

# **April 7, 2024 and Second Sunday of Easter**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**220 Cedar Street**

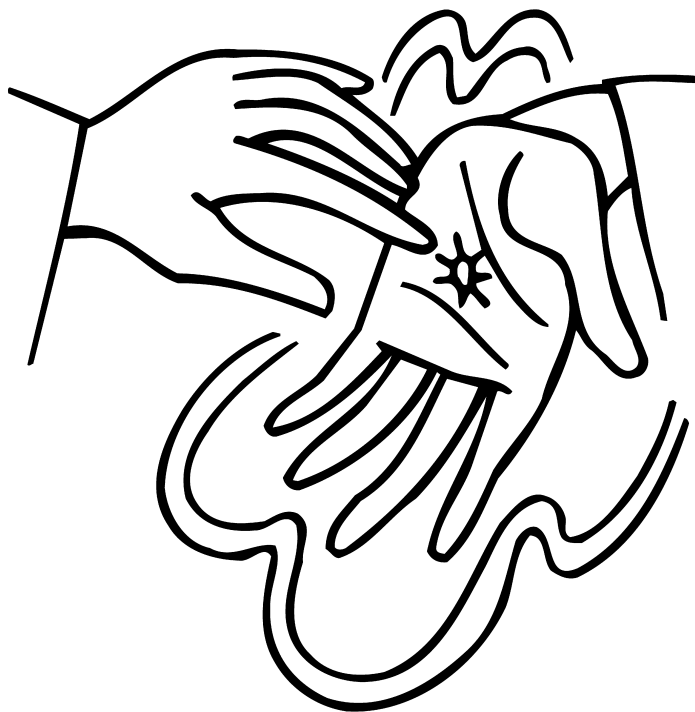
**PO Box 344**

**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, 9 am – 12 noon**

**419-287-4182**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### +GATHER+

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*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, + one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**GATHERING HYMN:** The Easter Day with Joy Was Bright **ELW#384**

## 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is The Feast

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

## +WORD+

### MEMORY VERSE: (Hebrews 4:9)

“So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God.”

### FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

# Psalm 133

Hal H. Hopson

Hal H. Hopson

## Refrain



God of love and mer - cy, bring peace to all your peo - ple.

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## PSALM: 133

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

**<sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe. R**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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 John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## CHILDREN MESSAGE

**SERMON- Pastor Ken Pollitz**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing ELW #386**

### NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**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.*

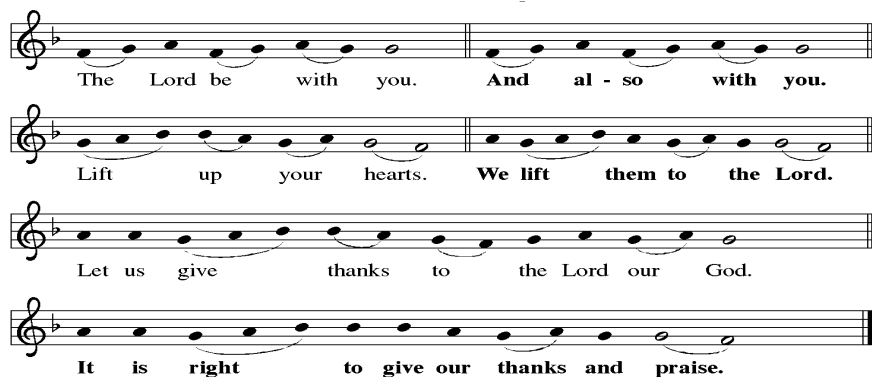
**OFFERING HYMN: Now We Join in Celebration ELW#462 Verse 1 Only**

**"Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation,  
dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder;  
for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence,  
stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us."**

