

PASTOR'S PAGE

*This month we're celebrating our partnership with Redeemer Lutheran Church. See below.
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!*

—Pastor Matt

Redeemer Kitchen Project Update

Have you ever felt that God has put you in the perfect place at the perfect time? This is what I believe God is doing with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. God has brought two congregations together to do his will within Toledo. In our worship services we have been praying for the Redeemer Lutheran Kitchen Project. The Long Range Committee has prayerfully been working on this project well over 18 months to move it to completion. With the financial resources of our Endowment Fund we were able to guarantee that this project will get done. Our God saw the need at Redeemer Lutheran and resources of Bethlehem Lutheran and brought us together.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is not doing this project alone. We sent a letter to all of our fellow ELCA Northwestern Ohio Synod congregations asking them to pray for our project and to please consider dedicating the donations from one noisy offering during the months of March and April. (Our letter is included in this month's newsletter.) According Pastor Lori Strang of Redeemer Lutheran, our letter has generated several calls about the kitchen project and promises to help. They have already received some monetary donations.

God calls upon us to be generous with our gifts. Bethlehem Lutheran is blessed to be in a position to be able to take the lead on this project. In the month of April, we will be doing brief temple talk about the Redeemer Lutheran Kitchen Project. We will also gather after church in the fellowship area to pray for this project and answer any questions.

History of the Project

In 2015, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Toledo was given \$2,400 for their food pantry and \$5,000 was donated to their after school and summer programming for under privileged children in their neighborhood from the Endowment Fund.

In her thank you note, Pastor Lori Strang noted that they were in need of a range hood in order to meet fire department regulations to continue their feeding programs. At that time, it was estimated that the equipment would cost about \$13,200. Members of the committee thought with volunteer labor from Bethlehem, we could manage this cost from the Endowment Fund. Upon further investigation, the cost has grown to about \$58,000. Bethlehem has committed \$12,700 to this project thus far. The bid for \$47,287 will be signed soon.

In Romans 15: 25-26, Paul writes, "At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints of Jerusalem." Paul had spent over a year collecting money from the gentile churches in Greece and Asia Minor for the poor saints in Jerusalem. This was a demonstration of love between the Jews and Gentiles, now fellow Christians.

To show our love for the residents near Redeemer and to help with the additional cost of the hood project, we have asked other congregations in the Northwestern Ohio Synod to contribute funds to cover the additional cost. The following congregations have committed funds thus far:

Zion's Lutheran, Defiance
St. Martin, Archbold
St. Peter, Norwalk
St. Paul, Paulding

First Lutheran, Stryker
St. John, Stony Ridge
Zion Lutheran, Republic
Grace Lutheran, Fremont

Hope Lutheran, Toledo
NW Ohio Synod Women
First English, Gibsonburg

Long Range Planning asks that everyone pray that God will continue to raise up congregations to contribute to the kitchen project so that Redeemer can continue to serve the underprivileged in their neighborhood. We are hoping to have the project completed by June 1, 2018. Just as Abraham was blessed to be a blessing, we are extremely blessed. We get to be a blessing too. Thanks be to God!

The yearly income, according to the original implementation of the Bethlehem Endowment Fund, is to be spent on projects recommended to council by the Long Range Planning Committee. In 2015 Long Range Planning recommended to council that each year the income be divided among these five categories:

Poverty	20%
Congregation Support	20%
Global Missions	20%
Disaster Relief	20%
Leadership	20%

The endowment fund earnings for 2017 were \$45,349.00. These funds will be prayerfully allocated during 2018.

God is good! Thanks be to God!

-The Long Range Planning Committee

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Housed at Bethlehem

Available Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the second and last Saturday of the month from 8-11 a.m., for Eastwood community residents in need of food.

Please help us stock these items in April:

- Canned tuna
- canned chicken
- canned beef stew
- kleenex.

Personal items are always needed, such as generic shampoos, conditioners, pump soap, deodorant, tooth brushes, tooth paste and laundry detergent.

