



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Teaching God's Holy Word for the eternal benefit of all people!

**December 24, 2016**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord**



## Who Is the Focus of Your Christmas Celebration? St. Nick or Jesus

*Knowing that only Jesus can make us right in God's sight, let us treasure Him as God's greatest gift!*

L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All

Today's service is **Divine Service, Setting One** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 151-166 and 243-252).

**VISITORS:** *Welcome, thanks for attending!*

- ✦ We want everyone to **know** Jesus as Savior and Lord, **grow** in understanding the Bible, and **excel** in loving God and others!
- ✦ Help yourself to a "Visitor Information" packet in the Narthex!
- ✦ For more about Bethlehem, see the block on the back, or ask an usher or the pastor.

### PREPARATION:

1. **Bell:** Take a service folder and be seated. For a service folder on your smartphone: [www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/ServiceFolder](http://www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/ServiceFolder)
2. **The Season of Christmas:**
  - L: He came!
  - C: **Let us rejoice!**
3. **Prelude:** "Breathe of Heaven" Grant/Larson  
We listen in silence as we prepare our hearts to receive God's gifts!

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

- L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: The Bible says that "all have sinned."
- C: **That includes me and all people.**
- L: The Bible says that "the wages of sin is death."
- C: **That includes spiritual death, physical death, and eternal punishment.**

- L: The Bible says that all people are spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God.
- C: **We desperately need God's spiritual blessings of sight, life, and friendship.**
- L: Christmas is God's gift of the Christ, who came to restore our broken relationship. Let us pray together:
- A: **Dear LORD, show us our sins, make us sorry, and give us faith to trust in the Christ of Christmas.**
- L: On Easter Sunday, Jesus said to His disciples: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven... Therefore, upon your confession, I – speaking on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ – forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

Please ↑ arise and face the entrance!

### PROCESSION EXPLANATION:

- L: The Bible: It is God's Word; it tells of our sin, Jesus' birth, and Jesus' finished work;
- C: **He saved us from our sins!**
- L: The Lit Christ Candle: It represents Jesus' earthly presence with us;
- C: **He is the Light of the World!**
- L: The Processional Crucifix: It reminds us of Jesus' suffering and death on our behalf;
- C: **By His wounds we are healed!**

## VERSICLES and PROCESSION:

L: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

L: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C: **We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.**

L: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

## Service of the Word

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

*Glory Be to God on High*

**The lighting of the Candles, Star, and Tree!  
Then the lights are all turned on!**

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.* O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes again to give us the fullness of eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓

## HYMN:

**LSB 364, sts. 1, 3**

*Away in a Manger*

**Children – Please come forward now!**

- 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:

The True Christmas Story

All children (parents) are welcome!



**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 ESV** – *These words point to the first coming of Jesus!*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.... <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN:** **LSB 349, sts. 1-2**

*Hark the Glad Sound*

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

**PSALM 96:1-5 ESV – *Being saved through Jesus, we sing, tell, declare, and fear (trust)!***

L: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

**C: sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

L: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

**C: tell of his salvation from day to day.**

L: Declare his glory among the nations,

**C: his marvelous works among all the peoples!**

L: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

**C: he is to be feared above all gods.**

L: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

**C: but the LORD made the heavens.**

**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!

**Refrain: 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' em,  
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain.

**EPISTLE: Titus 2:11-14 ESV – *Being saved through Jesus, we seek to honor Him!***

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce [*reject*] ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**↑ HYMN:** **LSB 367, st. 1**

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

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20 ESV – *The true Christmas Story, our Savior is born!***

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the

town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,<sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.<sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.<sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."<sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.<sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.<sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

**CHOIR:** "An Antiphonal Noel"

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** TSC 94, sts. 1, 6

*The First Noel*

The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought  
And with his blood mankind has bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

**SERMON:** Who Is the Focus of Your Christmas Celebration? St. Nick or Jesus

*See today's brochure insert!*

**Benefit from the Sermon:**

- ✦ Read through the brochure again!
- ✦ Compare the brochure with your celebration; are any changes necessary?
- ✦ Share a copy of the brochure with a relative, friend, neighbor, or coworker!

**HYMN:** LSB 387, sts. 1, 3

*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.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

↑ **APOSTLES' CREED** (*Second Article – Redemption, and Luther's Explanation – in the form of questions and answers*):

- L: What is the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed?
- C: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- L: Who is Jesus Christ?
- C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.**
- L: What has your Lord Jesus done for you?
- C: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil.**
- L: With what did Jesus buy you back?
- C: Not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.**
- L: Why did Jesus buy you back?
- C: That I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.**
- L: What makes you certain of such things?
- C: He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity.**
- A: This is most certainly true.**

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

After Each Petition:

L: Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

- ✦ For Jesus' coming, living, dying, and rising to remove our sins!

- ✦ For Christ-centered Christmas celebrations!
- ✦ For our use of the True Christmas Story insert with our families and friends!
- ✦ For our nation, leaders, and military!
- ✦ For all who need physical healing!
- ✦ For all who do not yet know Jesus!
- ✦ For an ongoing hunger for God's Word!
- ✦ For faithfulness in living God's Word!

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.** ↓

**PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Need prayer?** Do one or more of the following:

- ✦ Compete a Request Card (Narthex table racks).
- ✦ Meet up front after each Sunday service:  
Someone will pray for you.
- ✦ Call the Prayer Chain (440-886-2089): Various members will pray for you.
- ✦ Get on the Church List (440-845-2230):  
Everyone should pray for you.
- ✦ Get on Pastor's List (440-292-5915): He will pray for you.

