

BLC Newsletter – July 2024

Be Informed and Faithfully Receive God's Gifts

www.BLC7500.com

Thoughts from Pastor

Dear BLC Members and Friends:

Latest Brochure: Traffic Light Colors...



- **Red** – Stop to ponder the question: *Who Is God?*
- **Yellow** – Caution because something of eternal significance is coming!
- **Green** – Go with all seriousness to make sure you are in Christ, *ready for His – like a thief in the night – return!*

We all know someone who may not be in Christ. Therefore, let us ✨pray for that person, ✨give a brochure, and ✨ask him/her to carefully consider the contents.

Updates on Relevant Issues:

- **Card: Mighty Deeds of God** – They have been ordered and the website is being updated now. Possible distribution in July.
- **Brochure: We Love Catholics** – It's in the works, *comparing various quotes*

from the Catechism of the Catholic Church with the Bible. The purpose is to lovingly share God's saving truth, so that all who are trusting in their own goodness for heaven may be set free through Jesus! Please pray for me as my work continues!

- **Coin: Grace and Mercy** – A Lutheran in our area designed and minted a special coin, which includes this important information:
 - **Grace** – is when God gives you what you don't deserve.
 - **Mercy** – is when God spares you what you do deserve.

Watch for an upcoming sermon on the topics of grace and mercy and receive two coins – one to keep and one to share, thanks to the generosity of a BLC member!

- **Brochure: The Lord's Supper**: What is it? What is the benefit? Who should receive? How should we prepare? I hope to write it and share it in the months ahead.

Update: Youth For Christ – Brian, Nick, and Joanne will have a table in the Narthex on **July 6 and 7** and briefly share about their work in the Parma Schools to reach students with the good news of Jesus' finished work. Let's see how we might partner with them.

Food and Fire

Saturday, 7/20 at 5:30

**YOU
Are
Invited!**



BRING

Food

(to share)

Chair

(to sit by the fire)

We plan to gather rain or shine!

If it rains, join us inside for eating and possibly a movie night!

You Might Be Wondering

This is our pastor's anniversary month:

- ✓ Ordained – 7/14/96 at Zion in Painesville, which was his home congregation where he was baptized, confirmed, and married.
- ✓ Installed – 7/21/96 at Bethlehem in Parma, which was his first call after graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN in May of 1996.
- ✓ First Sermon as a Pastor – 7/28/96 at Bethlehem, which was also the day of the church picnic that year.

Classes – Join Us and Benefit

1 Timothy: Come on any week to any class!

So far, we have learned about:

- Paul's warning to Timothy about the false teachers around the area of Ephesus.
- How Jesus, the Christ came to save sinners, even Paul, the chief of sinners.
- The basics of prayer – to the Father, through the Son, with the help of the Holy Spirit. We also learned that prayer is a form of worship; therefore, it is proper to pray ONLY to God – Father, Son, and HS.

We will soon be in a new section on qualifications for various positions:

- Overseers and Elders – Are those words describing two positions or the same position? If a congregation has elders, are those elders in the Biblical sense of the term or have they given that Bible word a different definition?
- Deacons – What is required and what do such men typically do?
- Deaconesses – We have them in the LCMS. How does the LCMS usage of the term fit with the Biblical qualifications?

Join Us:

- **Saturdays at 3:00; Sundays at 10:30**
- Enjoy our delicious Sunday Refreshments!
- Food, fellowship, knowledge, certainty!
- Not able to attend sometimes, help yourself to the current handout – from the Bible shelf in the hallway.

Sisters of Light:

- Every other **Wednesday at 1:00: 7/3, 17, & 31**
- Call/text Rhonda for more info: 330-260-5194; *all women are invited to attend!*
- Join us in the Sunday School room!

Living the Lutheran Lectionary: Pick up a handout and a treat, then listen, learn, and benefit!

- **Thursdays at 10:00.**
- Not able to attend sometimes, help yourself to the current handout – from the table rack (left hand table) in the Narthex.

June “Leadership Team” Highlights

Become a Teammate; talk to any Leader!

BUILDING: Approval was made to install a new drinking fountain. The cost will be \$2,300.

GROUNDS: THANK YOU to Rand Stender for pressure washing the pavilion! It looks great!

