

Using Our Gift: ^{NIV} **1 Peter 4:10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others... As a body or a family function well when each member does its part, so the same is true for a congregation. We thank God for our gift and show Him our love as we serve as gifted!

Our Services: They are Bible-based, truthful, relevant, and inspiring! We offer the Lord's Supper at virtually every service, except for our Wednesdays during Advent and Lent. This is our weekly schedule (for our special services schedule, see our Join Us brochure):

+ **Saturdays** at 4:00

+ **Sundays** at 9:00

Our Classes: ^{ESV} **Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. The Spirit wants to bless people of all ages through God's Holy Word!

+ **Thursdays** at 10:00: **Living the Lutheran Lectionary** – Join us to study the upcoming hymn of the day, Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel.

+ **Saturdays** at 3:00: **Bible Class** – Everyone is welcome to better know, understand, and live God's Holy Word.

+ **Sundays** at 10:30:

- ◆ **Bible Class** – Everyone is welcome to better know, understand, and live God's Holy Word.
- ◆ **Sunday School:**
 - i. The children make friends and receive training in God's Word, while the parents attend the Bible class! I encourage all parents to bless their children by faithfully participating in our classes!
 - ii. We have two Classes:
 1. 3 years old to second grade – meeting in the upper room.
 2. Third grade to eighth grade – meeting in the middle office.

Conclusion

Thanks for reading! If I can be a blessing to you in some way, please let me know!

Pastor

Connect With Us

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)
Schedule: See our "Join Us" brochure
Facebook: "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"
Podcast: "Benefit from the Bible"
Contact: 440-845-2230

(Last Update: 2-21)

Be Encouraged and Informed



Introduction

We don't know what the future holds, but we know the One who holds the future! In other words, we know the Almighty God – *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*, therefore:

- ✦ We know we are loved – *as we look at the manger and the cross!*
- ✦ We know we are forgiven and saved – *because God is keeping us trusting in Jesus as our Savior!*
- ✦ We know our needs will be provided – *because all things belong to our gracious Heavenly Father!*
- ✦ We know we have God's gift of eternal life – *because God has promised it to all who believe in Jesus!*

Let me give you some encouragement on topics that are important for us as individuals, as families, and as a congregation. As you read, notice how God's Word is filled with guidance and encouragement in so many ways! The words in **blue** are from the Bible, while the words in **black** are added for clarification. Please read and discuss as a family, or encourage every person to individually and carefully read and be blessed!

The Bible: God the Holy Spirit moved men to write down the very words of God the Father for our temporal and eternal benefit (2 Peter 1:21)!

- + The LORD said to Joshua as he took over for Moses: **ESV Joshua 1:8** This Book of the Law [so the first five books of the Bible] shall not depart from your mouth [so you shall not stop talking about them], but you shall meditate on it day and night [so read the Bible, think about it, discuss it – and for what purpose?], so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. What blessings! What encouragement from the LORD!
- + Paul reminded Timothy of the great value of the Bible: **ESV 2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is breathed out by God

[so right from God's mouth] and profitable for teaching [God's truth], for reproof [expressing disapproval], for correction [improvement], and for training in righteousness... So the Holy Scriptures are filled with countless benefits for us!

Sin > Salvation > Works: Take note of that order in this passage: **ESV Ephesians 2:1-10** And you were dead [spiritually dead] in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked [so in how you lived]... But God, being rich in mercy... made us alive together with Christ [so by God's action we are now alive with Christ; and for what purpose?]... we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. When we were in grave spiritual trouble, God made us alive so that we might follow His plan for our lives! We are so blessed!

Receiving Spiritual Nourishment:

- + **ESV Acts 2:42** And [the believers] devoted themselves to [so they were continuing in] the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread [their eating together and/or receiving of the Lord's Supper] and the prayers. As those early church believers were blessed through their devoted, faithful participation, so the Lord wants to shower us with those

same blessings today through our reception of Word and Sacrament!

- + **ESV Hebrews 10:25** ...not neglecting to meet together [in Divine Service], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Since each day brings us closer to Jesus' return, let us be encouraged to meet together more and more! **Note:** If you want to attend, but are unable, let me know so I can visit you.

Being Financially Blessed: God is so ready to shower us with more than we need!

- + **NIV Malachi 3:10** Bring the whole tithe [10 percent] into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. If God gives a dollar, we give a dime; if God gives 1,000, we give 100, and God will keep His promise!
- + **NIV Proverbs 11:24** One man gives freely, yet gains even more. Even though it doesn't make sense, God remains true to His promise. Even though tithers give much, God blesses them so that they have even more; God encourages us to give and be blessed!