

BLC Newsletter – January 2026

January Schedule

Saturdays: class **3:00**; service **4:00**

Sundays: service **9:00**; classes **10:30**

Bible Reading Benefits

Research by groups like the Barna Group and Lifeway Research, often cited by the Institute for Bible Reading, shows **consistent Bible reading** leads to **significant positive outcomes**, including:

- greater spiritual growth,
- less risky behaviors (like pornography, drunkenness, gambling),
- increased generosity,
- reduced loneliness, and
- stronger faith, **with a notable impact seen when engagement hits at least four times weekly**, fostering deeper connection with God and transformation in character and actions.

Key Findings on Bible Reading Results:

- Spiritual Growth & Behavior: Those who read the Bible **frequently** report increased faith, a stronger sense of needing God, more willingness to show love, and greater generosity.
- Reduced **Negative** Behaviors: **Regular readers**

(**at least 4x/week**) show significant drops in loneliness (30%), anger (32%), bitterness (40%), alcoholism (57%), and pornography use (61%).

- Increased **Positive** Actions: Sharing faith jumps **200%**, and discipling others increases by **230%** for **regular readers**.
- The "Four Times a Week" Spike: A significant positive shift in outcomes occurs when Bible engagement reaches **at least four times weekly**, with effects notably greater than reading 1-3 times a week.
- Character Transformation: Consistent intake internalizes truth, helping believers distinguish good from evil and become more Christ-like, leading to greater victory over struggles (AI).

Important Study *Biblical – Understandable – Relevant*

These are the class days and times:

- ➔ **Saturday, January 3 at 3:00 or**
- ➔ **Sunday January 4 at 10:30**

Why attend? I want to help you understand the importance of our teaching / preaching being **Biblical**, **Understandable**, and **Relevant**!

I want you to:

- ➔ Understand those words!
- ➔ See how they are true of teaching / preaching in the Bible!
- ➔ Listen, as a student / hearer, for those realities!
- ➔ Incorporate those realities when you are the teacher / preacher!

Special Classes You Are Invited

Men's Group – First Saturday of
Many Months:

- Join us on **1/3**
- Free Breakfast at 9:00
- Study Begins at 9:15
- Questions? Ask Dr. G: 216-374-5973

Living the Lutheran Lectionary –
Thursdays: 10

- Join us in the “Timothy Room”
- Learn about the upcoming readings
- You can attend online via Zoom
- Questions? Ask Harold: 440-454-2139

Sisters of Light – Every Other
Wednesday: 1:00

- January **7 & 21**

- Ladies – join us in the “Acts Room”
- We are beginning a new study, “Before the Throne!” – **Where do you go when life overwhelms you? Before the Throne.**
- Questions? Ask Rhonda: 330-260-5194

Let's UNDECORATE for Christmas

Please help Rand Stender and his team on

Saturday, Jan. 10 at 9 AM

The church looked so beautiful for Advent and Christmas, but the season of Epiphany begins on January 6, when we focus on who Jesus is – God in human flesh!



Nice Walkers Available

Through a donation, we have some available for free. If you need one, ask Rand or Michael B to see what is available.



Give-Back Program



Christianbook
1-800-CHRISTIAN.

EVERYTHING CHRISTIAN FOR LESS!

Bethlehem has been enrolled in the Christian Book Distributor's Giveback Program! Through this program, we earn **4% cash back** on all eligible purchases. Link your Christian Book Distributor's account by texting **GIVEBACK** to **95498**, and registering with our Organization ID **PHKLDC**. Need help? Contact Harold: 440-454-2139

Unique Choir Opportunity

Get on Harold's email list (send a request here:

weselohduh@gmail.com); then:

- ✓ Receive the 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

Keeping You Informed

Doing so through calls or text messages.

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

Please don't unsubscribe!

January Physical Birthdays

- | | |
|------|-------------------|
| 1/4 | Carol Dickau |
| 1/5 | Darrin Liddy |
| 1/7 | Nick Borland |
| 1/7 | Addsion Kovachic |
| 1/7 | Brooklyn Kovachic |
| 1/8 | Elyanna Blaha |
| 1/8 | Ray Klesch |
| 1/9 | Mike Coufalik |
| 1/10 | Carolyn Potantus |
| 1/11 | Michelle Gilbert |
| 1/12 | Meeka Hilliker |
| 1/17 | Natalia Ford |
| 1/19 | Brad Scotten |
| 1/19 | Greg Seefeld |
| 1/22 | Doris Chmielewski |
| 1/24 | Kelly Scotten |



1/26 Molly Liddy
1/28 Gabe Montgomery
1/28 Scott Sala
1/31 Frank Murphy

January *Spiritual* Birthdays

1/3 Alan Blaha
1/5 Tammy Shust
1/14 Jim Ford
1/14 Aruna James
1/14 Pranay James
1/14 Bharath Meeraj
1/25 Angie Rohman
1/28 Darrin Liddy
1/30 Brad Scotten



January *Wedding* Anniversaries

1/7 Phillip & Inez Giessler (26th)
1/17 Cedrick & Heather Hilliker (17th)

Grief Share – Begins 3/3 at 6:30

- ➡ Pick up a brochure with the Spring schedule: see the main bulletin board.
- ➡ To Register:
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 are ever closed, 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 and click on the “Donate” button. **Thanks!**



Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **January 21** at Noon – for the February NL
- ⇒ Wednesday, **February 18** at Noon – for the March NL