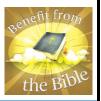


Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2025

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 12/6 at 4 pm; Sunday, 12/7 at 9 am



Repent! Turn from Your Sins to God!

Church Year: Second Sunday in Advent | Divine Service: Setting Four, LSB 203-212

WELCOME:

- © <u>Visitors</u>: <u>Welcome</u>! See our Welcome Table, sign our book, take a bag, and tell us how we can help!
- © **Prayer Request:** Use a "yellow" card (Narthex).
- © <u>Young Children</u>: Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).
- (join us).
- © Phone: Please put on silent.
- (i) **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 – THE SEASON OF ADVENT:

L: Jesus is coming!

C: Let us live in continual repentance!

PRELUDE: We listen in silence...

Sleepers Wake For Christ is Coming J.S. Bach

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: Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C: who made heaven and earth. Psalm 124:8
- L: <u>Let us pray</u>: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

- C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore,
 You are feared. Psalm 130:3-4
- L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

 God. be merciful to me a sinner.
- C: Almighty God, ⇒have mercy upon us, ⇒forgive us our sins, and ⇒lead us to
 - ⇒forgive us our sins, and ⇒lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- L: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Why Are We Processing with the Bible?

During Advent and Christmas, the word of God keeps pointing us to the coming of the Christ, who was born to die!

Saturday → ↑ The hymn is sung by all!

Sunday → Choir: vv. 1-3 (congregation is seated)

Choir + Congregation: vv. 4-5 (arise as noted)

HYMN OF THE DAY:

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry See the words below / TLH 63 / LSB 344

- On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within, And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward; Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Sunday → Arise ↑ For the Procession!

- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand; Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free, Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

L: Lord, C: have mercy.
L: Christ, C: have mercy.
L: Lord, C: have mercy.

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: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son through *sincere repentance and *lives

that are lived in glad harmony with Your holy word, so that we may enjoy Your awesome presence forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. **Ψ** <u>Children</u>! Please come forward!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Repent! Turn from Your Sins to God!

How could Johnny turn from his sins to God?

- 1. Johnny refuses to hear the Bible.
- 2. Johnny disobeys his parents.
- 3. Johnny steals whatever he wants.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 11:1-10

NAS-20

¹Then <u>a shoot</u> [the Messiah] will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make decisions by what His ears hear; ⁴ But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the humble of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt *around* His hips, And faithfulness the belt *around* His waist.

Righteous Reign of the Branch

Amazing Restoration

⁶ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fattened steer will be together; And a little boy will lead them. ⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. ⁹ They

will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ Then on that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal flag for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 72:1-7

ESV

Let's pray through today's Psalm.

Idea taken from Harold's class – Thursdays at 10

The Reign of the Righteous King.

- L: Give the king your justice, O God,
- C: and your righteousness to the royal son!
- L: May he judge your people with righteousness,
- C: and your poor with justice!
- L: O God, You, who are perfectly just and right, we humbly pray that You would graciously gift all who serve in our government with godly justice and righteousness in all their deliberations and decisions.
- C: Amen!
- L: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
- C: and the hills, in righteousness!
- L: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy,
- C: and crush the oppressor!
- L: May they fear you while the sun endures,
- C: and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- C God, it is not our efforts that bring prosperity but Your blessings. Receive our hearty thanks and guide all who serve in our government to *equip those able to work, *provide for the helpless, and *bring dread upon all who desire to harm and destroy us.
- C: Amen!

- L: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
- C: like showers that water the earth!
- L: In his days may the righteous flourish,
- C: and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- L: O God, as You have granted great blessings to our nation and worked great good through our nation, we give You thanks. As many from outside and inside want to suppress our freedoms and silence the saving truth, grant wisdom to those entrusted with government authority to know and pursue Your ways, so that we might be a beacon of truth and morality and hope to our fallen world.
- L: We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C: Amen!

EPISTLE: Romans 15:4-13

NAS-20

Both Jews and Gentiles are Saved through Jesus

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one purpose *and* one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant to the <u>circumcision</u> [to the Jews] in behalf of the truth of God, to confirm the promises *given* to the [OT] fathers, ⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written:

"THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME."

¹⁰ Again he says, "REJOICE, YOU GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

- ¹¹ And again, "PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES,
 AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM."
- ¹² Again Isaiah says, "There shall come the ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM WILL THE GENTILES HOPE."

