

# BLC Newsletter – December 2024

## December Schedule – Be Faithful!

### Every Week:

- Saturdays: class **3**; service **4**
- Sundays: service **9**; classes **10:30**

### These Wednesdays: 12/4, 12/11 & 12/18

- **Learn about the 12 Days of Christmas**
- Advent Services: **11 & 7**
- Free Meals: **12 & 6**

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: **4**

### Christmas Day Service: **10**

### New Year's Eve Service: **4**

### New Year's Day Service: **10**

12/28 & 29  
No Classes



1. **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** = Christ, the Son of God
2. **Two Turtle Doves** = Old and New Testaments
3. **Three French Hens** = Faith, Hope, and Love
4. **Four Calling Birds** = Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
5. **Five Golden Rings** = Torah or Pentateuch – Gen, Ex, Lev, Num, Deut
6. **Six Geese-a-Laying** = Six Days of Creation
7. **Seven Swans-a-Swimming** = Seven Gifts of the Spirit
8. **Eight Maids-a-Milking** = Eight Beatitudes
9. **Nine Ladies Waiting/Dancing** = Nine Fruits of the Spirit
10. **Ten Lords-a-Leaping** = Ten Commandments
11. **Eleven Pipers Piping** = Eleven Faithful Disciples
12. **Twelve Drummers Drumming** = 12 Points of Belief in the Apostles' Creed

**12 Days of  
Christmas**  
Join us to learn the  
history,  
importance, and  
meanings!

## Let's Decorate for Advent & Christmas

Please help Rand Stender and his team to do the decorating on **Saturday, 12/7 at 9 AM** – to put up everything: Advent Wreath, Other Wreaths, Star, Christmas Tree, and Entryway Nativity. **Thanks for volunteering!**

## Voters Meeting Highlights

### BLC Budget Approved:

- 2025: \$283,039 (2024: \$266,924)

### Church Constitution and Bylaws:

- Amendments were ratified.

### Leadership Team Serving in 2025:

- Coordinator – Dr. Phillip Giessler
- Finance – Natalia Ford
- Treasurer – **Don Crites – WELCOME!**
- Worship – Rand Stender
- Building – Terry Tomasch
- Care – Alan Carlson
- Fellowship – Eileen Kovach
- Education – **Marci Sherepita – WELCOME!**
- Outreach – Rhonda Shuler
- Grounds – Ken Hinkle

## Unique Choir Opportunity

Get on Harold's email list (send a request here: [weselohduh@gmail.com](mailto:weselohduh@gmail.com)); then:

- ✓ 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

## All Members of Bethlehem

All members have now been divided alphabetically among all pastor team members. You may call YOUR pastor team member with prayer requests, concerns, needs, ideas, etc.

- ❖ Alan C (216-218-2564): **A – B**
- ❖ Tim C (216-310-5662): **C – D**
- ❖ Mike C (440-840-4988): **E – I**
- ❖ Dr. G (216-374-5973): **J – L**
- ❖ Cedrick H (602-561-0308): **M – Q**
- ❖ Matthias M (440-570-9073): **R – S**
- ❖ Harold W (440-454-2139): **T – Z**

## Men's Group

*Beginning in January – watch for details!*

## 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 8/1/24 – 2/15/25.

## Classes – Join Us and Benefit

**1 Timothy:** Sat. at 3:00; Sun. at 10:30

- Enjoy our delicious Sunday Refreshments!
- Current handout – *Bible shelf in hallway.*

**Sisters of Light:** *Strengthening Fellowship Bonds; No-Homework, Women's Bible Study*

- **Every other Wednesday at 1:00: 12/4 & 18**
- Call/text Rhonda for more info: 330-260-5194; *all women are invited to attend!*

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

- **Thursdays at 10:00.**
- Current handout – *Narthex table rack.*

## FYI – Stay Informed

We are now using a system to help you stay informed through calls or text messages.

- Calls will show this number: **440-845-2230**
- Texts will show this number: **440-298-2791**

*Request: Please don't unsubscribe!*

## 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  
12/19 Eileen Kovach  
12/24 Kandice Craft  
12/25 Inez Giessler  
12/26 Sandra Dedula  
12/26 Wendy Meikle  
12/26 Dennis Montick  
12/26 Jean Smith  
12/27 Marci Sherepita  
12/29 Bill Meixner  
12/31 Debbie Stender



## December *Spiritual* Birthdays

12/4 Andrew Green  
12/4 Gloria Hurka  
12/6 Steve Pysz  
12/6 Nick Ventura  
12/7 Linda Blaha  
12/16 Reagan Cannonie  
12/19 Don Dickau  
12/25 Inez Giessler  
12/25 Harold Weseloh  
12/31 Matt Kussmaul



## December *Wedding* Anniversaries

12/17 Pastor & Kathy Green (47<sup>th</sup>)

## Grief Share

- ➔ Pick up a brochure with on the main bulletin board.
- ➔ To Register: [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) or contact Norma: 216-406-4871

## 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!*



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

## 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](http://www.BLC7500.com) and click on the “Donate” button. **Thanks!**



## Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **December 25** at Noon – for the January NL
- ⇒ Wednesday, **January 21** at Noon – for the February NL

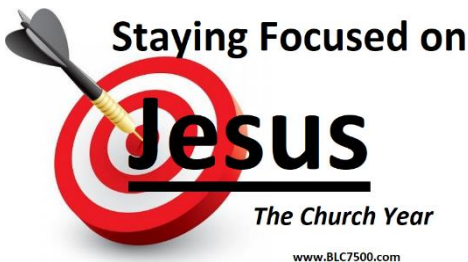
## The Church Year – Where are We?

Harold said it well in his last class: “This weekend is New Year’s Eve, while next weekend is New Year’s Day.”

We normally follow the Church Year at Bethlehem:

- The Church Year has three times – Christmas, Easter, and the Church.
- The Church Year has six seasons – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

The image below show ✓ the times, ✓ the seasons, and ✓ a theme. Join us on 11/30 or 12/1 to receive your own Church Year bookmark.



### The Time of Christmas:

1. Advent: We **prepare** for Jesus’ coming.

2. Christmas: We **celebrate** Jesus’ birth.

3. Epiphany: We **discover** who Jesus is.

### The Time of Easter:

4. Lent: We **focus** on Jesus’ saving work.

5. Easter: We **celebrate** Jesus’ resurrection.

### The Time of the Church:

6. Pentecost/Trinity: We **live** Christ-centered lives.

We also normally follow the three-year lectionary at Bethlehem. Therefore, each week, there is an assigned:

- Old Testament reading
- Psalm
- Epistle reading
- Gospel reading

Those readings are in harmony with each season of the Church Year.

The Church Year and the Lectionary Readings help us remain **FOCUSED ON JESUS** throughout the year!

Another way to: ✦ stay focused, ✦ better understand, and ✦ spiritually benefit is to attend Harold’s class each week on Thursday at 10 AM.

If you want a listing of all the assigned readings for the new Church Year: Pick up your copy in the Narthex.

