

1. **I believe the Bible is God's Word!**
Bible: "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Tim. 3:16 ESV). "...men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:21 ESV).
2. **I am baptized!** Meaning: God worked through my baptism to clothe me in Christ, forgive my sins, and give me the Holy Spirit. Bible: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38 ESV).
3. **I am sorry for my sins!** Meaning: God knows my thoughts, words, deeds, and attitudes; I am sorry for all of my sins and desire God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus. Bible: "I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5 ESV).
4. **I believe in Jesus for eternal life!**
Meaning: I know I deserve eternal punishment, but, by grace through faith in Jesus, I have God's gift of eternal life. Bible: "...the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23 ESV).
5. **I desire to live for Christ!** Meaning: Since God has made me holy in His sight and set me on the path to heaven through Jesus, I am grateful and desire to live for Christ. Bible: "...he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Cor. 5:15 ESV).

6. **I believe the Lord's Supper is bread and wine, as well as Jesus' very body and blood, to assure me of God's forgiveness!** Meaning: We not only remember Jesus' suffering and death, but also, *by the power of God*, we receive Jesus' very body and blood, with the bread and wine, to assure us of God's forgiveness. Bible: "Take, eat; this is my body." ... "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28 ESV). "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16 ESV).

Since we want everyone to benefit from their reception, do you understand and agree with the six parts listed above?

- If yes, come and receive today.
- If no, come and receive a spoken blessing today; then, after the service or during the week, let's talk. You can contact me (RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915); also, be sure to give me your contact info on the green insert.

Pastor Green

PS: If you are interested in becoming a member and growing in Christ, let me know!

Connect With Us

Website: 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

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Please Read...

Introduction

Hi! We are glad to have you with us today!

We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We look forward to getting better acquainted and being a blessing to you! Please complete the green attendance slip in today's service folder.

Please take a few minutes now to read through this brochure, which includes the following topics:

- ✓ Our view of the Bible
- ✓ How we interpret the Bible
- ✓ Our basic beliefs
- ✓ Our Lord's Supper practice

Our View of the Bible

God moved men to write down His very words, *so the Bible is God's very word to us*. God breathed out His word in the languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. We are blessed with many solid English translations, for example, the NAS, NAU, AAT, NET, ESV, NIV, KJV, and NKJV.

These are some key passages:

- *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever (Is. 40:8 ESV).*
- *The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever (Ps. 119:160 ESV).*
- *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16 ESV).*
- *...no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21 ESV).*

How We Interpret the Bible

- We use the Historical-Grammatical method. To explain that in very simple terms, *we take the Bible to mean what it says*. For example, the Bible says, *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1 ESV)*. So that is what we believe: not evolution, but creation.
- We use Scripture to interpret Scripture. Much of the Bible is very

straightforward and easy to understand; however, when a passage is difficult to understand, we use other passages on that same topic to help us rightly understand the one that is difficult. By using that method, *God is telling us the meaning*.

Our Basic Beliefs

Old Testament:

- God created a perfect world, which includes plants, trees, animals, and people.
- Shortly after the people were created, they fell into sin, which brought many negative consequences, including a broken relationship with God, pain, suffering, eventual physical death, and eventual eternal punishment.
- However, God still loved the people, so He promised to send His Son to take away their sins. Through God-given faith in the coming Savior, those people were restored in their relationship with God.
- In many ways, especially through the required sacrifices, God kept pointing people ahead to the coming Savior.

New Testament:

- In the fullness of time God sent His Son into the world; He was born of the Virgin Mary, and given the name Jesus.
- First, Jesus lived a sinless life – even

though He was tempted in every way just as we are; then, second, He received all sins and all eternal punishment, and then He laid down His life.

- Now, God is calling all people to:
 - Acknowledge their sins and their helplessness to save themselves (we are helpless because no one can make himself righteous; Rom. 3:20).
 - Be sorry for their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.
- For all who trust in Jesus as their Savior, God is calling them to grow in understanding the Bible, to gather with other believers each week to receive His gifts through word and sacrament, and to live for Jesus.

Our Lord's Supper Practice

The Supper can certainly give us much assurance that our sins are forgiven through Jesus; however, the Bible says, *"...anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body [and blood] eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1Co. 11:29 ESV)*. Therefore, to help people to *avoid the judgment* and *receive the benefit*, the Bible also says, *"Let a person examine himself" (1Co. 11:28 ESV)*. For all who desire to receive the Supper at Bethlehem, please use the rest of this brochure to examine yourself. As you read, ask yourself:

- ➔ Do I understand?
- ➔ Do I agree?