

BETHLEHEM STAR

Newsletter of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Pemberville, Ohio

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - April 2024

It's a once in a lifetime experience! Early in April the skies will be darkened in the middle of the day. Nighttime creatures will think that night has come. All sorts of end-of-the-world conspiracies are abounding. And right here, where we live, is the path of totality.

And yet, as amazing as it will be, it's just that the moon is coming between the earth and the sun. For a few moments it will look like a "dragon of the universe is swallowing our light." Frightening to our ancient ancestors, for us it is an event that is both explainable and marvelous.

The eclipse. We won't see another until 2044. So for us, it's pretty awesome. One of the issues the eclipse brings to mind is just how small we are in the universe. Planets and suns and moons have been moving and rotating and revolving for countless millennia. The Psalmist, in the 8th Psalm questions:

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

The consistency of the seasons, the gift of the sun, the beauty and expanse of the night, the growth of children, the bounties of our world - - bring me to an awareness of awe of our God, whose love for us is eternal.

The universe will keep on moving for quite a while. But we also continue to celebrate an event that was a one-time change for this world.





Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men and Pastors

The spring meeting of the Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men and Pastors will be held Tuesday April 9, 2024. The Fellowship begins at 6:30pm and the Program begins at 7:15pm The meeting will be held at the Luther Home of Mercy Genesis Community Center 4400 Woodville Rd Northwood, OH . The speaker for the meeting will be Amanda Esquivel and the topic "Luther Home of Mercy Day Programs" All are welcome and this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about one of the Church Wide Ministries that takes place locally. If you can not attend the meeting and wish to mail a contribution to Treasurer Ralph Aufdenkamp 8369 Kramer Rd. Bowling Green OH 43402.

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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@bethlehempemberville.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

Cleaning of the church kitchen is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th at 9am. Anyone is welcome to help. Please bring a bucket and rag with you. If you have any questions, contact Luann Snyder at 419-349-4032.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

*Future gatherings:

- 1. Prayer Breakfast July 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Tim leading a Bible Study on a topic of his choice.
- 2. Make It Take It Workshop **Thursday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m**. in the Fellowship Hall, featuring card making with presenter, Sharon Nigh. (for adults and children)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

The Church Council has approved the reprinting of the booklet containing pictures of the stained glass windows as well as an explanation of the bible stories depicted in each window. Visitors often comment about the beauty of these windows, so we thought the booklets would be something to share with our visitors and any members wishing to have one. We might also share the booklets with youth in Sunday School or catechism. The cost for reprinting is \$677.00. If anyone is interested in donating to offset the cost, donations may be submitted to the office with a notation to be used for stain-glass booklet reprint.

Helping Haiti—A Savanette Update from BLCW program March 23

Jan and Jay Nielson have now completed 20 years of service to MIA's mission in Savanette, Haiti. They shared that in spite all the violence and gang chaos that is occurring in Haiti (Por-au-Prince area), the Brad Reddick School (BRS), grades K-11 with 400 students, in the Savanette area (160 miles from the turmoil), is doing well. Other projects including the SAVAFM radio station, sewing center, wedding shop, farm resource center, conference center, Circle of Life business (jewelry etc. from recycled paper), medical clinic, agroforestry, and evangelism ministry events are all operational. Two 8000 gallon water tanks have been erected, the first ever public latrines have been completed, a surgery center is close to completion, rapid growing of bamboo plants continues, and playground equipment from Perrysburg's Woodlands Park, chrome books, lockers, tables, chairs, and science supplies for the school have arrived in containers. They are hoping for more financial support to build and complete the school through grade 13. They also encouraged sponsoring a child at BRS for \$125 a year (tuition, books, uniform) and for \$65, feeding a child at school for a year.

