



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

**Sunday Services:** December 18 at 8:00 & 10:45

**Monday Service:** December 19 at 7 PM

*Fourth Sunday in Advent – 2016*



## Readings and Hymns which Point to the Christ of Christmas!

*Jesus was promised, was prophesied, and came – let us trust in Him and worship Him!*

L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All

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

**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 Advent:**  
L: He is coming!  
C: **Let us remain ready!**

**CHOIR PRELUDE:** "Somebody Build a Manger"

### ↑ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:

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

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

L: [kneel / stand] 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 deserve 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**C: Amen.**

Please ♦face the entrance and ♦focus on Jesus!

**ENTRANCE HYMN: AGPS 145, sts. 1-2**

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*

1. Jesus, name above all names,  
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us  
blessed Redeemer, living Word.
2. Jesus, loving shepherd  
vine of the branches, Son of God  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor  
Lord of the universe, Light of the World.

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**KYRIE:**

- 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.**

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

- 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.** ↓

**HYMN STANZA:**

**AGPS 145, st. 3**

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*

**Children – Please come forward now!**

3. Jesus, Way of salvation,  
King of kings, Lord of lords,  
the way the truth, and the Life,  
Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:**

**God's Gift to US!**

All children (parents) are welcome!



**10:45 Staffed Nursery** (4 and under) – Parents can now take their children to our Little Lamb Room!

**HYMN STANZA – PART 1:**

**LSB 370, st. 1**

*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!

**What Child Is This?**

***He is the Promised One!***

**He would bruise the head of the serpent:**

**Genesis 3:14-15:** The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (ESV).

**HYMN STANZAS: LSB 350, sts. 1-2**

*Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!

**He would be a descendant of Abram:**

**Genesis 12:1-3:** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (ESV).

**He would be born of a virgin:**

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

**HYMN STANZA: LSB 540, st. 1**

*Christ, the Word of God Incarnate*

- 1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate,  
Lord and Son of Abraham;  
Christ, the radiance of the Father,  
Perfect God, the great I AM;  
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,  
Light and life You bring to all;  
Light our path with Your own presence,  
Grant us grace to heed Your call.

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**He would be for us – for you, for me, for all:**

**Isaiah 9:6-7:** 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. 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 (ESV).

**HYMN STANZAS: LSB 334, sts. 1, 4**

**Use the Tune from TLH 58**

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

**He would be a descendant of David:**

**Romans 1:3-4:** [He] ...was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord (ESV).

**He would be born in Bethlehem:**

**Micah 5:2:** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days (ESV).

**HYMN STANZAS: LSB 361, sts. 1-2**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

**APOSTLES' CREED – *Part of the Second Article:***

P: Jesus, the very Son of God in human flesh:

**C: He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

P: born of the virgin Mary;

**C: suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;**

P: He descended into hell;

**C: The third day He rose again from the dead;**

P: He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

**C: From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**HYMN STANZA – PART 2: LSB 370, st. 2**

*What Child Is This?*

- 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!

**What Child Is This?**

***He is the Saving One!***

**He came to save His people from their sins:**

**Matthew 1:18-21:** Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (ESV).

**He came to redeem us:**

**Galatians 4:4-5:** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (ESV).

**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.

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**He was tempted, but did not sin:**

**Hebrews 4:14-15:** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin (ESV).

**He humbled Himself, but God exalted Him:**

**Philippians 2:5-11:** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (ESV).

**HYMN STANZAS: LSB 383, sts. 4-5**

*A Great and Mighty Wonder*

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

**Refrain Proclaim the Savior's birth:**  
**"To God on high be glory**  
**And peace to all the earth!"**

- 5 All idols then shall perish  
And Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter,  
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain.

