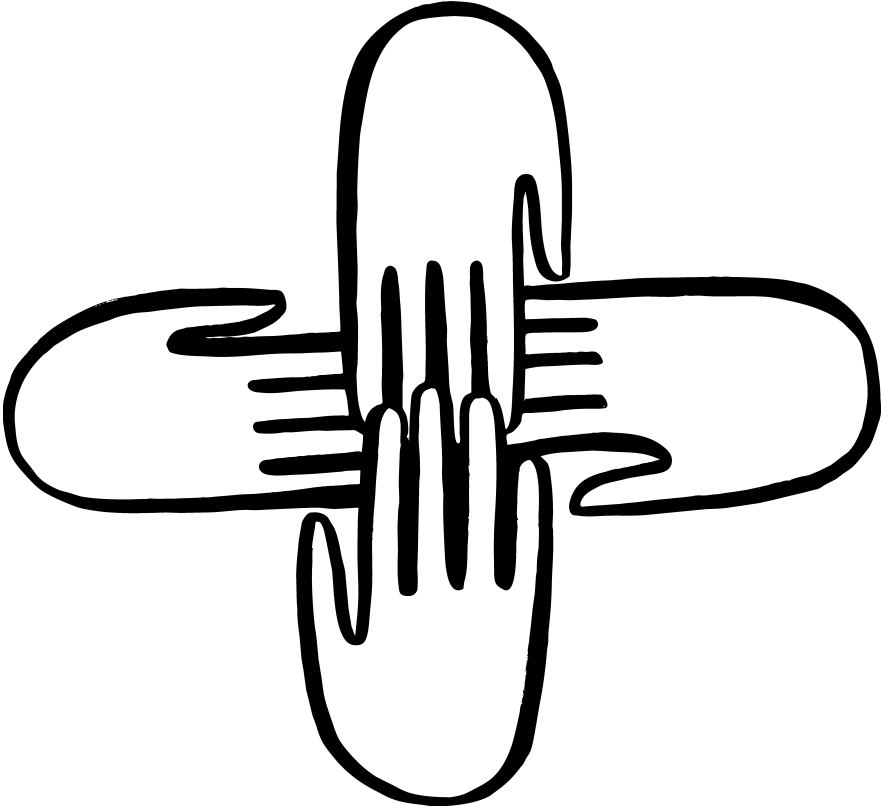


May 18, 2025 and Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

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.

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 God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN MESSAGE

MEMORY VERSE: (Isaiah 55:3a)

God says, "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so you may live..."

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

Psalm 148

Traditional

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Lord!

Refrain text: Traditional (PD).

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

PSALM: 148

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
- ² **Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**
- ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- ¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together. R**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord.
Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

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 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am

with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

SERMON- SAM Eric Corns

HYMN OF THE DAY: I Come with Joy ELW #482

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: Come to the Table ELW#481

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
 you have gathered us around your table of grace
 along with these gifts we bring.
 Come among us again,
 breathe your life into us,
 and enliven us with this meal,
 that we may live as your risen body in the world.
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.

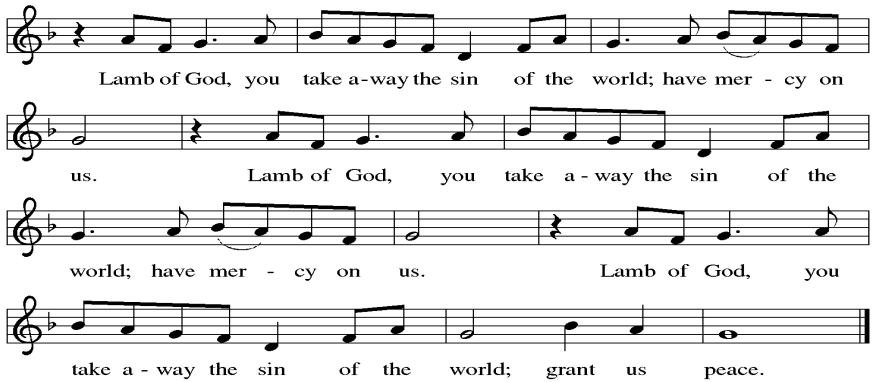
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
in your church, without end.

