

other, ♥care about each other, ♥encourage each other, ♥take loving action toward each other, and ♥work together to *share God's truth with others and show God's love to others!*

### The Lord's Supper

"...while they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins'" (Matthew 26:26-28 NAS).

Comment: Amazing! The very Son of God ♥came from heaven, ♥put on human flesh, ♥lived for us, ♥gave His body and blood for us, and ♥laid down His life for us – *all for our forgiveness! So let us receive each week! At Bethlehem, we offer the Supper on all Sundays / Mondays and at all Festival Services!*



### Faithfulness Is Required for Success

1. Without faithful recharging, *my cell phone will stop working!*
2. Without faithful fill-ups, *my car will stop running!*
3. Without faithful eating, *my body will stop being healthy!*

4. Without faithful work, *my employment will come to an end!*
5. Without faithful utility payments, *my services will be shut off!*
6. Without faithful Bible nourishment, *my life in Christ will become unhealthy!*
7. Without faithful gathering together, *my heart may become discouraged!*
8. Without faithful reception of the Supper, *my heart may become unsure of God's precious gift of forgiveness!*

*Be Faithful, Be Blessed!*

### Faithfully Receive God's Precious Gifts

"Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name" (Ps. 30:4 ESV).

*We sing and give thanks when we gather!*

God works through His Word to:

- ✓ Show us our sins!
- ✓ Make us sorry!
- ✓ Enable us to trust in Jesus!
- ✓ Fill us with peace and joy!
- ✓ Guide us in being His holy children!

Since God's Word is very important for our daily Christian lives, let us ♥read and think about it daily and ♥gather weekly to hear it in Divine Service and study it in our classes!

### You Are Invited to Attend and Benefit

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)  
**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134  
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)  
**Schedule:** See our "Join Us" brochure  
**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"  
**Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"  
**Contact:** 440-845-2230; [pastor@blc7500.com](mailto:pastor@blc7500.com)

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# Why Go To Church



### Introduction

Dear Friend: This brochure focuses on how we live as people who believe in Jesus. It contains many good reasons for going to church!

### The Need for Regular Spiritual Nourishment

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor complaining that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

That started a controversy that went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one."



But I do know this – they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”

Jesus said: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4 NAS).

Comment: We need bread for our bodies, *but we also need God’s Word for our souls!* For physical health, *we trust our Father in heaven to give us our daily bread*; for spiritual health, *we trust in Jesus and feed on the Bible!* Let us do so **daily** – *on our own*, and **weekly** – *as we gather for Divine Service and Bible Class!*

### The Third Commandment

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8 NAS).

What does this mean?

The Rev. Dr. Martin

Luther wrote: “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”



Comment: The LORD commands us to gather because He *loves us and wants to bless us!* We gather *as His baptized children and in His presence to receive His gifts of forgiveness, instruction, and assurance!*

### Jesus

“...as was His custom [His usual practice], He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath” (Luke 4:16 NAS).

Comment: Jesus’ normal practice was to gather each week for worship and study; therefore, *let us do the same!*

### An Early Church Practice

The baptized believers “devoted themselves to [thus, they persevered in] the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42 ESV).

Comment: When something is important to us, *we are determined to stick with it – no matter what!* That was the attitude of the Early Church believers; they were determined to *gather, study, give and receive encouragement, receive the Lord’s Supper, and pray!* *Let us follow their example!*

### An Excerpt from Meditations

“The early Christians chose to Sabbath-rest on Sundays in order to honor:

- ✦ God the Father, who began creation on a Sunday;
- ✦ God the Son, who rose from the dead on a Sunday; and
- ✦ God the Holy Spirit, who gave birth to the New Testament Church on Pentecost Sunday.

Sabbath [Rest] doesn’t have to be on a Sunday, Christian liberty allows flexibility. But it doesn’t allow the liberty to despise preaching and the Word. Paul wrote, “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature” (Galatians 5:13 NIV). Meditations, March 10, 2015

Comment: Let us stop making work and pleasure *more important* than hearing God’s Holy Word and receiving the Lord’s Supper!

### Encouragement and Instruction from God

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:23-25 NAS).

Comments:

1. Are you **holding fast** to confessing Jesus the Christ as your Savior and Lord?
2. Is your practice stimulating others to **honor** or to **dishonor** the LORD?
3. As we draw closer to Jesus’ return, are you assembling **more** or **less**?
4. The Lutheran Study Bible: “Those who despise the Church easily fall from the faith” (2122).

### The Need to Gather with Others

D.L. Moody once called on a leading citizen in Chicago to persuade him to faithfully attend his church. They were seated in the man’s parlor. It was winter and coal was burning in the fireplace. The man objected that he could be just as good a Christian outside the church as in it. Moody said nothing, but stepped to the fireplace, took the tongs, picked a blazing coal from the fire and set it off by itself. In silence the two watched it smolder and go out. “I see,” said the man (The Interpreter’s Bible).

Comment: Being a follower of Jesus is to be *in community with each other*; God is our Father, Jesus is our brother, Savior, and Lord, and we are indwelt by the same Holy Spirit; therefore, we *gather with each other, know each*