

## Request a Prayer

**Blessing** – Since prayer is communicating our *thanks* and *needs* to the Almighty God, *prayer can be extremely beneficial!*

- God hears us through Christ!
- God wants us to give Him our burdens!
- God will answer according to His will, *which is ultimately best!*

**Responsibility** – You can request a prayer for yourself or someone else through:

- A Pew Request Card.
- E-mail: [Bethlehem7500@aol.com](mailto:Bethlehem7500@aol.com)
- The church office.
- Prayer Chain.

## Request a Visit

**Blessing** – Members can request a visit for themselves or others from Pastor or their Deacon. Those who are *unable to attend Divine Services* should request to receive:

- *Bi-weekly* church mailings, which normally include two sermons and the latest Bethlehem Weekly News!
- *Monthly* private Holy Communion!

**Responsibility** – For those desiring a visit, contact the church office, Pastor, or your Deacon. If you are *not able to attend Divine Services*, let us know so Word and Sacrament – *the blessings of Divine Service*, may be brought to your home!

## Use Your Gift/s

**Blessing** – God calls us to *identify* and *joyfully use* the gifts He has given to us. The Bible says: “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (NIV 1 Corinthians 12:7)

- First, *given to each one!*
- Second, *given to show we have the Holy Spirit living within us!*

- Third, *given for the common good!*

**Responsibility** – Discover your gift through \*the Bible, \*prayer, and \*talking with others about your God-given abilities. Then use your gift to *your neighbor’s benefit and God’s glory!*

## Tithe from Your Income

**Blessing** – God *has given* and *continues to sustain* our physical and spiritual lives! *He continues to shower us with food, clothes, shelter, forgiveness, and every blessing!*

**Responsibility** – We acknowledge God as the *owner* and *provider* of all our blessings by:

- Giving a *tithe* (10%) from the *first* of all we receive (wages, Social Security, retirement, gifts, inheritance, etc.).
- Trusting Him to provide all of our needs *with the remaining 90%!*

God is faithful; *He will keep all of His promises!*

## A Picture of Our Lives in Christ

May God cause these blessed realities to *characterize our Christian lives:*

- *Weekly* in Divine Service and Education!
- *Daily* in His Word and Prayer!
- *Remembering* the blessings of Baptism!
- *Living* Christ-centered marriages!
- *Seeking* private confession as needed!
- *Continually* ready to go home to heaven!
- *Seeking* counseling as needed!
- *Faithfully* using our God-given gifts!
- *Honoring* the Lord with our first 10%!

“The one who calls you is faithful *and he will do it.*” (NIV 1 Thessalonians 5:24)

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

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**440-845-2230 • [www.blc7500.com](http://www.blc7500.com)**

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# Membership Covenant



The Triune God desires to *richly* and *eternally* bless you through your membership at Bethlehem, but *you have some responsibility in receiving those blessings!* Our daily lives follow a similar pattern: God provides us with food, clothes, and homes. Those blessings are wonderful and necessary blessings being offered to us by the Triune God; however, it is necessary for us to *eat* the food, *put on* the clothes, and *go into* the homes in order to receive their benefits!

As you read through this brochure:

- *Discover and understand* the blessings being offered to you through your church!
- *Then faithfully receive* the offered blessings!

## [Attend Worship/Divine Services](#)

**Blessing** – God has connected us to Jesus, our Savior, through Baptism (Galatians 3:27) and His Word (Ephesians 1:13). *God took action to make us alive in Christ and holy in His sight!* Now, being alive in Christ, *we are in need of regular spiritual nourishment.* Therefore, in Divine Service, Jesus comes into our presence to *teach* us His Word for our temporal and eternal benefit and *feed* us His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins!

**Responsibility** – *Make it a priority to gather and receive every week!* Life can be busy, *temporal affairs can seem more important;* however, nothing is truly more important than *being in Christ and continuing in Christ* until we are finally with Christ in heaven. Therefore, *faithfully attend, receive, and benefit!*

## [Attend Bible Class/Sunday School](#)

**Blessing** – God has made you alive in Christ but He also wants you to be *firmly rooted* and *continually growing* in Christ! Therefore, God invites you to gather each week with others to:

- Better understand His Word!
- Grow in your faith, peace, and joy!
- Guard against deception!
- Grow in Christ-like living!

*Our study of God's Word should continue throughout our lives!* Regarding the treasures of God's Word, a pastor of 50 years said: "I have only seen the tip of the iceberg." May we all continue to grow throughout our lives!

**Responsibility** – *Make it your priority to attend and receive every week!* We have classes for children, youth, and adults, which are Bible-based, instructional, fun, and beneficial!

## [Inquire About Marriage](#)

**Blessing** – *Confessing and practicing Christians,* after receiving premarital instruction, are united in the life-long relationship of holy matrimony! A Christian marriage parallels the relationship between Christ and His Church as written in Ephesians 5:22-33.

**Responsibility** – For anyone *considering* marriage:

- Talk to Pastor!
- Set your wedding date!
- Schedule your premarital counseling!

## [Request Baptism](#)

**Blessing** – Since all are sinful from conception (Psalm 51:5) and separated from God's eternal blessings, *God wants to unite all people to Jesus and His saving work through Holy Baptism!*

**Responsibility** – Since the blessings of Baptism are *so important* and *so wonderful*, make plans for the Baptism of your child before he or she is even born by speaking to Pastor or the church office. *Martin Luther was Baptized when he was only one-day-old!*

## [Register For Confirmation](#)

**Blessing** – Christian youth and adults, *after a period of instruction,* publicly confess their:

- Faith in Christ!
- Agreement with the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church!
- Life-long commitment to Christ!

**Responsibility** – Teach your children Luther's Small Catechism at home before they reach confirmation age. Before they enter sixth grade, register your youth for our confirmation course and support them in their studies!

## [Seek Private Confession](#)

**Blessing** – Whenever we fall into sin, *God wants us to have the great blessing and assurance of His forgiveness!* If you are ever struggling with forgiveness, you can *privately* and *confidentially*:

- Confess to Pastor!
- Receive the *personal assurance* of Christ's forgiveness!
- Receive *encouragement* and *instruction* from God's Holy Word!

**Responsibility** – Whenever you are struggling with a sin, contact Pastor to schedule a time for *private confession and absolution!*

## [Seek Counseling](#)

**Blessing** – Members can *confidentially discuss* and *beneficially receive* Bible instruction from Pastor regarding salvation, marriage, and more!

**Responsibility** – Whenever you need assistance, setup a time to meet with Pastor. He wants to help, but *you must make him aware of your needs and your willingness to receive his assistance!*

## [Preplan Your Funeral Service](#)

**Blessing** – Though a funeral is a time of sadness and mourning, *it also offers these blessings:*

- A remembrance of the eternal blessings given by God to the deceased!
- Comfort to all who mourn!
- The Law and the Gospel for everyone's eternal benefit!

**Responsibility** – Even now you can bless your family by *preplanning* your funeral service:

- Note key events in your life!
- Choose your favorite hymns and Scripture readings!

Ask Pastor or the Church Secretary for a Funeral Packet, which will help you through the process.