

BLC News

The Bimonthly Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

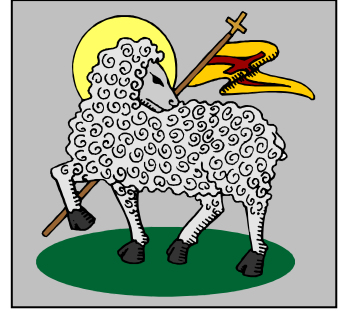
November – December 2011

For Sermons, Brochures & More → www.blc7500.com

Notice Each Person & Role

She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you [Joseph] are to give him the name Jesus, because he [Jesus] will save his people from their sins."

(Matthew 1:21 NIV)



By God's grace let us: †KNOW Jesus Christ, †GROW in our knowledge of His Word, and †EXCEL in Christ-like living!

Please Share this Newsletter with Everyone in Your Family!

Sunday, November 20, 2011

Let's Gather Together to Hear, Receive, Sing, and Grow!

Fellowship at 9:00



One Worship Service at 9:30

(No Bible Classes or Sunday School)

Annual Voters Meeting at 10:30



- *Pick up an Agenda on November 13*
- *Be Informed and Pray for God's Leading*
- *Everyone can Attend*
- *Those who Qualify can Vote*

Our Divine Service Schedule

Please Join Us! Invite a Friend!

Regular Sundays

Worship 8:00 & 10:45

Food & Fellowship 9:10

Bible Classes & Sunday School 9:30

Voters Meeting Sunday, 11/20

Food & Fellowship 9:00

Worship 9:30

Voters Meeting 10:30

Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday

7:00

Please bring non-perishable food items for Redeemer Crisis Center between now and December 15.



Advent Wednesdays

11:00 & 7:00 → 11/30, 12/7, 12/14

Advent Meals on Wednesdays

11/30, 12/7, 12/14

Normally Noon & 6:00 (see below)

Exception: No Noon Meal on November 30

Please join us for lunch at Pipers III at 12:30

Christmas Eve Saturday

6:00

Christmas Day Sunday

10:00

No Bible Classes or Sunday School



New Year's Day Sunday

10:00

No Bible Classes or Sunday School



No Compromise!

Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem,

Every day we – *God's holy children in Christ* – are tempted to compromise what is good and right in God's sight. Consider these highlights from **Deuteronomy chapter 7**; Moses spoke these words to the people of Israel shortly before they entered the land the LORD had promised. I'm not suggesting we destroy our enemies – *we are commanded to love them* (Mt. 5:44), but notice the theme of *no compromise*. Today, in the 21st century, God wants to use that same theme to keep us in Christ: ¹ "When the LORD your God brings you to the land you're about to enter...and clears out of your way many nations... ² ...then destroy them completely, and don't make a treaty with them or begin favoring them. ³ Don't intermarry with them... ⁴ because they will turn your sons away from Me to serve other gods... ⁵ But this is how you should treat them: Tear down their altars, smash their pillars, cut down their sacred Asherah posts, and burn their idols." // Can you see a way to properly apply God's Word to *your life*? How is God calling you to stop compromising?

The *no compromise* theme continues: ¹¹ "Be careful to do the commandments, the laws and regulations, I give you today. ¹² If you listen to these regulations and carefully do what they tell you, the LORD your God will keep His covenant and love for you... ¹³ He will love you and bless you and make you grow to be many... ¹⁶ And you will consume all the people the LORD your God gives you; don't look kindly on them, and don't serve their gods, because they're a trap to you... ²⁵ Burn the images of their gods without yearning for the silver and gold on them or taking it for yourself, or it will trap you, because it is detestable to the LORD your God. ²⁶ Don't take anything detestable into your home and so, like it, be cursed. Detest it and loathe it, because it is cursed."

We do live in a fallen world, but we – *by grace through faith in Jesus* – have been purified by Jesus' holy precious blood! Since we are radically different in comparison to unbelievers, may that difference show in our speaking, living, working, loving, and serving! Also, as we celebrate the holidays (holy days), *let us do so in distinctly Christian ways!*

Pastor

Classes for Christian Growth

Christian soldiers need to be armed with the Word!

