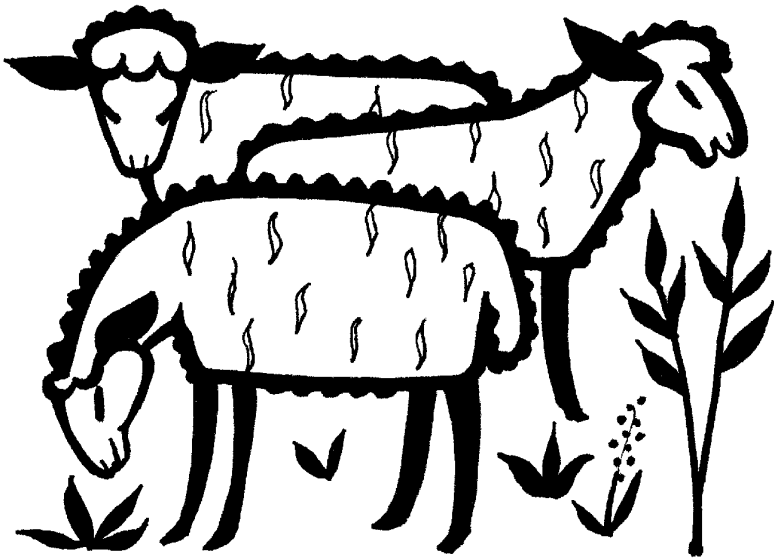


April 21, 2024 and Fourth Sunday of Easter

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: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia! ELW#369

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.

1 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

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN MESSAGE

+WORD+

MEMORY VERSE: (Hebrews 4:9)

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

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

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

Psalm 23

Scottish Psalter, 1650

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain

The Lord's my Shep-herd, I'll not
want. The Lord's my Shep-herd.

Refrain text: Scottish Psalter, 1650, *alt.* (PD).

Music: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

PSALM: 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given 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 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”
Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON- Pastor Tim Philabaum

HYMN OF THE DAY: Shepherd Me, O God ELW #780

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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

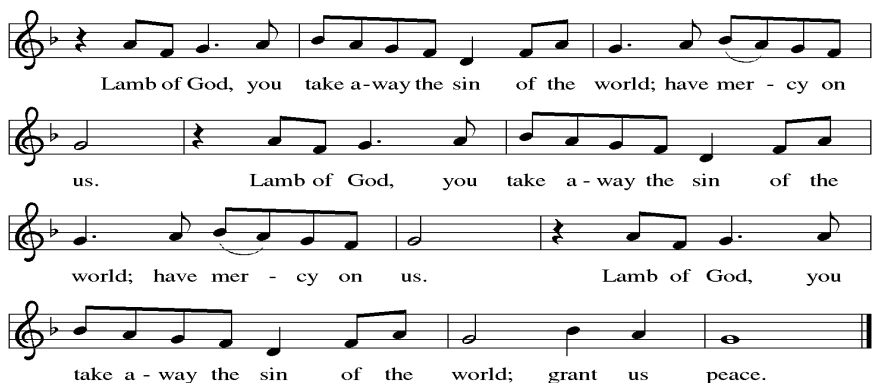
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
in your church, without end.

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.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: For the Bread Which You Have Broken ELW#494
Bread of Life from Heaven ELW#474

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: God Be with You Till We Meet Again **ELW #536**

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: In Person-133 Online-72

IN OUR PRAYERS

For healing: Henry Sundermeier, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Justin Werner, David Moenter

Altar Flowers and Radio Broadcast is given to the glory of God.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

4/21, Sun	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School
4/22, Mon	7 p.m.	Yoga
4/23, Tues	9a.m.-12p.m.	Knotting
	11a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	6p.m.	Bible Study
4/24 Wed	6:15 p.m.	Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
4/27, Sat	8:30a.m.-12p.m.	North Central Conference
4/28, Sun	9 a.m.	Worship
	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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.

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

GROWING FORWARD

Sharing Helpful Steps for Families moving into new experiences.

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool invites all parents, grandparents and caregivers into an informative conversation to learn ways to help children grow independently and to thrive.

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Transition Team are sponsoring an evening for our community’s families. The panel discussion will consist of adults with a variety of experiences for helping children learn how to prepare for their next steps. These new steps children face could be moving into a new school or grade, starting youth activities, or learning to be away from parents for the first time.

The panel will consist of the following guests;

Nikki Ohms - Eastwood Elementary Guidance Counselor

Joy Powers - Kindergarten teacher

Jenny Kuhlman - Parent of former Preschool student & Lawyer

Tabatha Elson - Parent and Intervention Coordinator

Morgan Pauff - Counselor

MONDAY, April 22, 2024 from 6:30pm - 7:45pm.

The event will be held at **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** in the Fellowship Hall.

(East side of building, enter at green awning)

220 Cedar St, Pemberville.

Be The Light! A gathering for women of the North Central Conference of the ELCA NWO Synod. Please join women from all over our conference for a time of connection, fellowship and QPR training! Saturday, April 27th 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Breakfast is being provided.

Guests include Chris Budke - Bible Study leader, Sonfire by the River praise band and NAMI Wood County staff are facilitating QPR training. QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer. Three easy steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. In as little as an hour, you will learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to offer help and know how to get help to save a life. Just fill out the registration form, available in the office, or new this year is the option to register and pay online by scanning the QR code below or by visiting <https://bit.ly/NWOGathering2024> (case sensitive). The women of the BLC hope to see you there!

ASCENSION DAY: The Northwestern Conference (our group of ELCA Churches) will meet for worship on Ascension Day, May 9, at 6pm, at Solomon Lutheran, Woodville. You are welcome to join us for this festive Worship in the Easter Season.

ROGATION DAYS: There has been an ancient tradition of blessings farms on "Rogation Days," the days leading up to Ascension. Pastor Tim will be blessing farms and fields from Tuesday, May 7 – Thursday May 9. If you would like to schedule a time for him to visit, please let him know. May our abundant God bless our fields and all who work in them, and all who provide food for God's people!

If you or your organization sees a need in the community or the world, please complete a request for funding from the Endowment Fund, identifying how you or your group would use the money. The Long-range Planning Committee will review submissions and disburse money as deemed appropriate. Money will be distributed into categories such as poverty, global missions, congregational support, leadership, and disaster relief. Forms are available in the office and the deadline for submission to the office is May 31, 2024.