**Each day:** Use the prayers in the back of Portals or Meditations, or My Daily Prayer Guide (tract rack).

**Often:** Pray through our church prayer list.

**Often:** Update the church office about those on our church prayer list.

**OFFERING:** *Let us honor the Lord!*

Since God faithfully provides for us, let us honor Him by giving faithfully and proportionately!

- ✓ **Offertory: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"**  
Aaron David Miller
- ✓ Please complete your attendance slip!
- ✓ Before Communing Prayer – see front of LSB.

† **Service of the Sacrament** †

We now offer the Lord's Supper every Sunday; please faithfully prepare, receive, and benefit!

## LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION: *Get Ready*

### Self-Examination Questions:

1. Have I been baptized into Christ (*Gal. 3:27*)?
2. Do I feel sad about my sins (*2 Cor. 7:10-11*)?
3. Is Jesus my Savior and my Lord (*John 3:16*)?
4. Do I believe I will receive bread & *Body*, wine & *Blood*, for the forgiveness of my sins (*1 Co. 10:16; Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Co. 11:23-25*)?
5. Do I desire to follow God's Word (*James 1:22*)?

**Who Can Receive Today?** Everyone who answered "yes" to the five questions noted above (*if you are not an LCMS member, please talk to the pastor about becoming a member of this congregation*).

**Receive at Your Pew:** Please notify an usher.

**Everyone Not Receiving Today:** People of all ages are invited to come forward for a *spoken blessing!*

## ↑ 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.**

### AGNUS DEI (LSB 163): *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; grant - - - - us peace. ↓

## LORD'S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION and DISMISSAL:

- † Come with sorrow: Jesus took your punishment.
- † Remember what you are receiving: **Jesus' Body** – *united to the bread*, and **Jesus' Blood** – *united to the wine*, **for the forgiveness of your sins.**
- † 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).

- † Right after the dismissal: Respond with "Amen!"
- † Return with joy: *Your sins are forgiven!*
- † After Communing Prayer: See the front of LSB.

## HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION: **LSB 392**

### *God Loves Me Dearly*

- 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

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

- 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

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (Christmas):

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.**



## INDIVIDUAL CANDLES ARE LIT:

Organist – Bless us with beautiful music.

Ushers – Come forward with a candle.

Congregation – Tip your unlit candle to light it.  
Pass the flame to those in your pew.

## HYMN:

LSB 363

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**1 – All:** Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

**1 – All:** Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

**2 – Choir:** Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

**3 – All:** Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## HYMN:

LSB 388

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

## Refrain:

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

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. **Refrain.**
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain.**
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain.**

***Please extinguish your candle!***

## 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:

*"Carols"*

*Rejoicing in Jesus as our Savior,  
let us honor Him as our Lord!*

## Be a Blessing

- ✦ **Reach Out with God's Word:** Share a Bethlehem sermon, brochure, or card!

- ✦ **Leave a Bethlehem Business Card:** With your restaurant tip, etc.; write a note on the back: "Thank YOU," "Excellent Service," "Happy New Year," etc.

- ✦ **Offer a Ride to Church:** Love your family and friends; invite them to come with you!
- ✦ **Check in on Facebook:** Be positive!

## Thanks for Decorating Our Chancel

*To God be the glory!*

You may take your poinsettia home after tonight's service – **HELP YOURSELF:**



Nancy Burton, Tim & Janet  
 Chilton, Natalia Ford, Phil & Inez Giessler, Pastor & Kathy Green, Edna Hotz, Gloria Hurka, Stacey Jasulevich, Klaus & Ingrid Kitzler, Jim & Eileen Kovach, Eleanor Kuhles, Paul Martens, Diane Martin, Paul & Bonnie Moyer, June Murany, Ed & Connie Pysz, June Russell, Jean Smith, Rand & Deb Stender, Terry & Lynda Tomasch.

## Offering Envelopes for 2017

We say "thanks" to God with our giving. Please pick-up your envelopes from a table in the Narthex; if you want some, let us know.

## Let us worship our Great God who put on flesh to take away our sins!

- ✦ **Sunday, December 25** – Christmas Day  
 Service at 10:00: Learn more about LSB 367: Angels from the Realms of Glory
- ✦ **Saturday, December 31** – New Year's Eve  
 Service at 7 PM (attend 12/31 OR 1/1)
- ✦ **Sunday, January 1, 2017** – New Year's Day  
 Service at 10:00: What's So Special about the Name of Jesus? Luke 2:21 and more!
- ✦ **Regular Schedule:** Resumes on January 8.

## ABOUT US

- ✦ **Beliefs:** We believe the Bible is true and trust in Jesus as our only Savior!
- ✦ **Assurance:** We want everyone to be certain of God's forgiveness through Jesus!
- ✦ **Growth:** We want everyone to understand the Bible and live according to it!
- ✦ **Children:** Bibles (center pew racks); Bags (worship entrance); Nursery (sometimes staffed).
- ✦ **Special Needs:** Large print and hearing assistance are available in the narthex.
- ✦ **Lord's Supper:** Learn our practice by seeing our explanation in this folder.
- ✦ **Congregation:** Find out more by taking a Visitor Information packet.
- ✦ **Podcast:** Our sermons on your smartphone or tablet: "Benefit from the Bible"
- ✦ **Schedule:** **Sundays** – Service 8:00; Refreshments 9:10; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45  
**Mondays** – Service 7 PM
- ✦ **Join Us:** Keep attending and tell the pastor of your interest to join.

How can we help you?  
 Let us know.

See the block below or talk to the Pastor or a Pastor Assistant after today's service.

## 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
- Pastor Assistants:** Alan Carlson, Ray Dmytriw, Matt Hlavacek, Jerry Huttner, and Brian Zeleznikar
- 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)