



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2024

**Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance**

**Saturday, 12/28 at 4 pm; Sunday, 12/29 at 9 am**



**Welcome:** *Let us rejoice in the Son of God, Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, who took away our sins!*

**Church Year:** **First Sunday after Christmas.**

**Divine Service:** **Setting Three, LSB 184-202.**

- ☺ **Visitors:** *Welcome! Please complete an attendance slip and let us know 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](http://www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder)*
- ☺ **Worship From Your Car:** *Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).*

**PRELUDE:** *We listen in silence...*

**Sunday ➡** Christmas Pastorales

## 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.**

*Silence for self-examination.*

**L:** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**A:** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved**

**Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

- L:** In the mercy of the almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the LORD, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ!

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

**C: Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Saturday ➡** Hymn

**Sunday ➡** Entrance Hymn and **Bible** Procession

**↑ HYMN:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*See the words below / TLH 647 / LSB 361*

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

L: O Lord,      **C: have mercy upon us.**  
 L: O Christ,    **C: have mercy upon us.**  
 L: O Lord,      **C: have mercy upon us.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** *Glory Be to God on High***Sing to the tune of LSB 380**

"Glory be to God on high!"

This is now our joyful cry.

Peace to all who live on earth,  
 grace and favor for new birth.

You we praise and glorify,  
 worship You, O Lord most high.  
 Gracious Father, heav'nly King.

To Your name alone we sing:  
 Praise and glory of Your name,  
 now and evermore the same!

Jesus Christ, the Father's Son.

Sole-begotten, Holy One.

Born on earth from realms on high,

Born true Man for us to die.

Lamb of God, you take away  
 this world's sin: Grant peace we pray.

With the Spirit, You alone  
 are most high, O God the Son,

And the Father, God above,  
 praise we now Your glorious love.

**SALUTATION and COLLECT:**

L: The LORD be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray: O God, our Maker and  
 Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in  
 the incarnation of Your Son yet more  
 wondrously restored our human nature.  
 Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who  
 made Himself to be like us; through Jesus  
 Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
 You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
 forever.

**C: Amen.** ↓ Children! Please come forward!

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** Sacrifice!

*God to us! Us to God! Us to others!*

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 106 / Own Bible

**Sacrificing helps us to remember!**

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first  
 offspring of every womb among the sons of  
 Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."

<sup>3</sup> Moses said to the people, "Remember this  
 day in which you went out from Egypt, from the  
 house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the  
 LORD brought you out from this place."

<sup>11</sup> "Now when the LORD brings you to the  
 land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to  
 your fathers, and gives it to you, <sup>12</sup> you shall  
 devote to the LORD the first offspring of every  
 womb, and the first offspring of every beast that  
 you own; the males belong to the LORD. <sup>13</sup> But  
 every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem  
 with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you  
 shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man  
 among your sons you shall redeem."

<sup>14</sup> "And it shall be when your son asks you in  
 time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you  
 shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand the LORD  
 brought us out of Egypt, from the house of  
 slavery. <sup>15</sup> It came about, when Pharaoh was  
 stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed  
 every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the  
 firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast.  
 Therefore, I sacrifice to the LORD the males, the  
 first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn  
 of my sons I redeem.'"

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Are we continuing to REMEMBER the important  
 things of the LORD?** Here is a short list; check the

ones you remember and add your own:

☐ He is almighty in power!

- ☐ He created all good things in six days!
- ☐ The Bible is without error when interpreted correctly!
- ☐ Though we have sinned, He still loves us!
- ☐ He has opened the way to heaven for everyone through Jesus!
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

HYMN: *Let All Together Praise Our God*

Turn to LSB 389, vv. 2, 4, 6

PSALM: 111

ESV

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

Praise the LORD!

- 1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart,\*  
in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.
- 2 Great are the works | of the LORD,\*  
studied by all who de- | light in them.
- 3 Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,\*  
and his righteousness endures for- | ever.
- 4 He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered,\*  
the LORD is gracious and | merciful.
- 5 He provides food for those who | fear him,\*  
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.
- 6 He has shown his people the power | of his works,\*  
in giving them the inheritance of the | nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faith- | ful and just;\*  
all his precepts are | trustworthy;
- 8 they are established forever and | ever,\*  
to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.\*  
Holy and awesome | is his name!

- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.\*  
His praise endures for- | ever!  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

See the words below / LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Ref.**

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:12-17

NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1834 / Own Bible

All who know the Christ of Christmas have been radically transformed on the inside!  
Now, let it show on the outside!

- <sup>12</sup> So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;**
- <sup>13</sup> **bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**
- <sup>14</sup> Beyond all these things **put on love,** which is the perfect bond of unity.
- <sup>15</sup> **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.**
- <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual

songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

<sup>17</sup> Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**How is the LORD calling you to show on the outside that you are a forgiven child of God?**

- ☐ Showing compassion (*mercy*)!
- ☐ Showing humility (*voluntary submission*)!
- ☐ Showing patience (*“emotional quietness in the face of unfavorable circumstances” BW*)!
- ☐ Forgiving others (*as God has forgiven us in Christ – freely, fully, and without “buts”*)!

**HYMN:** *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

See the words below / LSB 391

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn,  
A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of glory!  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem  
The angels from on high proclaim  
And sing redemption’s story!  
My soul, extol, God’s great favor;  
Bless Him ever, For salvation;  
Give Him praise and adoration!

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 2:22-40 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1591 / Own Bible

40 days after Jesus’ birth!

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

C: **Glory to You, O LORD.**

<sup>22</sup> And when the days for their purification [that is, Joseph and Mary] according to the law of Moses were completed [40 days for a male child], they brought Him [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “EVERY *firstborn* MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO

THE LORD”),<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.”

[See Lev. 12:6-8; they offered the poor man’s sacrifice, indicating that the Magi had not yet arrived.]

<sup>25</sup> And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation [comfort] of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

[OT believers had been waiting for 4,000 years for the promised Messiah to arrive! Simeon – before he died – was told that he would see the Christ!]

<sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law [to pay the redemption price], <sup>28</sup> then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, <sup>29</sup> “Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation, <sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

[Those are the words of the Nunc Dimittis!]

↑ **NUNC DIMITTIS** ~ *Depart in Peace*

**LSB 199**

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. ↓

<sup>33</sup> And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the

fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed--<sup>35</sup> and a sword will pierce even your own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

*[For everyone, their eternal location is tied to Jesus – some embrace Him, others oppose Him!]*

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

*[As we studied in 1 Timothy, Anna was most likely in the category of being a widow indeed!]*

<sup>38</sup> At that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

*[But not until they had returned to Bethlehem, had been visited by the Magi, and fled into Egypt!]*

<sup>40</sup> The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN:** *From East to West*

**Turn to LSB 385, vv. 1, 2, 4**

**NICENE CREED:** *See back of either hymnal:*

**Offering:** Plates are available in the center aisle.

**Thanks for Honoring the LORD!**

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

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

**Prayer List Procedure:** To keep someone on our list, names with a (3) need to be renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person to see how he/she is doing; then give Kathy an update (440-845-2230).

**After Each Petition:** L: LORD, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

- ➔ **USA:** Pray for guidance, unity, and peace!
- ➔ **US Armed Forces and Police:** Praying for all, especially: *Rachel Cepis, Teagan Dedula, Nick Riviotta, Brad Sala, Chris Sala, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh.*

### **Congregation**

- ➔ **Altar Flowers:** Given to the glory of God by *Paul Moyer* in memory of his wife, **Bonnie's** birthday **12/28**.
- ➔ **New Year's:** Let us give thanks for the blessings of 2024, end with peace (12/31 at 4:00) and begin with hope (1/1 at 10:00).
- ➔ **Don Crites:** Peace and patience for the Lord to provide the right job at the right time.
- ➔ **Care:** People who have health issues that prevent them from attending: **Helga B, Doris C, Sandy C, Roger D, Carole G, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Miriam P, June R, Jean S, Mike & Susanna T.** (They receive regular mailings and visits.)
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Pray for Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, and Rhonda S (ministers), and their care receivers.
- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - **Roger Dowell** – hospice: *peace and comfort to Roger, Rosanne, and family.*
  - **Larry Haslem** (1) ongoing right eye issue: *peace, proper diagnosis, healing.*
  - **Cedrick Hilliker** (3) shoulder: *cont. healing.*
  - **Dennis Montick** (3) neck pain: *relief, healing.*
  - **Rachel Widzinski** (2) pain relief; surg. 1/9.

