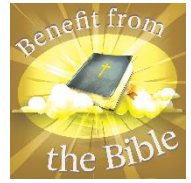




Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2025

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 9/27 at 4 pm; Sunday, 9/28 at 9 am



Heaven or Hell

Do Blessings Now Point To Blessings Forever?

Church Year: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Divine Service: Setting One, LSB 151-166

WELCOME:

- ☺ **Visitors:** *Welcome! See our Welcome Table, sign our book, take a bag, and tell us how we can help!*
- ☺ **Prayer Request:** Use a “yellow” card (Narthex).
- ☺ **Young Children:** Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).
- ☺ **All Children:** Children’s Message (join us).
- ☺ **Phone:** Please put on silent.
- ☺ **Hearing Assistance:** Available in the Narthex.
- ☺ **Service Folder:** Available on your smartphone: www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder
- ☺ **Worship From Your Car:** Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).

BELL and CANDLELIGHTING – Please be seated!

WELCOME: *Children* – Please come forward now to receive your children’s bag!

PRELUDE: We listen in silence...

Saturday ➡ Blessed Assurance Kerr

Sunday ➡ My God, Accept My Heart This Day
Arr. Gordon Young

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1Jo. 1:8-9*

Silence for self-examination.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

A: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean.

- I have sinned against You in *thought*, *word*, and *deed*, by what I *have done* and by what I *have left undone*.
- I have *not* loved You with my whole heart; I have *not* loved my neighbors as myself.
- I justly deserved Your *present* and *eternal punishment*.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may *delight* in Your will and *walk* in Your ways to the *glory* of Your holy name. Amen.

L: The Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ➔ Hymn

Sunday ➔ Entrance Hymn and Procession

↑ **HYMN:** *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*

See the words below / TLH 429 / LSB 708

- 1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought;
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God
and Lord, Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.
- 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God
and Lord, In death Thy comfort still afford.

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

- L: O Lord, the unshakeable rock,
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: O Christ, near us to help us,
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: O Lord, the payer of the ultimate price,
C: **have mercy upon us.**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

- L: The LORD be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C: **And also with you.**

- L: Let us pray: O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us help to ♦stay in Your word, ♦remain sorry for our sins, ♦keep trusting in Jesus, and ♦keep seeking Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓

Sunday ➔ **WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS:**

- **Matt, Carolyn, & Hannah Potantus** – transferred from Gethsemane, Lakewood.
- **Noah & Kylie-Jo Potantus** – transferred from Gethsemane, Lakewood.

OLD TESTAMENT: Amos 6:1-7

NAS-20

The Coming Collapse of Israel

¹Woe to those who are carefree in Zion [the southern kingdom], And to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria [the northern kingdom], The dignitaries of the foremost of nations, To whom the house of Israel comes.

²Go over to Calneh and look, And go from there to Hamath the great, Then go down to Gath of the Philistines [three powerful cities that suffered defeat]. Are they [the people of the northern kingdom] better than these kingdoms, Or is their territory greater than yours?

³Are you [Israel] postponing the day of disaster, And would you bring near the seat of violence?

⁴Those who lie on beds of ivory, And lounge around on their couches, And eat lambs from the flock, And calves from the midst of the fattened cattle, ⁵Who improvise to the sound of the harp, And like David have composed songs for themselves, ⁶Who drink wine from sacred bowls While they anoint themselves with the finest of oils—Yet they have not grieved over the [approaching] collapse of Joseph [the northern kingdom].

⁷ Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles, And the revelry [partying] of those who lounge around will come to an end.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN: *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*

See the words below / TLH 429 / LSB 708

3 Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer
attend, And I will praise Thee without end.

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

NAS-20

Instructions for Ministers and Members

⁶ But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain *when* accompanied by contentment. ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, either. ⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, *and* gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and *for which* you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I direct you in the presence of God,

who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without fault *or* reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at *the* proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

NAS-20

It will be read during today's sermon!

HYMN: *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling*

See the words below / TLH 496 / LSB 826

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?
- 2 If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread alarms,

You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

**SERMON: Heaven or Hell – Do Blessings Now
Point To Blessings Forever? Lk. 16:19-31 NAS-20**

1. **Unbelief and Heartless Selfishness:** ¹⁹ “Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, enjoying himself in splendor every day. ²⁰ And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and longing to be fed from the *scraps* which fell from the rich man's table; not only *that*, the dogs also were coming and licking his sores.
 - a. The Rich Man
 - b. The Poor Man
2. **Each Man Died Physically:** ²² Now it happened that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's arms *[which is a Jewish designation for heaven];* and the rich man also died and was buried.
 - a. The Body of the Poor Man
 - b. The Body of the Rich Man
3. **Each Man – In His Soul – was in a Very Different Location:**
 - a. The Poor Man, *who died with his trust in the Messiah*, was taken to a place of comfort and peace.
 - b. The Rich Man, *who died in unrepentance*, was taken to a place of torment and chaos.
4. **The Rich Man Begged for Relief:**
 - a. The Request: ²³ And in Hades [the rich man] raised his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his arms. ²⁴ And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, so that

he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’

