



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Truth – Relevance – Inspiration**

**Saturday, 12/17 at 4 pm; Sunday, 12/18 at 9 am**

**Church Year: Fourth Sunday of Advent – 2022**

**Service Notes:** This is our service for **Saturday** and **Sunday**; the two days are both similar and different:

- Both days include important readings, beautiful hymns, and serious prayers.
- **Saturday:** Mr. Harold Weseloh will lead you through a non-communion service (since Pastor and Kathy will be attending their niece's wedding).
- **Sunday:** Pastor will lead you through this same folder, alone with the Lord's Supper.



This Service Is **Divine Service, Setting Three** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 184-202).

**DIVINE SERVICE:** *Let us gladly receive God's gifts!*

- ♦ **Visitors:** Welcome! Please take a visitor basket (Narthex) and introduce yourself to the pastor.
- ♦ **Prayer Request:** Use a "yellow" card (Narthex).
- ♦ **Young Children:** Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex); Children's Message (please come forward).

- ♦ **Phone:** Please silence.
- ♦ **Hearing Assistance:** Available in the Narthex.
- ♦ **Service Folder:** Get it on your smartphone: [www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder](http://www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder)
- ♦ **Worship From Your Car:** Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).

**WELCOME – THE SEASON OF ADVENT:**

L: Jesus is coming!

C: **Let us live in continual repentance!**

**PRESERVICE CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

(Isaiah 40:8; Rom. 3:23; 5:6-8; John 3:16; 1:29; John 20:21-23)

L: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: Since we believe God’s Word over our feelings, ♦we know we have sinned and ♦we know we cannot save ourselves.

C: **We also know about:**

- ➔ **God’s great love,**
- ➔ **Jesus’ sinless life, and**
- ➔ **Jesus’ perfect sacrifice.**

L: Now, *being confident that God will be merciful to us,* let us confess our wrongs.

A: **Almighty God, since You know everything:**

- ➔ **show us our sins,**
  - ➔ **make us sorry,**
  - ➔ **look upon us with favor,**
  - ➔ **shower us with Your forgiveness, and**
  - ➔ **keep us on the path to everlasting life.**
- Amen.**

L: Since we have godly sorrow and God-given trust in Jesus for eternal life, *and since God’s promises cannot fail,* let us be certain of God’s forgiveness and membership in His holy family; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**PRELUDE:** The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came  
Arr. Callahan (Gabriel’s Message)

*Since, through Jesus, our sins are forgiven,  
let us be in awe of God’s love and mercy!*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**↑ INVOCATION – We remember God’s work to clothe us in the righteousness of Christ:**

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

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Sunday – Procession:** *We focus on God’s OT word, which keeps pointing us toward the coming Messiah!*

See the words below / TLH 62 / LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

**KYRIE** (Mark 10:46-52): *Let Us Pray:*

L: O Lord: *You are Emmanuel – God with us,*

C: **have mercy upon us.**

L: O Christ: *You came to set us free,*

C: **have mercy upon us.**

L: O Lord: *You know the path of knowledge,*

C: **have mercy upon us.**

**SALUTATION and COLLECT:**

L: The LORD be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: *Let us pray.* Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓

**Sunday ➔ CHOIR:** The Lord’s Prayer

Prayer for Debbie Stender – Scheduled for a difficult hip re-replacement (revision) surgery this Tuesday, 12/20, then a long recovery.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:** How Does Our Christmas Tree Tell Us About Jesus? (shape, color, lights, ornaments)



## Come, Lord Jesus!

L: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C: **that the mountains might quake at your presence.**

L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C: **and in his word I hope;**

L: my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

C: **more than watchmen for the morning.**

L: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

C: **and with him is plentiful redemption.**

L: And he will redeem Israel

C: **from all his iniquities.**

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: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C: **that the mountains might quake at your presence.**

**HYMN:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

See the words below / TLH 62 / LSB 357

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

What was the situation? Ahaz, the king of Judah, was filled with great fear – *because Syria and Israel were planning to attack!*

How did the LORD help? He sent Isaiah to tell Ahaz to not be afraid – *because Syria and Israel would not attack.*

This is how the LORD tried to give assurance to Ahaz: <sup>10</sup> ...the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol [as hell] or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” // Ahaz did not ask because he did not believe.

Isaiah expressed his disappointment: <sup>13</sup> Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David [referring to Ahaz and all of Judah]! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?”

