



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2024

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 4/20 at 4 pm; Sunday, 4/21 at 9 am



**Welcome:** “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD’” (Ps. 122:1 NAS).

**Church Year:** Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Divine Service:** Setting One, LSB 151-166.

**Today:** We are focusing on our relationship with each other as believers in Jesus!

- ☺ **Visitors:** Welcome! Please complete an attendance slip and let us know how we can help!
- ☺ **Prayer Request:** Use a “yellow” card (Narthex).
- ☺ **Young Children:** Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).
- ☺ **All Children:** Children’s Message (join us).
- ☺ **Phone:** Please put on silent.
- ☺ **Hearing Assistance:** Available in the Narthex.
- ☺ **Service Folder:** Available 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).

**BELL and CANDLELIGHTING** – Please be seated!

**PRELUDE:** Sunday → Majesty Hayford  
*We listen in silence...*

↑ **CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C: Amen.**

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1Jo. 1:8-9*

Silence for self-examination.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**A: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean.**

- I have sinned against You in *thought, word, and deed*, by what I *have done* and by what I *have left undone*.
- I have *not* loved You with my whole heart; I have *not* loved my neighbors as myself.
- I justly deserved Your *present and eternal punishment*.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may *delight* in Your will and *walk* in Your ways to the *glory* of Your holy name. Amen.

L: The Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C: Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ➡ Hymn

Sunday ➡ Entrance Hymn and Procession

**HYMN:** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*  
See the words below / LSB 475

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory  
That love, that life which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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**KYRIE** ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

- L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** *This Is the Feast*

LSB 155

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

**Refrain:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

1. Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. **Refrain**
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength,  
and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.  
**Refrain**
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in  
the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-  
or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the  
Lamb for-ev-er. A - men. **Refrain**
4. For the Lamb\_\_\_\_\_ who was slain\_\_ has  
be - gun his reign. Al-le-lu-----ia. **Refrain**

## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

L: The LORD be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray: Almighty God, merciful Father,  
since You have wakened from death the  
Shepherd of Your sheep, fill us with Your Holy  
Spirit so that when we hear the voice of our  
Shepherd we may know Him who calls us  
each by name and follow where He leads;  
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓ Children! Please come forward!

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** Our Stuff...

+ Where did it come from?

+ Can we take it to heaven?



**FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35 NAS-95**

*It will be read during the sermon!*

**PSALM: 23 ESV**

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

When the LORD is our shepherd, we have all we need – *both now and forever!*

- L: The LORD is my shepherd;  
**C: I shall not want.**  
L: He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
**C: He leads me beside still waters.**  
L: He restores my soul.  
**C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**  
L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
**C: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**  
L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
**C: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**  
L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
**C: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**  
**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.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24 NAS-95**

Pew Bible Page 1901 / Own Bible

Love is sacrificial action!

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that [Jesus] laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup> We will know by this [*loving in deed and truth*] that we are of the truth, and will assure our

heart before Him <sup>20</sup> in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

<sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. <sup>23</sup> This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this [*the keeping of His commandments*] that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**↑ ALLELUIA and VERSE**

**LSB 156**

*John 6:68*

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e-ter-nal life.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1666 / Own Bible

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is amazing! *Let us always hear His voice and respond rightly!*

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

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

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. <sup>13</sup> *He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, <sup>15</sup> even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."

<sup>16</sup> “I have other sheep [that is, Gentiles], which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.”

<sup>17</sup> “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup> No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

**HYMN:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

**Sing to the tune of LSB 414**

See the words below / TLH 464 / LSB 649

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Father’s throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.
- 4 When here our pathways part,  
We suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,  
We hope to meet again.
- 5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.

