

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2025

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Sunday, 4/20 at 9 am



What Are Your Hopes and Dreams?

Church Year: The Resurrection of Our Lord | Divine Service: Setting One, LSB 151-166

WELCOME:

- © <u>Visitors</u>: Welcome! Please fill out an attendance slip insert 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).
- (join us).
- © Phone: Please put on silent.
- (i) **Hearing Assistance**: Available in the Narthex.
- © <u>Service Folder</u>: 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 EASTER:

L: He is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed, alleluia!

PRELUDE: We listen in silence...

Morning Has Broken Arr. D. Powers

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: 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: 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!

 John 1:12; Philippians 1:6
- C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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

v. 4: ↑ Choir + Congregation

See the words on the next page / TLH 199 / LSB 457

- Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia! Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- 3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia! Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Please Arise 1

4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia! Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

- L: O Lord, who suffered to redeem us,
- C: have mercy upon us.
- L: O Christ, who is risen and victorious,
- C: have mercy upon us.
- L: O Lord, who reigns to bless all believers,
- C: have mercy upon us.

HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

Refrain: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

- Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
- Pow er, rich es, wis dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. Refrain
- 3. Sing with all the peo ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a tion: Bless ing, honor, glo ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A men. *Refrain*

4. For the Lamb_____ who was slain__ has be - gun his reign. Al-le-lu-----ia. *Refrain*

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: Almighty God, our Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, ever look forward to our own bodily resurrection on the last day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Death Is Not the End Not for Jesus! Not for Us!

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 65:17-25 NAS-95 See Below / Pew Bible Page1164 / Own Bible

A beautiful picture of eternity with God!

¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former [sinful] things will not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness. ¹⁹ I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying."

["...the examples [that follow] seem confusing. But, in fact, they are hypothetical" (TLSB):] ²⁰ "No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed." [In other words: "Time will no longer have its aging effect on those who formerly were under the curse of sin" (TLSB)].

²¹ "They will build houses and inhabit *them*; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, *so will be* the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. ²³ They will not labor in vain, Or bear *children* for calamity; For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, And their descendants with them. ²⁴ It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear."

²⁵ "The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia See the words below / TLH 101 / LSB 463

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia! Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 NAS-95 Will be read during today's sermon!

↑ HYMN: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

See the words below / LSB 488

He is arisen! Glorious Word!

Now reconciled is God, my Lord;

The gates of heav'n are open.

My Jesus did triumphant die,

And Satan's arrows broken lie,

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.

O hear what cheer!

Christ victorious, Rising glorious, Life is giving.
He was dead but now is living!

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

NAS

Even if others think Jesus' resurrection is nonsense, let us fully believe it!

- L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.
- C: Glory to You, O LORD.

The Reading...

- L: The Gospel of the Lord.

HYMN: Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus See the words below / TLH 367 / LSB 531

- Hail, Thou once despisèd Jesus!
 Hail, Thou Galilean King!

 Thou didst suffer to release us;
 Thou didst free salvation bring.
 Hail, Thou universal Savior,
 Bearer of our sin and shame!
 By Thy merit we find favor:
 Life is given through Thy name.
- 2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on Thee were laid; By almighty love anointed, Thou hast full atonement made. All Thy people are forgiven Through the virtue of Thy blood; Opened is the gate of heaven, Reconciled are we with God.

SERMON: What Are Your Hopes and Dreams? 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 NAS-95

- 1. Jesus' Resurrection: ¹⁹ If we have <u>hoped in</u> [counted on] Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be <u>pitied</u> [miserable]. ²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.
 - a. Resurrection Promised:
 - b. Resurrection Fulfilled:

- c. First Fruits:
- Our Resurrection: ²¹ For since by a man [Adam] came death, by a man [Jesus] also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits [on Easter Sunday], after that those who are Christ's at His coming...
 - a. By Adam Came Death:
 - b. By Christ Came Resurrection to Life:
 - c. The Day of Resurrection:
- 3. The End of the World: ²⁴ then *comes* the end, when [Christ] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
 - a. Jesus Is Reigning:
 - b. The Last Enemy:

Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

HYMN: Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus See the words below / TLH 367 / LSB 531

- 3 Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,
 There forever to abide;
 All the heav'nly hosts adore Thee,
 Seated at Thy Father's side.
 There for sinners Thou art pleading;
 There Thou dost our place prepare,
 Ever for us interceding
 Till in glory we appear.
- Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing
 Thou art worthy to receive;
 Highest praises, without ceasing,
 Right it is for us to give.

 Help, ye bright angelic spirits,

All your noblest anthems raise; Help to sing our Savior's merits, Help to chant Immanuel's praise!

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

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: Pray for repentance, guidance, unity.
- ➡ <u>US Armed Forces and Police</u>: Praying for all, especially: Rachel Cepis, Kevin Mild, Eric Mild, Teagan Dedula, Nick Riviotta, Brad Sala, Chris Sala, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh.

Congregation

- → The Challenge: Since God is faithful in blessing us, let us be faithful in putting Christ first!
- → Going Forward: Aware of the temporal world in which we live, let us hold temporal things loosely and focus on *knowing Jesus, *growing in the Bible, and *loving others!
- Care List: Helga B, Doris C, Sandy C, Carole G, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Rose R, June R, Jean S, Mike & Susanna T. (They receive regular mailings and visits. Pray for our visitors: Pastor, Harold, and Linda Blaha.)
- Stephen Ministry: Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, and Rhonda S (ministers).
 Please pray for them and their care receivers.

