

Request a Prayer

Blessing – Since prayer is talking to the Almighty God, *prayer can be extremely beneficial!*

- God hears us through Christ!
- God wants us to give Him our burdens!
- God will answer according to His will!

Responsibility – You can request a prayer for yourself or someone else:

- Fill-out a Request Card (in the Narthex)
- E-Mail: secretary@blc7500.com
- Call Church Office: 440-845-2230
- Text Kathy: 440-785-3802

Request a Visit

Blessing – Anyone can request a visit from the pastor – ♦to talk about a particular concern or, *for those who are unable to attend*, ♦to receive a mailing each week and Word and Sacrament each month.

Responsibility – For anyone desiring a visit, or unable to attend, contact the church office.

Use your Gift(s)

Blessing – God calls us to *joyfully use* the gifts He has given to us. The Bible says: “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:7 NIV).

- A gift is given to each one!
- It is given to show we have the Holy Spirit living within us!
- It is given for the common good – to be a blessing to others!

Responsibility – Discover your gift through ♦the Bible, ♦prayer, ♦talking with others about your God-given abilities, and ♦noticing the intersection between your interest and ability. Then use your gift! For some guidance, see the “Ways to serve” brochure.

Tithe from Your Income

Blessing – God *continues to sustain* our physical and spiritual lives! *He continues to shower us with food, clothes, shelter, forgiveness, etc.!*

Responsibility – We acknowledge God as the *owner and provider* of all our blessings by:

- Giving a *tithe* (10%) from the *first* of all we receive (wages, Social Security, retirement, gifts, inheritance, etc.).
- Trusting Him to provide all of our needs *with the remaining 90%!*

God is faithful; *He will keep all of His promises!*
Read our “Tithing” brochure for more info!

A Picture of Our Lives in Christ

May God cause these blessed realities to *characterize every member of Bethlehem:*

- *Weekly* in Divine Service and Education!
- *Daily* in His Word and Prayer!
- *Remembering* the blessings of Baptism!
- *Living* Christ-centered marriages!
- *Seeking* private confession as needed!
- *Continually* ready to go home to heaven!
- *Seeking* pastoral care as needed!
- *Faithfully* using our God-given gifts!
- *Honoring* the Lord with our first 10%!

“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24 NIV).

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube and Podcast: “Benefit from the Bible”

Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma”

Saturdays: Class 3:00; Service 4:00

Sundays: Service 9:00; Classes 10:30

7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134 / 440-845-2230

(Last Update: 6-26)



Introduction

The Triune God desires to *richly and eternally* bless you through your membership at Bethlehem! We at Bethlehem will do our best to provide various blessings, *but you are responsible for receiving those blessings!* Our daily lives follow a similar pattern: God provides us with food, clothes, and houses; however, it is necessary for us to *eat* the food, *put on* the clothes, and *go into* the houses to receive their benefits!

As you read through this brochure:

- *Discover and understand* the blessings being offered to you through your congregation!
- *Faithfully receive* the offered blessings!

Attend Worship/Divine Services

Blessing – God has united us to Jesus, our Savior. Now, being alive in Christ, *we are in need of regular spiritual nourishment* (Matthew 4:4).

Therefore, in Divine Service, Jesus comes into our presence to *teach* us His Word – for our temporal and eternal benefit and *feed* us His very body and blood – for the assurance of God’s forgiveness!



Responsibility – *Put Christ first! Join us each week to receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, peace, assurance, encouragement, and instruction!*

Attend Bible Class/Sunday School

Blessing – God has made us alive in Christ but He also wants us to be *firmly rooted* and *continually growing* in Christ! Therefore, God invites us to gather each week with others to:

- Better understand His Word!
- Grow in our faith, peace, and joy!
- Guard against deception!
- Grow in Christ-like living!

Responsibility – *Make it your priority to attend and receive every week! We have Bible-based, instructional, fun, and beneficial classes for adults, youth, and children! See you in class!*



Prepare for your Wedding

Blessing – Before your wedding, receive Bible instruction and practical advice; then have a wonderful wedding ceremony and marriage!

Responsibility – For anyone *considering* marriage:

- See: “Getting Married at Bethlehem”
- Discuss your plans with the pastor.
- Set your wedding date.
- Schedule your pastoral care sessions.

Plan for a Baptism

Blessing – Since all are sinful from conception (Psalm 51:5) and separated from God’s eternal blessings, *God wants to unite all people to Jesus and His saving work through Holy Baptism!*



Responsibility – Since the blessings of Baptism are *so important* and *so wonderful*, make plans for the Baptism of your child even before he or she is born! Begin the process by picking up a “Baptism Information” envelope by our main entrance; need help – just ask!

Prepare for Confirmation Classes

Blessing – Christian youth and adults, *after a period of instruction*, publicly confess:

- Their faith in Christ!
- Their agreement with the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church!
- Their life-long commitment to Christ!

Responsibility – Parents: Along with your children, learn the ABC Bible Verses and read through the Small Catechism. Before your child is in sixth grade, contact the pastor to express your interest in confirmation classes.

Request Private Confession

Blessing – Whenever we fall into sin, *God wants us to know we are forgiven in Christ!* If you are ever uncertain about God’s forgiveness, you can *privately and confidentially*:

- Confess to the pastor!
- Receive the *assurance* of God’s forgiveness!
- Receive *encouragement* and *instruction* from God’s Holy Word!

Responsibility – Whenever you are struggling with a particular sin, contact Pastor to schedule a time for *private confession and absolution!*

Seek Pastoral Care

Blessing – Members can *confidentially discuss* issues regarding salvation, marriage, and more with the pastor; then *receive* Bible instruction.

Responsibility – Whenever you need assistance, setup a time to meet with the pastor. He wants to help, but *you must make him aware of your needs and be willing to receive his assistance!*

Preplan your Funeral Service

Blessing – Though a funeral is a time of sadness and mourning, *it also offers these blessings:*

- A remembrance of the eternal blessings given by God to the deceased!
- Comfort to all who mourn!
- The Law and the Gospel for everyone’s eternal benefit!

Responsibility – Even now you can bless your family by *preplanning* your funeral service:

- Note key events in your life!
- Choose your favorite Scripture readings and hymns!
- Pick up a “Funeral Information” booklet by our main entrance.