- b. The Reply: ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set, so that those who want to go over from here to you will not be able, nor will *any people* cross over from there to us.’ // Abraham spoke to the rich man:
 - i. Remember:
 - ii. Reality:
- c. The Request for His Brothers: ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I request of you, father, that you send [Lazarus, the poor man] to my father's house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not come to this place of torment as well.’
- d. The Answer for All the Living: ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’
- e. The Final Plea: ³⁰ But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’
- f. The Final Response: ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

HYMN: *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling*
See the words below / TLH 496 / LSB 826

- 3 If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.
- 4 Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

NICENE CREED – See the back of either hymnal

Offering: Plates are available in the center aisle.

Thanks for Honoring the LORD: By giving to His work
♦first, ♦proportionately, and ♦faithfully!

↑ **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Request a Prayer: Complete a PRAYER REQUEST card
(available in the Narthex).

Prayer List Procedure: Names with a (3) need to be
renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person;
update Kathy (call: 440-845-2230; text: 440-785-3802).

After Each Petition: L: LORD, in Your mercy.
C: Hear our prayer.

- ➔ **Sudan Civil War** – Pray for the LORD's powerful hand to disarm the evil ones and His merciful hand to help the many needy ones!
- ➔ **USA:** Dear Holy Spirit, make people open, show them the truth, and change their lives!
- ➔ **US Armed Forces and Police:** *Rachel Cepis, Kevin Mild, Eric Mild, Teagan Dedula, Nick*

Riviotta, Brad Sala, Chris Sala, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh.

Congregation

- ➔ **Money Management:** Dear Jesus, help us to rightly understand the 9/20&21 sermon and put Your word into practice in our lives!
- ➔ **Care List:** Helga B, Zach B, Doris C, Sandy C, Carole G, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Miriam P, Rose R, June R, Jean S, Bill S, Cindy T, Vicki T, Mike & Susanna T (most offered regular mailings and visited by our visit team).
- ➔ **Grief Share Program:** Pray for our facilitators for guidance, attendees for comfort & peace.
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Blessings to our Stephen Ministers and those who receive their care!
- ➔ **Picture Directory:** Help all of us to sign up today and work together to get this done!
- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
 - Tim Chilton (1) knee replacement on 9/20: *continued pain relief, healing, rehab.*
 - Cedrick Hilliker (1) *shoulder rehab success.*
 - Matt Hlavacek (3) Lyme disease: *guidance.*
 - Esther Hoefner (1) sprain: *cont. healing.*
 - Matt Kussmaul – eye issues: *cont. healing.*
 - Tom Merkle (1) lung can: *treatment success.*
 - Miriam Putze (1) back: *cont. relief, healing.*
 - Cindy Taress (1) cancer, wrist: *cont. healing.*
 - Bill Sweeny – palliative care: *peace in Jesus.*
 - Harold Weseloh (1) herniated disc, back surgery – Laminectomy, 10/31: *success.*

For Others

- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
 - Kay (2) *peace, guidance, encouragement.*
 - Kayla (2) difficult pregnancy, due 10/15 – *good health for Kayla and baby.*
 - Kimberly Borland (1) proper diag.: *healing.*
 - Stacey Dames (1) *peace, prop. diag., healing.*
 - Melanie Himmelberger – cancer: *comfort.*
 - Jim McQueeney – hospice: *openness to God.*

- **Barb Pilny** (1) – broken pelvis: *rehab success.*
- **Anu Pirn** (3) – colon cancer: *peace, healing.*
- **Luke Schave** (3) cancer: *treatment success.*
- **Bethany Transue** (1) lymphoma: *peace, treatment success, comfort, endurance.*
- **Doug Wilhelm** (3) leukemia: *peace, successful treatments.*

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

9/15 Matt Potantus (*Happy Belated!*)

9/20 Matt Samarin (*Happy Belated!*)

9/27 Christl Kissinger

9/27 Tammy Shust

9/29 Sherrie Dennison

9/30 Linda Hinkle

10/1 Linda Taylor

10/1 Linda Widzinski

Spiritual Birthdays:

10/2 Lynne Sala

Wedding Anniversaries:

9/30 James and *Victoria Ford (58th)

Conclusion:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

SUPPER PREPARATION HYMN: *Lamb of God*

See the words below / LSB 550

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood.
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**
- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

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LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION: 1 Cor. 11:28

Let's be serious, understand, and benefit!

Please ask yourself these 10 questions...