**For Others**

## ➔ Temporary Health Issues:

- **Jessica** (2) pancreatic cancer: *peace, healing.*
- **Joyce** (2) bad infection: *cat scan, healing.*
- **Mike Cepis** (2) leukemia: *guidance, peace.*
- **Charles Burton** (1) lymphoma: *chemo, peace.*
- **Henry Byham** – brain cancer: at home now, prognosis is poor: *peace, comfort.*
- **Barbara Engleman** (3) mild stroke: *healing.*
- **Melanie Himmelberger** – bone cancer.
- **Shannon Januszczok** (3) surgery: *healing.*
- **Linda McKay** (3) testing: *proper diagnosis.*
- **Jim Vrabel** (3) leg infection: *peace, healing.*
- **Mark Woodward** (1) is now in hospice: *pain relief, comfort, and peace; guidance and strength for Lisa and their family.*
- **Stephen Zahrte** (2) brain surgery: *healing.*

## Celebrate and Give Thanks

### Physical Birthdays:

12/29 Bill Meixner  
12/31 Debbie Stender  
1/4 Carol Dickau

### Spiritual Birthdays:

12/31 Matt Kussmaul  
1/3 Alan Blaha

### 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:

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**Turn to LSB 393**

### LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

"Let a person examine himself" (1Cor. 11:28 ESV).

## Should I receive the Lord's Supper today?

### Use these 10 questions to examine yourself...

More Info: Read through a Self-Examination Brochure

### Part 1 – Basics of Being a Christian:

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*

### Part 2 – Forgiveness and Reconciliation:

6. Am I forgiving all others? Y N *Mark 11:25*
7. Am I doing my part to reconcile? Y N *Rom. 12:18*

### Part 3 – Elements and Benefits of the Lord's Supper:

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*

### Part 4 – Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS):

10. Do you understand and agree with the basic teachings of the LCMS? Y N *1 Cor. 10:15-22*

### ↑ PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE:

- L: The Lord be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Col. 3:1]*
- L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Ps. 136]*
- L: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



**SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy** **LSB 195**

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that  
cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**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** **LSB 198**

*John 1:29*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

**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 the side aisle.
- ♦ Main dismissal! After everyone has returned.

**MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:**

**Sunday ➔** Christmas Pastorales

**LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL**

**THANKSGIVING:** *Psalm 107:1*

L: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
C: **and His mercy endures forever.**

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:** *Let Us Pray*

L: Gracious God, *heavenly Father*, we give You  
thanks for assuring us that we are forgiven  
through *the Christ of Christmas*, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Turn to LSB 380, vv. 1 & 3**

**SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS:**

L: The Lord be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

L: Bless we the Lord. *[Psalm 103:1]*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord  
make his face shine upon you and be gracious  
unto you; the Lord lift up His *countenance*  
(face) upon you and give you peace.

C: **Amen.** ↓

**CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:**

**Sunday ➔** Christmas Pastorales

**January Newsletter – See the End of This Folder**

**Desire a Prayer?** *See a Stephen Minister* – Linda  
B, Alan C, Klara S, Rhonda S, Bill S, or Norma S.

**Schedule: 12/29/24 – 1/5/25**

**12/30 – Monday**

11:00 – Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting

**12/31 – Tuesday – 4 PM New Year's Eve Service**

**1/1/25 – Wed – 10 AM New Year's Day Service**

**1/2 – Thursday**

10:00 – LTLL: Preview of Upcoming Readings

**1/4 – Saturday**

8:00 – Men's Group Bible Study

3:00 – Bible Class  
4:00 – Divine Service

### 1/5 – Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service  
10:45 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

#### Thanks For Serving on 12/28 & 12/29

**Altar Guild:** Kathy G

**Saturday:** Recorder: Kathy G    Usher: Matt K  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Mike C  
Distribution – Mike C

**Sunday:** Recorder: Kathy G  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Harold W  
Distribution – Matthias  
Ushers: Terry T, Larry H  
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others  
Sunday School: **Resumes 1/5/2025**

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Financial Assistants

#### Thanks For Serving on 1/4 & 1/5

**Altar Guild:** Kathy G

**Saturday:** Organist: Jim V    Usher: Jim & Shawn W  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C  
Distribution – Alan C