PASTOR:

- **Mount Calvary Funds – Mission Approvals:**
 - \$350 – **Bethlehem Foundation Nursery and Primary School**, Pochalla, S. Sudan – to pay the 16 adults (14 are teachers) who serve the 542 students.
 - \$500 – **Gabriel Hakizimana** to help with his upcoming ordination in Rwanda.
 - \$120 – **Nicholus Ayebazibwe** – to help with house rent through December.
 - \$1,300 – **Kitimbo Grace** – for a semi-permanent church structure, Bibles and hymnals.
 - \$2,300 – **Rev. Haron Onsase** – to help with church building reconstruction.
 - \$465 - **George Waiswa** – to start a small popcorn business to help him through nursing school.
- **BLC Mission Funds – Learning Category:**
 - \$500 – **Rev. James May** – donation to LIA – Lutherans in Africa.

Next Leadership Team meeting: Monday, 7/15 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

Grief Share – Fall 2024

Fall session begins **9/3**. Registration options: www.griefshare.org or Norma: 216-406-4871

July Physical Birthdays

7/2 Donald Crites
7/3 Dave Rohman
7/5 Shawn Widzinski
7/5 Rachel Widzinski
7/6 Brian Sala
7/6 Bradley Sala
7/9 Miyu Liao
7/10 Wilhelm Mild
7/11 Regie Nellis
7/12 Monica Krafcik
7/12 John Haller
7/14 Jim Kovach
7/15 Rand Stender
7/16 Courtney Slepko
7/17 Maci Green
7/22 Cedrick Hilliker Sr.
7/23 Kevin Liddy
7/25 Ruth Blaha
7/29 Jeffrey Kitzler
7/30 Jim Widzinski
7/30 Jacob Green



July Spiritual Birthdays

7/1 Paul Moyer
7/1 Gabe Montgomery
7/1 Larry Haslem
7/10 Lisa Woodward
7/16 Miranda Weekley
7/17 Meeka Hilliker
7/18 Erin Nellis
7/25 Eric Nellis
7/25 Donald Crites
7/27 Mark Woodward
7/29 June Russell



July Wedding Anniversaries

7/16 Dan & Jackie Blaha (8th)
7/26 Thomas and Dolores Merkle (21st)

Food and Fire Saturdays

Volunteer to schedule a date, then Kathy will advertise it. The person scheduling the date also recruits people to:

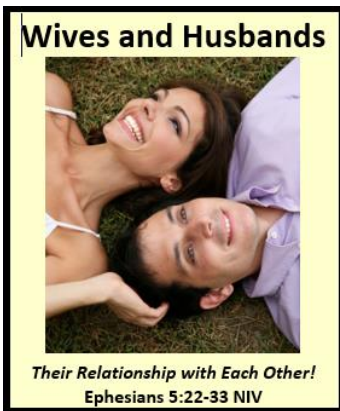
- Bring the needed items (plates, cups, beverages, etc.) from the church building and return them after the event.
- Ensure food is being brought by attendees or needed food is being purchased.
- Make and maintain the fire.
- Put a liner in the garbage can, empty it after, and install a new liner.

See the bulletin board! Thanks for considering!

Need a Ride?

Contact the church office. We will try to help you get a ride to a doctor's appointment etc.

Brochure of the Month



Wives and Husbands – Their Relationship with Each Other! Is that important? Most definitely! Those with a good relationship rejoice in their bond of marriage, while those with a bad relationship

usually choose the way of divorce – even though it shatters their lifelong vows!

Have you vowed to: ✦ live in holy marriage according to the Word of God, ✦ love, comfort, and honor each other, ✦ keep each other in sickness and in health, ✦ forsake all others, and ✦ remain as husband and wife as long as you both shall live? Those vows ARE based on God's Word, *but are NOT easy to keep*; therefore, God

wants to help, guide, and bless every aspect of your marriage! *READ the brochure to reap the benefits!*

Online Giving – To BLC

You can donate online through our Bethlehem PayPal account. Just scan the QR code to get started **OR** go to www.BLC7500.com and click on the "Donate" button. **Thanks!**



Reminders

Be Prepared – And Don't Worry: Jesus is "the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth" (Rev. 1:5 NAS). But since we live in a fallen world, it is wise to be prepared – *just in case* – by having various items at home. For example:

- Extra food, water, and medicine.
- A flashlight and batteries; candles.
- A battery-powered radio and batteries.
- Some extra cash in small bills.

Parking Lot Church: Whenever possible, gather inside to:

- Receive and give encouragement.
- Benefit from the Christian symbols.
- Sing the hymns, say the responses, etc.

Take Turns: If everyone in your house is not able to attend BLC at the same time: Some attend Saturday, others Sunday; switch who attends every other weekend.

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **July 24** at Noon
- ⇒ Wednesday, **August 28** at Noon

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