



BETHLEHEM STAR



NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEMBERVILLE, OHIO

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Tim Philabaum - March 2024

"In like a lion, out like a lamb." So are the words about March. We have been able to say that because the beginning of this month was full of Winter and early-spring fury, and then Spring would dawn at the end of the month with beauty. Is this image true this year, or is the whole weather system different? But this year we can use the image of those two animals as we think like Jesus.

Until we finally get to the last day of March, we will be in Lent. We walk to the cross with Jesus, singing with other disciples, serving those in need, and giving God all the praise. We journey to the cross, finding out again that only in the death and Resurrection of Jesus do we find life, and hope, and joy.

Jesus is the Lion. He is Lion of Judah, the leader of God's people from before the beginning of time. As an apex-predator in creation, the lion symbolizes strength, leadership, and majesty. Even so, God-as-



"Aslan" was portrayed as a lion in the book/movie, "The Chronicles of Narnia." It is the lion who protects us from the evil foe, who keeps us safe, and whose very appearance is majestic.

But we also know that our God is not just all-power. Even thought God is, and that all things have come into being through God, and that God holds all things in hands of grace (even you and me!), and that the Almighty God has no beginning and will have no end – that God is all knowing, all giving, all love, all power, all grace, all everything – there's more to God than this.

We see this amazing issue in the scriptures. This Mighty God stooped down to

become one of us, wrapped in human flesh, touching the sick, forgiving the sinner, raising the dead, washing our feet. Here we see also "Jesus the Lamb," who takes away the sin of the world. In the sacrificial death of Jesus, as lambs were once sacrificed, Jesus has cleansed the world of its brokenness and sin. We have been washing into the gift of Jesus-the-Lamb; we feed on His very body and blood, given and shed for the whole world.

No matter where we are, or what we have done, or what has been done to us, God's forgiveness given in Jesus has no boundaries – we are loved! Bottom line!

Brothers and sisters, may this March, full of the fears of our world but even more so full of the fullness of God's grace, be one for you in which you are renewed in your faith, strengthened in your service, and blessed both to serve the Lion, and to serve like the Lamb!

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If you need to update your contact information including if you have a

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Lenten Schedule

Lenten Wednesdays continue at 11am and 7pm, meeting at Bethlehem, using hymns as the center of our conversation. We celebrate Holy Communion each time with the other churches in Pemberville.

	Congregation	Hymn
March 6	Pemberville United Methodist Church	"Lord of the Dance"
March 13	Pemberville Presbyterian Church	"Softly and Tenderly"
March 20	Sonfire by the River	"Jesus, Lover of my Soul"

HOLY WEEK

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

Worship also at 11am and 7pm. We walk with the disciples to the Upper Room, at which Jesus gives us the Meal of life. Then, we head to the Garden for prayer.

March 29 – Good Friday

At 11am and 7pm we will gather around the Cross and offer our worship to the One whose death gave us life.

March 31 – Easter Sunday

Sunrise Worship at Fish Cemetery (on Zepernick Rd) beginning at 6:45 (Sunrise is at 7:18)

Easter Worship at Bethlehem at 9am. Alleluia!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

Cleaning of the church kitchen is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th at 9am. Anyone is welcome to help. Please bring a bucket and rag with you. If you have any questions, contact Luann Snyder at 419-349-4032.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

*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)

FAITH AND FAMILY SUNDAY

MARCH 3 @ 10:20

COME SEE WHAT BETHLEHEM'S STUDENTS ARE LEARNING!!
REFRESHMENTS IN THE BASEMENT!



In Loving Memory

IN MEMORY OF JIM ALEXANDER

Rodger & Teri Hansen Music
Denny & Bege Wiegman
Music
Bob & Joanne Bruning Music
Paulette Bresler Music
Ken & Bev Gerwin Music
Don & Sue Music
Carolyn Borcharding Music
Marlene Hoodlebrink Music
M/M Morey Loomis Music
Donna Alexander Music
Luann Snyder
Leslie & Linda Wyse
Vic & Eileen Schuerman
Scott & Linda Alexander
Ray & Jane Kohlenberg
M/M James Witker
Melinda Karns
Ruth Walter
Rick & Cyndi Walter
Jan & Mark Hoodlebrink
Jerry & Rex Corns
Mark Alexander