Any non-perishable items and monetary donations are gladly accepted. Please place items in the tubs in the Mission Action room (111). Thank you!

Year to Date:

Community Food Pantry: 44 family visits

Food Vouchers to IGA given out: 44

Good Samaritan Fund: 7 checks written

Snack Pack (weekend food): packed 80 bags



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

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February 19, 2018

Dear Pastor or Congregation Leader

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pemberville Ohio, is prayerfully reaching out to all ELCA congregations in the Northwest Ohio Synod with an appeal to help one of our fellow congregations. In the belief that many hands make for light work, we are asking for a simple act of support for our project.

At the May 2017 ELCA Northwest Ohio Synod Assembly Bishop Beaudoin highlighted Redeemer Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio as one of our congregations in critical need of support. In response to our Bishop's encouragement, our congregation reached out to Pastor Lori Strang of Redeemer Lutheran Church to ask if there was a project that our congregation could help with. Pastor Lori informed us that they were in jeopardy of losing the ability to provide meals for their low-income outreach ministries because the ventilation hood above their stove does not meet current fire and building code. We gladly agreed to assist with this project.

Much to our surprise, purchasing and replacing a fume hood was not all that was required. To bring the Redeemer Lutheran kitchen up to code, Lucas County has many requirements that must be complied with. These requirements have driven up the cost of this project. What started as purchasing a \$15,000 commercial quality fume hood has ballooned into a \$60,000 project.

To date, our congregation has provided more than \$15,000 toward the Redeemer Kitchen project. We have also contacted a few ELCA NWOS congregations and organizations and they have generously provided donations totaling approximately \$10,000. We are grateful for their support toward this project. However, as you can see we are still short of the monetary need by approximately \$35,000. We are reaching out to all ELCA NWOS congregations to help us close this gap.

We are requesting that all congregations within the NWOS support the ministries of Redeemer Lutheran Church during one church service in March or April of 2018. First, we ask for your prayers to support the ministries of Redeemer Lutheran Church in this low-income area of Toledo. Second, we ask that a noisy offering be collected at each congregation to gather any loose change or small bills your members will give for the Redeemer Lutheran Kitchen project. There are 162 ELCA congregations within the NWOS. If our ELCA congregations can average \$200 collected from the noisy offering we will come very close to meeting our goal.

If you choose to help us, please deposit your noisy offering and send a check to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1702 Upton Avenue, Toledo, OH 43607. Write "Redeemer Kitchen Project" in the memo section of the check so Redeemer will know to escrow the gift for the kitchen project. If you already provide monetary support to Redeemer Lutheran, Toledo please understand that this request is "in addition to" your regular support.

One Sunday! One loose change noisy offering! Hundreds of people impacted. If you have questions about the project contact the Bethlehem Lutheran Church office at 419-287-4182 and leave a message for me to call you back. Additionally, you may call Redeemer Lutheran, Pastor Lori Strang at 419-277-8767 if you have questions about the ministries of their church.

We are praying that you help us meet this need. Loose change or small bills from thousands of Lutherans will easily close this monetary gap. May God bless you and your congregations.

Sincerely

Ronald E. Nabors

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

From Vicar Janelle

Praying Around Pemberville Sundays at 2 p.m.

We are half way through our schedule to pray around Pemberville. Thank you to those who have joined us. Each week, we have had a great turn out. When we pray, we are lifting the families up by name in thanksgiving and ask for their needs to be met. Sometimes we know their needs. Sometimes we don't. As the weather gets warmer, we have stopped and asked people outside if they have any prayer requests. Often, we are met with surprise, but then people will talk about a sick loved one or another trouble they know someone is facing. It has been a blessing to care for our neighbors all around town.

You are invited to join us on the 2nd half of the journey for the whole street or for one block. If you can't walk, sit on your or your friend's porch and we will pray with you as we come by the house.

If it rains Sundays at 2 pm, we will walk Tuesdays at 4:30.

