



BETHLEHEM STAR



NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - February 2024

Greetings, sisters and brothers! So, right smack in the middle of February is "Valentine's Day," the day of love. There it sits, on the 14, reminding us of the love St. Valentine had for his girlfriend, and the love he had for Jesus (as he was then killed for his faith on this day).



This day becomes an important image for the whole month, as well as for our faith. For we believe in and proclaim that God is love, and that all love comes from God.

What makes February 14 also important is that Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent fall on that date. On this "day of love" we will gather to repent of our sins, to receive the imposition of ashes, to begin a 40 day experience of introspection, to spend time in spiritual practices, and to prepare ourselves for the awesome Three Days. We will walk with the disciples during those three days; to the Upper

Room for the Last Supper; then to the Garden, in which Jesus is betrayed; then to the homes of the High Priest and the Roman Governor; then to Calvary, at which Jesus gives His life for the sake of the world. We will continue our walk with Mary Magdalene to the tomb and encounter the Resurrected Christ!

Here we see the plan of love that God began to put into place well before creation was created! It defines us as creatures of this loving God, and call us, like Jesus, to love others as we have been so

awesomely loved!

We have a gift in the Pemberville Community, in that the congregations of this Village are in great partnership. So we will gather with all of them, each Wednesday, to worship our God, to share in Holy Communion, and to proclaim our common faith.

The theme for this year is "Lenten Hymns." Each Pastor/Congregation will choose a hymn around which to focus the service. Such hymns will sing us in faith and strengthen our combined witness. Those who are able to attend the 11am service will be able to share in lunch at the Pemberville Senior Center. Those who will attend the 7pm service may share in supper, beginning at 6pm. Each of the services will be held at Bethlehem.

Blessings to you this season of Lent. May our amazing God bless you as you prepare for the joy of Easter!

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President

Luann Snyder

Vice-President

Susie Rahe

Treasurer

Renee Farmer

Secretary

Jen Schuerman

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bethlehempemberville.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@bethlehempemberville.org

Lenten Schedule

Worship on Wednesdays during the Lenten season will be both at 11am and 7pm. The morning service is designed so that worshippers may attend the Senior Center lunch following worship. There will be an evening meal at 6pm, before the 7pm Worship Service. All of Pemberville will join at Bethlehem for these services, with each congregation planning and preparing the service and the meal. As we are all in full-Communion partnership, there will be Holy Communion at each of the services.

- ◆ February 14 - Ash Wednesday/Bethlehem Lutheran Church
As with the Church of the ages we will begin Lent with repentance and the imposition of ashes, leaning on the God of grace
- ◆ February 21 -Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- ◆ February 28 - Otterbein and Faith United Methodist Church (Luckey)

Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 after the church service. It is important to have everyone's input regarding the important work of the church. We need your participation! Reports will be available for pickup February 6th.

BLCW News!

*Please mark your calendars for the first of three BLCW Fellowship Gatherings in 2024! On **Saturday, March 23 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall, Jay and Jan Nielson from Missions International of America will be back to update us on what improvements and other changes are happening in Savanette, Haiti. We will also learn about ways BLC can continue to help the people of Savanette.

*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)



In Loving Memory

IN MEMORY OF JERRY BAUMER

FOR RADIO MINISTRY

M/M Ray Kohlenberg
Ken Sieving
Lavon Miller
M/M Victor Schuerman
M/M Jerry Ducat
Joyce Geisbuhler
Dale Avers
Vickie Seifert
M/M Charles Crandall



IN MEMORY OF BARB EMCH

Millie Dierker
Quilting Eagles, Karen Godfrey
M/M Roger Hansen Music
M/M Eric Coppeler
M/M Pete Hebler
Charles Kokomoor
M/M Merlin Moenter
Joanne Busdeker
M/M Bob Frobose



Myra Dierksheide
Evelyn Gerwin
Karis Overmyer
Pastor Jim & Chris Budke
Ruth Peters
M/M Ray Kohlenberg