Eloise Reitzel

M/M James Budke
Paul & Pat Faykosh
Bonnie & Jim Reitzel
Tasha & Todd Schunk
Alysha & Jon Clous
Rayna Alexander

IN MEMORY OF MARY DAMAN

Roger & Teri Hansen Music
Mark & Lyne Beard Music
Quilting Eagles, Karen
Godfrey
Ron & Linda Dunmeyer
Steve & Ann Hirzel
Enrique & Angela Flores
Mike & Randi Aring
Zatco Family
Scott & Jennifer Herbert
Tammy Ludwig
Quilting Eagles, Sharon &
Terry Nigh
Carolyn Borcharding



Ken & Bev Gerwin
Jeff & Jo Graber
Jerry & Mary Jo Bish
Paulette Bressler
Jan Fisher
Don & Sue Gerke
Kent & Jennifer
Schuerman
Arlene Baker
Terry & Sharon Nigh
Mike & Judy Sayen
Bob Rentz
Karen & Mike Godfrey
Judy Schult
Sheila Rahe
Phil & Beth Brauchsieck
Vic & Eileen Schuerman
Bob & Joanne Bruning
Jim & Susan Welling
Dorothy & Herman
Heuring
Sandra Lepper
Roger & Kathy Burtchin
Bragg
Joyce Dauer
Milley Dierker

FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Under new business:

- Substitute Organist
- local family in need

Positive things happening inside the church.

1. Cub scouts-"God & Me " badge
2. Honduras Mission trip: filters have resulted in positive health outcomes
3. Scout Sunday on the 18th, including girl scouts as well.

Reports of Officers:

- Pastors report: no additions
- Treasurer's report: Income figure on Treasurer report had a typo, s/b \$29,411 from \$40,411
- Trustee Report-no report, Fixed light fixtures in overflow, No Boiler updates

Committee Reports:

A. Transition Team-

- 1)Leadership Workshop: focus on more fluid Vision Statement
- 2) Pre-school Activities: would like BLC members to attend P.S events, have more interaction with P.S. families that may be looking for a worship community, dates of P.S. events to be put in the Star
- 3) Fellowship activities:
 - *Beer & Hymns March 17 at the Legion
 - *Distribute Ice Cream to Pemberville Churches June 16
 - *Community Swim Day August 11 at Pemberville pool
 - *Rally Day August 18th
 - *Movie nights ??
 - *Mudhens Game ??
- 4) Strategic Planning : looking into resources form the Synod & perhaps Aly Sterling Philanthropy, ongoing discussions

B. Long Range Planning Committee- Meeting Thursday Feb 22, Sheri Krieger may attend.

Old Business:

A. Personnel Committee: Susie Rahe will chair

- Personnel files -will keep in safe.
- Get background checks for volunteers who will work with children, offer "safe child training" course
- Negative reviews will go to personnel committee.
- Up to date job descriptions are being compiled.
- Putting compete files together for all staff members.

B. Brunk Estate-no new report, waiting on distribution of funds.

C. Offering Boxes- about 20 boxes remain unclaimed. Elders will follow-up. Some members are away for the winter. Some discussion on whether to deliver unclaimed boxes or not. We will use Shepard's Staff program to update member information.

New Business:

A. Lenten Meals: would like a BLC member present to help the other congregations who are hosting the meal find things in the kitchen. Susie Rahe & Karen Korn can be available.

B. Process for sale of 2nd Parsonage: Congregation voted to sell so how to proceed. Current renters had been approached about a purchase but were not able to do it at the time. Matt & Duane will explore when to put it on the market & we will keep the current tenants informed as to those intentions in case they may now be interested in buying the property.

C. Substitute Organist: Tim will talk to Joe about possible people who might be able to fill in if he cannot be available. Motion made to create a substitute list: Matt Meyer made the motion. Tim Philabaum second. Motion carried

D. Local Family in need: The Husband needs an organ transplant and they are getting care in Pennsylvania and have had work interrupted due to doctor visits. They need some support with rent,fuel & other expenses. Motion made to take a noisy offering Sunday the 18th, BLC will match up to \$300.