Sundays at 9:30 am

- ✚ **Adults** – Location: *Christian Life Room!*
 - All are welcome to listen, learn, and grow!
 - **November 6** – Do you know much about the *first president* of our church body? He has highly influenced who we are today! Learn more on 11/6; then more to come in January!
 - **November 13 and following** – We will return to 1 Samuel, including David and Goliath, and much more! *It really is relevant for today!*
- ✚ **Youth** – Location: *Upper Room!*
 - **All youth are invited to grow in the Word!**
 - **Praise God for our Youth Teachers:**
 - Luke Liptak (lukeliptak@gmail.com)
 - Ben Morgan (mo.b1991@gmail.com)
 - Jennifer Morgan (jennifmorgan@gmail.com)
 - May all parents and youth see the importance of group Bible study; then make weekly attendance a high priority!
- ✚ **Sunday School** – Locations: *See Below!*
 - **God bless our Director: Tammy Cole**
[216-820-7055](tel:216-820-7055); ssdirector@blc7500.com
 - **Advanced:** 4th-5th Grade, Middle Office
 - **Intermediate:** Kdg-3rd Grade, Lower Level
 - **Beginners:** 2½-5 years, Lower Level
 - **Nursery:** 0-2 years (*provided whenever it is needed – let Tammy C. know your needs*)
 - **Thank you** to our *dedicated teachers* and *faithful parents!*

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm – Stephen Ministry

- ✚ **Praise God** that Jim Schabel's out-of-state work has now concluded!
- ✚ **Watch for details about the course resuming!**

Some Wednesdays – Youth Confirmation

- ✚ **Please pray for our youth and their families!**

Some Saturdays at 8:30 am

- ✚ **Fellowship Saturday – You are invited!**
 - Breakfast; Fellowship; Studies for Men and for Women; get acquainted; grow in the Word.
 - **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER – no gatherings!**
 - **JANUARY** – We resume on January 28, 2012.

50 Plus Fellowship

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon will be at Pipers III, 8158 Broadview Rd., Broadview Hts., on Wednesday, November 30 at Noon. *All people of all ages are welcome!* Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Membership Changes Since our Last Newsletter

Transfers to Paradise: **William Hoecker**

Transfers to another church:

Desiree Moyer (Unity Lutheran, Cleveland)

New Members by Transfer:

John & June Gutwien (Concordia, Independence)

Dave & Dee Kaderbek (Calvary, Jacksonville, NC)

Del & Gloria Fowler (Concordia, Independence)

New Member Profession of Faith: **Wilhelm Mild**

New Member by Baptism: **Ella Theodora Davis**

Memorials Received

In Memory of William Hoecker:

David Basalla; David Hoecker

M/M Richard Bonitz

M/M Paul Rusinko



Africa Presentation Trip

Praise God! Dr. Giessler & Inez have been invited to Jackson Lake, TX from November 12-19 to report on the recent trip to Africa. This is an all-expense-paid trip by individuals in this Texas area, one of which was Dr. Giessler's roommate at Concordia Teachers College--River Forest, IL many moons ago. Two congregations will be involved for three presentations with a paid side trip to San Antonio. The African opportunity continues to be spread. One presentation will deal with "Jesus in the OT," the subject of Dr. Giessler's book in the process of being written. *God is good!*

Pray For and Help Out

Our Team Leaders:

Coordinator – Dr. Giessler	Childcare – Tammy Cole
Receivables – Natalia Ford	Outreach – Cheryl Schabel
Payables – Jim Schabel	Fellowship – Eileen Kovach
Worship – Erica Kloos	Building – Terry Tomasch
Care – Rachel Harper	Grounds – Tom Merkle
Education – Cat Liptak	

Fellowship Team Ministry

Fellowship Activities

We had a summer that brought us many wonderful fellowship opportunities.

- July brought Rev. J May and his family to Bethlehem for a visit.
- August – some of us enjoyed an overnight trip to Cambridge, OH to see “The Living Word Outdoor Drama.”
- September – we came together to have a lovely church picnic, a family movie night, and a fun bowling outing.