**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: Cindy T, Cedrick/Harold

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Financial Assistants

#### Numbers From Last Week

##### Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **24**; car: **4**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **54**; car: **1**
- Tuesday, C. Eve (4) – Inside: **75**; car: **3**
- Wednesday, C. Day (10) – Inside: **60**; car: **1**

##### Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **12**
- Sunday at 10:30: **39**
- Thursday at 10: **9**

##### Supported God's Work:

- **Needed** Each Week (budget): **5,134**
- **Received** Last Week (actual): **4,014**
- **Gross Surplus YTD** – *as of last week:* **25,007**
- **Net Surplus YTD** – *as11/30/24:* **7,460**



#### 2025 Offering Envelopes

Available in the Narthex. Want a box but could not find yours? Please contact the church office.

## Connect With Us

➡ **Website:** [BLC7500.com](http://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](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915

**Festivals:** Website > Important Links > Festivals

**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

**Kathy Green:** [Secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com); 440-845-2230

**Church Body:** [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) District: [oh.lcms.org](http://oh.lcms.org)



# BLC Newsletter – January 2025

## January Schedule

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

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

## Men's Group

A **very unique** men's Bible study is starting at Bethlehem on **Saturday, January 4 at 8 am**. Breakfast will be served at 8 am & a Bible story and discussion will follow from 8:30-10 am. I will lead this first study. We shall also discuss dates / location(s) for future get-togethers. Try it; you will be *pleasantly* surprised. See ya then! *Dr. Giessler*

## Let's UNDECORATE for Christmas

Please help Rand Stender and his team on **Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 9 AM**

## Classes – Join Us and Benefit

**Sat at 3:00 and Sun at 10:30:** Upcoming Studies – Please Join Us:

- Finishing Luke Chapter 1
  - Evidence that Michael is Jesus
  - Four Views of the Millennium
- Current handout – *Bible shelf in hallway.*

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

- **Every other Wednesday at 1:00: 1/8, 1/22**
- Call/text Rhonda for more info: 330-260-5194; *all women are invited to attend!*

**Living the Lutheran Lectionary:** Relax, listen, learn – Benefit from the weekly readings!

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

## I'm Here For You!

**To everyone who is faithful** - *thanks so much!*

I agree with the Apostle John: "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth" (3 Jn. 1:4).

**To everyone who is ill** - *may the LORD quickly restore you to good health!*

Nothing is impossible for God: "...Jesus was going about in all Galilee... healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people" (Matt. 4:23).

**To everyone who is stuck in a home or care facility** - *rejoice in Jesus, be thankful for your blessings, and let us visit you!*

You are not alone; Jesus said: "...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

**To everyone who can faithfully attend but does not** - *I urge you to start putting Christ first in your life today!*

Consider this great blessing: "...the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His" (2 Chr. 16:9).

*Need help? I'm here for you!*

**To everyone who is being pulled toward the world and away from Christ, the Bible, Forgiveness, and Peace** - *now is a very*

*important time to repent, before it is too late!*  
Consider this great blessing: "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..." (Acts 3:19).

*I can help you! No one is too far gone!*

*The church is a hospital for sinners!*

*We all need Jesus, me too!*

# Top Antiviral Benefits of Elderberries

Submitted by Linda Blaha from: GreenMedInfo, 4/3/2020, Top antiviral benefits of elderberry, Epoch Health, epochtimes.com



Natural antiviral substances have been used for centuries to fight common infections, but interest has grown around elderberries, a **purple berry long used for its cold and flu-reducing properties**. Researchers believe elderberry's antiviral properties may be valuable in the widespread prevention and treatment of influenza and other viral illnesses.

Elderberries, small, dark purple berries grown on the Sambucus tree, are well known for their cold and flu-fighting properties. Used medicinally for centuries to reduce cold symptoms and other ailments, **researchers believe elderberry may be one of the best natural antiviral substances and could be used to effectively treat the common cold and influenza A and B**.

Broad-based antiviral therapies like elderberry supplementation block key viral proteins from entering host cells. Additionally, elderberry extract is also antimicrobial and works to fight bacterial infections (like pneumonia) that often develop as complications of the flu.

