

- **Confession and Absolution:** We
 - ♦ acknowledge our sins, ♦ express our sorrow, and ♦ profess our trust in Jesus; then we hear the announcement that *God has forgiven us*.
- **Hymns:** They are ♦ Bible-based and
 - ♦ theologically rich, so, let us *think about the words and apply them in our lives*.
- **Kyrie** (Greek for “Lord”): We ask the Lord to show us His mercy by helping us according to our needs.
- **Salutation:** “The Lord be with you.” He is *with the congregation* to enable them to hear, understand, and benefit, and *with the pastor* to enable him to pray, read, preach, etc.
- **Scripture Readings:** The Bible is ♦ God’s word and ♦ guides our lives in Christ.
- **Creeds:** We use three, which summarize what we believe: *Apostles – Baptism, Nicene – Lord’s Supper, Athanasian – the relationship within the Holy Trinity*.
- **Lord’s Prayer:** Jesus taught it to His followers (Mt. 6; Lk. 11). The more we understand each petition, the more we will pray with meaning and richness.
- **Lord’s Supper:** After His sinless living in our place, Jesus gave His body and shed His blood to take away the sin of the world. When we receive with repentance and faith, we receive anew the forgiveness of our sins.
- **Benediction** (Latin for “blessing”): When the words of blessing – from *Numbers 6:24-26* – are spoken upon the people, the LORD has promised to bless them (see *6:27*). Some other key thoughts:
 - The LORD will keep us – even though we cannot completely stop sinning!
 - The LORD will look on us with favor!

- The LORD will give us peace – knowing that we are in a right and saving relationship with Him by grace through faith in Jesus!
- Each part of the liturgy is Bible based and contains both consistency and variety. Questions, need help? *Please ask!*

Our Service Schedule

Saturdays: class **3:00**; service **4:00**

Sundays: service **9:00**; refreshments **10:15**; classes – adults, youth, and children **10:30**

Festival Services: See our [Join Us](#) brochure.

Our Lord’s Supper Practice

Since Christians cannot live without sin (*Eccl. 7:20*), *God keeps assuring repentant sinners of His forgiveness through the Lord’s Supper*.

All who desire to receive the Lord’s Supper are called to prepare themselves by examining themselves: **1 Corinthians 11:28** “*...a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup [which are the visible elements of the supper].*”

This Is the Lord’s Supper Information We Include In Our Service Folder Each Week

LORD’S SUPPER: It is offered to repentant believers to assure them of God’s forgiveness. Please prepare to receive by asking yourself [these five questions](#):

1. **Bible:** It shows us our sin, tells of Jesus, and calls for repentance. [Do I believe the Bible is true?](#)
2. **Repentance:** It begins in our hearts and shows in our lives. [Do I desire to turn from my sins?](#)
3. **Salvation:** It is by grace through faith in Jesus for eternal life. [Am I trusting in Jesus for heaven?](#)

4. **Supper:** [Do I believe the supper is bread & body and wine & blood for the forgiveness of sins?](#)
5. **Unity:** We are in harmony with God – based on our belief in His word, and with others – based on our common confession. [Do I know and agree with the teachings of the LCMS](#) (Luth. Ch. Missouri Synod)?

How to Learn More:

- **Read this brochure:** [The Lord’s Supper](#)
- **Request and read:** “A Simple Explanation of Christianity”
- **Request and read:** “Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation”
- **Talk / Meet** with the pastor.
- **Ask about our Bible Basics Course** – our path to membership for non-Lutherans.

Conclusion

Thanks for learning about Bethlehem! If you are interested, I’m glad to visit with you to get better acquainted and answer any questions. [Please let me know of your desire.](#) *Pastor*

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Watch Our Video Sermons

<https://www.youtube.com/@benefitfromthebible/videos>

The Scripture references in this brochure are from the New American Standard Bible, the 1995 version.

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube: “Benefit from the Bible”

Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma”

Saturdays: Class 3:00; Service 4:00

Sundays: Service 9:00; Classes 10:30

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Learn About Bethlehem

- **Our Preaching & Teaching:** Biblical, Understandable, Relevant
- **Our Bible View and Beliefs**
- **Our Worship Services**
- **Our Lord’s Supper Practice**

Introduction

Hi! Welcome to Bethlehem! I’m Rev. Robert Green – most call me “Pastor”

We are blessed and want to be a blessing:

- We believe the Bible is God’s word!
- We trust in Jesus for eternal life!
- We have 100 active members of all ages!
- Well over half of our active members attend our classes each week!
- We designate 10% of our budget each year to reach / help those in need!