In Loving Memory

IN MEMORY OF JANE KOHLENBERG

Donna Alexander-Honduras
Carolyn Borcherding-Honduras
Virginia Baumer-Radio
Jim & Dee Witker
Ruth Phillips
Karol Heckman
M/M Dan Gerwin
Marilyn Linkey
Liane Jaquillard
Evelyn Gerwin
Melvin Karns
Wilma Rolf
Beth McCowin
Pat & Gary Kline
Ross & Becky Buchman
Rick & Cyndi Walters
Ruth Walters
4 Season Garden Club
Tom & Darla Rahe
Cathy Kutzli
Joanne Busdeker
Ed & Debra Strohl
Terry & Sharon Nigh
Ed & Elaine Baker
Carl & Molly Shaffer
Leslie Shiffler & Family



Brian & Denise Pickerel Sheila Damschroder & Barbra Brauer Jeff Graber Kathy Vallance Dickens Tom & LeeAnne Dierksheide Eileen & Vic Schuerman Barb & Roger Bostdorff **Bob & Joanne Bruning** Roger & Teri Hansen Joyce Geisbuhler Karen & Mike Godfrey Wayne & Dolly Buchman Tim & Gail Gerwin Dennis & Janey Andrews Charles Kokomoor Ron & Mary Andrews Ruth Peters Roger & Nancy Kalenberg Sheila Rahe **Kelly Young** Janice Smith Middaugh Ken Sieving Marten **Beth Downey** Milly Dierker Jim & Chris Budke



Jerry & Shirley Ducat
Ken & Bev Gerwin
Steve & Nancy Rife
Marilyn Bowlus
Dave,Deb, Lindsay & Emily Helm
Don & Sue Gerke
M/M Carl Dierksheide
Renee Farmer
Lavon Linkey
Norris & Pat Hinds
Mike & Nancy Brocke
Carol & Dave Melcher
Becky & Tim Schult
Ron & Jeremy Corns
Joan Slebos
Will & Wendy Fisher
Shawn & Pam Frankfather
Aiden & Evan
Duane Peters
Paulette Bresler
Nigel & Trudy Davis
Paul & Linda Rolf
Luanne Snyder
Darryl Wagoner & Family
Kent, Jen, Sheriden & Tristan
Schuerman
Richard Taylor
Mark Hamen
Michael & Robin Cook & Jessica

MARCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Reports of Officers:

Trustee Report-

- -survey will be done of Parsonage #2 to verify property lines
- -New Boiler is in place & operating, awaiting final inspection
- -Getting quotes on Sanctuary roof replacement
- -repairs will be made to the East basement wall & floor & in the prayer garden, these will be done in-house, no quotes necessary.
- -looking at wooden exterior doors for possible improvements

Committee Reports:

A. Transition Team-

1) Strategic Planning: Emily Croak from Aly Sterling Philanthropy with a Zoom presentation. Assess, Align & Act program. She presented the council with an outline of what they could help us with in creating a strategic plan for Bethlehem. She presented the initial cost structure and what it would include. Council asked if they could use studies & surveys we have already done to be integrated in to their structure & present a new estimate to council.

Motion made by Matt Meyer to submit our previous work to Aly Sterling to get an updated cost estimate. Seconded by Josh Gerwin, Motion passed

2)Beer & Hymns had approx. 50ppl attending 30Spring fling was positive, some kids came to church the next morning.

3) Terri Hansen is planning a preschool workshop April 22nd. Maybe have the preschool students sing in church.

B. Long Range Planning Committee-

- -Will meet to discuss Investment committee reports on BLC investment fund health.
- -Will make decisions on distribution of proceeds.

Old Business:

- **Preschool Security** did not get the grant they applied for but are exploring security system upgrades independently. Shepard's staff roster-need to get updates linked with Church Directory phone app.
- Sale of Parsonage #2- Consideration of renter's appeal to 'delay' the sale of the house. They are not in the position to buy the house but have found it difficult to find an alternative rental opportunity in the Eastwood district. In-depth discussion of the timeline for the sale of the house. Due to the new survey & other issues, it might be 6 months until the home goes on the market. We agreed to keep the renters informed as to the status of listing the home. Travis made a motion that we offer a 12 month lease to the current renters. No second for the motion. Motion fails Conclusion is that although we have sympathy for the renter's difficulty in finding a different situation, the congregation has voted on the sale of the house & we have an obligation to proceed. We will keep lines of communication open with the renters as the sale process moves forward.
- Chimes- should be working with a new tablet. We have not had a true test yet.

New Business:

A. 1. Financial Secretary position: the position will be announced in church & posted Not sure where it will be posted yet, newspaper & on-line. Pay range from \$18-22 based on experience with a 6 month review

Motion to outsource the payroll processing: Willie Fisher, second by Karen Korn, motion passed.