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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.



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: Baptized and Set Free

ELW# 453

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

ELW# 451

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

+SENDING+

BLESSING

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW #379

DISMISSAL

What is our mission?

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

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

LAST WEEKS

Attendance: In Person-117 Online-52

Offering:\$3,613.00 Benevolence: \$188.00 Special-MIA Haiti: \$325.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

For healing: Darla Rahe (Hospice @ Otterbein), Rose Corns, Diane Swartz

For the grieving: to the family and friends of Joyce Brinker

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

5/18, Sun	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School
5/19, Mon	6:45 p.m.	Yoga
	7p.m.	Pricilla Circle
5/20, Tues	9-12p.m.	Knotting
	11 a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	6p.m.	Bible Study
5/21, Wed	6:15 p.m.	Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
5/25, Sun	10:00 a.m.	Community Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mission Action project for May Luther Home of Mercy it is a 129 bed intermediate care facility for the developmentally handicapped. Items needed: Construction paper (all colors), Crayons Coloring books (large pictures), Washable markers, Stickers, Seasonal window clings

Food Pantry items for May are Rice-A-Roni dinners, mustard or ketchup, canned fruit, laundry soap liquid or pods and toothpaste.

Remember no service next Sunday 25. Community Worship 10am at Troy township cemetery.

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 June 2, 2025. The decision on disbursements will be made by the end of July.

The BLC Preschool Celebration event is Wednesday, May 21 beginning at 7p.m. here in the sanctuary. You are welcome to attend this special event. Thank you for supporting BLC preschool and Extended Care!

Blessing of the Fields

There has been a tradition from the early Church that fields be blessed the days before Ascension Day. Pastor Tim was able to visit several farms and ask God's blessing on the growing of the crops, and on the safety and health of the farm families.

This year, I will be coming around to bless the fields (Rogation) between Sunday, May 25 and Thursday, May 29. Let me know if you would like to be part of this blessing.

Also, our North-Central Conference of our Synod will hold an Ascension and "Rogation" service on Thursday evening, to which all are welcome.

Worship on Memorial Day Sunday

One of the blessings of our community is the gift of joint worship with Christians of other denominations. Again, we gather on Memorial Day Sunday, May 25, at 10:00, joining with other Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Methodists to offer our worship and praise. In light of the importance of the weekend we will meet outside, at Troy Township Cemetery, located at the east end of Luckey. Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets as together we give thanks to our awesome God for so many blessings!

Future services this year include: July 6 at Sonfire By The River, August 17 (the Sunday before the Free Fair) at the Presbyterian Church, and August 31 at Bethlehem

Anyone is welcome to make a one time or reoccurring donation by using the QR code that links to Tithe.ly, Bethlehem's online giving portal. When you scan the QR code, you will be required to set up an account, which only takes a few minutes. There is a small transaction fee for the use of the app. The app will prompt you to indicate your choice to pay the transaction fee or have it deducted from your donation. Thank you for supporting the ministries at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



Special Congregational Meeting - June 8

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2025 after the service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on approval of funding for new roofing and removal of the chimney. The current shingles will be removed and replaced with a metal shingle. A blue underlayment and battens will be installed, ridge vents and eave vents. The quote for the roof is \$235,000 and \$20,000 for the chimney removal for a total of \$255,000.

Happy 45 years of Ordination Pastor Tim

We will be celebrating Pastor Tim's 45th anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, June 8th starting with the 9:00 am service. SonFire will be joining us and everyone is invited for a celebration brunch immediately following the church service in the fellowship hall. If you would like to share a special time when Pastor Tim has touched your life, please complete a memory card located in front of the office, or you may email your special time to office@bethlehempemberville.org. Your special time will be included in a memory booklet.

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