The Fellowship Team is planning several activities for November and December:

- **Bowling:**
 - Saturday, Nov. 12 at 1:30
 - Cloverleaf Lanes, 5619 Brecksville Rd.
 - *Everyone is welcome to attend!*
 - Cost is \$7/per person + \$3 shoe rental
 - Harry's Steakhouse (Early bird Dinner) out at afterward for those who would like to go.
 - Sign-up sheet on a table in Narthex.
- **Advent Soup Suppers:**
 - 11/30, 12/7 & 12/14
 - Sign-up sheets to provide food for the 6:00 p.m. suppers will be out in November.
- **Setup Church Christmas Tree:**
 - Saturday, December 5 at 10:00
 - Lunch will be provided
- **Christmas Caroling:**
 - Saturday, December 10
 - Caroling at 3 of our members nursing homes/assisted living facilities – *watch for details.*



➤ Christmas Light Tour on Lolly the Trolley

- December 10 – *details to be announced.*

Please stay tuned to the Bethlehem Weekly News for additional events and details.

I sincerely hope that all will participate and truly benefit from the fellowship events we are planning.

God's blessings! *Eileen Kovach*
Fellowship Ministry Team Leader

Outreach Team Ministry

Outreach Activities

- **Thanksgiving Packing:** Friday, Nov. 18 at 6:30
 - Redeemer Crisis Center, Cleveland
 - Meet at church at 6:00 to carpool
- **Non-Perishable Food Collection:**
 - For Redeemer Crisis Center
 - From November 23 – December 15
- **Christmas Packing:** Friday, Dec. 16 at 6:30
 - Redeemer Crisis Center, Cleveland
 - Meet at church at 6:00 to carpool

PRAYER CHAIN



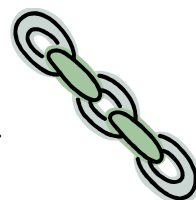
This is an invitation to join the prayer chain of our church.

The Prayer chain is an opportunity for emergency prayer or prayer for any need.

As part of the chain you would:

- ➔ receive the prayer by phone ➔ write it down
- ➔ pray for the need and ➔ call the next person on the chain to pass it along.

Please contact Nancy Huttner at 440-886-2089 to join, ask questions about the prayer chain, or to relay a need for prayer. Thank you! *Nancy Huttner*



Rev. J May & Family

Please Pray, Support Financially

THANKS!



Rev. May is skilled in many languages and working in 20 countries on the continent of Africa.

For the latest information:

- **Receive E-Mail Updates:** send your request to: LutheransinAfrica@gmail.com
- **His Website:** www.lutheransinafrica.com
- **His E-Mail:** Proliturgy@yahoo.com
- **Narthex Bulletin Board:** *On Wheels!*

To Support Rev. May, His Family, and His Ministry:

- Pray – *for their needs!*
- Support Financially – *by designating “LIA” (Lutherans in Africa) on your envelope!*

Service Cancellation Policy



If we ever cancel a service – *even though we have never done so over the past 15 years* – we will call our members who normally attend! Therefore, please disregard any messages on your television in regard to Bethlehem Lutheran Church being closed (*remember, there are at least three churches with that same name in the greater Cleveland area*)! If you are ever in doubt, you are always welcome to call the church office; if we close, that will be our message when you call!



We Miss You When You Are Not Here!

- **Sick, out-of-town, unable to attend, no internet access** – *Contact the church office to receive a copy of the latest sermon and news/prayer insert.*
- **Plan to be away for 2 weeks or more** – *Let us know so we are not concerned about you.*
- **Attending another church** – *Please let us know.*
- **Not attending at all** – *Going to church doesn't make a person a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes a person a car; however, God does want to work through His Word to show you your sins and reunite you to Jesus Christ the Savior! Tell us how we can help you!*

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ➔ **December 18** – *for January-February 2012*
- ➔ **February 19** – *for March-April 2012*
- ➔ **April 22** – *for May-June 2012*

Submit articles via e-mail to secretary@blc7500.com in MS Word format by the deadline noted above.

