



BETHLEHEM STAR



NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - October 2023

Brothers and sisters, we have come to another month, one in which change is all evident, one in which the season of "holidays" arrives.

This time has been a gift of autumn. The vibrant yellows and reds in the trees, the abundance of harvest having been and also now being collected, the comfortable temperatures all speak of the bounty and beauty of The Creator, The Artist, The Lover. Yes, each month has its own beauty, but the gifts and colors and lessening of sunlight are gifts that October brings.

At the end of this month, on the 31 st , 1517, a momentous change occurred in our history – Martin Luther stood up to the powers and spoke his truth – that God alone is to be trusted, and that God had revealed God's self in God's Son, Jesus, and that only the words printed in The Bible, breathed through by the Holy Spirit, were viable for our life today and for salvation.

We know the history of the Reformation, of Luther's separation from the

Roman Catholic Church, of the wars and divisions that

subsequently resulted. We also know that in these blessed present years we Lutherans and Roman Catholics have come together to acknowledge what has always been central – that



Jesus Christ is King, and his sacrificial gift on the cross paid the price for all. No one needs to earn God's favor – this gift is already given. And in that gift, we are all brothers and sisters to each other. Alleluia!

I love the history and all the information it provides. But what really hooks me as a result of the Reformation is the re-emphasis on St. Paul's understanding of grace. No matter how I feel about myself, no matter what I think about anyone else, we are all

welcomed and loved into God's Kingdom by grace. I try to be a better person. I try to follow God's directions. I try. But I will always fail. It is only through the boundless love God in Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit wraps me in grace, and I am one of God's children. I need that kind of assurance, and I would assume that you do too. You are God's beloved daughter, God's beloved son! And as St. Paul writes in Romans, "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So, blessings to you this blessed month. May you find yourself in constant thanksgiving and praise as you move throughout your days. And may the love that God has for you spill out to all those who also walk in God's love. Blessings!



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Mon. - Thurs.

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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

Ukraine/Eastwood Project Update

House and furnishings are in place. Can you donate or help us find to purchase - Washer, Dryer, Vacuum cleaner, and a dependable used car ? (419-287-4182) Thank you for your support and please keep the family of 4 in your prayers as they prepare to leave their home and country.

In Loving Memory

IN MEMORY OF LARRY DOWNEY

M/M Dan Gerwin
M/M Paul Rolf
M/M James Schmeltz
M/M Vic Schuerman
M/M Kevin Schramm
M/M Steve Rife
M/M Mike Godfrey
Ruth Phillips
M/M Dale Fahle



M/M Matt Meyer
Sharon Thiel
M/M Tim Gerwin
M/M Willie Fisher
M/M Rick Walters
M/M Ray Kohlenberg
M/M Denny Henline
M/M Tim Schult
Renee Farmer
Paul Downey
M/M Kevin Oberdick
Arlene Hake



M/M Kent Schuerman &
Family
M/M Eric Schuerman &
Family
Luann & Darryl,
Kendra,
Brent, and Brandon
Laura Wehrle
Cindi and Cassie
Ernsthausen
M/M Wes Ernsthausen
M/M Mark Haar

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

By: Eileen and Vic Schuerman

It is more than a SHOEBOX! It is Evangelism, Discipleship and Multiplication (Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles). Each SHOEBOX recipient receives a book and is encouraged to attend 12 sessions to study THE GREATEST JOURNEY. "Every SHOEBOX gift is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's about telling children around the world and their families that God loves them. He hasn't forgotten them. We're taking the Good News to the ENDS OF THE EARTH and doing it through a shoebox." Quote from Franklin Graham, President & CEO, Samaritan's Purse. Each SHOEBOX that is filled from Bethlehem is entitled to a jump rope, Pouch, headband and washcloth made from recycled tee shirts. Your \$10 donation is not just shipping; it also helps pay for the booklets the children receive and the teachers teaching the 12 lessons in the follow-up discipleship program. Our goal is to fill more boxes that last year, which was 253. Thank you for helping us with this great Evangelism project. If you so desire to donate individual items there will be boxes in the hall and fellowship hall.



God Uses a Gift and a Letter to Change Lives

As a 7-year-old in Mongolia, Jargalmaa (pictured left) described one particular day as "unexpected." After school, her teacher invited her to a church where she received her very first gift! This Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift included, among other fun toys, stationery, and a set of hairclips. Inside, she also found a letter that said, "You are valuable and so loved by God." Jargalmaa cherished this message because her parents and grandparents had never told her that they loved her.