### OFFERING PRAYER

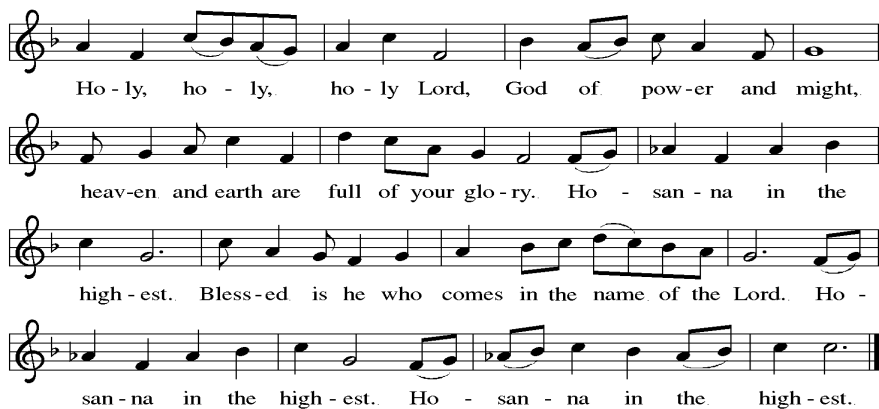
**Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.****

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



## 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, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.  
**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness;

out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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 his love for us on the way,  
at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering;  
within this meal; among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,  
in your church, without end.

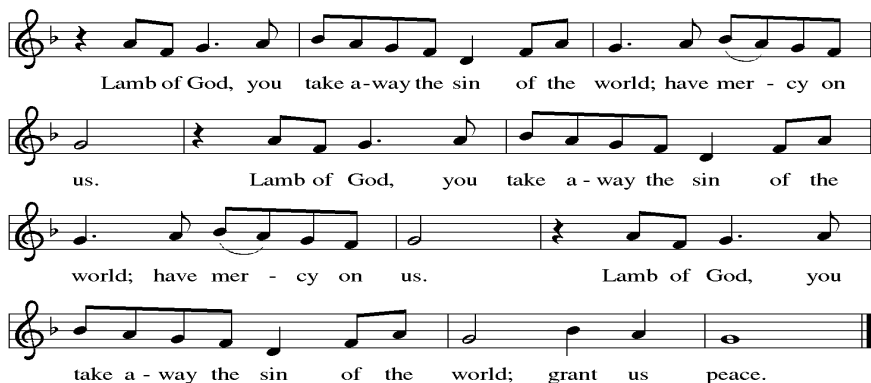
**Amen.**

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 tres-  
pass 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**

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.



**COMMUNION HYMN:** Dearest Jesus, We Are Here **ELW#443**  
We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus **ELW#451**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

### **+SENDING+**

#### **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
+ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** Thine Is the Glory

**ELW #376**

#### **DISMISSAL**

What is our mission?

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

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## LAST WEEKS

**Attendance: Sunrise– 53 9a.m. In Person– 240 Online–42**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**For healing:** Henry Sundermeier, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Justin Werner

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Delores Beeker from her husband, Alton & family.

**Radio Broadcast** is given to the glory of God in memory of Robert Walters from Ruth Walters, Bob & Chris Latusek, Rick & Cyndi Walters & family & Mike O'Brien & family.

**Online Streaming** is given to the glory of God and from Kathy & Roger Burtchin.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

4/7, Sun	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School
4/8, Mon	6a.m.-6p.m.	Church Closed
	7 p.m.	Priscilla Circle
	7 p.m.	Yoga
4/9, Tues	11a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	6-7p.m.	North Central Conference
4/10, Wed	6:15 p.m.	Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
4/13, Sat	10 a.m.	Honduras Thank You Brunch
4/14, Sun	9 a.m.	Worship
	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations and blessings** on Larry and Pam (Varty) Hiser, who were married here at Bethlehem two weeks ago.

**The Mission Action project for April 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 light-weight 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](http://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.

**Food Pantry items for April** Children's cereals, Juice (plastic bottles), Peanut butter (creamy or crunchy), Shampoo, & paper towels

**Please join Mission Honduras** for brunch on Saturday, April 13th at 10a.m. in the fellowship hall. We would like to share photos, our experiences, and a cup of Honduran coffee with you! An RSVP by April 7th to the church office, 419-575-0078 or [missionhonduras.bethlehem@gmail.com](mailto:missionhonduras.bethlehem@gmail.com) is appreciated but not required. We hope to you can join us!

**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.

**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.

**"Growing Forward"**

**A Special informative program for parents and caregivers of children** is 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!