1. Do I believe the Bible is true? Y N *John 17:17*
2. Am I sorry for my sins? Y N *2 Cor. 7:10*
3. Am I trusting in Jesus for eternal life? Y N *Ac. 4:12*
4. Am I baptized? Y N *Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Tit. 3:5*
5. Do I desire to live for Christ? Y N *2 Cor. 5:15*
6. Am I forgiving all others? Y N *Mark 11:25*
7. Am I doing my part to reconcile? Y N *Mt. 5:23-24*
8. Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, body, wine, and blood? Y N *1 Cor. 10:16*
9. Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins? Y N *Matt. 26:26-28*
10. Do I understand and agree with the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)? Y N *1 Cor. 10:15-22*

Uncertain? Ask an usher for "The Lord's Supper" brochure and "A Simple Explanation of Christianity."
The pastor would be glad to talk/meet with you!

Note: New reference for question 7 above:

Matthew 5:23–24 "...if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

↑ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Combining: Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1Co 11:23-25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST: *Jesus Lived,
Suffered, and Died to Remove Our Sins!*

L: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Cor. 11:26*

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Rev. 22:20*

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess ♦Your holy cross and passion, ♦Your blessed death, ♦Your rest in the tomb, ♦Your resurrection from the dead, ♦Your ascension into heaven, and ♦Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER: *See the back of either hymnal.*

A: **Our Father who art in heaven...** *Matt. 6:9-13*

PAX DOMINI ~ Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God *John 1:29*

See the words below / **LSB 163**

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; grant - - - us peace.

DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:

- ♦ If you are ready to receive: Come forward now.
- ♦ Receiving at your pew: Please inform an usher.
- ♦ Alcohol-Removed Wine: Center of each tray.
- ♦ Receive. Go in peace. Return via a side aisle.
- ♦ Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Saturday ➡ Jesus Lead Thou On *Manz*

Sunday ➡ Lamb of God *Arr. Joel Raney*

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT: *Let Us Pray*

L: Gracious God, *our heavenly Father*, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, *on the day of His coming*, we may, *together with all Your saints*, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: **LSB 164**

Thank the Lord

Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear His name.

He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.

Alleluia, alleluia.

BENEDICTION ~ Blessing *Num. 6:24-26*

L: The Lord – *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit* – ♦be within you to refresh you, ♦be before you to guide you, ♦be around you to protect you, ♦be beneath you to uphold you, and ♦be above you to bless you.

C: **Amen.**

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:

Saturday ➡ Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee *Kerr*

Sunday ➡

Desire a Prayer? Gather near the first pew on the right – *a Stephen Minister will meet you there!*

October Newsletter – See today's insert!

Small Stamp Collector Project

I'm seeking a volunteer to sell a donated stamp collection, with the proceeds going to the church. Know something? Willing to help? Please contact Pastor: 440-292-5915

Free Hospital Bed Available

Do you have a need? The bed is in excellent shape! Please contact Norma: 216-406-4871

Schedule: 9/28/25 – 10/4/25

9/30 – Tuesday – 6:30 – Grief Share

10/2 – Thursday

10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

10/4 – Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

10/5 – Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:30 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

Thanks For Serving on 9/27 & 9/28

Altar Guild: Don & Carol D

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Matt K
Welcome & Distribution: Brad S

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P
Pastor Team – Welcome: Harold W
Distribution – Harold W
Ushers: Matthias M, Mel B, Nick B
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others
Sunday School: Kathy G, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Linda W

Thanks For Serving on 10/4 & 10/5

Altar Guild: Heather H

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Matt K
Welcome: Alan C

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P
Pastor Team – Welcome: Tim C
Ushers: Carl B, Michael B
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others
Sunday School: Heather H, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Paul M

Numbers From Last Week

Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **34**; car: **5**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **50**; car: **0**

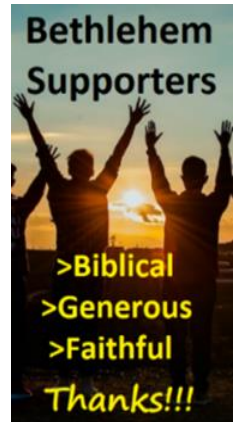
Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **15**
- Sunday at 10:30: **41**
- Wednesday – SOL at 2: **4**
- Thursday at 10: **9**

Supported God's Work:

- Needed each week to cover the budget: **5,443**
- Received last week for the budget: **4,958**
- YTD Budget Surplus as of last week: **5,046** –

Thanks for Honoring the Lord by Giving to Him and His Work First, Proportionately, and Faithfully!



Connect With Us

➡ **Website:** BLC7500.com ➡ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➡ **Facebook:** Bethlehem Parma

Regular Services: Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

Studies: Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30

Church Office: Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915

Festivals: Website > Important Links > Festivals

Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

Kathy Green: Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org