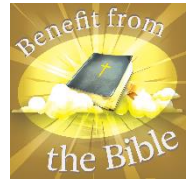




Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2025

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 9/6 at 4 pm; Sunday, 9/7 at 9 am



Shepherding the Sheep – Part 3 of 3

Church Year: Thirteenth 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 – No Children’s Message today. Please keep working on the ABC Bible Verses.
Come forward now and receive your handout!

PRELUDE: *We listen in silence...*

Saturday ➡

Sunday ➡ **The Choir:** What Is Confession – Part 3

To Sing with the NO PRACTICE Choir:

Send an email request to Harold: weselohtduh@gmail.com

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Ps. 51:1-12

A Psalm of David after his sins of adultery and murder

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

- L: Let us pray: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
- C: **according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
- L: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
- C: **and cleanse me from my sin!**
- L: For I know my transgressions,
- C: **and my sin is ever before me.**
- L: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
- C: **so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**
- L: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
- C: **and in sin did my mother conceive me.**
- L: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
- C: **and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
- C: **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- L: Let me hear joy and gladness;
- C: **let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
- L: Hide your face from my sins,
- C: **and blot out all my iniquities.**
- L: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
- C: **and renew a right spirit within me.**
- L: Cast me not away from your presence,
- C: **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
- C: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- L: Good news! *God loves us and has sent His Son to buy us back!* For all who ♡have godly

sorrow and ✱are trusting in Jesus for eternal life, be sure – *based on God’s unshakable promises* – that your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ➡ Hymn

Sunday ➡ Entrance Hymn and Procession

↑ **HYMN:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*
See the words below / TLH 457 / LSB 770

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev’rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

L: O Lord, *our best friend,*

C: **have mercy upon us.**

L: O Christ, *ever faithful to hear our prayers,*

C: **have mercy upon us.**

L: O Lord, *our never-failing refuge,*

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: Dear LORD, the lover of our souls and the knower of all that is best. Fill our minds with Your truth, mature our faith, and help us to live unto Your glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓

INSTALLATION OF OUR EDUCATION STAFF

LSB Agenda, 249-251

Adults and Youth: Dr. G, Cedrick H, Harold W

Sunday School: Kathy G, Heather H, Stacey J, Angie R

Sisters of Light: Rhonda S

Stephen Ministry: Norma S

Grief Share: Alan & Linda B

May the Holy Spirit guide your preparation and lead many to attend, receive, and benefit!

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 NAS-20

Choose Life

¹⁵ “See, I have placed before you today life and happiness, and death and adversity, ¹⁶ in that I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, so that you may live and become numerous, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but allow yourself to be led astray and you worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you will certainly perish. You will not prolong *your* days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and take possession of it. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against

you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding close to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days...”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

↑ ALLELUIA and VERSE

LSB 156

John 6:68

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e-ter-nal life.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-35

NAS-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O LORD.

Discipleship Tested

²⁵ Now large crowds were going along with [Jesus], and He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has *enough* to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who are watching it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build, and was not able to finish!’ ³¹ Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong *enough* with ten thousand *men* to face the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² Otherwise, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and requests terms of peace. ³³ So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own

possessions. ³⁴ “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is useless either for the soil or the manure pile, so it is thrown out. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

See my 9/4/16 sermon on the above text here:

<https://blc7500.com/Sermons/29238/Details>

HYMN: *By Grace I'm Saved*

See the words below / TLH 373 / LSB 566

- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.
- 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

SERMON: *Shepherding the Sheep*

At Bethlehem Parma – Part 3 of 3

Relationship Basics

Relationships In General: They involve respect and communication – *friend to friend, us to God!*

Relationship With God:

- We listen to God through His word...
- We speak to God through prayer...

Relationship Routine Suggestions:

- See the [Daily Devotion brochure](#)
- See the [Christian brochure](#)

Seeking FIRST God's Kingdom

- **Matthew 6:33** “...seek first [God's] kingdom and His righteousness...” // Let us **Stop**

letting *the temporary things of this life*
♦hinder or ♦destroy our membership in
God's kingdom!

- **Luke 9:23** ... [*Jesus said to His disciples*], "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself** and **take up his cross daily** and **follow Me.**" // **Deny, take, and follow** – *those are radical and important things!*
- **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For **the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life**, and there are few who **find it.**" // *By God's grace*, **LET US BE AMONG THE FEW!**

The Order of Faith and Works

Ephesians 2:8-10

- Faith: "*For by grace [God's undeserved favor] you have been saved through faith [trust in Jesus for eternal life]; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*"
- Works: *For we are [God's] workmanship, [He] created [us] in Christ Jesus for [the purpose of] good works, which [He] prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."*

God Is Calling Us To...

- Have a daily conversation with Him – **first** *listening (Bible)*, **then** *talking (prayer)*!
- Keep Jesus **first** – *by saying **NO** to our will and **YES** to His will, even when it is difficult and brings persecution.*
- Continue as Jesus' repentant sheep – *with ➡godly sorrow, ➡trust in Jesus for eternal life, and ➡lives that align with God's word!*

- Respond to the teaching of the under-shepherd – *by **hearing, understanding, believing, and applying** God's word!*
- Seek and do what He has planned – *for each of our lives, confident that God's will is BEST!*

I Want YOUR BEST – now and forever! See below. RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915

How Can I Help You?

You are invited to ♦send me a text or email,
♦hand me a note, or ♦mail this section.

- ☐ This is my prayer request:

☐ Pastor ☐ Prayer Multiplier ☐ Prayer List

- ☐ This is my question:

- ☐ This is my outreach idea:

- ☐ This is my improvement idea:

- ☐ This is how I am willing to serve:

- ☐ Help me find a church closer to home.

