

All ages are included: "...be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children..." (Acts 2:38-39 NAS-95).

Saved adults desire baptism: "As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?'" (Acts 8:36 NAS-95).

5. **Do I desire to live for Christ?** Y N

It's amazing to be in Christ: From dead in sins to alive in Christ; from hell bound to heaven bound; from fear to peace; and much more! "[Jesus] died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (2Co. 5:15 NAS-95).

**Summary:** A Christian knows the Bible is true, is sorry for his sins, is trusting in Jesus alone for eternal life, has been baptized into Christ, and desires to live for Christ! If those things are true for you, *then you are a Christian!* If not, let's schedule a time to talk!

**Part 2: Am I right with others?** (2 questions)

1. **Am I reconciled with others?** Y N

Do your part to work things out: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Rom. 12:18 NAS-95).

2. **Am I forgiving others?** Y N

It is vital to extend forgiveness: Jesus said, "...if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins" (Mk 11:25 NIV).

**Summary:** Even if others refuse to reconcile or accept our forgiveness, *it is vital for us to try to work things out and extend forgiveness!* Are such things true in your life? If not, repent!

**Part 3: Do I believe what the Bible says about the Lord's Supper?** (2 questions)

1. **Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, body, wine, and blood?** Y N

Note the underlined words: "Is not the cup [wine] of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" (1Co. 10:16 NIV).

2. **Is the main benefit of the Supper the forgiveness of sins?** Y N

Jesus told us the benefit: "'Take, eat; this is My body.' ... 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.'" (Mt. 26:26-28 NAS-95).

**Summary:** Since all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), Jesus gave His body and shed His blood to provide forgiveness. In the Lord's Supper, by the power of God, Jesus' given body has been united to the bread and Jesus' shed blood has been united to the wine. Since Christians cannot live sinless lives (Eccl. 7:20), the Lord's Supper is God's way of assuring us that – *in Christ* – we are forgiven. Do you believe such things? If not, let's schedule a time to talk!

**Conclusion:** If you desire to learn more, send me your questions, or attend any of our classes. If you desire to become a member of Bethlehem, I can share three ways for you to join.

**Connect With Us**

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)

**YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma

**Schedule:** Saturday 4; Sunday 9; 440-845-2230

**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134

(Last Update: 10-22)

**Welcome!**



**Learn About Bethlehem**

- Our View of the Bible
- How We Interpret the Bible
- Our Basic Beliefs
- Our Lord's Supper Practice

**Introduction**

**Hi! Welcome to Bethlehem!** We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; we believe the Bible is true and trust in Jesus for eternal life.

We want everyone to:

- ✓ Understand God's word of truth.
- ✓ Trust in Jesus for eternal life.
- ✓ See how the Bible is relevant to our lives.
- ✓ Be inspired with peace, joy, and courage!

If you have questions about Bethlehem Lutheran, please let me know. *Pastor Green* 440-292-5915; [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com)

## 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 ➔ Bible.

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

We are blessed with many good English translations, for example, the NAS, AAT, NET, ESV, NIV, KJV, and NKJV. Some key passages:

- [The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever \(Is. 40:8 NAS\).](#)
- [The sum of Your word is truth \(Ps. 119:160 NAS-95\).](#)
- [All Scripture is God-breathed \(2Tim. 3:16 NIV\).](#)
- [For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit \(2Pet. 1:21 NIV\).](#)

## 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, [“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” \(Gen. 1:1 NAS\).](#) So that is what we believe: Not evolution, but creation.
- 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 proper meaning.*

## Our Basic Beliefs

### Old Testament:

- God created a perfect world: Heaven and earth, plants and trees, sun, moon, and stars, birds and fish, and 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, God still loved the people, so He promised to send His Son, Jesus to take away their sins.
- In many ways, especially through the required sacrifices, God kept reminding the people of His promise to send the Savior.

### New Testament:

- At the right time, which was set by God, He sent His Son into the world. The Son of God 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 – *even though He was tempted in every way just as we are*; then, second, He received all sins and all eternal punishment upon Himself, and then He laid down His life.
- **Now, God is calling all people to:**
  - [Acknowledge their sins and their helplessness to save themselves](#) (*we are helpless because no one can make himself righteous in God's sight; Rom. 3:20*).
  - [Be sorry for their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.](#)
- For all who trust in Jesus as their Savior, God is calling them to ♦grow in understanding the Bible, ♦gather with other believers each week to receive His gifts through word and sacrament, and ♦live for Jesus.

## Our Lord's Supper Practice

The Supper can certainly give us much assurance that our sins are forgiven through Jesus, *but self-examination is essential:* [“Let a person examine himself” \(1Co. 11:28 ESV\).](#) Therefore, please use the following information for your own self-examination:

### Part 1: Am I a Christian? (5 questions)

1. **Do I believe the Bible is true?** Y N  
[Jesus prayed to His Father:](#) [“Your word is truth” \(John 17:17 NAS-95\).](#)
2. **Am I sorry for my sins** (*admitting them and wanting to turn from them*)? Y N  
[Godly sorrow is essential:](#) [“...the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation... \(2Co. 7:10 NAS-95\).](#)
3. **Am I trusting in Jesus alone** (*in who He is – the Son of God, and what He did – living as my sinless substitute, receiving my sins and eternal punishment, and laying down His life*) **for my entrance into heaven?** Y N  
[Regarding Jesus:](#) [“...there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” \(Acts 4:12 NAS-95\).](#)
4. **Am I baptized?** Y N  
[God works through baptism:](#) [“He \[God the Father\] saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” \(Tit. 3:5 NAS-95\).](#)  
[All people are included:](#) [“Go... and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...” \(Matt. 28:19 NAS-95\).](#)