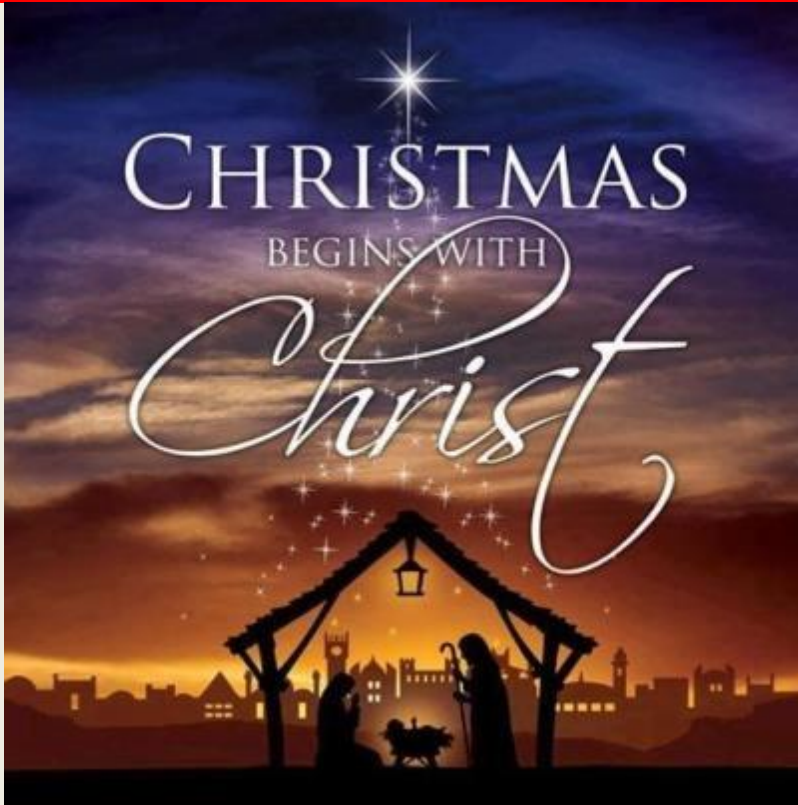




Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Know Jesus – Grow in the Bible – Excel in Loving God and Others!

Monday, December 25 at 10 AM
Christmas Day – 2017



Today's service is **Divine Service, Setting One** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 151-166).

WELCOME:

- **Bethlehem Lutheran:** We are a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church; we believe the Bible is God's Word and, *by God's grace*, we trust in Jesus as our only Savior!
- **Each Week:** We gather, *as the baptized children of God*, to receive His blessings of Word and Sacrament!

- **Visitors:** Welcome! Please introduce yourself to the pastor and take a Visitor Packet from our Narthex!
- **Children:** Use our activity bags (by worship area entrance) and Children's Bibles (in some center pew racks); attend the children's message.
- **Special Needs:** Large print and hearing assistance are available in the Narthex.
- **Please Participate:** C: Congregation; A: All

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION:

Self-Examination Questions:

1. Have I been baptized into Christ? “...all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27).
2. Am I sorry for my sins? “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation” (2 Cor. 7:10).
3. Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior? “...whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).
4. Do I desire to follow God’s Word? “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).
5. Do I believe I will receive bread and Body, wine and Blood, for the forgiveness of my sins? “Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Cor. 10:16).

Who Can Receive Today? Those who answered “yes” to the five questions noted above. For others who want to receive, talk to the pastor.

To Receive at Your Pew: Notify an usher.

Not Receiving Today: All ages are invited to receive a spoken blessing; cross your arms.

Non-Members Who Want to Receive Often: Read the short booklet, [A Simple Explanation of Christianity](#) and the brochures (by our main entrance), and enroll in our Bible Basics Course.

DIVINE SERVICE PREPARATION:

1. **Bell:** Take a service folder and be seated. For a service folder on your smartphone: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/ServiceFolder
2. **Phone:** Please silence at this time.
3. **Prayer by Pastor:** To bless our preparation.
4. **Prelude:** We listen and prepare in silence.

Confession and Absolution

↑ Years ago – *before each Divine Service* – Lutherans practiced *private* confession, but most today practice *corporate* (*pre-service*) confession.

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: We are gathered on a day of great joy to remember our Savior’s birth, yet we also remember why the Son of God came into the world: †to live without sin—for us, †to be punished—for us, and †to lay down His life—for us; so let us confess our sins.

