



BETHLEHEM STAR

NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO



Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - September 2023

The Fair is over, and our youth are back in school. I am continually amazed at how fast these days go by. But I am also amazed at how the love of God is constant, and present, and healing. Thanks be to God!

One of the gifts of this summer and this community is the blessing of the common witness to Jesus that the churches of Pemberville have offered on the Sundays of Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, and the weeks of Lent. The connections, leadership, and relationships here show the glory of God to the whole community, and I am grateful.

In the middle of September, on the 14th, the Church celebrates "Holy Cross Day." The tradition of this day goes back to the 300's when Emperor Constantine's mother, Helene, "discovered" the true cross of Jesus in Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was then built over that site. Whether or not this truly was the cross of Jesus, pieces were shared throughout the Christian world into the Medieval ages.

But there's a deeper issue

here than just history. From before the beginning of time God knew how God-in-Jesus would bring salvation to the world. God knew that God-in-Jesus would take upon himself the brokenness of the world,



including all the sin, all the pain, all the suffering, all the grief. It was on the cross that God-in-Jesus completed God's plan, entering our brokenness, becoming death for us, ending the cycle begun with Adam and Eve. Then, on Sunday, Jesus' Resurrection restarts all creation with joy and grace.

One of Luther's insights is that God comes to us in surprising ways. We expect the great God of the Universe to always come in power and might. But no, Jesus was born of a normal woman, lived a human life (somehow both

God and human), and then died. It is at the cross we see God's love most clearly. For all humanity. Forever. And then it is out of the empty tomb we see the hope of life for all creation. Alleluia!

Despite the cross adorning us with jewelry and beauty, its reality brings us to the heart of God. No matter what is going on in your life, no matter how you have been hurt, or have hurt others, the cross stands at the point in time to which we can go, to which we can lay our burdens down, and where we are connected with the ever-flowing stream of grace, forgiveness, peace, and love. It reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus, and God's healing presence throughout the world.

So, make the sign of the Cross on yourself (yes, Lutherans can do that!), in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May your vision be cross-shaped, viewing the world and the people around you as God views – with love. May others see Jesus in you!



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Lisa Kohlenberg

Vice-President

Luann Snyder

Treasurer

Renee Farmer

Secretary

Brenda Graham

220 Cedar Street
Pemberville, OH 43450
419-287-4182
bethlehempeberville.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@bethlehempeberville.org

Important Dates

9/3 Community Worship- 11am Pemberville United Methodist Church

9/6 Bell Choir Resumes- 6:15pm

9/10 Sunday School Resumes- following worship



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC) has committed to sponsor two refugee families from Ukraine. A family of two and a family of four. This is a community wide effort, with BLC serving as the projects' hub. There will be many ways in which you can help!

- 1) **HOUSING** - Home/homes to occupy for a minimum of 90 days or are you interested in housing one of these families? Please call **Eileen Schuerman at 419-287-4452, or Sharon Nigh at 419-308-2177.**
- 2) **HOUSEHOLD ITEMS** - These families will arrive with nothing! Please call **Nancy Rife at 419-351-4223** with anything you wish to donate.
- 3) **TRANSPORTATION** - Many hands are needed to help with transportation needs to and from English classes in Toledo four days a week, shopping trips, etc.
- 4) **FINANCIAL** - Getting the families here is our largest single expense, about \$1000 per person. We have pledges covering two people but we need four more! Other needs include: approximately \$1000/month for rent, \$250/month for utilities, and \$50 per week for other shopping needs. Any amount will help and any amount is appreciated!

Checks can be made to : Bethlehem Lutheran Church (please mark "Ukraine" in the body of the check). You can mail to the church at 220 Cedar St. PO Box 344, Pemberville, OH 43450 or deliver to the church office at 220 Cedar St., Monday-Thursday from 9am-2pm. Cash donations can also be brought to the church office.

Women of NWO Banquet

The Women of NWO invite you to our "Here I Am Lord" Gathering on October 27, 28th at the Findlay Inn, in Findlay, Ohio. Dr. Lisa Chavers will be speaking on Friday, "Hearing God's Rhythm and Answering the Call" On Saturday, Pastor Melanie Haack from ST. Paul's, New Rochester and St. James Bradner will present, "I Am She", she will also lead closing worship. Chris Budke will lead Bible Study on Saturday, "Answering the Call".

Friday Night Banquet. "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY".