Jargalmaa went on to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program where she especially appreciated the lessons about God as Creator. Later in 10th grade, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Through her testimony, five of her family members and two close friends also made this life-changing decision.

Now 15 years after receiving her shoebox gift, Jargalmaa, her husband, and two young children (pictured above) have recently moved to a new community where they are ministering to youth in hopes of starting a church.

"I would like to challenge people who are preparing shoebox gifts to also write a letter showing God's love," Jargalmaa said. "What's written there may be very simple, but those simple words could completely change somebody's life."



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



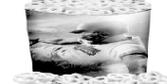
Pack 344

Chartered by Bethlehem Lutheran Church ♦ Pemberville, Ohio

POPCORN SALE

Sunday, October 8, 2023
in the Lounge following service

Pay by cash, check or credit card

 YELLOW POPPING CORN	 CLASSIC CARAMEL CORN	 BUTTER MICROWAVE (15 PACK)	 KETTLE CORN MICROWAVE (15 PACK)	 CHEDDAR CHEESE	 JALAPEÑO CHEESE
 SEA SALT SPLASH	 PEANUT BUTTER CUP	 MUD PUDDLES	 CARAMEL WITH SEA SALT	 MAPLE PECAN	 MILK CHOCOLATY PRETZELS
 WHITE CHOCOLATY PRETZELS	 DOUBLE BUTTER MICROWAVE (28 PACK)	 CLASSIC TRIO	 CHEESE LOVERS	 CHOCOLATE LOVERS	 MILITARY DONATION

See poster in the lounge for more info on each item

BY THE NUMBERS

From Jane Kohlenberg, Financial Secretary

August, 2023	Beg. Balance	Deposits	Expenses	End Balance
Operating	\$191,744.68	\$19,470.74	\$19,967.81	\$191,247.61
Recon Adjustment	\$2,583.19			\$2,583.19
Memorial	\$-6,693.35	\$695.00	\$1,760.00	\$-7,758.35
Benevolence	\$3,513.12	\$3,567.00		\$7,080.12
Outreach	\$15,036.52	\$11,951.81	\$3,417.59	\$23,570.74
Pass Through	\$190,590.95			\$190,590.95
Totals	\$396,775.11	\$23,009.89	\$25,145.40	\$407,314.26

Mission Honduras

By Darla Boyk and the Mission Honduras team

Plans for our upcoming January brigade are underway! We will be assisting with a medical brigade, doing filter work and maintenance projects at the children's homes. If you are interested in joining us as we travel to Honduras from January 19th (evening departure) to January 30th, please let me know. Please note, you do have the option of returning home on January 27th.

At a recent meeting, one of the brigade members suggested we share our newsletter articles with other local churches so I asked if some of them would share their reflections of their time in Honduras. One member wrote:

“What would you be willing to do for clean water? Living in the Great Lakes region of the United States, we have access to abundant water resources. We take it for granted that drinkable water flows when we open a faucet. In the Central American country of Honduras, water that flows from a faucet or is drawn from a cistern, in all likelihood, will be undrinkable due to contamination of high levels of parasites and bacteria. As a result, children in Honduras experience 13.6 illness episodes from unclean water each year.

Thanks to the generosity of those in our communities, Mission Honduras makes clean drinking water available to families living in the villages and rural areas surrounding Nuevo Paraiso. Team members distribute water filters for household use and teach family members how to use and maintain them.

It is a common occurrence for young mothers, many of whom had walked several miles carrying infants across mountainous terrain, to arrive spotless at the filter distribution points dressed in their “Sunday best” attire. They come with the hope of finding clean drinking water for their families.

Preliminary results are encouraging. Families are reporting fewer waterborne illnesses to public health nurses and at clinics. Research is underway to determine the overall impact of filter use in improving the health of the families that are using them. Key to success is coaching from local filter advocates who reinforce proper care and use of the filters.

The work of Mission Honduras is ongoing. Distribution of filter continues as does follow up with families that previously received filters. A \$50 donation will provide a household water filter system to family in rural Honduras. Your support makes clean water possible for people who otherwise would continue to struggle with diseases that have been eliminated in North America.”