A: **Almighty God, our heavenly Father:**

Your love for us is so great and yet, all too often, our response to You is so little.

You have laid out a wonderful plan for us in Your Word and yet, all too often, we have gone our own way.

We know we do not deserve Your forgiveness, yet we ask You to grant that precious gift to us, on the basis of †Jesus’ finished work and †the faith You have given to us by which we trust in Him.

L: On the basis of your confession and on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, I announce to you God’s forgiveness, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please †face the entrance and †focus on Jesus!

The Service of the Word

ENTRANCE HYMN: LSB, sts. 1-2, 5

Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Refrain

ref **Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain
- 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. Refrain

KYRIE: *Let Us Pray*

- L: *Highest, Most Holy,*
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: *Light of Light Eternal,*
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: *Son of the Father,*
C: **have mercy upon us.**

HYMN OF PRAISE (sung to Mendelssohn, LSB 380):

Glory Be to God on High

1. "Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.
Peace to all who live on earth, grace and favor for new birth.
You we praise and glorify, worship You, O LORD most high.
Gracious Father, heav'nly King. To Your name alone we sing:
Praise and glory of Your name, now and evermore the same!
2. Jesus Christ, the Father's Son.
Sole-begotten, Holy One.
Born on earth from realms on high, Born true Man for us to die.
Lamb of God, you take away this world's sin: Grant peace we pray.
With the Spirit, You alone are most high, O God the Son, And the Father, God above, praise we now Your glorious love.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

- L: The LORD be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

- L: *Let us pray.* Almighty God,
A: **grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin;**
L: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.** ↓ *Children! Please come forward!*

HYMN: **LSB 364, sts. 1 & 3**

Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the [bright] sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

What Is Christmas?



The Christ Is the Winner!

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 52:7-10 ESV

- L: Try to imagine this situation: Your army is at war, while you are back at home anxiously awaiting news of victory or defeat – of celebration or bondage; *then a messenger arrives with good news!*
⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸ The voice of your watchmen-- they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has

comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: The Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: In the OT the Son of God – as the Angel of the LORD – kept rescuing the nation of Israel so that, *in the fullness of time*, He could be born into that nation in order to win the ultimate victory over sin, death, and the devil. Jesus' victory is the very best news of all; now, *by God's grace*, let us believe it, receive it, and celebrate our Savior – *the Christ of Christmas!*

HYMN: **LSB 387, sts. 1 & 4**

Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

PSALM 2 ESV:

L: As nations opposed the LORD-supported David in vain, *so all who opposed the Christ of Christmas did so in vain!*

The Nations Oppose the Lord

L: Why do the nations rage

C: and the peoples plot in vain?

L: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,

C: against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,

L: "Let us burst their bonds apart

C: and cast away their cords from us."

The Lord Establishes His King

L: He who sits in the heavens laughs;

C: the Lord holds them in derision.

L: Then he will speak to them in his wrath,

C: and terrify them in his fury, saying,

L: "As for me, I have set my King

C: on Zion, my holy hill."

The Son's Rule

L: I will tell of the decree:

C: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

L: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

C: and the ends of the earth your possession.

L: You shall break them with a rod of iron

C: and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

A Warning

L: Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

C: be warned, O rulers of the earth.

L: Serve the LORD with fear,

C: and rejoice with trembling.

L: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.

C: Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

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.

HYMN: **LSB 383, sts. 1 & 4**

A Great and Mighty Wonder

1 A great and mighty wonder,

A full and holy cure:

The virgin bears the infant

With virgin honor pure!

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:

**"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"**

- 4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:1-6 ESV

L: Notice in this reading some of the many amazing things that are true of the Christ of Christmas!

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

L: The Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: God created through His Son, and then He spoke through His Son; furthermore, it is through God the Son that we know much about God the Father.

Since we have all sinned, we are so blessed to be purified from our sins through the Christ, God's Holy Son – the One worshiped by angels, and the One who is worthy of our full trust and devotion!

HYMN OF THE DAY: LSB 389, sts. 1, 2, 4, 6

Let All Together Praise Our God

- 1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.
- 2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.
- 4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.
- 6 He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

© 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012222.

↑ HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14 ESV

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O LORD.

L: Notice how the Son of God was with the Father in the beginning; then, in time, He came into the world to be our life and our light!