**NICENE CREED – Part of the Second Article:**

- L: [He is] the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very  
God, begotten, not made, being of one  
substance with the Father, by whom all  
things were made;
- C: **Who for us men and for our salvation came  
down from heaven**
- L: And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
Virgin Mary and was made man;
- C: **And was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate.**
- L: He suffered and was buried;
- C: **And the third day He rose again according  
to the Scriptures;**
- L: And ascended into heaven and sits at the  
right hand of the Father;
- C: **And He will come again with glory to judge  
both the living and the dead;**
- L: whose kingdom will have no end.

**HYMN STANZA: LSB 370, st. 3**

*What Child Is This?*

- 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!

## **What Child Is This?** ***He is the Transforming One!***

### **He came to make us new:**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 21:** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself... For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (ESV).

### **HYMN STANZA: LSB 387, st. 1**

*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.

### **He came to make us children of God:**

**John 1:11-13:** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (ESV).

### **HYMN STANZA: LSB 387, st. 3**

*Joy to the World*

- 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.

### **He came to shine through us:**

**Matthew 5:14-16:** [Jesus said to His followers:] "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand,

and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (ESV).

### **↑ HYMN STANZA: PRA 2, st. 3**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story  
Shine on me, shine on me.

### **Shine, Jesus, shine**

**Fill this land With the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow Flood the nations  
With grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your Word Lord  
and let there be light.**

### **ATHANASIAN CREED – *Part of the Creed:***

- L: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father, before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:
- C: **perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;**
- L: Equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
- C: **Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**
- L: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- C: **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**
- L: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- C: **Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**



L: ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

After Each Petition:

L: Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

### **Special Requests**

+ **Shine the Christ:**

- **Display** Christ-centered decorations!
- **Send** Christ-centered cards!
- **Buy** Christ-centered gifts!
- **Have** Christ-centered gatherings!

+ **Worship the Christ:**

- **This Wednesday**—11 & 7
- **Christmas Eve**—6 PM
- **Christmas Day**—10 AM

+ **Honor the Christ:** Serve as needed; see pages 9 and 10 of this folder!

+ **Talk to the Christ:** Pray that He will soon provide good jobs for those in need!

+ **Reach Out in the Name of the Christ:** Invite others to attend and know Jesus!

+ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Bethlehem Members in Need**

Leo Bartel – cont. peace and healing.

Shirley Beaton – peace and comfort.

Ray Dmytriw – peace, healing, strength.

John Gellings – peace, good test results.

Christl Kissinger – pain relief, proper diagnosis.

Marilyn McClintock (shots in eyes) – success.

Will Mild (broken shoulder) – healing, rehab.

Klara Seefeld – continued healing, rehab.

Greg Taylor – continued healing.

Angie Zeleznikar (back) – pain relief.

### **Others in Need**

Alayna (infusion) – continued success.

Mark (hospice) – comfort, peace.

Marge Green (leg) – continued healing.

Lauren Hafley (cancer) – continued healing.

Jean Kellmer (hip surg.) – success, healing.

Carol McDonough – proper diagnosis, patience.

Helen Saunders – peace, healing.

Toby Shonkwiler – continued healing.

Kathy Wirzylo (liver transplant) – success.

Atlee Wise – peace, patience, healing.

Bob Zellner (cancer) – peace, healing.

### **Altar Flowers**

Placed to the glory of God by Miriam Engelman in memory of Fred.

### **Physical Birthdays**

**12-19** Eileen Kovach

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:**

**Do one or more of the following:**

- ♦ Request Card: See the Narthex table racks.
- ♦ Meet Up Front: After each Sunday service, someone will meet you there and pray for you.
- ♦ Prayer Chain: Call Nancy (440-886-2089); various members will pray for you.
- ♦ Church List: Call Kathy (440-845-2230); your request will appear in our service folder.
- ♦ Pastor List: Contact him ([pastor@blc7500.com](mailto:pastor@blc7500.com); 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.

**Please keep us informed:** Please update the church office every two weeks about those on our list.

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

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

- ✓ **Offertory**
- ✓ Please complete your attendance slip!
- ✓ Before Communing Prayer – see front of LSB.