So, the LORD gave two signs:

1. The sign **AFTER** the lifetime of Ahaz: <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
2. The sign **DURING** the lifetime of Ahaz: <sup>15</sup> He [speaking of another child to be born] shall eat curds and honey [a sign of restoration in the land] when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good [pointing to a time of some maturity for the child]. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. // That is the reason why Ahaz should not fear; the nations who thought they would conquer would themselves be conquered. Let us always trust the LORD and be at peace!

**HYMN:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

See the words below / TLH 62 / LSB 357

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

**Refrain**

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

**EPISTLE: Romans 1:1-7 NAS-95**

Look for ♦Paul's identity, ♦Jesus' identify, and  
♦the great blessings we have through Jesus!

*One long sentence as Paul begins his very important  
letter to the Christians in Rome.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, <sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; <sup>7</sup> to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called *as* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN:** *God Loves Me Dearly*

See the words below / LSB 392

1 God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.**

2 I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working, To make me free.

**Refrain**

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25 NAS-95**

Let Us Marvel at the Birth of Our Savior

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

**C: Glory to You, O LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:

- when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.
- <sup>20</sup> But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."
- <sup>22</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."
- <sup>24</sup> And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him,

and took *Mary* as his wife,<sup>25</sup> but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN:** *God Loves Me Dearly*

See the words below / LSB 392

3 He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus, And set me free. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Therefore I'll say again:**

**God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.**

4 Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. **Refrain**

5 Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You, All my life long. **Refrain**

**Benedictus – The Song of Zechariah**

(LSB 226) (Luke 1:68-79)

**Praise to the LORD for Sending Jesus**

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel;

C: **for He has visited and redeemed His people**

L: and has raised up a horn of salvation for us

C: **in the house of His servant David,**

L: as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,

C: **who have been since the world began:**

L: that we should be saved from our enemies

C: **and from the hand of all who hate us;**

L: to perform the mercy promised to our fathers

C: **and to remember His holy covenant,**

L: the oath that He swore to our father Abraham,

C: **to grant us that we,**

L: being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

C: **might serve Him without fear,**

L: in holiness and righteousness before Him

C: **all the days of our life.**

**A Beautiful Prophecy about John the Baptizer**

L: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

C: **for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways;**

L: to give knowledge of salvation to His people

C: **in the forgiveness of their sins,**

L: through the tender mercy of our God;

C: **when the day shall dawn upon us from on high**

L: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

C: **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

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.**

- **Thanks for honoring the LORD:** By giving to His work ♦first, ♦proportionately, and ♦faithfully.
- **Offering:** A plate is available in the center aisle.

**Saturday → ↑ PRAYER:**

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, *let us pray to the Lord:*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, *let us pray to the Lord:*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, *let us pray to the Lord:*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, *let us pray to the Lord:*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, *let us pray to the Lord:*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, *let us pray to the Lord:*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, *let us pray to the Lord:*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For these additional requests..., *let us pray to the Lord:*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Finally, for those named and for all our needs of body and soul, *let us pray to the Lord:*

**C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *See back of either hymnal*

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

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

**Saturday → Skip ahead to page 9**

**↑ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** *Let Us Pray*

**After Each Petition:** L: LORD, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**Reminder:** God always can help and heal, but it doesn't mean He always will; *most important is knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord!*

**For our Nation**

➔ **Armed Forces:** *For toughness, strength, and courage!* James Martin, Chris Sala, Warren Gellings, Nick Riviotta, Jacob Smith, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh

➔ **Safety Forces:** *For community support, judicial support, courage, and safety!*

**For our Congregation**

NAU **James 5:16 ...pray for one another...**

➔ **Comfort and Peace:** For all who are mourning the passing of **Jerry Huttner** to heaven. He passed on Wednesday, 12/14. His funeral is scheduled for Monday, 12/19 at Bethlehem: Greet the family 10 to 11; funeral at 11. Please pray for Nancy, Paul, and Jackie.

➔ **Altar Flowers:**

- By Miriam Engelman in memory of her husband, Fred.
- For Pastor & Kathy's 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, 12/17.