Registration form in church office, "SONLIGHT". Questions? Contact Sharon Moenter, 419-704-2193



Mission Honduras

By Darla Boyk and the Mission Honduras team

We are hoping you will join us for our January 2024 brigade. The dates for the brigade are Saturday, January 20 th to Tuesday, January 30 th . You have the option of returning home on Saturday, January 27 th if you prefer. We will once again be assisting with the Amigos de San Carlos medical brigade, distributing new filters (as funding allows), and doing filter checks. We need people with medical background and people WITHOUT medical backgrounds. There is plenty of work for all to do! Cost will vary from approximately \$1500-\$2000 (depending on flight costs, how many days you stay and if you have a passport/suggested vaccines). If you have an interest in joining our brigade or have questions, please let me know at missionhonduras.bethlehem@gmail.com or 419-575-0078. Thank you for supporting this mission!

Darla



In Loving Memory

IN MEMORY OF ARDELLE ROLF

Ruth Witker Kinley

IN MEMORY OF SHERRA SAMSON

M/M Nigel Davies
M/M Terry Amos
M/M Mark Beard



M/M Ray Kohlenberg
M/M Carl Lohrbach
M/M Chad Strahan
Hayden, Carter, Avery
M/M Paul Rolf
M/M Joe Fuerst
M/M Chip Rolf
Sharon Morgart
Myra Dierksheide
M/M Brian Pickerel



M/M Willie Fisher
Carolyn Borchering
Susie Rahe
M/M Roger Hansen
Millie Dierker
Melvin Karns

BY THE NUMBERS

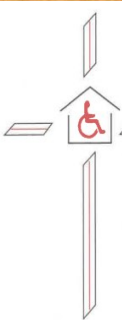
From Jane Kohlenberg, Financial Secretary

June, 2023	Beg. Balance	Deposits	Expenses	End Balance
Operating	\$198,657.81	\$17,992.89	\$21,950.61	\$194,700.09
Recon Adjustment	\$2,583.19			\$2,583.19
Memorial	\$-7,598.35	\$885.00		\$-6,713.35
Benevolence	\$7,977.12	\$1,785.00		\$9,762.12
Outreach	\$13,886.64	\$2,347.00	\$6,764.59	\$9,469.05
Pass Through	\$190,590.95			\$190,590.95
Totals	\$406,097.36	\$23,009.89	\$28,715.20	\$400,392.05

THANK YOU

To the Women of BLC

Words cannot express how special it was to have such support and kindness during such a tragic time in our lives. Our family is so appreciative and thankful for the blessing you bestowed to us for the luncheon after Steve's service. A big thank you to ~~the~~ all involved to make such a delicious luncheon. Love to all, Dana & Linda Long



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

August 2, 2023


Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 344
Pemberville, OH 43450-0344

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Luther Home of Mercy, for your thoughtful prayers, and for your recent gift of \$869.00.

While our mission has always been to provide quality care, it's the benevolence of people just like you that help each individual feel at home. Through your generosity, we are able to offer transportation to Fourth of July celebrations, supplies for backyard snow cone parties and all of those extra somethings that help the summertime to sparkle.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for your commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.




Most sincerely,
Megan
Megan O'Brien
Vice President

Thank you for faithfully supporting our ministry.

Donation to Luther Home of Mercy EIN # 34-4441788

Amount: \$869.00 Date: 7/21/2023

According to IRS standards, no goods or services were provided to you in consideration for the above referenced donation. Please save this letter to use for your taxes for 2023.



GENACROSS®
LUTHERAN SERVICES
FOUNDATION

2021 N. McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio 43615
419.861.4965

July 25, 2023

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 344
Pemberville, OH 43450-0344

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church:


Thanks to your generous gift of \$836.00, you have made a difference with your support for Genacross Lutheran Services, where most needed.

Your gift is deeply appreciated and allows the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation the ability to support unparalleled Christian care to so many in need.

Our caring, front-line essential employees provide excellent services and care to over 3,500 residents and care recipients, as you can see in the enclosed information sheet, and can do so because you gave to the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation. After reading this, we hope you are inspired to continue supporting Genacross.

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."

Sincerely,



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

Thank you! Mike



Happening This Month: September

September Mission Action Project: Military

Bibles, AA batteries, baby powder and wipes, bug spray (no aerosol anything), female hygiene products (tampons, pads, used also for wounds to stop bleeding), tooth brushes, toothpaste, mouth wash, Kleenex, cough drops, lotions, sun screen, body wash, Vicks vapor rub, face wash, shaving cream, deodorant, razors, eye drops, black work gloves, Q-tips, hair ties, bobby pins, hair clips, nail clippers, note pads, black pens, head lamps, cards, power strips, pillow cases, crosswords, magazines

Food Items (think SMALL packages): instant coffee, creamer, tea bags, skittles candy, granola bars, slim Jim's, beef jerky, gum, drink mixes, salty snacks, seasoning packages, hot sauce, sunflower seeds, Oreo cookies (no homemade), Clif bars, crackers, nuts/raisin mix, Ramon noodles.