- ☐ Contact me to discuss my Bethlehem membership situation.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Get a Full and Sharable Copy of today's Sermon and/or the new *Shepherding the Sheep* brochure

NartheX / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

HYMN: *By Grace I'm Saved*

See the words below / TLH 373 / LSB 566

- 3 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

APOSTLES' CREED: *See the back of either hymnal.*

Offering: Plates are available in the center aisle.

The LORD has blessed us with life, salvation, and all we need, let us trust Him, thank Him, honor Him!

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

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you."
John 15:7 NAS

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.

- ➔ **USA:** Bless the elected to be God-fearing men and women who seek and follow God's will!
- ➔ **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

- ➔ **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, Mike & Susanna T (most offered regular mailings and visited by our visit team).

- ➔ **Grief Share Program:** Blessings to our facilitators for guidance and our attendees for comfort and peace (register: 216-406-4871).
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Blessings on the ministers and care-receivers: Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, and Rhonda S (ministers).
- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
- Cedrick Hilliker (2) surg. 7/2: *healing, rehab.*
 - Matt Hlavacek (1) Lyme disease: *guidance.*
 - Esther Hoefner (2) sprain: *relief, healing.*
 - Matt Kusmaul – eye issues: *cont. healing.*
 - Tom Merkle (2) *cont. healing, strength.*
 - Miriam Putze (2) very sore back: *relief, proper diagnosis, healing.*
 - Cindy Taress (2) *healing and strength from weeks of radiation & chemo.*
 - Bill Sweeny – dialysis: *peace, encouragement.*
 - Harold Weseloh (2) back: *comfort, healing.*

For Others

- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
- Kay (3) *peace, guidance, encouragement.*
 - Kimberly Borland (2) *guidance, healing.*
 - Stacey Dames (2) *peace, prop. diag., healing.*
 - Melanie Himmelberger – cancer: *comfort.*
 - Jim McQueeney – hospice: *peace in Jesus.*
 - Barb Pilny (2) – broken pelvis: *cont. healing.*
 - Shirley Prok (2) broken hip: *healing, rehab.*
 - Bethany Transue (3) lymphoma: *peace, successful treatments, full recovery.*
 - Jim Vrabel (3) foot wound: *cont. healing.*

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

9/8 Lynne Gellings
9/10 Edmund Kissinger
9/10 Enzo Velotta
9/11 Brooklyn Hlavacek
9/12 Greg Slepko

Baptism Anniversaries:

9/8 Robert Green

9/9 Addison Kovachic
9/9 Brooklyn Kovachic
9/9 Madelyn Musil
9/9 Carole Gellings
9/12 Molly Liddy
9/12 Linda Carlson

Wedding Anniversaries:

9/8 Larry and Gwynne Haslem (35th)
9/9 Mike and Sue Coufalik (54th)
9/12 Greg and Cindy Slepko (38th)

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

SELF-EXAMINATION MUSIC:

Saturday ➡

Sunday ➡ Amazing Grace Jack Schrader

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 Rom. 12:18
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!

↑ LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM: The Sixth Chief Part – The Sacrament of the Altar

- L: **Question 3:** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C: **Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."**
- L: **Question 4:** Who receives this sacrament worthily?
- C: **Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION:

- L: Dear Father, in the beginning You created all things by the Word, who is Your Son; then, *in the fullness of time*, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Now, *with repentant hearts*, as we receive the body He gave – along with the bread, and the blood He shed – along with the wine, help us to rejoice in Your love and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.

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

- L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- A: **Our Father who art in heaven...** Matt. 6:9-13

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:

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

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

Sing to the tune of LSB 451

See the words below / LSB 572

- 4 Lamb of God, once slain for sinners,
Host, who spreads this meal divine,
Here You pledge our sins are covered,
Pledge received in bread and wine:
“Take and eat; this is My body,
Given on the cross for you.
Take and drink; this cup of blessing
Is My blood poured out for you.”

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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 ➡

Sunday ➡

LORD’S SUPPER DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

L: Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant ♦that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and ♦that each day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN: By Grace I’m Saved

See the words below / TLH 373 / LSB 566

- 4 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

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 ➡

Sunday ➡ Amazing Grace

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE

Desire a Prayer? A Stephen Minister should be in the first pew on the right to pray with / for you.

September Newsletter
Available in the Narthex

Schedule: 9/7/25 – 9/14/25

9/9 – Tuesday

6:30 – Grief Share Continues

9/10 – Wednesday

1:00 – Sisters of Light – All Ladies – Join Us

9/11 – Thursday

10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

9/13 – Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

9/14 – Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:30 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

Thanks For Serving on 9/6 & 9/7

Altar Guild: Don & Carol D

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

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P
Pastor Team – Welcome: Tim C
Distribution – Cedrick H
Ushers: Matthias M, Mel B, Nick B
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others
Sunday School: Heather H, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Linda W

Thanks For Serving on 9/13 & 9/14

Altar Guild: Heather H

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

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P
Pastor Team – Welcome: Matthias M
Distribution – Matthias M
Ushers: Matthias M, Mel B, Nick B

Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others

Sunday School: Angie R, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Paul M

Numbers From Last Week

Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **28**; car: **4**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **55**; car: **1**

Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **10**
- Sunday at 10:30: **40**
- Thursday at 10: **8**

Supported God's Work:

- **Needed** each week to cover the budget: **5,443**
- **Received** last week for the budget: **6,361**
- **YTD Budget Surplus** as of last week: **1,851**



Join Us on Sunday, 9/21 at Noon

Food ~ Fellowship ~ Games

Possibly Bring Something to Share | Maybe an Outdoor Game



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