We want to help everyone:

- Understand God's word of truth.
- Turn **from** their sins **and** trust in self **to** trust in Jesus for eternal life.
- Live a life in harmony with the Bible.
- Live with peace, joy, and courage!

If you have questions about Bethlehem, please let me know. *Pastor*

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Our View of the Bible



God moved men, *by the Holy Spirit*, to write down His very words. Here is the order:

God the Father → God the HS → Prophets and Apostles → the written word of God.

So, the Bible is God's very word to us. God breathed out His word in the languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

For important *evidence* about the Bible being true, read this brochure: [The Bible Is True](#)

Some key passages:

- [Isaiah 40:8](#) The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.
- [Psalm 119:160](#) The sum of Your word is truth.
- [2 Timothy 3:16](#) All Scripture is inspired by God [literally: God-breathed].
- [2 Peter 1:21](#) ...no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

How We Interpret the Bible

- We use the **Historical-Grammatical** method. To explain that in very simple terms, *we take the Bible to mean what it says*. For example, the Bible says, [Genesis 1:1](#) “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” So that is what we believe: Creation, not evolution.
- We use **Scripture to interpret Scripture**. Much of the Bible is easy to understand; however, when a passage is difficult to understand, we use other passages on that same topic / doctrine to help us rightly understand the one that is difficult. By using that method, *God is telling us the correct meaning*.

Our Basic Beliefs

Old Testament:

- God created a perfect world: Heaven and earth, plants and trees, sun, moon, and stars, birds and fish, animals and people.
- Shortly after the people were created, they sinned – resulting in separation from God, pain, suffering, eventual physical death, and eventual eternal punishment.
- However, *on the same day they sinned*, God promised to send a future descendant of the woman to take away the sin of the world.
- Then, through the prophets, festivals, and sacrifices, God kept reminding the people of His promise to send the Savior.

New Testament:

- At the right time, *which had been set by God*, He sent His Son into the world. He was **conceived by the Holy Spirit**, **born of the Virgin Mary**, and **given the name of Jesus** – *which means, the Lord saves!*

- How did Jesus save us? **First**, He lived a sinless life as our perfect substitute. **Second**, He received our sins and the eternal punishment we deserve, then He laid down His life on Good Friday (and God raised Him to life on the third day).

God is calling all people to:

- Admit their sins and their helplessness to save themselves (no one can meet God requirement – [Matt. 5:48](#); [Rom. 3:20](#)).
- Have godly sorrow ([2Co. 7:10](#)) and turn from their sins ([Act 26:18](#)).
- Trust in Jesus for eternal life ([1 Pet. 3:18](#)).

For all who trust in Jesus:

- Grow in understanding the Bible.
- Gather each week to receive His gifts through word and sacrament.
- Live for Jesus and make Him known.

Our Worship Services

Today: In the US and around the world, there are many forms of Christian worship. Some are *simple and emotional*; others are more *complex and Biblical*.

On the topic of worship: Jesus told us what is essential: [John 4:23-24](#) “*...the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*” // What does that mean? Dr. Lenski, who wrote a commentary series of the NT, explained:

- **“Omit the spirit, and though you have the truth, the worship becomes formalism, mere ritual observance.”**
- **“Omit the truth, and though the whole soul is thrown into the worship, it becomes an abomination [something offensive to God]”** ([John 4:23-24](#)).

In other words:

- **The truth is essential:** What is the truth? Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven, “**Your word is truth**” ([John 17:17](#)).
- **The spirit is essential:** Our spirit is the deepest part of us. God wants that part of us to **long for His truth, desire to understand, pay attention, believe His word is true, and make application of His word in our lives.**

It is vital to hold a proper relationship between truth and emotions: Truth must be at the top, influencing how we feel, rather than emotions being at the top, canceling out God's truth. For example: The Bible says, [1 John 1:9](#) “*If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” // So, for those who are **sorry** for their sins and **trusting** in Jesus for eternal life, God wants them to know they are forgiven. Let us rejoice in **God's love**, rather than permit our feelings to cancel out God's amazing promises.

Truth and Emotions

Let's keep God's Truth at the top, as most important!

Even though our emotions can be strong and loud, let's keep them below God's Truth!

Our services are *liturgical and Biblical*, which means they **have order** and **connect to various parts of the Bible**. These are some of the parts of our liturgy:

- **Invocation:** “In the name of the Father...” It **declares** whose service it is, **places** the congregation under God's name, and **acknowledges** God's prior action to call believers and promise to be present.