BLC Newsletter – December 2025

December Schedule Please Be Faithful!

Regular Schedule:

<u>Sat</u>: class <mark>3</mark>; service 4

Sun: service 9; classes 10:30

12/27 & 28 - No Classes

Wednesdays in Advent: 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17

Morning: Service 11; Meal 12

Evening: Meal 6; Service 7

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Service: 4 PM

Christmas Day Service: 10 AM

New Year's Eve Service: 4 PM

Let's Decorate the Church

Please help Rand Stender and his team do the decorating on Saturday, 12/6 at 9 AM – to put up the: Front and side Wreaths, Star, Christmas

Tree, and Entryway Nativity.

Thanks for volunteering!

We Each Have an Important Role

Pastors are called to equip the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12).

Let's understand and work together!



<u>Think about this explanation</u>: <u>Ephesians 4:12</u> explains that spiritual leaders are given to the church to equip all believers to do the work of ministry, thereby building up the body of Christ. The verse emphasizes that leadership is not meant to do the ministry themselves, but to train and prepare the entire congregation so that every member can use their spiritual gifts to serve others and grow in maturity.

[See the next page for the details...]

- Equipping the saints: The primary role of gifted leaders is to "equip the saints" (believers). This means training them, teaching them sound doctrine, and shaping them to be complete and fully functional in their role within the church.
- For the work of ministry: The purpose of this equipping is to enable every believer to participate in the "work of ministry". Ministry is described as practical service and expending energy to meet the needs of others, not just a job for a few leaders.
- For the building up of the body of Christ: The ultimate goal is the edification, or "building up," of the entire church body. When every believer is equipped and serving, the church grows in maturity and unity, rather than stagnating because the ministry is left to a few individuals (Google AI).

Voters Meeting Highlights

BLC Budget:

 The 2026 budget will be presented to the Voter's in early January for approval. Watch for a meeting date, possibly on January 18 or 25.

Leadership Team Serving in 2026:

- Coordinator Dr. Phillip Giessler
- Finance Natalia Ford
- Treasurer Don Crites
- Worship Rand Stender
- Building Terry Tomasch
- Care Alan Carlson
- Fellowship [please volunteer]
- Education Marci Sherepita
- Outreach [please volunteer]
- Grounds Ken Hinkle

Other Classes – Join Us

<u>Sisters of Light</u> – Every Other Wednesday: 1 PM

- January 7 at 1PM as we begin a new study, "Before the Throne!" Where do you go when life overwhelms you? Before the Throne. God's people know they can turn to Him when times get tough. Instead of trying to fix things on our own, we can enter God's throne room in prayer. The access granted to us by Jesus our High Priest is our comfort when the world is turned upside down.
- Ladies join us in the "Acts Room"
- Questions? Ask Rhonda: 330-260-5194

[Continued on the next page...]

Living the Lutheran Lectionary -

Thursdays: 10 AM

- Join us in the "Timothy Room"
- Learn about the upcoming readings
- Questions? Ask Harold: 440-454-2139

Men's Group – First Saturday of Many Months:

- Join us on January 3
- Free Breakfast at 9 AM
- Study Begins at 9:15
- Questions? Ask Dr. G: 216-374-5973

It's Easy to be a Member of the Bethlehem Choir

<u>Get on Harold's email list</u> (send a request: <u>weselohduh@gmail.com</u>). <u>Then do the following</u>:

- Receive a hymn and melody for the first Sunday of each month via email.
- ✓ Practice on your own.
- ✓ Meet at the organ on the first Sunday of each month at 8:45.
- ✓ Sing during that service.

 Call/text Harold for more info:

 440-454-2139

ACME Community Cash Back

Community Cash Back is an easy, local fundraiser! Simply start collecting receipts and place them in the blue holder in the Narthex. We earn 5% cashback on certain products. The program runs 8/1/25 – 2/15/26.

Many Christians are being Murdered in Nigeria

- Pray for Nigeria and the US to work together to *protect the Christians and *restrain the Islamic terrorists.
- To learn more, watch this video: Who's Funding the Christian Genocide in Nigeria? https://youtu.be/FWMloyWeFi o?si=VRkFH608N6sXyP F (If it doesn't start at the beginning,

FYI – Stay Informed

slide the red dot to the left.)

Through calls or text messages.

Calls – this number: 440-845-2230

■ Texts – this number: 440-298-2791

Want to subscribe: Call the church office: 440-845-2230

December *Physical*Birthdays

12/1	Noel Martinez
12/3	Krista Browning
12/5	Regina Mild
12/5	Norma Sweeny
12/9	Alan Blaha
12/17	Matt Kussmaul

12/18 Jim Vrabel

12/19 Eileen Kovach

12/25 Inez Giessler

12/26 Sandra Dedula

12/26 Wendy Meikle

12/26 Bill Meixner

12/26 Dennis Montick

12/26 Jean Smith

12/27 Marci Sherepita

12/31 Debbie Stender



December Spiritual Birthdays

12/4 Andrew Green12/4 Gloria Hurka

12/6 Nick Ventura

12/7 Linda Blaha

12/19 Don Dickau

12/25 Inez Giessler

12/25 Harold Weseloh

12/31 Matt Kussmaul



December *Wedding*Anniversaries

12/17 Pastor & Kathy Green (48th)

Stephen Ministry

- Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic illness, or terminal illness.
- Could you benefit from a Stephen Minister? Contact Norma: 216-406-4871

Service Cancellation Policy

We will basically NEVER cancel a divine service! If we ever close, you will receive a call / text message!



<u>Remember</u>: If you see any **Bethlehem** service cancellations on your TV, it is not us; *those are other churches with the same name!*

The Lutheran Collapse: America's Quietest Church Crisis

Dear Bethlehem: We are blessed in many ways:

- We believe the Bible is God's word!
- We have about 100 active members!
- We have members of all ages – from infants to those in their 90's!
- We have children and youth in attendance!
- We have an active Sunday School program!
- Over half of our active members attend Bible class each week!

Let's understand that those are important and yet rare qualities among Lutheran churches today. Let us thank our GREAT GOD!!!

Let us also be aware of the collapse of Lutheranism in the US and take whatever steps are best to avoid collapse at BLC.

Join us to view an important video, followed by an important discussion in Bible class on December 13 & 14.

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **December 24** at Noon – for the January NL
- ⇒ Wednesday, January 21 at Noon – for the February NL