

- ✦ **Summary:** The season of Easter begins on the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and includes His ascension (*40 days later*) and **The Day of Pentecost** (*50 days later*)! Since Jesus has been raised, we know ✦His teachings are true, ✦His sacrifice has been accepted, and ✦death is not the end – *we will be raised and live forever when He returns!*
- ✦ **Special non-Sunday Service:** Ascension Day (on the Thursday, which is 40 days after Easter) at 7 PM
- ✦ **Prayer:** Almighty God, through Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## 6: Pentecost / Trinity

- ✦ **Theme:** *Through Jesus we live!*
- ✦ **Color:** **Green** – *for new life; since we live through Jesus, we also live for Jesus.*
- ✦ **Summary:** At Bethlehem we call the *sixth*, *final*, and *longest* season by two names: Pentecost and Trinity:
  - **Trinity** is the *older* and *more logical* name; the first Sunday in this season is called “The Holy Trinity.” On that day we focus on the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – their work to create us, redeem us, and keep us in the one true faith.
  - **Pentecost** is the newer name. Note this one point of confusion: **The Day of Pentecost** does *not* begin the season of Pentecost; instead, that **Day** is *the last Sunday of the season of Easter*. However, calling the season “Pentecost” is a wonderful reminder that we – *as believers*

*in Jesus* – have the blessing of the Holy Spirit who ✦has united us to Christ, ✦keeps us in Christ, ✦enables us to understand the Bible, and ✦empowers us to live unto God's glory!

- ✦ **Special non-Sunday Service:** Thanksgiving Eve at 7 PM
- ✦ **Prayer:** O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation [*comfort*]; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Conclusion

The Church Year is not found in the Bible, but it is centered in Christ and is a very helpful way to keep us focused on Christ throughout the year!

Since Jesus gave everything to purchase our salvation, *let us honor Him in our daily lives:*

- By having a daily dialogue with God – reading the Bible, talking to God through prayer, and applying the Bible in our lives.
- By making Divine Service attendance a top priority – attending each week on Saturday or Sunday, with an open mind and a repentant heart.

See you in church!

## 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

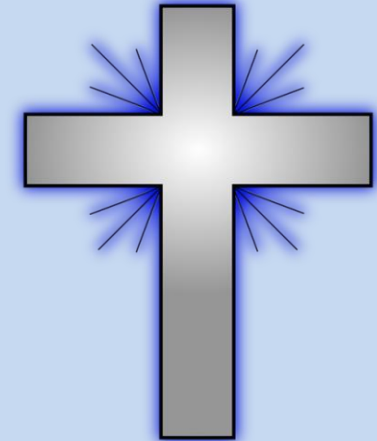
**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134

(Last Update: 11-22)

How Can We Stay Focused on Christ?

By *Understanding* and *Following*:

# The Church Year



## Introduction

Here in the twenty-first century, our lives can become so busy that we forget about Jesus – ✦the source of our physical and spiritual lives and ✦the one who lived and died to make the only way to heaven. How can we remember Jesus? By understanding and following the Church Year!

May this brochure GROW ✦your knowledge of God's love through Jesus, ✦your faith in Jesus as your only Savior, and ✦your desire to faithfully gather and receive His blessings!

## Summary

**The Time of Christmas** – includes these three church year seasons:

1. **Advent**
2. **Christmas**
3. **Epiphany**

**The Time of Easter** – includes these two church year seasons:

4. **Lent**
5. **Easter**

**The Time of the Church** – includes this one church year season known by these two names:

6. **Pentecost / Trinity**

## The Six Church Year Seasons

### 1: Advent

- ✦ **Theme:** *Jesus is coming!*
- ✦ **Color:** **Blue** – *for the sky, from which He will come again.*
- ✦ **Summary:** The season of Advent *begins* the Church Year and includes the four Sundays *before Christmas*. Advent is a time of both *sorrow* and *gladness*; *sorrow* because our sins made His coming necessary, but *gladness* because He came to save us and will come again to forever bless those who know Him as their Savior!
- ✦ **Special non-Sunday Services:** On the first three Wednesdays at 11 AM & 7 PM
- ✦ **Prayer:** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### 2: Christmas

- ✦ **Theme:** *Jesus is born!*
- ✦ **Color:** **White** – *because the baby Jesus is the holy Son of God!*
- ✦ **Summary:** The short two-Sunday season of Christmas begins on Christmas Eve. Along with the holy angels, we glorify God the

Father and rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ, who was ✦long-ago promised, ✦Holy Spirit conceived, and ✦Virgin born to save us from our sins!

- ✦ **Special non-Sunday Services:** Christmas Eve at 4 PM; Christmas Day at 10 AM; New Year's Eve at 4 PM (except 2023 – since 12/31/23 is a Sunday).
- ✦ **Prayer:** O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and *in the incarnation of Your Son* yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### 3: Epiphany

- ✦ **Theme:** *Jesus is God!*
- ✦ **Color:** **White** – *because Jesus lived a sinless life in our place* (at Bethlehem we use white for the whole season; some congregations use white on some Sundays and green on other Sundays).
- ✦ **Summary:** The season of Epiphany begins on January 6, as we remember the Magi worshiping the infant Jesus and presenting Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. As the season continues we focus on Jesus' baptism, miracles, teachings, and transfiguration; all such things help us know that Jesus is the Son of God in human flesh, *the promised Savior of the world!*
- ✦ **Prayer:** O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, *who know You by faith*, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### 4: Lent

- ✦ **Theme:** *Jesus died for our sins!*
- ✦ **Color:** **Purple** – *for His passion, His suffering by which He removed our sins.*
- ✦ **Summary:** The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, reaches its climax on Good Friday, and concludes on Holy Saturday. Lent is also a time of both *sorrow* and *gladness*; *sorrow* because our sins made Jesus' death necessary, but also *gladness* because He willingly endured so very much for our salvation! We remember His ✦*perfect obedience to His Father* and ✦*great love for us* as He allowed Himself to be arrested, beaten, and crucified; then our sins became His and God punished Him in our place; then He laid down His life!
- ✦ **Special non-Sunday Services:** On the first six Wednesdays at 11 AM & 7 PM; Holy Thursday at 11 AM & 7 PM; Good Friday at 11 AM & 7 PM; Holy Saturday at 4
- ✦ **Prayer:** Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### 5: Easter

- ✦ **Theme:** *Jesus is risen!*
- ✦ **Color:** **White** – *even though Jesus received our sins, paid our penalty, and laid down His life, He is now our risen and holy Savior and Lord.*