### † Service of the Sacrament †

**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. ↓

**10:45 Staffed Nursery** – Please pick-up your children and bring them forward for a spoken blessing!

#### **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 621**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

- 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.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light, descending  
From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish  
As the darkness clears away.
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"



### ↑ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (Advent):

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

C: Amen.

### BENEDICTION: *Receive 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 look upon you with *favor* and give you peace.

C: Amen. ↓

### POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:

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

### SPECIAL BLESSINGS FOR YOU:

- ♦ **Receive Prayer:** Meet up front with: Dee (8:00); Matt (10:45).
- ♦ **Be Refreshed** (9:10-9:30): Join us down the hall for coffee, juice, bakery, and more!
- ♦ **Grow Up in God's Word** (9:30-10:30): Attend Bible Class / Sunday School!
- ♦ **Prepare for Next Sunday:** Read Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Heb. 1:1-6; John 1:1-14 (*pick up a copy of Living the Lutheran Lectionary*).

## Be a Blessing



- ✦ **Reach Out with God's Truth:** Share a Bethlehem sermon or brochure!
- ✦ **Share an Advent – Christmas Schedule:** They are available in the Narthex.
- ✦ **Offer a Ride on Christmas Eve:** To someone who does not drive after dark!
- ✦ **Check in on Facebook:** Be positive!

## 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.

## Advent Wednesdays: *Join Us*

**Theme:** This year we consider four perspectives on the Christ of Christmas: †God the Father, †Mary, †Elizabeth, and †Joseph at 11 & 7.

**Free Meals:** Final Wednesday at 12 & 6.

## Let Us Serve the Lord

- ✦ **Become a BLC Leader:**  
We have openings for Education, Outreach, and Grounds. Contact any leader or the church office.
- ✦ **Be a Blessing to Our Children:** Become a part-time Sunday School Teacher. Talk to any of our teachers – Kathy G, Donna P, or Angie Z – for more information.
- ✦ **Be Helpful and Friendly:** Men / Women / Youth – become an usher for any of our service times (8:00; 10:45; 7 PM). Contact Matt Kussmaul or the church office.

**Jesus Taught  
us how to  
Serve Others**

- ✦ **Have the Honor of Preparing the Supper:**  
Become a member of the Altar Guild.  
Contact Kathy G to find out more.
- ✦ **Be a Blessing to Our Younger Adults:**  
Become a group leader who plans, invites, and facilitates a monthly activity. If the group wants to do a study, Pastor and Dr. Giessler are willing to teach. Contact the pastor.

## Fit Club on Thursdays at 7 PM

*Everyone is welcome to benefit!*

Questions – contact Hannah Hlavacek at 440-668-5419.



## Thanks!

### **For Attending Last Week:**

- ✦ Services (SU, MO, WE): **89**
- ✦ Classes (SU, TH): **37**



### **For Giving This Year:**

- ✦ Hoped to receive: \$255,250
- ✦ Actually received: \$245,434

### **For Those Doing the Wednesday Meals:**

Excellent; thank you!

**To Our Choir:** For blessing our services!

**To Countless Others:** For faithfully living for Jesus and serving in many and various ways!

## Write God's Word on Your Heart

### ✦ **Recent Memory Verse:**

Love: John 13:34-35; 1 Jn. 3:18



### ✦ **This Week's Theme and Verse:** Humility:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Philippians 2:3-4** "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

## Please Join Us *This Week*

### **Sunday: Fourth in Advent**

- 8:00 – Divine Service
- 9:10 – Refreshments
- 9:30 – Bible Class & Sunday School
- 10:45 – Divine Service (and staffed nursery)



### **Monday:**

- 7:00 – Divine Service (*continues thru Advent*)

### **Tuesday:**

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

### **Wednesday:**

- 9:30 – BFC Story Time
- 10:00 – BFC Bible Time
- 11:00 – Advent Service
- Noon – Free Lunch
- 6:00 – Free Supper
- 7:00 – Advent Service



