

Other News and Events

PRISCILLA CIRCLE will meet on Monday, March 12, 7 p.m., in the church lounge. Bible study will be led by Nancy Rife and devotions will be led by Sue Gerke. All women are invited to attend. No RSVP needed.

KNOTTING: Come help tie blankets for Lutheran World Relief and local nursing homes on Tuesday, March 13, at 9 a.m., in the basement. If schools close we will not knot!

EASTER BLESSING BAGS: The Community Food Pantry committee wishes to put together some holiday bags for our food pantry families. We need your help! Please consider putting together one bag, as a family project, with at least 12 items in it. We are looking for non-perishable food items, kitchen items, personal products, paper products, household cleaners, small toys for children, coloring books, crayons, school supplies, Christian items and Easter candy. Please bring them to the church office by Sunday, March 18. Bags will be put together on Monday, March 19.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION is open for members of the congregation. March 1 it will open to the public. Classes are for 4-year olds who meet Mon/Wed/Fri and 3-year olds who meet on Tue/Thu. Forms are available in the office or on the parent table by the preschool rooms. Questions: Pat Cline at 419-287-3751 or Denise Corns at 419-287-3726.

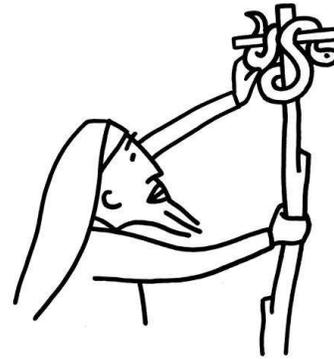
COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY: Please help us stock these items in March: peanut butter (crunchy/creamy), pasta salads, stuffing, toilet paper. Other non-perishable items and monetary donations are gladly accepted. Please place items in the tubs in the Mission Action room (111).

MISSION ACTION PROJECT for March is Sunshine Children's Home. Items needed are listed in the Women's BLCW booklet.

MONEY FOR GAS CARDS NEEDED. Please call the Pemberville Police office here in Pemberville at 419-287-3250 to make a donation. Or, you may drop off cash or checks to Bethlehem's office, M-F, 9-2, and we will get it to the Police. \$20 gas cards are available to those needing assistance, once every six months. Right now they are completely out of funds. Thank you!

HELPING HANDS FOR HONDURAS: PACK A SUITCASE. We are collecting medical supplies for the John Carroll University medical mission brigade for their trip to Honduras in May 2018. This month we are asking for donations. For more information, fliers can be found in the suitcase in the hallway. Checks should be made to Bethlehem with Honduras in the memo line. Please feel free to contact Darla with any questions at dboyk@amplex.net or 419-575-0078 or Megan at maboyk@oakland.edu.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE at the Pemberville American Legion Hall (405 E. Front St.) on Thursday, March 22, 2018, from 1-7 p.m. Appointments, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: AMERLEG PEMBERVILLE or call Carolyn Borchering at 419-287-3210.



Fourth Sunday
of Lent
March 11, 2018

Preaching Series: The Promise Keeper

February 18: The Covenant with Creation: Noah

February 25: The Covenant with Abraham and Sarah

March 4: The Covenant at Sinai

March 11: The Covenant Questioned: Bronze Serpent

March 18: The New Covenant Foretold: Jeremiah

March 25: Palm Sunday: The Covenant-Maker Comes

March 29: Maundy Thursday: The New Covenant in
His Blood

March 30: Good Friday: The Covenant at the Cross

March 31: Easter Vigil

April 1: Easter: The Covenant Unsealed and Unleashed
on the World

2018 Memory Verse

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Worship with Holy Communion Sundays at 9 a.m.

Faith Formation for all ages

Sundays at 10:20 a.m.

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

WELCOME! We welcome you to join us in worship, growth in faith and service.

CHILDREN are always welcome and encouraged to participate fully in worship. If needed, a cry room is available near the east exit.

GUESTS, please fill out a Connection Card. You may place the card in the plate during the offering. Please also take a gift bag (also at both entrances) to learn a little more about Bethlehem.

FOR WORSHIP, most of what you will need is in this bulletin or the weekly insert with readings and news. Pastor/leader parts are in plain typeface. Congregational parts are in **bold typeface** and indented.

HYMNS are indicated by number and may be found in the back part of the red hymnal.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the ushers.