We do have several events planned this fall. We will have more details to share about each event in the next few weeks. Our plans include:

- A screening of “With this Light”, a documentary about the life of Sister Rosa, the founder of SAN on Sunday, November 12 th at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. This fundraising event will include hor d’oeuvres, finger sandwiches and desserts! Mark your calendars!
- Calling all bakers, dippers, and sweet lovers! November 11, we will need help making buckeyes (the candy) to sell as a fundraiser to help purchase filters and defray logistics costs for our upcoming January trip. We will be taking pre-orders for the buckeyes and will need help making, dipping, and packaging the buckeyes. If you are interested in helping make the buckeyes or have advice on how to make lots of buckeyes, let me know! Details to follow on the buckeye making day as well as how to pre-order.
- We will also have a packing/sorting day for our supplies we will be taking to Honduras sometime in December.
- As always, donations are always appreciated. Please make the checks payable to Mission Honduras-Bethlehem.

Thank you for your support of this mission and hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. As always, please let me know if you have questions about our filter mission. Keep us in your prayers as we prepare to return to Honduras.

Darla

419-575-0078

missionhonduras.bethlehem@gmail.com

Meet the Candidates Night

Thursday October 12th

7:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

Come meet the

Mayoral Candidates
Village Council Candidates
Village Board of Public Affairs (BPA)
Freedom Township Trustees
Freedom Township Fiscal Officer
Eastwood School Board Candidates

Learn about

Freedom Township Renewal Tax Levy
Freedom Township Electrical Aggregation
Eastwood Local School District Tax Levy

Sponsored by Payroll Physicians, LLC



SAVE THE DATE

BLCW'S

Make it, Take it

THURSDAY 16, NOVEMBER 2023

HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH

THANK YOU

A big thank you goes out to everyone who made pies this year for the Pemberville Fair. Pie baking seems to be a lost art, but not at Bethlehem. There were 125 pies donated, which exceeded the quota given to Bethlehem. The proceeds from the sale of the pies will be distributed to worthy causes at the end of the year by the BLCW organization (Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women). Again, thank you



Happening This Month: October

October Mission Action Project:

Hannah's Socks

New Socks are always needed! * Used socks are not accepted! Hannah collects new socks all year long for people in our area. Any size of new socks are needed...children through adult. Please help those who do not have socks. Let's fill the bin to overflowing so everyone will have new socks. Socks can be put into the container marked "October" in the Mission Action room (111). Thank you for your support.



Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

October:

- **Cake Mix**
- **Pudding or Jell-O Cups**
- **Laundry Detergent**
- **Toilet Paper**
- **Deodorant**

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

Eileen Schuerman
Linda Gerwin

Altar Guild

Kathy Burtchin
Diane Burtchin

Office Window

Diane Burtchin

Service Org (Funerals)

Faye Schuerman
Jane Kohlenberg

Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ◆ 10/18 Delores Moore
- ◆ 10/29 Inga Offerman
- ◆ 10/30 Melvin Karns

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



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Judy Hass, Donna Schuerman, Norma Hall, Henry Sundermeier, Dennis Guyer, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Jan Hoodlebrink

For the Grieving

Luther Henline, Opal Blausey and Larry Downey

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

KIDS ACTIVITIES

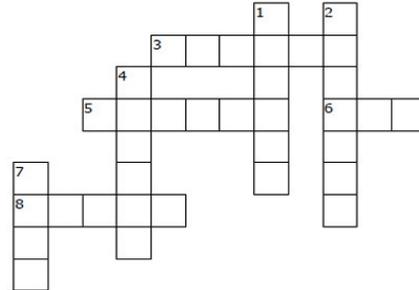


Gathered in His Name

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 [NIV]
Puzzle is based on Matthew 18:15-20



Come Together



ACROSS

- 3. A male parent; a term used to address God
- 5. A female who has the same parents as another person
- 6. The number that follows one (1)
- 8. To have the same opinion as another person

DOWN

- 1. An organization that follows the teaching of Jesus
- 2. A male who has the same parents as another person
- 4. To give attention to a person who is speaking
- 7. What a person is known by and called

BROTHER	SISTER	FATHER	AGREE
LISTEN	CHURCH	TWO	NAME

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Based on Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)



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

MANY	SINS	PETER	FORGIVE
SEVEN	TIMES	JESUS	TIMES
ASKED	BROTHER	LORD	HOW

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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	2 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Dart Ball	3 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	4 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	5	6	7
8 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 Following Worship Popcorn Show and Sell-Cub Scouts	9 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle 7:00 pm Dart Ball	10 9-12pm Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	11 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6-8:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting	12 7:00 pm Meet the Candidate Night	13	14 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
15 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	16 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Dart Ball	17 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	18 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	19 7:00 pm Council Meeting	20	21
22 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	23 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Dart Ball	24 9-12pm Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	25 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	26	27	28 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open 10-4 pm Harvest Gathering
29 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	30 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Dart Ball	31 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 7:00 p.m..BLCW Meeting				

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