

BLC Newsletter – July 2026

Weekend Schedule

- Saturdays: class 3:00; worship 4:00
- Sundays: worship 9:00; Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30

From Our Organist

My summer music selections will be celebrating God's beautiful creation, blessings, love, and Spirit filled joy. Worship and enjoy Pastorales and nature inspired music during the services. *Gayle Powers*



Other Bible Classes

Sisters of Light – **First and Third**
Wednesdays of each month at 1:00

- Location: Acts Room
- Teacher: Rhonda: 330-260-5194

Living the Lutheran Lectionary –
Every Thursday at 10:00

- Location: Timothy Room / Zoom
- Topic: Studying the upcoming lectionary Scripture readings
- Teacher: Harold: 440-454-2139

Men's Group – **July 11 at 9:00**

- Location: Timothy Room
- Breakfast: 9:00; Study: 9:15
- Teacher: Dr. G: 216-374-5973

Dr. Giessler – Off Site Bible Classes:

- **Second and Fourth Mondays** – Panera, Rocky River: 7 PM
- **Second and Fourth Thursdays** – Christ Lutheran, Cleveland: 1:30

Stay Close to Jesus!

- ➔ **Pray for those in need.** *If you have a prayer request, text, or call Kathy G: 440-785-3802*
- ➔ **Reach those who are lost** – by giving them one of our many resources, praying for them, and inviting them.
- ➔ **Grow through our website:** www.BLC7500.com – many sermons, studies, and brochures are available.
- ➔ **Listen to The Lutheran Hour:** Sundays at 6:30 AM on WTAM 1100; Sundays at 8:00 AM on WHKW 1220
- ➔ **Watch Worship Anew** – A *Lutheran Service for shut-ins*: Sundays at 11:30 AM: Cox: 12; Direct TV: 67, 377; Dish: 47; Spectrum: 47

Food and Fire Events

Sat, 6/27 at 5:30

Sat, 8/29 at 5:30

We eat in our pavilion, then use our grounds for a fire and/or outdoor activities – *everyone is invited!*



We hope someone will sponsor one in July and September. See the main bulletin board for guidance.

Leadership Team Coordinator & Treasurer News



As many of you know, I stepped in this year to fill the remaining term for our Leadership Team

Coordinator through the end of 2026, while continuing my role as your Treasurer.

Thank you Dr. Giessler for your 16 years of service as our Coordinator! First and foremost, my heart is incredibly full of thankfulness. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and help lead our dedicated Leadership Team during this season. Furthermore, looking at our recent numbers, I am very happy to report that our financial position remains solid as of the close of May. Your continued faithfulness and generosity make the ministry of this Church possible, and for that, we are truly blessed.

It is easy to give thanks when the financial reports are good, and everything runs smoothly. But as followers of Jesus, we are called to a deeper, more resilient kind of thankfulness—one that doesn't shift based on our circumstances.

The Bible reminds us that gratitude is a choice and a spiritual anchor, whether we are walking through seasons of abundance or seasons of hardship:

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 4:6–7 *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

True gratitude shields our hearts against anxiety. When we face tough times, bringing our needs to God with a thankful heart unlocks a peace that doesn't make sense to the rest of the world.

Thank you again for your trust, your prayers, and your steady support as we walk through the rest of 2026 together. Let's continue to cultivate thankful hearts this summer, anchoring ourselves in God's goodness every single day. See you in Church and Bible Study.

Blessings, *Don Crites*

Your Leadership Team *Keep them in your prayers!*

Coordinator: Don Crites

Treasurer: Don Crites

Fin. Sect.: Natalia Ford

Worship: Rand Stender

Fellowship: Linda Hinkle

Education: Marci Sherepita

Care: Alan Carlson

Outreach: _____

Building: Terry Tomasch

Grounds: Ken Hinkle

Pastor: Robert Green

Recording Secretary: Kathy Green



The Education Team

Keep them in your prayers!

Our Teachers:

- Adults and Youth: **Dr. Giessler**, **Cedrick** H, **Harold** W
- Sunday School: *Superintendent* – **Kathy** G; *Teachers* – **Tracy** C, **Heather** H, **Stacey** J, **Angie** R
- Sisters of Light: **Rhonda** S
- Stephen Ministry: **Norma** Sweeny
- Grief Share: **Alan** & **Linda** B

LCMS Synodical Presidential Election

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received 50.1% of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for a sixth term of office, 2026–2029.

Grief Share

The Fall season dates are September 1 – December 15. If you would like to register/have questions, contact Norma: 216-406-4871.

Stephen Ministry



Christ caring for people through people

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.

If you are interested in having the care of a Stephen Minister, Contact Norma: 216-406-4871

You Might Be Wondering



This is our pastor's anniversary month:

- ✓ Ordained – 7/14/96 at Zion in Painesville, which was his home congregation where he was baptized, confirmed, and married.
- ✓ Installed – 7/21/96 at Bethlehem in Parma, which was his first call after graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN in May of 1996.
- ✓ First Sermon as a Pastor – 7/28/96 at Bethlehem, which was also the day of the church picnic that year.

Keeping You Informed

- Texts show: **440-298-2791**
- Calls show: **440-845-2230**

If you put those numbers in the Contact list on your phone under "BLC Info," then you will know the source of those calls and texts!

Choir-Made-Easy – Join Us!

Contact Harold: 440-454-2139;
weselohduh@gmail.com

- ✓ 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.

Giving – To BLC

- **Online:** You can donate online through our Bethlehem PayPal account. go to www.BLC7500.com and click on the “Donate” button. **Thanks!**
- **Personal Banking:** Most banks have a free bill payer service.
- **IRA:** If you own an individual retirement account (IRA) and are at least 70½ years old, you can support the Lord’s work by directing a **tax-free distribution** to Bethlehem. **Thanks!**

Prayer Multiplier



We could use more prayer warriors! Prayers are sent by text message.

Would you

like to be added to the list? Call or text Kathy G. 440-785-3802

July Physical Birthdays

- 7/2 Donald Crites
- 7/3 David Rohman
- 7/6 Brian Sala
- 7/6 Bradley Sala
- 7/9 Miyu Liao
- 7/10 Wilhelm Mild
- 7/12 John Haller
- 7/14 Jim Kovach
- 7/15 Rand Stender
- 7/16 Courtney Slepko
- 7/22 Cedrick Hilliker Sr.
- 7/23 Kevin Liddy
- 7/25 Ruth Blaha
- 7/29 Jeffrey Kitzler



July Spiritual Birthdays

- 7/1 Larry Haslem
- 7/1 Gabe Montgomery
- 7/1 Paul Moyer Jr.
- 7/10 Lisa Woodward
- 7/17 Meeka Hilliker
- 7/25 Donald Crites
- 7/29 June Russell



July Wedding Anniversaries

- 7/11 Ed & Patti Cepis (46th)
- 7/16 Dan & Jackie Blaha (10th)
- 7/26 Tom and Dolores Merkle (23rd)



Parking Lot Church



Not feeling well? LISTEN FROM YOUR CAR! Pick up everything need – just inside our main entrance, then tune your radio to **FM 89.9**. For all the details, read the special insert in each parking lot church service folder.

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ **July 29** at Noon – August NL
 - ⇒ **August 19** at Noon – Sept. NL
- Bethlehem Parma www.BLC7500.com