- Grief Share: Tuesdays at 6:30; guidance for our facilitators and comfort for the attendees.
- Temporary Health Issues:
 - Sue Coufalik (1) kidney stone: cont. healing.
 - Cedrick Hilliker (2) shoulder: quidance.
 - Matt Kussmaul eye issues: peace, healing.
 - <u>Tom Merkle</u> bladder & lung cancer; chemo and rad through 6/6: *successful treatments*.
 - Cindy Taress (2) broken hip: healing, rehab.

For Others

Temporary Health Issues:

- Courtney (2) chemo: peace in Jesus, healing.
- <u>Ed</u> (3) brain and pancreatic cancer; chemo, rad: peace in Jesus, comfort, healing.
- **Joyce** (3) cont. healing, peace in Jesus.
- Karen (1) (Marci's mother) proper diagnosis, peace, comfort, healing.
- <u>Tim</u> (2) brain tumor; chemo, rad: *healing*.
- <u>Isaac Bagalana</u> (3) kidney blockage: pray that the medicine will remove the blockage.
- Ralph Bruscino (2) (Norma's B-I-L) broken hip, surgery: peace, comfort, healing.
- Henry Byham (Akron PICU) lethargy and decline: pray for a way to help Henry.
- Bob Coufalik (2) stroke, etc.: peace in Jesus.
- Melanie Himmelberger cancer: comfort.
- **Dave Hlavacek** (3) knee surg: *healing, rehab*.
- Shirley Prok (1) prop. diagnosis: healing.
- <u>Rev. Kurt Ziemann</u> (1) cancer, stem cell transplant: *peace, healing, success*.

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

- 4/21 Ashley Kovachic
- 4/25 Dan Blaha
- 4/25 Chris Sala

Spiritual Birthdays:

4/25 Hilda Kaderle

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:

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing See the words below / LSB 633

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King, Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!
- 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine, Gives His body for the feast— Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!
- 3 Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword; Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

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

Should I receive the Lord's Supper today?

Use these 10 questions to examine yourself...

<u>Learn More</u>: 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.

Col. 3:1

- C: We lift them to the LORD.
- L: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.
- C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Ultimate Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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

Is. 6:3; Matt. 21:9

Hosanna means "save us now" See the words below / LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the
LORD. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Let Us Pray

- L: Blessed are You, LORD of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created, and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior.
- C: With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.
- L: Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O LORD, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit.
- C: Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.
- L: Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.
- C: Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us.
- L: To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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 20:1

- L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
- C: Amen.

HYMN: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing See the words below / LSB 633

- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie; You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

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:

Hymn of Promise

Arr. Larson

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT: Let Us Pray

- L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have assured us of Your forgiveness through the finished work of Your Son. Now, since You have put joy in our hearts, please put Your words on our lips and work Your actions through our hands unto Your glory.
- C: Amen.

HYMN: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia See the words below / TLH 101 / LSB 463

- Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
 God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
 When contending death and life, Alleluia!
 Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- 4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. 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:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen

Easter Lilies

Thanks to all who purchased one or more to beautify our Altar: Michael & Krista Browning, Alan & Linda Carlson, Ed & Patti Cepis, Pastor & Kathy, the Jasulevich family, Wil Mild, Rand & Debbie Stender, Bill & Norma Sweeny, Linda Taylor, and a couple anonymously given.

You are welcome to take yours home today!

Four Views of the Millennium

The study begins this Sat at 3:00, Sun at 10:30 What does the Bible say about Jesus' return?

Men's Group – All Men Are Welcome!

Now that the Season of Lent has concluded, we resume on <u>Saturday</u>, May 3, as Dr. Giessler unpacks the important book of Isaiah.

- Gather at 9:00 Free Breakfast
- Study Begins at 9:15

April Newsletter - Available in the Narthex

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

Volunteers Needed – Will You Serve?

- BLC Pictorial Directory help us make it happen. Call/text Kathy: 440-785-3802
- Altar Guild prepare/clean up after the Lord's Supper – receive training, then serve. Call/text Kathy: 440-785-3802

- <u>Saturday Greeter</u> give attendees a warm welcome. Call/text Rhonda: 330-260-5194
- Outreach Teammate serve under Rhonda, the Team Leader: call/text: 330-260-5194
- <u>Thank You</u> to Will Mild for his willingness to make the repairs by the main entrance.

Schedule: 4/20/25 - 4/27/25

4/21 – Monday

7:00 – Leadership Team

4/22 – Tuesday

6:30 - Grief Share

4/23 - Wednesday

1:00 – Sisters of Light

4/24 – Thursday

10:00 - Living the Lutheran Lectionary

4/26 - Saturday

3:00 - Bible Class

4:00 - Divine Service

4/27 - Sunday

9:00 - Divine Service

10:30 - Bible Classes and Sunday School

Thanks For Serving on 4/19 & 4/20

Altar Guild: Heather H

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Matt K

Welcome & Distribution: Mike C

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P

Pastor Team - Welcome: Matthias M

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

Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others Sunday School: resumes next week, 4/27

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistants

Thanks For Serving on 4/26 & 4/27

Altar Guild: Kathy G

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Matt K Welcome & Distribution: Mike C

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P

Pastor Team – Welcome: Harold W

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

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

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistants

Numbers From Last Week

Received God's Gifts - Services:

Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: 40; car: 3

Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: 66; car: 1

Maundy Thursday at 11 & 7: Inside: 61; car: 1

Good Friday at 11 & 7: Inside: 86; car: 1

Studied God's Word - Classes:

Saturday at 3:00: 7

Sunday at 10:30: 34

Thursday at 10: 7

Supported God's Work:

 Needed each week to cover the budget: 5,443

<u>Received</u> last week for the

budget: **6,265**

YTD Budget Surplus as of last

week: **469**



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Regular Services:Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00Festivals:Website > Important Links > FestivalsStudies:Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30Address:7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134Church Office:Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00Kathy Green:Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

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