**Elderberry for Viral Infection Protection:** The common cold and flu account for more than 20 million doctor visits a year, causing numerous missed school and workdays. While

conventional remedies address temporary symptom relief, **researchers believe that elderberry extract could be used to effectively shorten the duration of colds and cases of flu**.

**Top benefits of elderberry supplementation include the following:**

## **Elderberry Boasts Immune-Activating**

**Benefits:** Elderberry juice encourages the production of cytokines, a protein that works to regulate immunity and inflammation. In one study, elderberry's potent immune-boosting properties were shown to be effective against ten unique strains of the influenza virus.

## **Elderberry Extract Is a Powerful Antimicrobial:**

Elderberry juice is high in anthocyanins, a type of flavonoid that has both antimicrobial and antiviral properties. Many patients with severe influenza A or B are susceptible to bacterial infections like pneumonia, with pneumonia rates as high as 65.7 percent among hospitalized influenza patients. Due to its potent antimicrobial properties, **elderberry supplementation is a powerful natural compound in the prevention of both influenza and subsequent bacterial infections**.

## **Elderberry Syrup Has Potent Antioxidant**

**Ability:** Elderberries are high in phenolic compounds, a type of micronutrient found in berries and cacao. These compounds are responsible for the deep red or purple color of elderberries and are bioactive, which means they enhance the antioxidant status of healthy individuals. Additionally, anthocyanins found in elderberries have been proven to inhibit inflammatory biomarkers and promote health and disease prevention against multiple viral and bacterial infections.

## **Elderberry Treats Upper Respiratory**

**Symptoms:** Many researchers believe that

there is a strong potential for misuse of antibiotics during cold and flu season, especially in Western countries. **Elderberry is an alternative natural compound proven to effectively reduce cold and flu symptoms such as upper respiratory symptoms and may be a safer alternative to prescription medications often used to treat these symptoms.**

Other benefits of elderberry extract include its high vitamins A, C, and E content, high levels of potassium, and its anti-inflammatory and antiseptic properties. For these reasons and its potent antiviral capacity, **elderberry extract can be a useful natural compound to supplement with during cold and flu season.**

**Safety Profile of Elderberry Products:** While most elderberry products are safe to consume, researchers have found that consuming raw elderberries or the leaves or bark of the Sambucus plant can cause adverse gastrointestinal effects such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea. For these reasons, it's best to avoid ingesting any raw elderberries.

Due to a lack of sufficient trials, most health care personnel don't recommend the use of elderberry during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. Additionally, although a few studies have evaluated the efficacy of elderberry extract and it has been used effectively to treat influenza in children, there isn't much research on elderberry's safety profile for children. While there are many elderberry products marketed to children, it's best to speak with a holistic health care provider before use. Otherwise, **elderberry syrups, lozenges, and teas have a very high safety profile and are considered safe for home use.**

**Using Elderberry at Home:** Due to the potent antiviral and antimicrobial capabilities of elderberry extract, many people add elderberry syrups or teas to their daily routine, especially during the winter months or peak flu season.

**Organic, child-safe elderberry syrups and lozenges can be found in most health food stores,** and elderberry tea can be made at home by boiling dried elderberries with water and ginger and stirring in a small amount of sweetener like honey or stevia.

### Unique Choir Opportunity

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

### 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

## ACME Community Cash Back

**Community Cash Back** is a local fundraiser! Collect receipts and place them in the blue holder in the Narthex. We earn 5% cashback on certain products. The program runs to 2/15/25.

## 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  
1/7 Nick Borland  
1/8 Elyanna Blaha  
1/8 Ray Klesch  
1/9 Mike Coufalik  
1/12 Meeka Hilliker  
1/17 Natalia Ford  
1/19 Brad Scotten  
1/19 Greg Seefeld  
1/22 Doris Chmielewski  
1/24 Kelly Scotten  
1/28 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  
1/30 Brad Scotten



## January Wedding Anniversaries

1/7 Phillip & Inez Giessler (25<sup>th</sup>)  
1/17 Cedrick & Heather Hilliker (17<sup>th</sup>)

## Grief Share – Begins 3/4 at 6:30

- ➔ Pick up a brochure with the Spring schedule: see 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 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](http://www.BLC7500.com) and click on the “Donate” button. **Thanks!**



## Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **January 22** at Noon – for the February NL
- ⇒ Wednesday, **February 19** at Noon – for the March NL