BY THE NUMBERS

From Jane Kohlenberg, Financial Secretary

| December, 2023 | Beg. Balance | Deposits | Expenses | End Balance |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Operating | \$425,890.31 | \$43,152.12 | \$18,606.47 | \$450,435.96 |
| Recon Adjustment | \$2,583.19 | | | \$2,583.19 |
| Memorial | \$-3,536.35 | | | \$-3,536.35 |
| Benevolence | \$6,919.12 | \$6,789.00 | | \$13,708.12 |
| Outreach | \$39,589.37 | \$6,020.00 | \$2,119.02 | \$43,491.05 |
| Pass Through | \$190,590.95 | | | \$190,590.95 |
| Totals | \$662,036.59 | \$55,961.82 | \$20,725.49 | \$697,272.92 |

JANUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Three observations that demonstrate the church living its mission:

1. Cub scouts-religion badge
2. Honduras Mission trip
3. More people in church, many kids & people returning to BLC
4. Snack pack participation is growing

Orientation of new members

- handbooks handed out with members duties & contact information.
- Members read the Covenant of Conduct and signed that they agreed to abide by it.
- 2nd year members can meet with new members as necessary; deacons, trustee, etc.

Reports of Officers:

Treasurer's report:

- Will see how envelope distribution goes to determine a number to order for next year.
- Designation of funds from the sale of the Parsonage & the Brunk estate will be discussed after next investment committee meeting.

Trustee Report-

- Roof Shingle update- no new updates
- The cost of repairs for the boilers will be brought to the congregation for a congregational vote at a special meeting, that vote will be held on January 21, 2024.
- Various lights around the church will be repaired

Committee Reports:

Transition Team:

- 14 people attended the leadership workshop on Saturday, January 13, The workshop was 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.

Old Business:

- New Constitution- needs to be ratified for changes that have been made, will be done at the annual meeting add the ratification of it to the annual mtg agenda
- Need to work on Committee assignments per new verbiage in constitution.
- Chimes: currently not working but Russ is looking into a new software program to get them started by Easter.
- Visitation & communion Ministry: Pastor Tim will speak about this at the annual meeting.

New Business:

- Scouts- Religion awards will be given out on Scout Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024
- Discussed extending support for religious award program to Girls Scout troops 1277, 1280 & 1489. Dollar amounts to be determined at a later date, based on the number of participants. Russ Eby made motion to support for religious awards for girl scout troops 1277, 1280, and 1489. Matt Meyer second. Motion carried
- Microgrants: An additional outreach opportunity, through NWOS. Council members were asked to think of needs in the community and imagine what new outreach projects might be initiated with grants.
- Annual mtg; Feb 11 after service and will stay in sanctuary
- Designated signers for the bank accounts:

President: Luann Snyder

VP: Susie Rahe

Treasurer: Renee Farmer

Financial. Sec; Jane Kohlenberg

No motion needed to have the bank update the signature card.

Next Council Meeting will be: Thursday February 15, 2024 @ 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schuerman

Council Secretary



FROM BISHOP DANIEL BEAUDOIN



October 25, 2023
Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9: 6)



Photo taken by Bishop Daniel: Tree in the Garden of Gethsemane

In 2018, I joined a number of ELCA Bishops and pastors on a trip to Palestine and Israel. We spent time learning from Israeli religious leaders and Palestinians living in refugee camps. We met with political leaders from the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Authority. We visited Augusta Victoria Hospital and several Lutheran churches and schools. We toured the thirty-foot high, militarized separation barrier that cuts the West Bank off from Israel and talked with the Israeli Defense Force engineer who designed it. We spent time in a kibbutz way out in the desert north of Gaza where young Israeli families were eeking out a living.

We heard a lot of accusatory language and propaganda of all sides. But what we heard from the folks living in the kibbutz, the families struggling in the refugee camps, and children learning in the school, was a strong desire for an end to all hostilities. The ordinary folk of this Holy Land simply desire peace. This is what they long for and pray for. As followers of the Prince of Peace, let us prayerfully consider ways that we may bring peace to all those who long to live in peace.