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12 NAS-20 *Will be read during today's sermon!*

HYMN: When All the World Was Cursed

See the words below / TLH 272 / LSB 346

- When all the world was cursed
 By Moses' condemnation,
 Saint John the Baptist came
 With words of consolation.
 With true forerunner's zeal
 The greater One he named,
 And Him, as yet unknown,
 As Savior he proclaimed.
- 2 Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting, Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting. By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold, He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:

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SERMON: Repent! Turn from Your Sins to God! *This is a MOST SERIOUS matter!*Matthew 3:1-12 NAS-20

1. Why Should We Repent? 1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the

- wilderness of Judea, saying, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- 2. Who Was John the Baptizer? ³ For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "The VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!"
- 3. Why Was John Very Simple? ⁴ Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 4. Why Were Many Confessing and Being Baptized? ⁵ At that time Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan; ⁶ and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.
- Why Did John Question the Jewish Leaders?
 ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
 ⁸ Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance; ⁹ and do not assume that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you that God is able, from these stones, to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 6. How Was John Different than Jesus? 11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove

His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

7. What Will Jesus Do When He Comes? 12 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

HYMN: When All the World Was Cursed

See the words below / TLH 272 / LSB 346

- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
 That bears the world's transgression,
 Whose sacrifice removes
 The devil's dread oppression.
 Behold the Lamb of God,
 Who takes away our sin,
 Who for our peace and joy
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
 That we receive, rejoicing,
 The word proclaimed by John,
 Our true repentance voicing,
 That gladly we may walk
 Upon our Savior's way
 Until we live with Him
 In His eternal day.

Will full atonement win.

APOSTLES' CREED: See the back of either hymnal.

Offering: Plates are available in the center aisle.

Thanks for Honoring the LORD!

How Does Giving Work? "...he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully" (2 Cor. 9:6 NAS).

↑ 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.

- Evil Online...
- Christians in Nigeria: Pray for Nigeria and the US to work together to *protect the Christians and *restrain the Islamic terrorists.
- Islam in the US...

Congregation

- **→ Favorable Weather:** Dear LORD, please grant us good weather, especially on days when we are gathering here to grow in Your word.
- Advent Wednesdays: Dear LORD, thank You for all who are making our services and meals possible. Please lead many to attend, grow, and enjoy the food and fellowship.
- Those Not Attending...
- Care List: Helga B, Zach B, Doris C, Sandy C, Carole G, Esther H, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Rose R, June R, Jean S, Bill S, Cindy T, Vicki T, Mike & Susanna T (most are offered regular mailings and visits).
- **Grief Share Program**: Pray for our <u>facilitators</u> for guidance, attendees for comfort & peace.
- → <u>Stephen Ministry</u>: Blessings to our Stephen Ministers and those who receive their care!
- → <u>Altar Flowers</u>: Given anonymously in thanksgiving to God!
- Temporary Health Issues:
 - Cedrick Hilliker (2) shoulder: full recovery.
 - Caleb Hlavacek (2) broken leg; healing.
 - Matt Hlavacek (1) Lyme disease: healing.
 - Matt Kussmaul eye issues: cont. healing.

- Cindy Taress (2) throat, tongue, swallowing issues from radiation: relief, healing.
- Rand Stender (1) knee: cont. healing, rehab.
- Bill Sweeny many falls: help, quidance, strength, encouragement to Bill & Norma!
- **Terry Tomasch**(1)knee: *cont. healing, rehab.*
- Harold Weseloh (3) surg: healing, rehab.

For Others

Temporary Health Issues:

- Jennifer (2) peace, prop. diag., healing.
- **Linda Bradshaw** (2) brain tumor: *healing*.
- Kimberly Borland (2) deep wound: healing.
- **Stacey Dames** (2) *peace, healing, guidance.*
- Melanie Himmelberger cancer: comfort.
- Bernice Mease (2) kidney cancer: healing.
- Linda McKay (2) broken arm: cont. healing.
- Luke Schave (3) cancer, chemo ineffective, trying new drug therapy: peace, healing, new treatment success.
- Bethany Transue (2) lymphoma: healing.
- Jim Vrabel (2) foot issue: full recovery.