Date	Beginning	End	Estimated Distance
Mar 4	Corner of Maple and College	Corner of Oak & College	0.7 mile
Mar 11	Hickory at Finley's house	Front Street	0.6 mile
Mar 18	Police Station	End on Bond	1 mile
Mar 25	Obie's Flowers	Marsh Funeral Home	0.6 mile
Apr 8	Obie's Flowers	end of houses on E Front	0.9 mile
Apr 15	Water St	North Branch	1 mile
Apr 22	Water St	end of Alexander Rd	1.3 miles
Apr 29	Corner of Forest and Bierley	East Street	0.5 mile
May 6	Bierley at the bridge	William H. Park	1 mile
May 20	Otterbein at Nursing home entrance		1 mile



The Women of the North Central Conference Women of the ELCA invite all women to help us celebrate the Year of Prayer at our Spring Gathering, **"Lord Teach Me to Pray."**

Vicar Janelle Hennager will be our speaker. The event will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Rochester.

Registration is \$10.00 including lunch. Registration begins at 8:30 with program at 9:00.

Offering will go to **Redeemer Lutheran Church kitchen project** and Women of the ELCA.

In kind offering : Socks for men, women, children for Cherry Street Mission.

Contact: Sharon Moenter 419-873-5117 with any questions. Registration forms in church office.

PRAYING daily

FOR HEALING AND HOPE: Karen O'Brien, Virginia Shammo, Karen Williams, Nancy Gerwin, Dorothy Krumnow, Paul Downey, Mike Cox, Howard Brunk, Randy Rahe, Larry Downey, Mary & Lloyd Daman, Jenny Eschedor & family, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Nick Green, James Opelt

FOR THE GRIEVING: for the family of James Holbert

FOR OUR BISHOPS: Elizabeth Eaton, Daniel Beaudoin

FOR LOCAL MISSIONS: After School Youth Club, Snack Pack Program, Good Samaritan Fund, Community Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, The Linen Closet, Grace's Place, Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool and Extended Care, WCCA Senior Center

FOR ALL YOUTH; FOR OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN.

WORSHIPING Weekly

Worship Attendance

March 4	150	Wed. Mar 7	86
March 11	129	Wed. Mar 14	108
March 18	175	Wed., Mar 21	21 (a.m.)
March 25	202		

Sunday School Attendance

March 4	73
March 11	23
March 18	75
March 25	42

Sign Up to Serve

Coffee Hour	tinyurl.com/BLC-CoffeeHour
Communion Bread	tinyurl.com/BLCcommunionBread
Church Women	tinyurl.com/BLCWsignup
Flowers	tinyurl.com/BLCflowers
Radio Broadcast	tinyurl.com/BLCradio

HELP WANTED

VBS 2018 is in need of one family to house two counselors and another family is needed to house three counselors for the week of June 17-22. Meals are provided separately.

Please contact Kelli Young at 419-265-2776 if you have any questions or an interest in helping out.

Connecting regularly in SMALL GROUPS

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (BLCW)

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THE CIRCLE MEETING:

Priscilla Circle: April 9 @ 7 p.m.

Bible Study: Pam Frankfather

Devotions: Lisa Kohlenberg

The purpose of this gathering is to share God's word and fellowship with one another. Please come any time, nothing special is required. Dress is casual. Bible study materials are provided. A small offering is collected if you feel able



MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

All men of the congregation & community are invited to participate.

Contact: Don Gerke (419-287-3873)

We will meet on Saturday, April 7, 7 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

LARGE BIRTHDAY CARDS

to our 90 and over members are located on a table in the hallway, in the lounge area. Please stop by and sign them. Thank you to Sharon Nigh for creating these cards every month for us to sign!



PORTAGE VALLEY FEDERATION OF LUTHERAN MEN AND PASTORS

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 6:30pm is the Spring Meeting of the Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men and Pastors at St. John's Lutheran Church (122 W. Ottawa St., Oak Harbor).