Yes, we can pray: “O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let me designed of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” Evangelical Lutheran Worship (pg. 72)

Yes, we can sing: I especially love Hymn #753 *Dona Nobis Pacem* in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The Latin words of this canon are translated, “Grant Us Peace”. Ask your pastor or choir director to sing *Dona Nobis Pacem* during worship in the next week or month. Listen to a version by the 2016 Fairfield County Children’s Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MszVs1YHsk>



Happening This Month: February

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

Henry Sundermeier, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Justin Werner, Frank Family, Louann Guyer, Beverly Furman, Anna & Marcus Tille, Mike O'Brien

FOR THE GRIEVING

Judy Hass & Gloria Bradley

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 Scut 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

February:

- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- Crackers
- Rice-A-Roni
- Mash Potatoes

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

Pat Cline
Trina Karns

Altar Guild

Joanne Busdeker
Teri Hansen

Office Window

Leslie Shiffler

Service Org (Funerals)

Faye Schuerman
Trina Karns

Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ♦ 2/10 Gary Korn
- ♦ 2/12 Doris Oberst
- ♦ 2/13 Donald Gerke
- ♦ 2/19 Jean Ladd

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



KIDS ACTIVITIES

Love Your Enemies

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:43-44

Based on Matthew 5:43-48



Love Your Enemies

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:43-44

The activity is based on Matthew 5:43-48



A number of words have been removed from the text and placed in a word bank. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the blanks in the text. Write the words in the blanks provided.

You have heard it said, "Love your _____ and hate your _____."

But I say, love your _____!

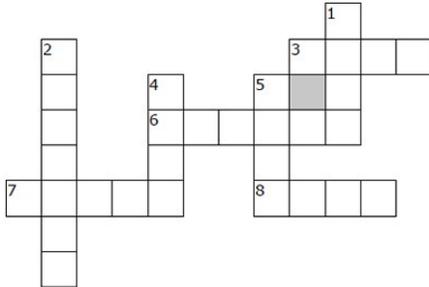
_____ for those who persecute you.

In that way, you will be true _____ of your Father in heaven.

If you love only those who love you, what _____ will you get?

If you are kind only to your _____, you are no different from the pagans.

You are to be _____, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.



ACROSS

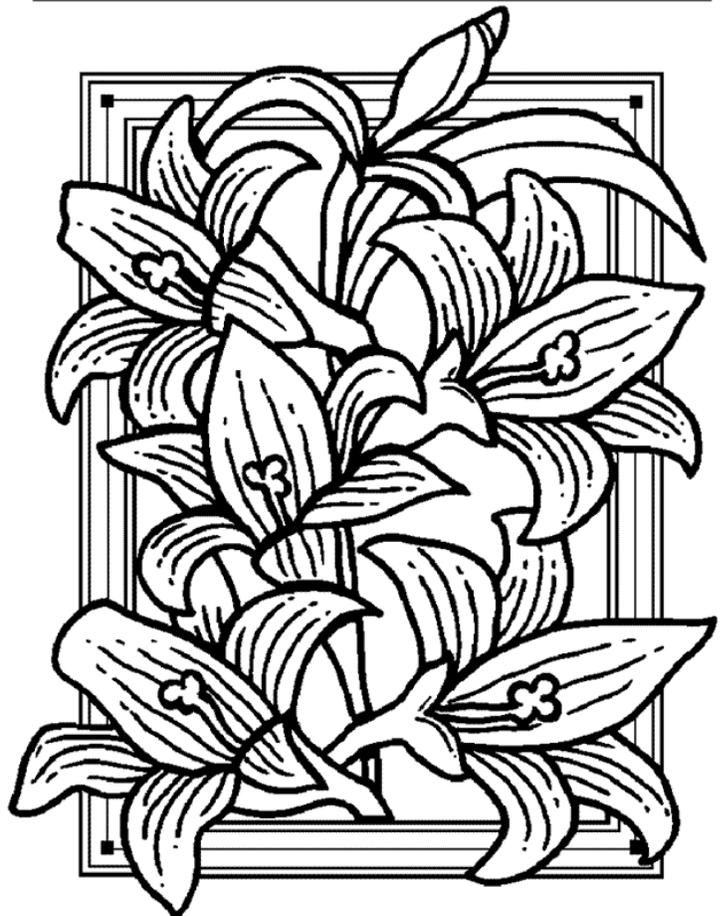
- A warm feeling of affection for another person
- Something good received in return for good behavior
- Any person or group that is opposed to you
- Something that causes harm; morally wrong; wicked

DOWN

- Something that is pleasing; morally upright
- Persons you know and like very much
- To talk to God
- A strong feeling of dislike for someone or something

| | | | |
|-------|------|---------|------|
| ENEMY | EVIL | REWARD | HATE |
| GOOD | LOVE | FRIENDS | PRAY |

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| neighbor | perfect | reward | children |
| enemy | Pray | friends | enemies |



FEBRUARY

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

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