- 2. Youth protection-the Boy Scouts of America offers an on-line program, Luanne looked into this option. Sheri Kreiger from the Synod office said she would provide resources on Youth Protection program. Will follow up with the Synod representative to get their feedback on the effectiveness of that program & how far reaching we need to be.
- **B.** Movie Night. Russ presented the costs of licensing to show movies to guests. The license is \$322 annually for a wide variety of movies. We will try this out with quarterly movie nights. Bethlehem will offer popcorn & beverages, asking for free-will donations. Motion to proceed made by Ken Gerwin, second by Tim Philabaum-Motion carries
 - C. Mudhens night- Friends & Family night June 30th. Will post to the congregation to sign up for the event.
 - D. Stained Glass Window booklet-People have been asking about the booklet we had.

Motion made to have 250 more printed for approx. \$650 . Willie Fisher made the motion, Karen Korn second – Motion carries

- **E.** Staffing of the church- some discussion for if we need to staff the church outside of office hours. Idea to put a 'well informed' easel in front of office with current information -times, activities, contacts, etc -if someone comes in after the office is closed.
 - **F.** Local family in need that we did the Noisy offering for will get a check for \$678 \$378 from the offering with \$300 match

Next Council Meeting will be: Thursday April18, 2024 @ 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schuerman

Council Secretary



FROM BISHOP DANIEL BEAUDOIN



February 21, 2024 Keep the Sabbath

"Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son, or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it' (Exodus 20:8-11).



How do we keep the Sabbath holy? As Lutheran Christians many of us were taught through Luther's Small Catechism to keep the Sabbath holy by fearing and loving God, "...so that we do not despise preaching or His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." According to Luther, the Sabbath was less about rest and more about attending public worship and making use of God's Word and Sacraments. Participating in public worship is important. Taking a day for rest is also important. Both practices (worship and rest) are sacred and draw us deeper into a relationship with the living God. We need to worship, and we need to rest.

In Exodus, the keeping of Sabbath is directly tied to work. "For six days you shall labor and do your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God, and you shall not do any work." God's people are called to a seventh day of rest, as God rested from creation on the seventh day. And not only did God rest, but God also "blessed the Sabbath Day and consecrated it." God made the seventh day holy, and we keep the Sabbath holy through the spiritual practice of rest.

For thousands of years God's people have put God's gift of Sabbath rest into practice. And during this season of Lent in this Year of Rest, I'm going to give it a try, or at least "fail forward" in my attempt to keep the Sabbath holy. "Failing forward" is a favorite phrase of mine. When you tinker with a new endeavor, you don't always succeed the first time. Failing forward is learning from your failure, adapting your approach, and trying it again, and again. Tinker and try long enough and you will learn to master the new practice.

Mission Honduras

By Darla Boyk and the Mission Honduras team

We invite you to join us for brunch on Saturday, April 13th at 10 a.m. in the Bethlehem fellowship hall. We would love to share our experiences, photos, and a cup of Honduran coffee with you. A RSVP would be appreciated but not required. RSVP to 419-575-0078 or missionhonduras.bethlehem@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!







VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, invites applicants for:

POSITION: Financial Secretary

Purpose: To manage the day to day finances of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, in collaboration with the Congregational Council and in accordance with the mission and vision of the congregation.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Oversees income received through offerings, memorials and donations.
- Post offerings and deposits into the computer.
- Pay bills and record in the computer.
- Prepare monthly and annual reporting.

Qualifications and/or Work Experience Requirements:

- High school diploma, or GED required; Associates Degree preferred.
- Excellent computer proficiency with QuickBooks, Microsoft Excel & Word.
- Knowledge of accounting principles, budgeting processes, and financial reporting preferred.
- Professionalism, along with a high degree of confidentiality.

Hours & Compensation: This is a part-time, hourly position with a flexible working schedule. Approximately 10 hours per week, maximum of 20 hours per week. The pay ranges from \$18.00-\$22.00 per hour based on experience.

How to apply: Applications are available for pick up Monday through Friday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, or by email. Applications along with a resume may be submitted by April 15, 2024 to the Church office or by email to office@bethlehempemberville.org



220 Cedar Street PO Box 344 Pemberville, OH 43450 (419) 287 - 4182

This announcement contains some but not all the responsibilities and qualifications for the position. A complete copy of the job description is available upon request and will be available during the interview.