Willie Fisher made the motion, Travis Ford seconded. Motion carried

Next Council Meeting will be: Thursday March 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Schuerman
Council Secretary

A Jam-Packed Month for Scouting in February

By Russell Eby, Deacon

February was a busy month for Cub Scout Pack 344, and Scouts BSA Troops 344 & 9344 all of whom Bethlehem Lutheran Church is the chartering organization for.

The events started on the weekend of February 2 where Troops 344/9344 hosted and participated in the Wood District Klondike Derby at Camp Miakonda in Sylvania Township. The Troops competed in Scout skill challenges and the sled race. Attendees also had a chance to hear from Eastwood High School's own Marine Lt. Colonel, Sarah Deal, who shared her background and some words to live by for the Scouts.

The weekend of February 9 had members of Troops 344/9344 heading to western New York for their annual ski trip. Participants stayed at a lodge at a Scout camp about an hours drive from the ski resort. They

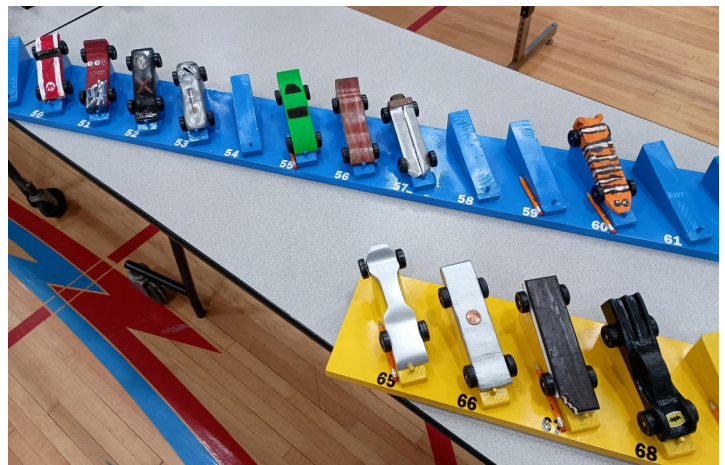
then had a fun-filled Saturday of skiing on the hills of the resort before returning home on Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday, February 18, Bethlehem celebrated Scout Sunday (see pic below). Scouts and families of the Pack and Troops were invited to join us for worship, as well as three Girl Scout Troops that meet in our Fellowship Hall. Scouts assisted in acolyting, greeting, reading and offering collection. Scouts and leaders that joined us were presented with a custom, laser engraved cross.

The weekend of February 23 saw members of Troops 344/9344 participate in Camp Alaska which is a unique opportunity to experience real winter survival. Scouts and leaders hiked into a campsite with their gear, food and cooking utensils; built a personal shelter that could

not be a manufactured tent; and stayed outside for 24 hours while practicing Leave-No-Trace camping.

The month ended with the Pack 344 Pinewood Derby on Saturday, February 24. Cub Scouts were given a Pinewood Derby kit back in December which consisted of a block of wood, pastic tires and nails (axles). Working with their families and leaders, they then created their car design.





FROM BISHOP DANIEL BEAUDOIN



February 12, 2024
God's Rhythm of Rest

And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.
And there was evening, and there was morning, the second day.
And there was evening, and there was morning, the third day.
And there was evening, and there was morning, the fourth day.
And there was evening, and there was morning, the fifth day.
And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.
(Genesis 1:5b, 8b, 13, 19, 23, 31b).



There is a sacred rhythm to God's created order. We know this story well, and we get the point of the creation narrative as it is recorded in the Book of Genesis, chapter 1. We think we know this story well, and we think we get the point. But actually, I'm not sure that we do.

Did you happen to notice that in the Book of Genesis each day begins not with the rising of the sun, but with the setting of the sun. Each day begins in the evening, which is then followed by the next morning. "**And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day**". Just pause for a moment and give that rhythm some consideration.

What if God, in this sacred rhythm of time, is asking us to begin our days, not with work, but with rest. In God's economy the gift of God's rest always comes first, which is then followed by the sacred gift of work.

From Genesis chapter 1, we learn an important principle to put into practice. "**We are to work from our rest, and not rest from our work**".