Find the File Marked "Family Grudges" and Hit the Delete Key

by David M. Lynch

Radio Personality on WELW-AM1330

There is a great scene in the movie *Home Alone* in which a little boy inadvertently abandoned by his family during the holidays has some advice for the grandfatherly neighbor down the street.

Eight year old Kevin McCallister tells the octogenarian to set aside his differences with his estranged son and reconcile after years of angry silence between them.

Wise beyond his years, Kevin explains that life is too short to allow anything to keep him away from his son and the granddaughter he adores from the other side of a wall erected by stubbornness and pride. A wall covered by dark and lonely decaying vines.

Granpappy heeds the suggestion and Christmas is ushered in by a tearful, joyful reunion.

That's why I'm asking you to take inventory of your suspended relationships.

Are you still standing on questionable principle?

Here's what I'm talking about. Are you so disgusted by your daughter's husband that you shun them?

Did your brother-in-law once commit an unforgivable transgression?

I basically want to know if there are family members you've dealt out of the hand in the family card game.

Whatever the problem, I want you to know this. It's not worth it.

This Holiday season, put the welcome mat out for all family, good and bad, in-laws included.

Grudges, especially the family variety, are like a cancer in your heart. It grows inside of you, robbing you of the joy God meant you to experience.

Forgive all unconditionally and never bring up the offense again. Even if you never hear an apology or an admission of guilt.

Your forgiveness will be the greatest gift you've ever given to yourself. Bury that hurt and resentment in the fertile garden of forgotten offenses.

In that garden grows the most beautiful bouquet of memories yet to be experienced, blossoms of laughter spectacular in color, and exquisite loving moments of poignancy.

You unite yourself this way with the greatest forgiver of all – God.

Uncle Frank got wasted at your wedding and you've never forgiven him.

This Christmas, don the gleeful jacket of goodwill that Scrooge wore on Christmas morning. Uncle Frank is a child of God like you.

Imperfect and undeserving like you.

How many times do you forgive? Seven times seventy, at least. Sound familiar?

Anyway, it's only October so you have time to plan. Might shock a few folks but rev-up yourself for a few repaired relationships.

Scrooge had three ghosts to motivate him.

You've got this column, so get going.

The heavy boulders of a grudge make it difficult to ride a puffy cloud up to heaven.

There's still time, Ebenezer.



November *Physical* Birthdays

- 1 Doris Bollam
Matt Taylor
- 2 Dolores Wise
- 3 Fred Kusmaul
- 4 John Gellings
Gloria Hurka
- 7 Karen Thornhill
- 12 Tammy Cole
Terry Tomasch
- 13 James Ford
Ron Harper
Dianne Wise
- 14 Andrew Green
Lynda Tomasch
- 15 Rhoda Werner
- 16 Thomas Merkle
- 17 Ronald Wojtkiewicz
- 18 Emily Ingham
- 19 Ben Morgan
Melissa Pendley
Tami Taylor
- 21 Gisela Schaef
- 22 Lisa Raines
- 23 Nicole Cannonie
Matt Cole
- 25 Richard Werner
- 26 Angie Rohman
- 27 Evan Davis
- 28 Nicholas Ingham
- 30 Matthew Hlavacek



December *Physical* Birthdays

- 5 Regina Mild
- 6 David Cooper
Luke Liptak
- 7 Nicole Belasco
Cheryl Schabel
- 9 Klohe South
- 13 Jean Belasco
- 15 Holly Belasco
- 17 Matthew Kusmaul
- 19 Eileen Kovach
Cory Skuderin
- 20 Hilda Mikitta
- 23 Thomas Cook
- 25 **JESUS**
Inez Giessler
- 26 Timothy Mayberry
Wendy Ragone
Jean Smith
- 27 Stanley Lisowski
- 28 Bonnie Moyer
Angie Zeleznikar
- 30 Delores Susnik
- 31 Gertrude Conn
Deborah Stender



December *Spiritual* Birthday's

(Born of the Spirit – through Baptism)

