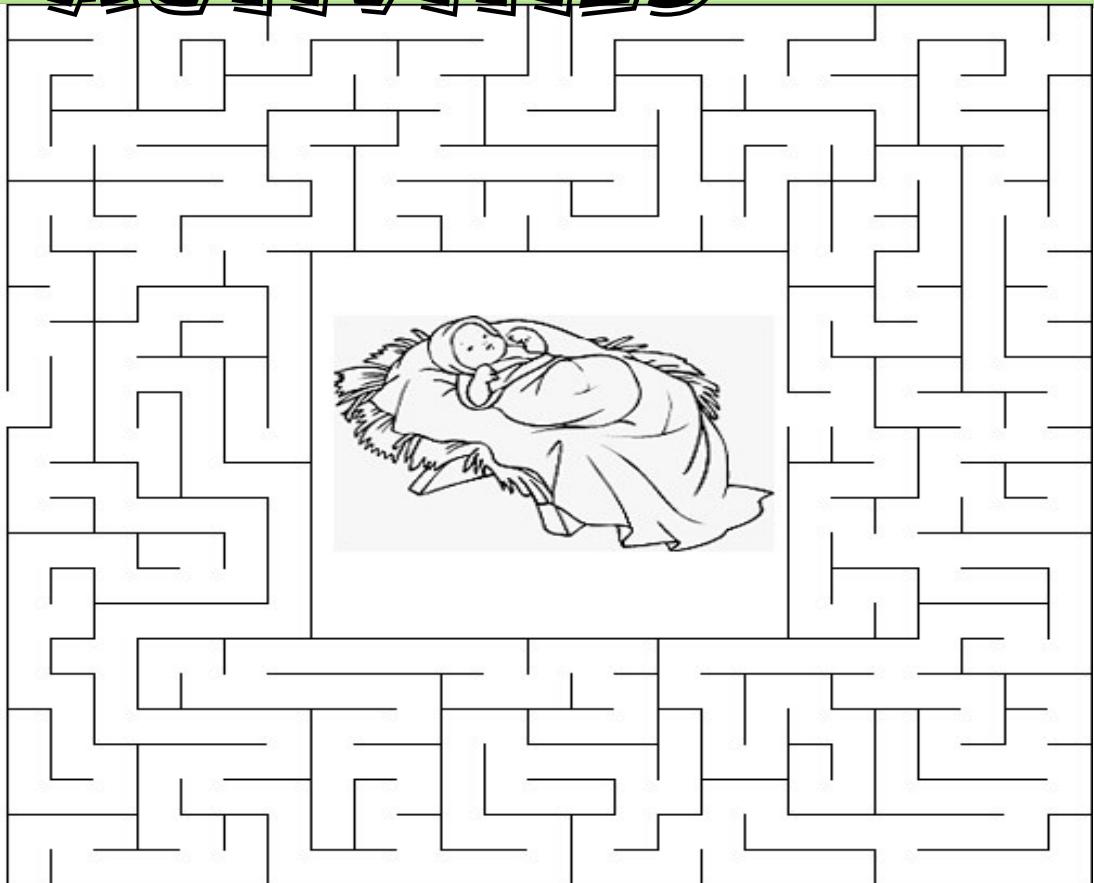
Celebrate this joyous occasion with the members below by sending a card or give a greeting!

- ◆ 1/7 Jean Melcher
- ◆ 1/8 Marilyn Johnson
- ◆ 1/12 Lois Hansen
- ◆ 1/20 Joanne Bruning
- ◆ 1/21 Ruth Philips
- ◆ 1/22 Myra Diersksheide
- ◆ 1/22 Judith Keiser
- ◆ 1/23 David Moenter
- ◆ 1/27 Donna Alexander

If your 80+ birthday is not included here, please contact the office at 419-287-4182 so we can update our records.

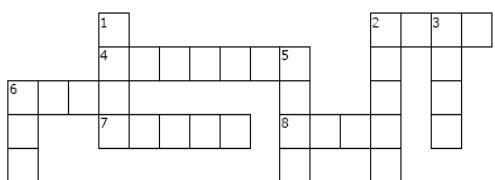


KIDS ACTIVITIES



The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect



MAGI GIFTS	BOW EAST	STAR BORN	GOLD MYRRH	KING INCENSE
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JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed	2	3 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	4	5	6
7 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	8 7:00 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dart Ball	9 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	10 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting	11 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	12	13 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
14 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	15 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle 7:30 pm Dart Ball	16 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	17 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	18 7:00 pm Council Meeting	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	22 7:00 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dart Ball	23 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	24 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	25 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	26	27 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
28 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	29	30 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	31			

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