### **Thursday:**

- 10:00 – LTLL Study
- 7:00 – Fit Club

### **Saturday:**

- 6:00 – Christmas Eve Service

## Please Join Us *NEXT Week*

### **Sunday: Christmas Day**

- 10:00 – Divine Service
- NO Bible Class & Sunday School



### **Monday:**

- NO Divine Service

### **Wednesday:**

- 9:30 – BFC Story Time
- 10:00 – BFC Bible Time

### **Thursday:**

- 10:00 – LTLL Study
- 7:00 – Fit Club

### **Saturday:**

- 7:00 – New Year's Eve Service

## Thanks for Serving on 12/18

Leader: Pastor Robert Green  
Organist: Gayle Powers  
Altar Guild: Kathy Green, Angie Rohman  
Candles: Lynda Tomasch  
Financial Team: Natalia Ford, Jerry Huttner

### 8:00 Service

Ushers: Jim Cannonie, Ray Klesch  
Lord's Supper: Jim Schabel  
Prayer Partner: Dee Kaderbek

### 9:10 Refreshments

Miriam Engleman, Doris Chmielewski

### 10:45 Service

Ushers: Leo Bartel, Klaus Kitzler, John Haller  
Nursery: Lindsey Cheatham  
Lord's Supper: Paul Martens  
Prayer Partner: Brian Zeleznikar

## Easily Listen to the Sermons

Listen on your smartphone or tablet;  
download these free apps:



- [Apple](#) – Overcast Podcast Player
- [Android](#) – Podcast Addict

Then search for “Benefit from the Bible”

## Thanks for Serving on 12/25

Leader: Pastor Robert Green  
Organist: Gayle Powers  
Altar Guild: Kathy Green, Angie Rohman  
Candles: Lynda Tomasch  
Financial Team: Natalia Ford, Janet Chilton

### 10:00 Service

Ushers: Dave Kaderbek  
Nursery: Self-service  
Lord's Supper: Tim Chilton  
Prayer Partner: Alan/Matt

## Worship for Shut-Ins – ON TV

Sundays 11:30 AM

WRLM-TV 47 [TCT]

- ♦ Time Warner: 12, 67, and 194
- ♦ Direct TV: 67, 377; Dish: 47



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

- + **Wednesday, December 21** – Services at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6
  - Perspectives on the Christ of Christmas – Part 4: Joseph! (Matthew 1:18-25)

- + **Saturday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM
  - New Brochure: Santa or Jesus

- + **Sunday, December 25** – Christmas Day Service at 10:00
  - 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

Special thanks to Jason,  
Pastor's son-in-law, for  
creating our new church logo!

- **Bethlehem:** Since our congregation is named after the birthplace of Jesus, the nativity scene is very fitting.
- **Know, Grow, Excel:** Those are the three key words in our mission statement: We want everyone to know Jesus as Savior and Lord, grow in understanding the Bible, and excel in loving God and others!



### 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:** Listen to our sermons on your smartphone or tablet.
- + **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

- |                           |  |                     |  |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Website:</b>           | <a href="http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com">BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com</a> | <b>Podcast:</b>     | "Benefit from the Bible"   |
| <b>Facebook:</b>          | "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"  | <b>Address:</b>     | 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134   |
| <b>Church Office:</b>     | Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30  | <b>Kathy Green:</b> | <a href="mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com">Secretary@blc7500.com</a> ; 440-845-2230                      |
| <b>Childcare Center:</b>  | Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00   | <b>Tricia Wise:</b> | <a href="mailto:ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com">ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com</a> ; 440-884-0430      |
| <b>Pastor Green:</b>      | <a href="mailto:Pastor@blc7500.com">Pastor@blc7500.com</a> ; 440-292-5915              | <b>Church Body:</b> | <a href="http://lcms.org">lcms.org</a> <b>District:</b> <a href="http://oh.lcms.org">oh.lcms.org</a> |
| <b>Pastor Assistants:</b> | Alan Carlson, Ray Dmytriw, Matt Hlavacek, Jerry Huttner, and Brian Zeleznikar          |                     |  |