➔ **Christmas Services:** Please pray for:

- Good weather
- A focus on the meaning of Christmas
- A desire to gather and worship Jesus
- Blessings on the preparation
- Many to attend both days and benefit
- Many to desire to return each week

➔ **Care:** *For those who cannot attend: Wally A, Helga B, David C, Jeanette D, Carole G, Nancy H, Edmund & Christl K, Elsa M, Regina M, Bonnie M, Connie P, June R, Jean S, Mike & Susanna T* (They get a mailing each week and a visit each month. Someone missing? Let us know!)

➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Norma S (*leader*); Alan C, Nancy B (*ministers*); and care receivers.

➔ **Grief Share:** A new program will begin on Tues, 3/7 at 6:30; to register, contact Norma S.

➔ **Health Concerns:** *See below for names and needs, then pray accordingly! Thanks!*

- **Mike Coufalik** (1) – vertigo, hearing issue.
- **Carol Dickau** (1) – hip replacement rehab.
- **Trudy Fischler** (1) – hip replacement rehab.
- **Eleanor Lewis** (1) – skin cancer.
- **Jim Jenni** (2) – stroke rehab.

- **Connie Pysz** (1) – dialysis.
- **Debbie Stender** (2) – hip re-replacement surgery on **12/20**.
- **Bill Sweeny** (1) – dialysis, rehab.
- **Harold Weseloh** (3) – eye and heart issues.

### **For Others**

#### ➔ **Health Concerns:**

- **Kimberly Borland** (2) – rare connective tissue disorder, upcoming surgery.
- **Melanie Himmelberger** (3) – bone cancer.
- **Elsa Manti** (1) – congestive heart failure.
- **Dave McCollum** (3) – stroke rehab.
- **Michelle Schneider** (2) – liver biopsy.
- **Mark Woodward** (1) – lung cancer, chemo.

### **Celebrate and Give Thanks**

#### **Physical Birthdays:**

12/18 Eileen Kovach  
12/24 Candace Craft

#### **Spiritual Birthdays:**

12/19 Don Dickau

### **This Week: 12/18 – 12/25**

#### **Sunday:**

- ➔ **9:00** Divine Service
- ➔ **10:15** Prayer – see a Stephen Minister
- ➔ **10:15** Refreshments – Join us down the hall
- ➔ **10:30** Classes:
  - ★ Adults and Youth: The Christmas Story: Studying through Luke chapters 1 and 2
  - ★ Children: God Sends the Final Plague

#### **Monday:**

- ➔ **6:30** – Youth Confirmation

#### **Wednesday:**

- ➔ **9:30** – BFC Bible Time

#### **Thursday:**

- ➔ **10:00** – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

### **Saturday – CHRISTMAS EVE:**

- ➔ **4:00** Divine Service

### **Sunday – CHRISTMAS DAY:**

- ➔ **10:00** Divine Service

#### **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. ↓

#### **Let Us Have the Attitude of Jesus When He Prayed:**

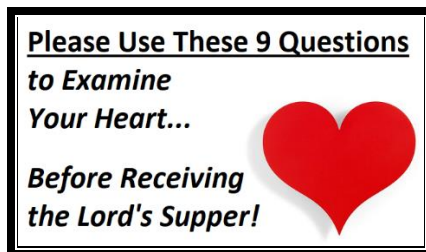
Not My will, but Your will be done. Then, *let us accept God's will and be at peace in Jesus!*

### **Sunday ➔ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

#### **SUPPER PREPARATION –**

#### **LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:**

The Supper can certainly give us much assurance that our sins are forgiven through Jesus, *but self-examination is essential: "Let a person examine himself" (1Co. 11:28 ESV).*



#### **Part 1: Am I a Christian?**

1. **Do I believe the Bible is true?** Y N
2. **Am I sorry for my sins** (admitting them and wanting to turn from them)? Y N

3. **Am I trusting in Jesus alone** (*in who He is – the Son of God, and what He did – living as my sinless substitute, receiving my sins and eternal punishment, and laying down His life*) **for my entrance into heaven?** Y N
4. **Am I baptized?** Y N
5. **Do I desire to live for Christ?** Y N

**Summary:** A Christian knows the Bible is true, is sorry for his sins, is trusting in Jesus alone for eternal life, has been baptized into Christ, and desires to live for Christ! If those things are true for you, *then you are a Christian!* If not, let's schedule a time to talk!

### Part 2: Am I right with others?

1. **Am I reconciled with others?** Y N
2. **Am I forgiving others?** Y N

**Summary:** Even if others refuse to reconcile or accept our forgiveness, *it is vital for us to try to work things out and extend forgiveness!* Are such things true in your life? If not, repent!