- 1 Lilli Reichert
Terry Tomasch
- 2 Irene Lange
- 3 John Gellings
Jay Wojtkiewicz
- 4 Andrew Green
Gloria Hurka
- 5 Dianne Wise
- 6 Steven Pysz
- 9 Rachel Harper
- 10 Jim Prahst
Cheryl Schabel
- 14 Jesse Brown
- 23 Richard Werner
- 25 Inez Giessler
- 31 Matt Kusmaul



November *Spiritual* Birthday's

(Born of the Spirit – through Baptism)

- 1 Hannah Green
Greg Taylor
- 2 Dane Morgan
- 4 Lynne Gellings
Marilyn Massey
- 6 Matt Cole
- 9 Adam Dennison
Kathy Green
- 10 Maggie May, Maureen Thornhill
- 17 Michael Taylor
- 19 Kayla Lessa
Cory Skuderin
- 23 Mark Dennison Sr.
- 25 Doris Bollam, Jeff Kitzler
- 26 Hedwig Giesz



December Wedding Anniversaries

- 11 Tim & Lisa Raines (23rd)
- 17 Pastor & Kathy Green (34th)



November Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 David & Tracy Liddy (19th)



REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW!

REVIEW YOUR MEMORY WORK!

- A:** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **Rom. 3:23**
- B:** Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. **Acts 16:31**
- C:** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **Col. 3:20**
- D:** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Rom. 12:21**
- E:** Even a child is known by his actions. **Pro. 20:11**
- F:** Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. **Luke 11:4**
- G:** God is love. **1 John 4:8**
- H:** Honor your father and your mother. **Ex. 20:12**
- I:** I am the Vine; you are the branches. **John 15:5**
- J:** Jesus Wept. **John 11:35**
- K:** Keep your tongue from evil. **Ps. 34:13**
- L:** Lead us not into temptation. **Matt. 6:13**
- M:** My sheep listen to My voice. **John 10:27**
- N:** No one can serve two masters. **Matt. 6:24**
- O:** O LORD my God, I take refuge in You. **Psalms 7:1**
- P:** Praise the Lord! **Psalms 149:9**
- Q:** Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. **James 1:19**
- R:** Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. **Exodus 20:8**
- S:** Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. **Matthew 6:33**
- T:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart. **Proverbs 3:5**
- U:** Understand that the universe was formed at God's command. **Heb. 11:3**
- V:** Victory rests with the Lord. **Pro. 21:31**
- W:** Walk as Jesus did. **1 John 2:6**
- X:** Excel in gifts that build up the church. **1 Cor. 14:12**
- Y:** You are the light of the world. **Matt. 5:14**
- Z:** Zion will be redeemed with justice. **Is. 1:27**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Road

Parma, OH 44134

440-845-2230 † www.blc7500.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving! 1 Timothy 4:4

Bethlehem's *November – December* 2011 Newsletter

*Our mission is to help all people → KNOW Jesus Christ,
→ GROW in their knowledge of God's Word, and → EXCEL in Christ-like living!*
Can WE help YOU?

Staff

Pastor	Robert Green	440-845-2230
Childcare Director	Sharon Harmon	440-884-0430
Secretary	Kathy Green	440-845-2230
Organist	James Alfieri	440-843-9938
Sun. Sch. Director	Tammy Cole	216-820-7055
Custodians	Larry Haslem	
	Luke Liptak	440-465-2121

Coordinator Receivables

Phillip Giessler	216-267-5037
Natalia Ford	440-525-3150
Payables	Jim Schabel 216-323-7655
Worship	Erica Kloos 330-242-2503
Care	Rachel Harper 440-843-8268
Education	Cathleen Liptak 440-465-1154
Childcare	Tammy Cole 216-820-7055
Outreach	Cheryl Schabel 216-410-0884
Fellowship	Eileen Kovach 216-410-8220
Building	Terry Tomasch 216-906-3047
Grounds	Tom Merkle 440-885-1282

Organizations

Altar Guild	Jean Smith	216-524-2446
50 Plus Fellowship	Fred Kussmaul	440-842-3657
Ladies Friendship Cir.	Nancy Huttner	440-886-2089
Men's Softball	Matt Kussmaul	440-668-5475

Leadership Team