"GROWING FORWARD"

Sharing Helpful Transition Ideas/Steps for Children

What: A panel discussion of adults with varied experiences of helping children learn how to prepare for, and adjust to, "new" experiences (school, activities, moving, loss, etc. they are faced with as they grow up

Who: Nikki Ohms – Elementary Guidance Counselor
Joy Powers – Kindergarten teacher
Jenny Kuhlman – Parent and lawyer
Tabatha Elson – Former preschool coordinator and parent
Morgan Pauff - former counselor at CRC and currently a private practice counselor

Where: Fellowship hall of Bethlehem Lutheran Church 220 Cedar St., Pemberville

When: Monday, April 22, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Why: To involve parents and other caregivers of (younger) children via a discussion/conversation type format learn ways/skills to help children grow independently and responsibly in new situations

*This informative program is sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool and Bethlehem Lutheran Church/ Transition
Team*

Article for the Star and other churches, etc.:

"Growing Forward"

A Special informative program for parents and caregivers of children being planned for Monday, April 22, 2024 from 6:30 pm.-7:45 pm. in the fellowship hall. Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool and BLC/ Transition team is sponsoring a panel discussion about helping children learn ways/skills to help them grow independently and adjust responsibly when faced with new situations. The panelists are Nikki Ohms (Elem. Guidance counselor), Joy Powers (kindergarten teacher), Jenny Kuhlman (parent, lawyer) Tabatha Elson (former preschool director, parent), and Morgan Pauff (private practice counselor, formerly at CRC). Please plan to attend and help spread the word!



Happening This Month: April

April Mission Action Project:

Baby Care Kits include the following items in each Baby Care Kit:

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts
- 2 long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn up to 52" square
- 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred,
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pair of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap, in its original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins OR large safety pins

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Tips for Baby Care Kits:

- Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Varying the sizes
 of the clothing items included will make the Baby
 Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits or fleece.
 Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. Visit lwr.org for a Diaper Tip Sheet with instructions.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.

Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Henry Sundermeier, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Justin Werner,

FOR THE GRIEVING 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,

Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

April:

- Children's Cereals
- Juice (plastic bottles)
- Peanut Butter(smooth or crunchy)
- Shampoo
- 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.

Serving this month in Worship and Beyond

Altar Flowers
Marlene Meyer

Altar Guild
Wendy Fisher
Denise Pickerel

Office Window
Deb Helm

Service Org (Funerals)
Joan Slebos

Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ♦ 4/5 Mickey Gerwin
- ♦ 4/9 Paulette Bresler
- ♦ 4/15 Evelyn Gerwin
- ♦ 4/17 Jerry Corns

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



The Good Shepherd

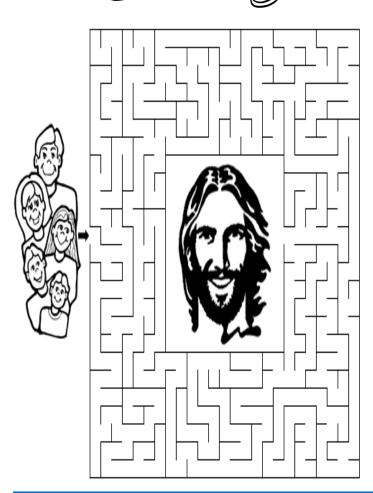
"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 10:11-18



P	E	P	F	E	L	D	W	S	R	L	G	F	Т	T
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Γ	LISTEN	SHEEP	LOVES	WOLF	FLOCK
ı	ATTACKS	CARES	PEN	GOOD	RUNS
ı	SCATTERS	VOICE	SHEPHERD	LIFE	KNOW





APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
	7:00 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dart Ball	2 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	3 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	4	5	6 9a.m. BLCW Kitchen Cleaning		
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 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle 7:30 pm Dart Ball	9 9am-12pm Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	10 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6-8 pm Cub Scout Meeting	11 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	12	13 10a.m. Honduras Thank You Brunch 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open		
9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	15 7:00 pm Yoga	16 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	17 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	7:00 pm Council Meeting	19	20		
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	6:30-7:45 Panel Discussion Growing Forward 7:00 pm Yoga	23 9am-12pm Knotting 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		
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	7:00 pm Yoga	30 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 7:00pm BLCW meeting						
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Bethlehem Lutheran Church PO Box 344 Pemberville, OH 43450

Return service requested

Dated material. Do not delay