During these Forty Days of Lent, in this Year of Rest, I am going to ponder that principle, and ask God to help me to find ways to put it into practice. I invite you to come and join me. "**We are to work from our rest, and not rest from our work**".

Mission Honduras

By Darla Boyk and the Mission Honduras team

Mission Honduras brigade- January 20-30th, 2024

We accomplished much during our January brigade! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide the gift of clean water to 200 new families, complete 599 filter checks, distribute over 300 filter sweaters, work closely with village advocates, and help provide care for 1255 patients. In addition, we distributed clothing, shoes, 1500 pounds of red beans and 1000 lbs. rice as well as 200 Mission Honduras “filter care” coloring books. We have now distributed 1800 filters since May 2018 which provide approximately 9000 people with access to clean water.

What’s next? Megan and I will return in late May with the John Carroll University medical brigade. Megan will see patients with the John Carroll medical team while the filter team will focus on filter checks, especially the filters we distributed to new households in the past two years. We will distribute filters to new households as funding allows. Tentative dates for our 2025 brigade are January 24th – February 4th. You do have the option to return home on Saturday, February 1st. If you are interested in going to Honduras with us, please let me know. Finally, we will be holding a brunch to share stories from our trip with you and to thank you for your support.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Darla and the Mission Honduras team
419-575-0078



T H A N K Y O U

Greetings From Honduras,

I first want to thank all of you for the time and effort that went into sending the care package out here for the holidays. All of the snacks and cookies have been devoured at the writing of this letter. The cookies were the first thing to go and I'm glad they were able to make the journey in one piece! The cow tails were great too because a lot of people in my unit haven't had them since they were back in school. Amazing items and we all greatly appreciated it!

Thankfully the job out here hasn't been too taxing compared to the other locations we could have been sent to. My job is to coordinate MEDEVAC aircraft for U.S. personnel when they are injured or if any natural disasters occur that require U.S. aid. One cool perk I've earned from this position is a patch that only our SERE personnel (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, & Escape) and PJ (Pararescue) personnel are permitted to wear. The patch is of an angel holding the globe to illustrate that 24/7 we stand-by for anyone that needs our help. We were given permission to wear it because of the coordination needed by us for the other units to do their jobs effectively. It's been an amazing opportunity to work out here with the other branches and strengthen foreign relations with the host country.

In my personal life, my wife and I are leaving Germany in August 2024. We will be returning somewhere back in the continental United States but as of right now, we don't know which base yet. Could be anywhere from California again to somewhere in the south like Mississippi or Florida. We were hoping to get somewhere close by like Wright-Patterson in Dayton, OH to be closer to family but Uncle Sam seems to have different plans for us. Regardless of where we go to next, we'll make the most of it.

I hope everything is going well back home and for all your families. I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! My family appreciates the work you do for us, and it always makes me smile when I see that I've received something from home. Thank you for reaching out to me and thank you for your generous work.

Sincerely,

SSgt Jose P. Salinas III

Thank you to all who helped make the American Red Cross blood drive on Saturday Jan 27 a success. The Red Cross collected 53 units of blood which will help 159 people who need the blood from these donations.
Vic Schuerman

Dear Members
Thank you very much for the care package. It was very thoughtful! I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and New Years.
God Bless,
Tyler Hovis

Thank you for prayers & cards for my sister, Gloria Bradley. Sadly she passed away on January 27th.
Sharon, Dave Moentje
Fred & Ernest Hall

Thank You for all of your prayers.
Mickey Gerwin



Happening This Month: March

March Mission Action Project:

Sunshine Children's Home

Sunshine Children's Home is a 75-bed intermediate care facility for developmentally handicapped children and adults who require a high level of support services. Most residents are in their late teens and early twenties.

Items needed:

- Socks—adult sizes
- CDs, any kind
- Disney DVDs
- Toys with push buttons, older toddler (ages 3-5 years)
- Washcloths, any color



Praying...

FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Henry Sundermeier, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Justin Werner, Mike O'Brien, Alton Beeker & Jan Hoodlebrink

FOR THE GRIEVING

Jim Alexander, Mary Daman, Diane Mason, Matthew White, Jane Kohlenberg, Lauren Green, Shirley Rife

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

Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Please help the Food Pantry stock these needed items in

March:

- **Laundry Detergent**
- **Kleenex**
- **Soups**
- **Peaches**
- **Applesauce**

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

Dave & Sharon Moenter

Altar Guild

Leanne Eby
Shelly Albright

Office Window

Leslie Shiffler

Service Org (Funerals)

Janice Smith
Cathy Kutzil

Help Members Celebrate Their 80+ Birthday!