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Lisa Ruck, Jill Kingery, Judy Hass, Donna Schuerman, Miriam Aufdenkamp, Dennis Guyer, Luther Henline, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Jan Hoodlebrink

For the Grieving

Stephen Long & Sherra Samson

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

September:

- Crackers
- Applesauce
- Dish soap
- Unscented 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.



Serving this month in Worship and Beyond

Altar Flowers

Evelyn Gerwin
Brenda Gerwin

Altar Guild

Sue Gerke
Denise Corns

Office Window

Diane Burtchin

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!

- ♦ 9/1 Luther Henline
- ♦ 9/3 Carolyn Borcharding
- ♦ 9/24 Wilma Rolf
- ♦ 9/29 Mary Daman

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



KIDS ACTIVITIES

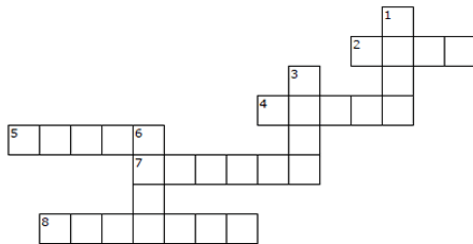
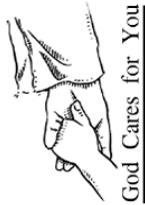
Precious In His Sight
Crossword

Parables Of The Kingdom
Spiral

You Are Precious in His Sight

So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. Matthew 10:31 (NIV)

Based on Matthew Matthew 10:24-39 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The spiritual part of a person
4. A small copper coin
5. The value of something
7. To be fearful or anxious about something
8. A common, small, gray-brown bird

DOWN

1. The physical part of a person
3. The part of the body that contains the eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and the brain
6. Threadlike structures growing on the head of a person

WORTH	SOUL	SPARROW	HEAD
HAIR	PENNY	AFRAID	BODY

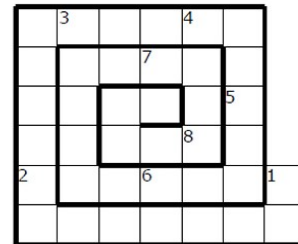
Jacob's Dream
Coloring Page



Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:46 (NIV)

Look at the numbered clues, determine the correct word, and write that word in the spiral puzzle. Each numbered square will begin a new word.



1. Something of great value; gold, silver, or jewels, for example
2. A small, shiny, hard ball that forms inside some oysters
3. A feeling of great happiness
4. To put in a place where something cannot be seen or found (past tense)
5. Gave something in exchange for money
6. A territory or country ruled by a king or queen
7. An adult male human
8. The worth of something in money

VALUE	PEARL	HID	KINGDOM
TREASURE	MAN	SOLD	JOY

A Bride for Isaac
Word Search

A Bride for Isaac

Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her. Genesis 24:67



L O W I S A A C F F T E S S I
F K Q U M A I D E N A P F H W
N S E C A M E L S Q N M U Z P
S E B D T T K U K G W W I Y X
I R H B L N H E N R J A K L X
D V B G I E K I K D W T L W Y
G A O R P C R N W S W E Q D M
K N D A N P E G I B P R E A H
G T Z D S S S H F E G I H A R
S D Y E O N T C E Z R A K P S
G O T H A F G E Q R R E V D O
M Z C K Z X H B A B B S T T N
X R K F F R V M A E A Y L C Y
L J H Q P L U F R Z L N Y K M
O W E A L T H Y M T O F F X P

FAMILY	WIFE	MARRIED	CAMELS	SERVANT
DRINK	ABRAHAM	WEALTHY	SPRING	MAIDEN
WATER	SON	CHOSEN	ISAAC	REBEKAH

SEPTEMBER

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

A large stained glass window depicting the Last Supper serves as the background for the lower half of the page. The central figure is Jesus, seated on the right, wearing a white robe with a red sash. He is surrounded by twelve apostles seated at a long table. The table is set with various items including a chalice, bread, and plates. The background of the window shows architectural details like stone walls and a window with a cross. The entire scene is rendered in a traditional stained glass style with vibrant colors and leaded glass patterns.

Worship

9:00 AM

**In person in the sanctuary and
streaming on Facebook and YouTube**

11:30

Broadcast on 99.1 FM