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

12/9 Alan Blaha

Spiritual Birthdays:

12/7 Linda 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

SELF-EXAMINATION MUSIC: Come Thou Long **Expected Jesus** Arr. Carter

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

Mark 11:25

- **6.** Am I forgiving all others? Y N 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

<u>Uncertain</u>? 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!

↑ PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION:

- L: Dear Lord Jesus, in the solemn night of Your betrayal You established the holy meal of Your body and blood for us Christians to eat and to drink. Look in mercy on us who will receive the holy sacrament this day. Grant that we come to Your table in true repentance and faith, that the gift of Your body and blood will sustain us in our afflictions, strengthen us in the communion of Your holy people, and be a pledge of the resurrection of our bodies to life everlasting; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

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

- L: LORD, hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and as He has taught us:
- 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

See the words below / TLH 652 / LSB 606

I lay my sins on Jesus,
 The spotless Lamb of God;

 He bears them all and frees us
 From the accursed load.

 I bring my guilt to Jesus
 To wash my crimson stains
 Clean in His blood most precious

Till not a spot remains.

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: Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

L: Father in heaven, with sorrow we came to the Supper, with faith we have received Your gift of forgiveness, and with peace we have returned to our places; help us now – by the instruction of Your Word and the power of Your Spirit – 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.

HYMN: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come See the words below / TLH 55 / LSB 350

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
 Only hope for sinful mortals!
 Come, O Savior of the world!
 Open are to Thee all portals.
 Come, Thy beauty let us see;
 Anxiously we wait for Thee.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:

L: Let us bless the Lord. [Ps. 103:1]

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord look upon you with *favor* and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C: Amen.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:

Wake, Awake, For Christ is Coming

J. S. Bach

Thanks to all who helped us decorate!!

December Newsletter - Available in the Narthex

ORDER your poinsettia TODAY.

The deadline is 12/14.

See attendance slip for directions!

Free Meals: Each Wednesday at 12 & 6; skip your own preparation and gather with us!
You may bring your favorite dish to share; see the signup sheet!

Help Needed! Do you like numbers? We can use an additional offering counter (once a month commitment). If you can help, contact Natalia F (Financial Sec.): 440.289.3099.

Schedule: 12/7/25 - 12/14/25

12/8 - Monday - 6:30 - Youth Confirmation

12/9 - Tuesday - 6:30 - Grief Share

12/10 – Wednesday

11:00 - Advent Service

Noon – Lunch

6:00 – Supper

7:00 - Advent Service

12/11 - Thursday

10:00 - Living the Lutheran Lectionary

12/13 - Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 - Divine Service

12/14 - Sunday

9:00 - Divine Service

10:30 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

Thanks For Serving on 12/6 & 12/7

Altar Guild: Heather H

Saturday: Organist: Gayle P Usher: Matt K

Distribution: Brad S

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P

<u>Distribution</u> – Matthias M <u>Ushers</u>: Terry T, Larry H

<u>Refreshments</u>: The Hilliker Family & others <u>Sunday School</u>: Heather H, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistants

Thanks For Serving on 12/13 & 12/14

Altar Guild: Kathy G

Saturday: Organist: Gayle P Usher: Matt K

Distribution: Brad S

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P

<u>Distribution</u> – Matthias M <u>Ushers</u>: Terry T, Larry H

Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others Sunday School: Stacey J, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistants

Numbers From Last Week

Received God's Gifts - Services:

Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: 33; car: 5Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: 53; car: 1

Wednesday at 11 & 7 – Inside: 60; car: 0

Studied God's Word – Classes:

Saturday at 3:00: 14Sunday at 10:30: 39Thursday at 10: 9

Weekly Financial Stewardship:

Needed: 5,443Received: 7,318



Remaining Advent Wednesdays - Services 11 & 7; Free Meals 12 & 6

December 10 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing December 17 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Christmas Eve – 4; Christmas Day 10; New Year's Eve 4

<u>Esther Hofener's address</u>: Vitalia Rockside, 6100 Lombardo Center, Rm. 16, Seven Hills, OH 44131 You are invited to visit her!

To support Christians in Nigeria, go here: https://equippingthepersecuted.org/our-team/

Connect With Us

 Website:
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 → Facebook
 Bethlehem Parma

 Regular Services:
 Saturdays at 4:00;
 Sundays at 9:00
 Festivals:
 Website > Important Links > Festivals

 Studies:
 Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30
 Address:
 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

 Church Office:
 Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00
 Kathy Green:
 Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915 Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org