

7. For non-active Bethlehem members, pay the various fees at least two (2) weeks before your wedding date:
  - a. Total fees: About \$600, which includes the pastoral care sessions, ceremony, organist, and building use.
  - b. Active members: They average three or more times per month in Divine Service.

### **Conclusion**

We want to be an eternal blessing to you! To take the next step toward having your wedding at Bethlehem, contact me with your questions or to schedule an appointment.

- Mobile: 440-292-5915
- Email: [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com)

*Pastor Green*

### **To Use Our Building for a Wedding**

*When Another LCMS Pastor is Officiating*

This section applies to people who want to be married at Bethlehem but want another LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) pastor to officiate their ceremony.

These are our requirements:

1. Have an LCMS pastor officiate your ceremony.
2. Agree to receive some premarital pastoral care from the officiating pastor.
3. Conform to our wedding policy as noted on this sheet, for example:
  - a. Be serious about knowing Jesus.

- b. Abstain from sexual intimacy until you are married.
  - c. Be one naturally born man and one naturally born woman.
4. For a Saturday ceremony: schedule it to begin no later than 1:00, since our Saturday Bethlehem activities begin at 3:00.
5. Use the Bethlehem organist or have the Bethlehem organist approve your organist.
6. Pay the following fees to Bethlehem at least two (2) weeks before your wedding date:

- a. Building use for rehearsal and ceremony: 350
- b. Custodian fee for rehearsal and ceremony: 150
- c. Organist for rehearsal and ceremony – if using the Bethlehem organist: 200

For questions or to get your wedding scheduled at Bethlehem, contact the church office:

- Church: 440-845-2230
- Email: [secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:secretary@blc7500.com)

### **You Are Invited to Attend and Benefit**

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)

**YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma

**Schedule:** Saturday 4; Sunday 9; 440-845-2230

**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134  
(Last Update: 9-22)



### **Introduction**

*Congratulations on your engagement and blessings as you begin your life as husband and wife!*

At Bethlehem it is our desire to help people who are serious about ♦knowing Jesus, ♦growing in the Bible, and ♦having God's blessing upon their marriage. Since a wedding in a church is a worship service, it is fitting for the bride and the groom to be people who are sorry for their sins and trusting in Jesus for eternal life. For others, it is fitting to have a secular ceremony in a non-church setting.

These are some of the words spoken near the beginning of a Christian wedding service:

*Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and before His Church to witness the union of **this man** and **this woman** in holy matrimony. This is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise before humanity's fall into sin.*

In marriage we see a picture of communion between Christ and His bride, the Church. Our Lord blessed and honored marriage with His presence and first miracle at Cana in Galilee. This estate is also commended to us by the apostle Paul as good and honorable. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into inadvisably or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God. Please continue reading to learn much more about our view on marriage, which agrees with the Bible.

### **Scripture and Marriage**

We believe that marriage is the legal joining of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that marriage is the legal joining of one naturally born man and one naturally born woman in a single, exclusive union ([Genesis 2:18-24](#)).

We believe that two people of the same sex being united in a single exclusive union – through a wedding, marriage, or ceremony –

is contrary to Scripture ([Genesis 19:1-29](#); [Leviticus 20:13a](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [Jude 1:5-7](#)).

### **Sin and Forgiveness**

The Bible teaches that sin is ultimately against God ([Psalm 51:4](#)) and has separated all people from God ([Isaiah 59:2](#)).

But there is good news: Jesus has taken away the sin of the world – *through His sinless living and sacrificial dying!* Now, *through repentance and faith in Jesus as our Savior*, our relationship with God has been restored. If you are interested in learning more, let's talk.

### **Living Together**

Fornication (*sexual relations between two unmarried persons*) is against God and brings condemnation upon those who continue in it without repentance ([1 Cor. 6:9-10](#)).

Some live together *without marriage and without sexual relations*; is that living arrangement pleasing to God? When a man and a woman are living together, it certainly gives a hint of sexual immorality: “...among [you](#) [*professing believers in Jesus*] [there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality...](#)” ([Eph. 5:3 NIV](#)).

For those who engage in immorality without repentance: “...of this you can be sure: [No immoral... person has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient](#)” ([Eph. 5:5-6 NIV](#)).

### **Living Together Repentance Options**

1. When separating is possible: Stop having sexual relations and live at separate addresses until you are married.
2. When separating is difficult / impossible: Stop having sexual relations until you are married and, *as soon as possible*, get married by a justice of the peace. Then plan for the pastor to do a service called *the blessing of a civil marriage*, which is very similar to a wedding ceremony.

### **Our Wedding Procedure**

*When the Bethlehem Pastor is Officiating*

1. Have an initial meeting with the pastor *at least four months before your wedding date*.
2. Agree to abide by our wedding policy.
3. Receive the Wedding / Blessing handout, which will lead you through our process.
4. Take Prepare, which is a premarital inventory used in the pastoral care process.
5. Meet at least two (2) more times with the pastor to go over the results of Prepare.
6. Attend Worship / Divine Service at Bethlehem at least four (4) times, during the two (2) months before your wedding date (*complete an attendance slip each time*).