### Part 3: Do I believe what the Bible says about the Lord's Supper?

1. **Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, wine, and blood?** Y N
2. **Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins?** Y N

**Summary:** Since all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), Jesus gave His body and shed His blood to provide forgiveness. In the Lord's Supper, by the power of God, Jesus' given body has been united to the bread and Jesus' shed blood has been united to the wine. Since Christians cannot live sinless lives (Eccl. 7:20), the Lord's Supper is God's way of assuring us that – *in Christ* – we are forgiven. Do you believe such things? If not, let's schedule a time to talk!

↑ **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:** *Spoken on the evening before He finished His saving work!*

**PAX DOMINI:** *The Peace of the Lord*

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

**HYMN:** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

See the words below / LSB 621

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
Comes our homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

### DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:

- ◆ Receiving at your pew: Please inform an usher.
- ◆ Alcohol-Removed Wine: Center of each tray.
- ◆ After the Agnus Dei: Come forward to the railing.
- ◆ Receive. Go in peace. Return via the side aisle.
- ◆ Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

**DURING DISTRIBUTION:** Breath of Heaven  
Grant/ Larson (Mary's Song)

### LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL



**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:** *Let Us Pray*

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



## Continue Here on Saturday

**HYMN:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

See the words below / LSB 393

- 1 Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, Angels singing,  
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, Heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

**BENEDICTION:** *Believe and Be Blessed*

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord  
make his face shine upon you and be gracious  
unto you; the Lord lift up His *countenance*  
(face) upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:**

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

**READ → THINK → SHARE:**

**Read:** "...the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14  
NAS-95).

**Think:** Apart from modern medicine, a virgin  
cannot have a child! *Yet God promised it and  
caused it to happen!* Why? Who was the virgin?  
Who was the child? He came for your benefit, but  
are you receiving those benefits?

**Share:** *Challenge someone to Read and Think!*

**Help Us Bless a Family this Christmas**

**We would like to bless a family in need within  
our congregation this Christmas!** There are  
envelopes available in the narthex! You may put  
your blessing in the offering plate or give it to  
Kathy Green. **We will be collecting through  
TODAY, 12/18.** Thanks for your generosity!

**Note:** Due to the holidays on the Christmas and  
New Year weekends, there will be no classes.  
Our regular schedule resumes on Saturday,  
January 7 and Sunday, January 8.

## Christmas Services

**Christmas EVE – Saturday at 4:00**

**Christmas DAY – Sunday at 10:00**

Advent and Christmas 2022

You  
Are  
Invited



www.BLC7500.com

## GUIDANCE FOR FAITHFULNESS



### Why should we gather?

- God created the world in which we live!
- By God we exist, live, and move!
- Jesus suffered and died to save us!
- Our Great God is worthy of our worship!
- We have God's gospel command to receive His gifts each week!
- For all who attend with open ears, minds, and hearts, they will be blessed with wonderful assurance and guidance!

### Excuses: We are all skilled at making them.

- Some are legit, *so be at peace.*
- Others are lame, *so they are sinful.*

### Each week we are gifted with 168 hours:

- Jesus calls us to seek **first** God's kingdom and His righteousness.
- So, it is proper to make our gathering at Bethlehem – **for service and study** – the top priority each week.

### Don't wing it, plan it:

- Each week you have two options for service and class – **Sat and Sun.**
- Like to sleep in? *Attend on Saturday.*
- Might snow? *Attend on the day the weather is better.*
- Is the big game Sunday? *Attend on Sat.*
- Have guests in your house? *Bring them with you.*

Since God – *the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit* – have done and continue to do SO MUCH for us every day, let us ☞rightly honor them, ☞grow up as Christians, ☞be equipped to live for Christ, and ☞stop living like the faithless hell-bound world.

## New Year Services

**New Year's EVE – Saturday at 4:00**

**New Year's DAY – Sunday at 10:00**



**We Do Not Know  
What the Future Holds  
But We Know the One  
Who Holds the Future!**

Note: Due to the holidays on the Christmas and New Year weekends, there will be no classes. Our regular schedule resumes on Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8.