The Speaker for the evening is Mr Kyle Clark of the Wood County Education Service Center. His topic is "The Opioid Crisis facing our Area and the Nation."

Our current project is the renovation of the Pheiffer house to be used for family and friends visiting residents of the Luther Home of Mercy.

THIS MONTH

April 80+ Birthdays

Use this list to send a card or give a greeting...

- 4/1 Opal Blausey
- 4/5 Mickey Gerwin
- 4/7 Virginia Clink
- 4/14 Vondale Kaemming
- 4/15 Evelyn Gerwin

If your 80+ birthday is not included here, we don't have that information... please call the office.

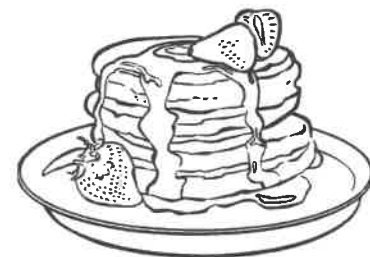


Health and Wellness

YOGA CLASS OPEN TO ALL on Mondays, 7 p.m., in the church's Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5 per person.

Blood Pressure Sunday

Sunday, April 8, 30 minutes before and after the 9 a.m. service, with Nurse April, In the Lounge..



JUST PANCAKES serves pancakes at Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo. Travis Ford (419-262-6234) will be taking a group there on Saturday, April 7, leaving the church parking lot at 7 a.m. Many hands are needed!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women (BLCW)

KNOTTING DATES: Join us in tying blankets for Lutheran World Relief and local nursing homes on Tuesdays, April 10 & 24 at 9 a.m., in the basement.

BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m.

WE COLLECT: Baby Care Kits for April Collections of these items can be dropped off in the Mission Action Center (room 111).

BLCW's first gathering of 2018: Josh and Kalee Johnston, CRU leaders, speaking about their recent ministry in the Middle East, Sunday, April 15, fellowship hall, beginning at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome!

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING THIS MONTH

Acolytes, 9 a.m.	Keirsten Hummel, Addie Young
Altar Flowers	Leslie Shiffler
Altar Guild	Wendy Fisher, Denise Pickerel
Office Window	Deb Helm
Service Org. (Funerals)	Joanne Busdeker, Joan Slebos

April 15 Special Event: Josh and Kalee Johnston

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY APRIL 15TH!!! During the Sunday School hour, in Bethlehem's fellowship hall, Josh and Kalee Johnston (Josh is the son of Pastor and Mrs. Pete Johnston) will be sharing a special presentation about their experiences as CRU leaders in the Middle East. You won't want to miss their talk about sharing the Good News in a mostly Muslim culture. Light breakfast refreshments will also be served. Please plan on attending and invite others to join us. This event is sponsored by BLCW Mission Growth.



Noisy offerings will be collected every first Sunday of each month for a local immediate need, or they will be held in the outreach fund until needed.

YOUTH UPDATES

Please keep the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering and its participants in your prayers. We will be in Houston June 27-July 2. The youth and adults who are attending are Evan Frankfather, Samuel Musteric, Sheriden Schuerman, Samantha Stewart, Logan Williams, Addie Young, Cindy Musteric and Pam Frankfather.

Thank you for your generous support of our Houston Hoedown fundraiser. We far exceeded our goal of raising \$700. You generously gave over \$1,500 which not only met our fundraising needs, but allows us to be generous in our giving at the Gathering. The youth have decided to donate \$400 to Missions International of America to pay for the 200 bracelets they partnered with us to sell as a joint fundraiser. We plan to take these bracelets to the Gathering and give them to people we meet in Houston, along with Missions International of America information cards.

The youth have also decided to generously support the Gathering's literacy initiative, "Blast Off for Books". Church members can partner with us by purchasing new or gently used books from the specific list of titles requested by the Gathering. You can also donate Amazon gift cards and we will purchase the books for you. We will then help to distribute these books in Houston as part of the Gathering Service Learning experience. The list of books can be found here: tinyurl.com/GatheringBooklist. We will set up a display at the church this May for your book and gift card donations.

