

# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Wednesday, December 2, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM

First Wednesday in Advent – 2015

**Series: “Come” to Bethlehem with Micah the Prophet!**



**Sermon: All Roads to Heaven Lead through “Bethlehem”!**

Micah 5:1-5a

**Learn About Us:** Visitors – Take a “Visitor Information” packet (near our Main Entrance).

## **Benefit from this Service:**

- + Use this folder to guide you; please participate and benefit: L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All
- + Today’s service is Vespers (Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book, 229-234)

## **SERVICE BEGINNING:**

1. **Bell:** Candle lighting. Please be seated.
2. **Thanks For Putting Christ First:** By attending!

## **↑ PSALM VERSES** (Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1):

- L: O Lord, open my lips,  
C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- L: Hurry, O God, to deliver me;  
C: hurry to help me, O Lord.  
A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
L: Praise to You, O Christ,  
C: Our King who comes to save us.

**HYMN: “Savior of the Nations, Come”**  
LSB 332, sts. 1-4

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.

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**ADVENT RESPONSORY:**

- L: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,  
**C: When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.**  
L: In His day Judah will be saved,  
**C: And Israel will dwell securely.**  
**A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**  
L: This is the name by which He will be called:  
**C: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**SALUTATION and PRAYER:**

- L: The Lord be with you.  
**C: And also with you.**  
L: *Let us pray.* Dear Father in heaven, You know all things and love us beyond measure, so You promised to give Your Son to win our salvation; then, over and over again, You reminded Your people of Your promise. Now,

as we look back to Your promise made and Your promised fulfilled in Jesus, keep us in the one true faith, so that we are ever-ready for His coming; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.** ↓

**SERMON HYMN – Part 1: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**  
LSB 361, st. 1

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS & SERMON:**

All Roads to Heaven Lead through “Bethlehem”!  
Micah 5:1-5a      See Today’s Insert

**SERMON HYMN – Part 2: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**  
LSB 361, st. 2-4

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in. ➡

- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

**OFFERING:** *Thanks for giving generously!*

- ⇒ *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”*  
⇒ Please record your Name and Attendance on the yellow slip – *Thanks for attending!*

**↑ KYRIE** (Mark 10:47):

- L: Let us pray:  
L: *O Lord,*           **C: have mercy.**  
L: *O Christ,*       **C: have mercy.**  
L: *O Lord,*           **C: have mercy.**

**LORD’S PRAYER** (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4):

**A: Our Father who art in heaven...**

**PRAYERS:**

After each petition:

L: Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C: And let my cry come to You.**

1. *For repentance from trusting in self, rather than in the babe of Bethlehem.*
2. *For the faith of Abraham, to believe what seems impossible.*
3. *For peace, not based on our circumstances but on our saving relationship with Jesus.*
4. *For Christ-centered lives, as we move into a time filled with many distractions.*

Conclusion:

L: We trust O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**11:00 LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER:**

L: We pray together:

**A: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me (Mt. 18:10), that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**7:00 LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER:**

L: We pray together:

**A: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me (Mt. 18:10), that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:**

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**C: Amen. ↓**

**CLOSING HYMN and ✠ CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:**  
*“Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB 332, sts. 5-7*

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father’s Son  
Who in flesh the vict’ry won. ➡

By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

- 7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

#### Thanks for Serving:

- ✓ Preacher / Teacher: Dr. Phillip Giessler
- ✓ Leader: Pastor Robert Green
- ✓ Smart Recorder: Kathy Green; Eileen Kovach
- ✓ Ushers: Thanks!

**Your decorating help is needed on Saturday,  
December 5 at 9 AM; please join us!**

#### Free Meals on These Advent Wednesdays:

- ✓ December 2, 9, and 16
- ✓ Both at Noon and 6 PM
- ✓ Everyone is welcome!

*Thanks to all who are providing the free meals!*

#### Our Advent and Christmas Schedule

##### Please Join Us:

**Sunday, 12/6 at 8:00 & 10:45**

➔ Sermon: "Are You an Active Volcano?" Luke 3:1-14

**Wednesday, 12/9 at 11 & 7 (Meals 12 & 6)**

➔ Sermon: "The True Christmas 'Rush'" Micah 2:12-13

**Sunday, 12/13 at 8:00 & 10:45**

➔ Sermon: "Did You Expect Ease or Truth?" Luke 7:18-28

**Wednesday, 12/16 at 11 & 7 (Meals 12 & 6)**

➔ Sermon: "The Best Christmas Gift—'Rest'"! Micah 4:1-13 (7:18-19)

**Sunday, 12/20 at 8:00 & 10:45**

➔ Sermon: "Do You Believe the Impossible?" Luke 1:39-45

**Thursday, 12/24, Christmas Eve at 6 PM**

➔ Sermon: "Has God's Love in Christ Transformed Your Life?" Titus 2:11-14

**Friday, 12/25, Christmas Day at 10 AM**

➔ Sermon: "A Beautiful Picture of God Saving Us!" Titus 3:4-7

**Sunday, 12/27 at 10 AM – ONE Service, NO Bible Class or Sunday School**

➔ Sermon: "The Newborn King Is Now Victorious and Reigning!" Revelation 1:1-6

**Thursday, 12/31, New Year's Eve at 7 PM**

➔ Sermon: "Let Us Enter 2016 with a Heart of Wisdom!" Psalm 90:1-12

**2016:**

**Sunday, 1/3 at 8:00 & 10:45**

**Monday, 1/4 at 7 PM**

#### CONNECT WITH US:

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)

**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"

**Church Office:** Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30

**Childcare Center:** Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00

**Pastor Green:** [Pastor@blc7500.com](mailto:Pastor@blc7500.com); 440-292-5915

**Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"

**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

**Kathy Green:** [Secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com); 440-845-2230

**Tricia Wise:** [ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com](mailto:ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com); 440-884-0430

**Church Body:** [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) District: [oh.lcms.org](http://oh.lcms.org)

**Advent—Christmas Symbols at Bethlehem** (*may our decorating point others to the Christ of Christmas*):

- **Wreaths:** Shaped like the crown of thorns; symbolizes eternal life – a circle has no beginning or ending!
- **Tree:** It points toward heaven; its evergreen color symbolizes eternal life!
- **Lights:** In the midst of the darkness of sin, Jesus is the True Light of the world!