## Blessings on Your Week

### Stay Close to Jesus!

➔ **Listen** to God through His word: *These are special readings at Bethlehem for Christmas Eve and Day:*



- **Christmas Eve:** Micah 5:2-5a; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
- **Christmas Day:** Is. 62:10-12; Ps. 98; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-14) 15-20
- Attend “Living the Lutheran Lectionary” on Thursdays at 10:00
- Listen to Issues Etc.: Available at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)
- Listen to The Lutheran Hour: Sundays at 6:30 AM on WTAM 1100; Sundays at 8:00 AM on WHKW 1220

➔ **Talk** to God through prayer.

➔ **Watch** Worship Anew – *A Lutheran Service for shut-ins:* Sundays at 11:30 AM: Cox: 12; Direct TV: 67, 377; Dish: 47

➔ **Pray** for those in need.

➔ **Reach** out to those who are lost.

➔ **Use** Your Abilities: See a “Ways to Serve” brochure (by the main entrance).

➔ **Gather** here this Wednesday and Saturday / Sunday!

## Needs at BLC

### Will You Volunteer?

➔ **Leadership Team:** We still have openings for Treasurer and Outreach. Prayerfully consider serving.

➔ **Sunday Morning Refreshments:** Thanks to Heather H. and her family! *Please help with cleaning up! Thanks!*

➔ **Ushers:** Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact **Matt Kussmaul (440-668-5475)** or the Church office.

## Thanks For Serving on 12/17 & 12/18

**Altar Guild:** Don & Carol D

**Saturday:** Music: Kathy G; Usher: Matt K

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P

Pastor Team: Matthias M

Ushers: Terry T, Larry H

Refreshments: Doris C, Miriam E

Sunday School: Kathy G, Cedrick H

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Linda W

## Thanks For Serving on 12/24 & 12/25

**Altar Guild:** Heather H

**Saturday:** Organist: Gayle P; Usher: Matt K

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P

Pastor Team: Harold W

Ushers: Terry T, Larry H

Refreshments: Doris C, Miriam E

Sunday School: Resumes 1/8/23

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Ken H

## Can I Help You? *Pastor*

- **Bible Question?** Please get it to me in writing.
- **Visit?** Let’s get something scheduled.
- **Private Confession?** Are you struggling due to a particular sin or need assurance of God’s forgiveness? Let’s have a conversation that is *private and spiritually beneficial.*
- **Join?** Let me know, let’s talk: Some can transfer or join by profession of faith; others need to take my Bible Basics course.
- **Baptism?** Take a Baptism Information Packet (*from the rack by the main entrance*).
- **Youth Confirmation?** Let me know. *We meet on most Mondays at 6:30!*
- **Funeral?** It’s good to prepare your service in advance – *choosing readings, hymns, etc.* Take a Funeral Preparation booklet (*from the rack by the main entrance*).

## Your Service Folder

➔ Extra one? Put it in the **green** basket.

## Numbers From Last Week

### Received God's Gifts – Services:

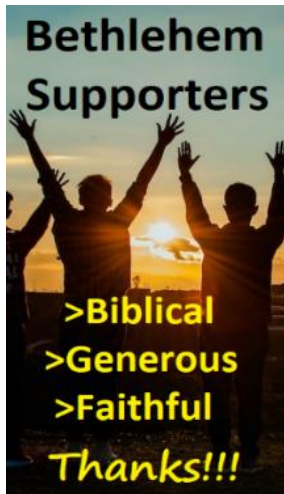
- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **30**; car: **2**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **44**; car: **0**
- Wednesday at 11 & 7 – Inside: **42**; car: **0**

### Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **9**
- Sunday at 10:30: **23**
- Thursday at 10: **8**

### Supported God's Work:

- **Needed** Each Week (budget): **4,826**
- **Received** Last Week (actual): **3310**
- **Gross Surplus YTD**  
As of last week: **20,316 – Thanks!**
- **Net Surplus YTD** As of last month: **10,595 – Thanks!**



## Connect With Us

➔ **Website:** [BLC7500.com](http://BLC7500.com) ➔ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➔ **Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

**Services:** Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00  
**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma  
**Church Office:** Wed & Thu: 9:30-4:00; Sat: 2:00-6:00  
**Pastor Green:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
**Childcare Center:** Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00

**Studies:** Thurs at 10:00; Sat at 3:00; Sun at 10:30  
**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134  
**Kathy Green:** [Secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com); 440-845-2230  
**Church Body:** [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) District: [oh.lcms.org](http://oh.lcms.org)  
**Tricia Wise:** [ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com](mailto:ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com); 440-884-0430