After we return from the Gathering, we will once again participate in the Pemberville community garage sales on July 21. We will accept your donated items to sell, so keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning! Remember that we do not accept clothing or electronics. Money raised from this sale will be used for upcoming youth events, including the next Gathering in 2021.

Upcoming Events for All Youth in Grades 8-12

Sunday, April 22, 7:00 pm—snacks and discussion in the Lounge

Sunday, May 6, 11:30 am—lunch and discussion in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 20, 11:30 am—lunch and discussion in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 10, 5:30 pm—serve a meal at Mosaic Ministries in Toledo.

THANK YOU, THANKS, GRACIAS

Thank you to Pastor Matt and Vicar Janelle for their support, visits & prayers during Heinz's time in the hospital and through rehab. +Heinz & Inga Offerman

Bethlehem congregation, I would like to extend my thanks for the generous donation in my family's time of need. I can't tell you all what it meant to me, but it meant a lot. For a church mostly with people I don't know to help me and my family even though we don't attend your service, just reassures that God is with me through this trial of hard times. So to the people of Bethlehem Church, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Also, God bless you all! +Ric Hesselbart

Thank you so much for the flowers delivered by Russ & Jane Nowlin. I also thank everyone for your prayers and support through my journey. Bless you all. +Nancy Gerwin

Thank you to everyone for the cards, calls, visits and prayers during my recent surgeries. +Dale Fahle

SERVING OTHERS

Helping Hands for Honduras Update

John Carroll University Medical Brigade

Through your generosity we have collected: 124 filters for the village of Valle Arriba, 90 doses of pain medications for 40 patients, 14 doses of cold medications for 25 patients, 90 days of vitamins for 47 children, a year's worth of blood glucose meters for 15 patients and as well glucose meters for another 36 diabetics. Thank you!

Packing day: Sunday April 8th in the lounge, 10:30 am. We need your help counting the donated medications into packages of ninety for distribution at the brigades. Donations of pain/cold medications or children's vitamins (no gummies or gel caps) are welcomed. I will also making a trip to Costco prior to packing day if you prefer to make a monetary donation.

Additional needs: The number of diabetics has been rising each year and last year we treated 37 diabetics. Diabetic's access to supplies is limited to nonexistent. The brigade is collecting Relion Prime glucose testing strips and Relion lancets which are available at Wal-Mart. I can also purchase the supplies if you prefer.

Due dates: I will continue to collect donations until May 1st to allow time to transport the supplies to JCU for the student's packing day on May 11th. Monetary donations are welcome until the brigade leaves.

Trip dates: We will leave for Honduras on May 23rd and return on June 1st. Our brigade to Valle Arriba has been set up. The students and I are working on the logistics of training the villagers to use the filters.

Prayer: Pray for the team as we obtain and prepare 500,000 doses of medications for distribution, for the students as they learn about the language, culture, and people of Honduras as well as prepare their heart and minds for the trip, and pray for the safety of our team during our travel and brigades.

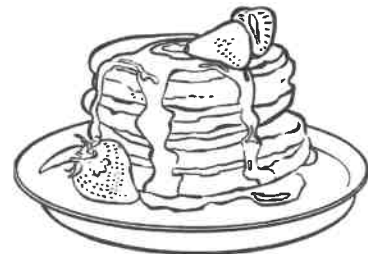
Mission Hondo 2019: I invite you to consider participating in a work brigade through Sociedad Amigos De Los Niños in early January 2019. This is the same group that JCU works through and examples of projects may include painting, building a green house or possibly installing a solar panel based on funds, skills and interests of the group. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday April 8th at 7 pm in the fellowship hall. Further information is available on the Honduras table in the church hallway as well as a sign up sheet if you are interested in more information.

Checks: Payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Honduras in the memo line.