SERMON: Acts 4:32-35

NAS-95



## Amazing Unity and Love Among the Believers!

1. **Amazing Unity:** <sup>32</sup> And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.
2. **Marveling at the Resurrection:** <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.
3. **Applying the Resurrection:** <sup>34</sup> For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales <sup>35</sup> and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

**Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon**

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

↑ **HYMN:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

See the words below / TLH 644 / **LSB 805**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**APOSTLES’ CREED:** *See back of either hymnal*

**Offering:** Plates are available in the center aisle.

**The LORD Is So Good to Us:** “You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16).

**Request a Prayer:** Complete a PRAYER REQUEST card (available in the Narthex). Want a prayer sent through our prayer chain? Call or text Kathy G: 440-785-3802

**Prayer List Procedure:** Names on our list with a (3) need to be renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person to see how he/she is doing; then give Kathy an update. For non-members on our list, *share their address with Kathy* (secretary@blc7500.com).

**After Each Petition:** L: LORD, in Your mercy.  
C: Hear our prayer.

### Nation

- ➔ **Woke:** Even though many are spinning it as good, *let us know it is a secular religion that seeks to destroy our God-bestowed freedoms!* (Join us in Bible class to learn more!)
- ➔ **Armed Forces:** Strength and honor to all who serve, including Chris Sala, Nick Riviotta, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, and Chris Weseloh.

### Congregation

- ➔ **Filled with the Holy Spirit:** Let us desire to be filled and surrender our will to God's will; *then the Spirit will use us in amazing ways!*
- ➔ **Christian Unity:** Through knowing Jesus we are all members of God's holy family, so let us BE OPEN to helping each other!
- ➔ **Care:** People who normally cannot attend and are struggling with chronic issues: Wally A, Helga B, Roger D, Carole G, Lois K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Connie P, June R, Jean S, Gertrude S, Mike & Susanna T. (They receive mailings and visits.)
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Pray for Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, Rhonda S, Bill S (ministers), and their care receivers.
- ➔ **Grief Share:** Pray for wisdom for the facilitators and truth, comfort, salvation, and openness to Bethlehem for the participants.

- ➔ **Mourning:** Comfort and peace for Paul Sr., Paul Jr., Desiree, and Matthias Moyer, mourning the death of *Bonnie* who passed away on 4/18. Funeral at BLC this week; TBA.
- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - Doris Chmielewski (3) strength, balance.
  - Jim Jenni (3) stroke, rehab success.
  - Connie Pysz (3) good care, comfort, healing.
  - Cindy Taress (1) kidney surg (4-15), br. foot.
  - Harold Weseloh (3) eye issue; cough; recovering from lung tumor surgery 4/1.
  - Lisa Woodward (3) broken ankle, pain relief.

### For Others

- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - Ali (2) in rehab; good care and recovery.
  - Liam (2) brain surgery 4/13, complications.
  - Michael Beauchesne (1) cont. healing.
  - Melanie Himmelberger (3) bone cancer.
  - Ed Stash (3) cancer, chemo.; pneumonia
  - Lorlei Stein-Sapir (2) liver cancer, peace.
  - Mark Woodward (3) femur fracture and surgery (4-7), pain relief, recovery, strength.

### Celebrate and Give Thanks

#### Physical Birthdays:

4/21 Ashley Kovachik

4/25 Dan Blaha

4/25 Chris Sala

#### Spiritual Birthdays:

4/25 Hilda Kaderle

#### 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. ↓

### THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### SUPPER PREPARATION HYMN:

Turn to LSB 619, sing vv. 1, 3, and 5

## LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

"Let a person examine himself" (1Cor. 11:28 ESV).

### Should I receive the Lord's Supper today?

Yes – if I can answer "Yes" to the nine questions!

More details, pick up the brochure by our entrance.

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

1. **Do I believe the Bible is true?** Y N *John 17:17*
2. **Am I sorry for my sins?** Y N *2 Cor. 7:10*
3. **Am I trusting in Jesus alone for my entrance into heaven?** Y N *Acts 4:12*
4. **Am I baptized?** Y N *Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Tit. 3:5*
5. **Do I desire to live for Christ?** Y N *2 Cor. 5:15*

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

6. **Am I reconciled with others?** Y N *Rom. 12:18*
7. **Am I forgiving others?** Y N *Mark 11:25*

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

8. **Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, body, wine, and blood?** Y N *1 Cor. 10:16*
9. **Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins?** Y N *Matt. 26:26-28*

#### ↑ PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE:

L: The LORD be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. *Col. 3:1*

C: **We lift them to the LORD.**

L: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

L: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You during this Easter Season for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Ultimate Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary

Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy* *Is. 6:3; Matt. 21:9*

*Hosanna means "save us now"*

See the words below / **LSB 161**

Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the

LORD. Hosanna in the highest.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: *Let Us Pray*

L: Blessed are You, LORD of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created, and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior.