FAITH FORMATION (Sunday School):

Preschool—5th Grade and Catechism, Basement

High School—Grades 9-12, Room 209-211

Adults, Fellowship Hall

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Phone: 419-287-4182

office@bethlehempemberville.org

http://bethlehempemberville.org

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Matthew Musteric

Bishops: Elizabeth Eaton, Daniel Beaudoin

Intern: Vicar Janelle Hennager

WORSHIPING Weekly

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP: TODAY

Presiding Minister

Pastor Matt

Preacher

Vicar Janelle

Music

Brian Bryant

Reader

Joyce Brinker

Elders

Vic Schuerman, Willie Fisher

Deacons

Travis Ford

Acolytes

Kristin Ford, *Volunteer needed*

Altar Flowers

Jane Nowlin

Altar Guild

Nancy Rife, *Volunteer needed*

Communion Bread

Volunteer needed

Volunteer needed

Radio Broadcast

Matt Meyer

Scott Schuerman

Coffee Hour

Dan/Jo Lynn Gerwin

Volunteer needed

NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt

Brian Bryant

Mike Godfrey

Youth: Evan Frankfather

ATTENDANCE: Worship: 150 Wed.: 11am: 23 7pm: 63 SS: 73

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Emerson Stickel from Joyce Brinker.

RADIO BROADCAST is given to the glory of God.

Calendar

3/11, Sun.	9 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Faith Formation / Catechism
	2 p.m.	Prayer Walk with Vicar Janelle
3/12, Mon.	7 p.m.	Priscilla Circle
	7 p.m.	Yoga, Fellowship Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Dartball, basement
3/13, Tue.	9 a.m.	Knotting, basement
	6:30 p.m.	Parish Ed meets
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall
3/14, Wed.	8:45 a.m.	Staff check-in
	11 a.m.	Lent Worship at Bethlehem
	6:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7 p.m.	Lent Worship at Bethlehem
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
3/16, Fri.	2 p.m.	Preschools Spring Fling set up
3/17, Sat.	10am-4pm	Preschools Spring Fling, Fellowship Hall
3/18, Sun.	9 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Faith Formation / Catechism
	2 p.m.	Prayer Walk with Vicar Janelle

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Amen.

+Psalm 51

During the season of Lent, we do not hear the absolution (pronouncement and assurance of forgiveness). Instead, the entire season is one extended confession of our sins and acknowledging our need for God's mercy. We will hear the assurance of forgiveness on Maundy Thursday, the beginning of the Three Days that conclude with the celebration of Easter.

Gathering Hymn *What Wondrous Love is This* #666

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:13

And also with you.

Kyrie



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Salvation History, Words of Institution, Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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 trespass 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 Communion

We remain standing as the bread is broken and for the invitation.

Spoken together in unison:

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your apostles.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is our Lord's thanksgiving feast of victory shared among his baptized people. We believe, teach and confess that Christ is truly present in this meal...his body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. With this understanding, baptized Christians who usually commune in other Christian congregations are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. Those who are not yet communing (of any age) are invited to come forward for a blessing.

We receive the bread at the head of the aisle. Wine is available in individual glasses (in trays) or you may drink from the common cup. White grape juice is available in the center of each tray. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and Communion will be brought to you.

Communion Songs *Lamb of God (Your Only Son)* #336

For by Grace You Have Been Saved #598

Bread of Life from Heaven #474

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of The People

Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy.

We respond: **Hear our prayer.**

+ MEAL +

We gather at the Table of our Lord to share his Supper.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

John 20:21

We share a sign of peace by greeting those around us with the words "Peace be with you."

Offertory

Today's loose offering will go to the general fund.

Offering Hymn *Come to the Table #481 (words below)*

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

The Word of God, Jesus Christ, speaks to us.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer, a time for us to pray silently to God.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

The assembly is seated.

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray...

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and believe your Word. Amen.

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers:

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

*We begin by singing the refrain on the next page, then we will read the verses responsively, singing the refrain where indicated with **Refrain.***

Thanks be to God, ev - 'ry heart now be joy - ful.

Thanks be to God, re - joice and sing.

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Music: Tune: *STAR IN THE EAST*, from William Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835 (PD).
Setting: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
 for his steadfast love endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
 those he redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands,
 from the east and from the west,
 from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were sick through their sinful ways,
 and because of their iniquities endured affliction;** *Refrain*

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food,
 and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
 and he saved them from their distress;**

²⁰he sent out his word and healed them,
 and delivered them from destruction.

²¹**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
 for his wonderful works to humankind.**

²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
 and tell of his deeds with songs of joy. *Refrain*

Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians:

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have

been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -

slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel John 3:14-21

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon. Following time for reflection, we stand to respond in song:

Hymn of the Day *God Loved the World* #323