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

- ♦ 3/1 Evelyn Hagemeyer
- ♦ 3/6 Elaine Crawford
- ♦ 3/8 Ray Kohlenberg
- ♦ 3/20 William Beard

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

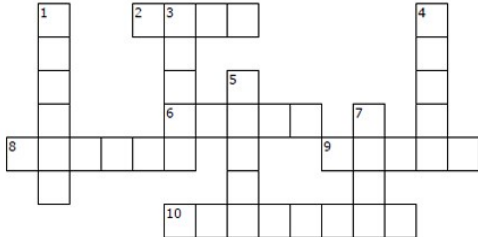


KIDS ACTIVITIES

Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



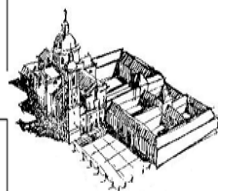
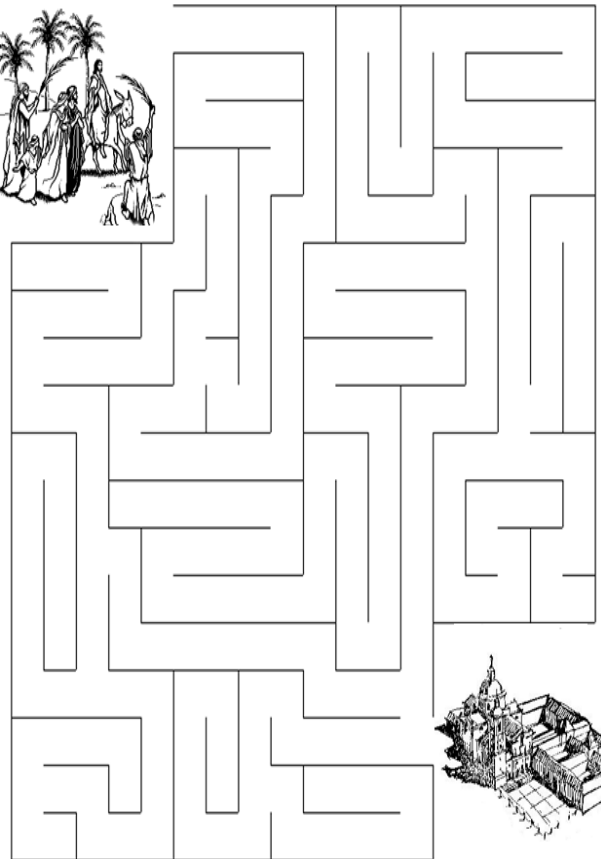
ACROSS

2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
6. An animal raised for its wool
8. A building dedicated to the worship of God
9. Coins or bills used to pay for something
10. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

DOWN

1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
3. A building where a family lives
4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
5. The Son of God
7. A small, wild pigeon

WHIP	MARKET	PASSOVER	SHEEP	TEMPLE
HOUSE	TABLE	MONEY	JESUS	DOVE



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 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	4 7:00 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dart Ball	5 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	6 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 6-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	7	8	9 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
10 9:00 am Worship In-person and on Facebook/YouTube 10:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Worship broadcast on 99.1 FM	11 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle 7:30 pm Dart Ball	12 9am-12pm Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	13 11:00am Worship 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Choir 6:00-8:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting	14 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	15	16 Spring Fling 9-4pm
17 Preacher: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin 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 7:00p.m. Beer & Hymns @ the Legion	18 7:00 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dart Ball	19 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open	20 11:00am Worship 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Choir 6-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	21 7:00 pm Council Meeting	22	23 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open
24/31 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	25 7:00 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Dart Ball	26 9am-12pm Knotting 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Pantry open 7:00pm BLCW meeting	27 11:00am Worship 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Worship Choir Following Worship	28 Maundy Thursday 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Worship 6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	29 Good Friday 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Worship	30 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry open

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