C: **With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.**

L: Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O LORD, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit.

C: **Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.**

L: Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

C: **Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us.**

L: To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**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...** *Matt. 6:9-13*

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Combining: Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1Co 11:23-25*

**PAX DOMINI** ~ *Peace of the Lord* *John 20:19*

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

C: **Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** ~ *Lamb of God* *John 1:29*

See the words below / **LSB 346**

- 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.

### DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:

- ♦ If you are ready to receive: Come forward now.
- ♦ 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.

### MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

**Sunday** ➡ The Spirit Song *John Wimber*

### LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

↑ **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:** **LSB 164**

*Thank the Lord*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise;  
tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises  
and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. ➡

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

L: Gracious God, *our heavenly Father*, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, *on the day of His coming*, we may, *together with all Your saints*, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** ~ *Blessing* *Num. 6:24-26*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD look upon you with *favor* and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

### CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE

**Sunday** ➡ Voluntary in B Flat *Jonathan Battishill*

### Opportunities To Serve

- **Can You Provide A Ride** when a member needs transportation? Sign-up in the Narthex or contact Alan Carlson: 216-218-2564
- **BLC Outside Clean-up / Mulching** – Saturday, April 27 at 9 AM! *Please come and help!*

### Food and A Movie – *The Essential Church*

**Saturday, April 27 at 5:30** “When governments use Covid edicts to restrict the gathering and worship of the Church, three pastors facing the risk of imprisonment re-open their churches in the face of a world that has chosen to comply. The documentary explores the struggle between Church and government throughout history. Rediscover why the Church is essential and how its stand remains true from a scientific, legal, and Biblical perspective. Sign up in the Narthex!

## Save the Date – Ascension Day Meal & Service

Thursday, May 9 – meal at 6:00, service at 7:00

### Schedule: 4/22 – 4/28

#### Tuesday

6:30 – Grief Share

#### Wednesday

11:00 – Stephen Ministry

#### Thursday

10:00 – LTLL: Preview of Upcoming Readings

#### Saturday

9:00 – Spring Clean-up/Mulching

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

5:30 – Food and A Movie: The Essential Church

#### Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:45 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

### Thanks For Serving on 4/20 & 4/21

**Altar Guild:** Nancy B

**Saturday:** Organist: Jim V   Usher: Jim & Shawn W  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C  
Distribution – Mike C

**Sunday:** Organist: Scott T  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Matthias M  
Distribution – Cedrick H  
Ushers: Terry T, Larry H  
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others  
Sunday School: Heather H, Cedrick/Harold

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

### Thanks For Serving on 4/27 & 4/28

**Altar Guild:** Don & Carol D

**Saturday:** Organist: Jim V   Usher: Jim & Shawn W  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C  
Distribution – Mike C

**Sunday:** Organist: Scott T  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Harold W  
Distribution – Harold W  
Ushers: Terry T, Larry H  
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others  
Sunday School: Cindy T, Cedrick/Harold

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

### Numbers From Last Week

#### Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **38**; car: **3**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **60**; car: **1**

#### Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **11**
- Sunday at 10:30: **41**
- Thursday at 10: **6**

#### Supported God's Work:

- Needed Each Week (budget): **5,134**
- Received Last Week (actual): **5,505**
- Gross Surplus YTD – as of last week: **10,947** – **Thanks so much!**

Net Surplus YTD – as 3/31/24: **5,445**



## Connect With Us

➡ **Website:** [BLC7500.com](http://BLC7500.com) ➡ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➡ **Facebook:** Bethlehem Parma

**Regular Services:** Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

**Studies:** Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30

**Church Office:** Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00

**Pastor Green:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915

**Festivals:** Website > Important Links > Festivals

**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)