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

L: The very Son of God came for everyone, *but most did not receive Him*; however, for all who did receive Him then **and** for all who receive Him now, they are the very children of God – *thus forgiven in God's sight and gifted with eternal life!* Therefore, we have every reason to celebrate a Christ-centered Christmas, live with peace and joy, and tell others about the open path to paradise!

HYMN: **LSB 385, sts, 1 & 5**

From East to West

- 1 From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.
- 5 All glory for this blessed morn
To God the Father ever be;
All praise to You, O Virgin-born,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

↑ APOSTLES' CREED

Go to the back of either hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *Let Us Pray*

After Each Petition:

L: LORD, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

- ✦ For God's Word of Truth that exposes sin and promises forgiveness!
- ✦ For our baptism into Christ and the Holy Spirit keeping us in Christ!
- ✦ For hearts full of thanksgiving for the Christ and His saving work!
- ✦ For spiritually blind eyes to see their sin and receive God's salvation!
- ✦ For healing to the sick and comfort to the mourning!
- ✦ For our nation, military, and police!
- ✦ For safety to all who are traveling!
- ✦ For Christ-centered gatherings today with family and friends!

Conclusion:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

OFFERING: *We have given you only what comes from your hand" (1 Chron. 29:14 NIV).*

- ➡ **Offertory**
- ➡ Please complete your attendance slip!
- ➡ Before Communing Prayer: Front of LSB.

The Service of the Sacrament



↑ PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

L: Dear LORD, in the beginning You created all things by the Word, who is Your only begotten Son; then, *because of our sin* and *in the fullness of time*, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Now, with repentant hearts, as we receive the body He gave and the blood He shed, *make us certain of Your forgiveness*; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: *On Good Friday*

PAX DOMINI: *The Peace of the Lord*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

HYMN STANZA: **LSB 346, st. 3**

When All the World Was Cursed

- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win. ↓

© 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012222.

LORD'S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION:

- † Opportunity: It's available, but not required.
- † Reception: Thoughtfully, not mechanically.
- † Come with Sorrow: Jesus took our punishment.
- † Reception Options: Receive His Body *in your hand* or *on your tongue*, His blood *from an*

individual cup or *from the chalice* (the center cups in each tray are alcohol removed wine).

- † Return with Joy: *Your sins are forgiven!*
- † After Communing Prayer: Front of LSB.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: **LSB 370**

What Child Is This

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

↑ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

L: Gracious God, *heavenly Father*, we give You thanks for assuring us that we are forgiven through *the Christ of Christmas*, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: **LSB 388, st. 3**
Go Tell It on the Mountain

ref **Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. Refrain.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:

L: Let us bless the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**
L: The Lord – *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit* – ♦be within you to refresh you, ♦be before you to guide you, ♦be around you to protect you, ♦be beneath you to uphold you, and ♦be above you to bless you.
C: Amen. ↓

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Thanks for Decorating Our Chancel

To God be the glory!



You may take your poinsettia home after tonight's service – HELP YOURSELF:
Waltraud Amels, Tim & Janet Chilton, Doris Chmielewski, Miriam Engelman, Natalia Ford, Phil & Inez Giessler, Pastor & Kathy Green, Gloria Hurka, Stacey Jasulevich, Klaus & Ingrid Kitzler, Eleanor Kuhles (in memory of her husband, Richard), Paul Martens, Wil Mild, Paul & Bonnie Moyer, June Murany, Lilli Riechert, June Russell, Jean Smith, Rand & Deb Stender.

Offering Envelopes for 2018

Since all we need comes from God, we acknowledge Him with our giving. Please pick-up your envelopes from a table in the Narthex; if you want some, just let us know.

OUR UPCOMING SPECIAL DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

- **Sunday MORNING**, December 31: ONE Divine Service at 10 AM
 - **Sunday EVENING**, December 31: New Year's Eve Divine Service at 6 PM
- Our regular schedule resumes on January 7*

Connect With Us

Website:	BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com	Podcast:	"Benefit from the Bible" (listen to the sermons)
Facebook:	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"	Address:	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
Church Office:	Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30	Kathy Green:	Secretary@blc7500.com ; 440-845-2230
Childcare Center:	Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00	Tricia Wise:	ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com ; 440-884-0430
Pastor Green:	RevRLGreen@aol.com ; 440-292-5915	Church Body:	lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org