Questions: Please contact me at dboyk@amplex.net or 419-575-0078 (please leave a message) if you have any questions. Thank you again for your overwhelming support of this mission -Darla Boyk

PRICELESS PANCAKES

Serving FREE pancakes on
Saturday, April 28, from 8-11 a.m.
at First United Presbyterian Church
in Pemberville (106 Perry St.).



Carry outs available.

Share fellowship and a free meal.

Volunteers needed! All you need to do is show up at the next event, before 8 a.m., and help with carry outs, taking orders, serving, making batter and helping where ever needed!

April 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 220 Cedar Street, PO Box 344, Pemberville, OH 43450
 Phone: 419-287-4182 Email: office@bethlehempemberville.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER SUNDAY 9am Worship 10:20am Faith Formation 10:20am Catechism	2 7pm Yoga, FH 7:30 pm Dartball Tournament St. Marks Lutheran	3	4 8:45am Staff Check-in 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5 7:00pm Weekly men's Bible Study @ Higher Ground	6	7 7am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH 7:00am Just Pancakes Meet at BLC 9:00am-1:00pm Private, FH
8 9am Worship 10:20am Faith Formation 10:20am Catechism 2pm Prayer Walk with Vicar Janelle 6:15-8:30pm Private FH	9 7pm Priscilla Circle 7pm Yoga, FH 7:30pm Dartball Tournament St. Marks Lutheran	10 9am Knitting, basement 6:00pm Portage Valley Fed of Lutheran Men and Pastors, St John Lutheran, Oak Harbor 6:30pm Parish Ed meets	11 8:45am Staff Check-in 6:15pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Cub Scouts, FH 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12 7:00pm Weekly men's Bible Study @ Higher Ground	13	14 8-11am Food Partry Open
15 9am Worship 10:20am Faith Formation 10:20am Catechism 10:20am BLCW Gathering 2pm Prayer Walk with Vicar Janelle	16 7pm Yoga, FH 7:30pm Dartball Banquet St. Johns Lemoyne	17 3pm Staff Meeting, Rm. 211 7pm Council Meeting Newsletter DEADLINE	18 10:30am OPV Communion 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19 7:00pm Weekly men's Bible Study @ Higher Ground	20 No Pre-school	21 8-11am Food Partry Open 8-11am Priceless Pancakes Presbyterian Church, Pemb
22 9am Worship 10:20am Faith Formation 10:20am Catechism 2pm Prayer Walk with Vicar Janelle 12:00-4:00pm Private FH	23 7pm Yoga, FH	24 9am Knitting, basement 7pm BLCW Board Mtg.	25 8:45am Staff Check-in 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26 9am Newsletter Assembly 7:00pm Weekly men's Bible Study @ Higher Ground	27	28 8-11am Food Partry Open 8-11am Priceless Pancakes Presbyterian Church, Pemb
29 9am Worship 10:20am Faith Formation 10:20am Catechism 2pm Prayer Walk with Vicar Janelle	30 7pm Yoga, FH					Preschool schedule M/W/F 4-year old classes Tu/Th 3-year old classes AM—9-11:30 PM—Noon-2:30 Extended Care: 6:30am-6pm

KEY:
 BLCW-Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women
 FH-Fellowship Hall
 FUPC-First United Presby.
 OPV-Ottenein-Portage Valley



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 344
Pemberville, OH 43450
Issue 03-2018

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RETURN Service Requested
Dated material. Do not delay.

A graphic for '2018 Year of Prayer' featuring the year '2018' in a large, bold font, with 'Year of Prayer' in a larger, bold font below it. A stylized flame or sunburst is positioned above the text, with lines radiating downwards through the year and the words 'Year of Prayer'.

Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Matthew Musteric

Vicar Janelle Hennager

April 2018

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

419-287-4182

Office hours: 9 am to 2 pm, Monday—Friday

BethlehemPemberville.org

office@BethlehemPemberville.org

Radio: WFRO 99.1 FM, Sundays at 11:30 am

Sunday Worship: 9 am

Faith Formation for all ages: 10:20 am