

BLC News

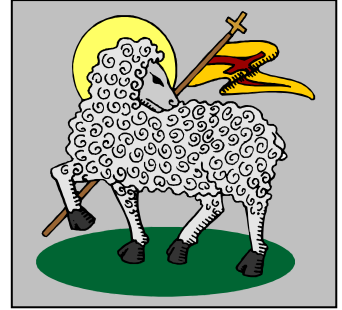
The Bimonthly Newsletter of **B**ethlehem **L**utheran **C**hurch
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

September – October 2011

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

Be Like Ezra

NAU **Ezra 7:10** For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.



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!

God's Great Treasure!

Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem,
God has given us a *great treasure in His Holy Word*, which tells us about:

- *His awesome work of creation!*
- *Our sad fall into sin.*
- *His promise of the Savior!*
- *His restating of His promise!*
- *His pointing ahead to the coming Savior!*
- *His preservation of the Savior's seed!*
- *Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection!*
- *His work to unite us to Jesus!*
- *His Word to nourish our spiritual lives!*
- *His promise of a blessed eternity!*
- *His peace in the face of every trial!*
- *His Word to guide our Christian living!*
- *His encouragement to tell the good news!*
- *His work to keep us trusting in Jesus!*
- *His work to bring us home to paradise!*

Did you notice the contrast? Almost every bullet describes God's loving and powerful work to bless us now and forevermore! We are sinners, *but God still loves us!* That love has moved God, *and continues to move God*, to richly bless us! Therefore, let us make a renewed commitment *today* to:

- Benefit from God's Word every day!
- Gather at BLC to study every week (9:30).
- Make Divine Service at BLC a weekly priority: Thursday 7:00 or Sunday 8:00 or Sunday 10:45

As God works on us through His Word, *we will be blessed AND God will use us to be a blessing!*

Pastor

Church Picnic! Sunday, September 18

SPECIAL TIMES ON 9/18

- BC & SS 9:00 – 9:45
- **ONE** Divine Service at 10:00
- Picnic at 11:30 – **Please join us!**
- **Provided: Hamburgers/hot dogs/pop!**
Bring a dish or 2 to share!
- Bring your favorite outdoor game!
- Mark your calendar now! Use the sign-up insert in the bulletin or call the church.

**THANK YOU from
Team-Jesus-for-Africa Missionary
Dr. Phillip Giessler**

SPECIAL AFRICAN THANKS: Much appreciation for all the prayers that kept me in perfect health and safety (voice strong thru all 12 seminars), plus those prayers brought all the blessings of the Holy Spirit as He moved mightily through the various gatherings with insight and comprehension to the glory of the whole Triune God. As I told many of you supporters, when I was teaching and preaching--it was as if you were also there personally serving Christ. Numerous times the African brothers and sisters in the faith expressed their thanks to you all for your sacrifices. May the Lord continue to bless you for all those sacrifices.

Dr. Phillip B. Giessler

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!
- Each week is *important and relevant!*
- Follow this **READING** and **STUDY** schedule to get the most out of our classes:
 - Week of August 29: **Read Judges 6-12;** **study with us on September 4**
 - Week of September 5: **Read Judges 13-16;** **study with us on September 11**
 - Week of September 12: **Read 1 Samuel 1-3;** **study with us on September 18 at 9:00**
 - Week of September 19: **Catch up – if you are behind;** **study more creation-related questions on September 25**
 - Week of September 26: **Read 1 Samuel 4-10;** **study with us on October 2**
 - Week of October 3: **Read 1 Samuel 11-15;** **study with us on October 9**
 - Week of October 10: **Read 1 Samuel 16-20;** **study with us on October 16**
 - Week of October 17: **Read 1 Samuel 21-25;** **study with us on October 23**
 - Week of October 24: **Catch up – if you are behind;** **study more creation-related questions on October 30**
 - Week of October 31: **Read 1 Samuel 26-31;** **study with us on November 6**

Youth – Location: *Upper Room!*

- All youth are invited to *grow in the Word!*
- Our teachers:
 - Luke Liptak (lukeliptak@gmail.com)
 - Ben Morgan (mo.b1991@gmail.com)
 - Jennifer Morgan (jennifmorgan@gmail.com)
- Praise God for our Youth Teachers! *Pray that God will cause all of our youth families to participate; may He also send us more families with youth!*

Sunday School – Classes for all ages; for more details, see our Sunday insert or contact Tammy!

- S.S. Director – Tammy Cole:
 - 216-820-7055
 - ssdirector@blc7500.com
- Thank you to our *dedicated teachers* and *faithful parents!*

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Stephen Ministry Training *should* be resuming sometime in September; *watch for details!*

Some Saturdays at 8:30 am

Fellowship Saturday – *You are invited!*

- Breakfast; Fellowship; 2 Studies for Men and for Women; get acquainted; grow in the Word
- Saturday Dates: 9/17 and 10/29

PRAYER SEMINAR

Saturday, September 24

- **Location:** St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd, Cleveland (just north of 480).
- **Times:** 8:00 – 3:30
- **Presenters:** Rev. Jon and Sue Trinklein.

The cost is \$10.00 and includes lunch. **Members of Bethlehem's Care Team are planning to attend; you are also welcome!** To reserve your place at this conference, contact St. James: 216-351-6499

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML Zone Bible Study

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Saturday, October 1

- † 9:30 Coffee and Bakery
- † 10:00 Short Business Mtg.
- † 10:15 Bible Study:
"Test Your Knowledge"
- † Everyone is Welcome!

ATTENTION

All Christian Parents!

Doing YOUR PART to *spiritually train your children* includes:

- ✓ MORE than → having your child baptized!
- ✓ MORE than → saying mealtime and bedtime prayers!
- ✓ MORE than → faithful Sunday school attendance!
- ✓ MORE than → the completion of confirmation!

Please answer these questions:

- Did God create all things? Y N
- Does God truly love us? Y N
- Does God provide all of our needs? Y N
- Is the Bible God's Holy Word? Y N
- Is following the Bible always best? Y N

I hope you answered: Y Y Y Y Y

Now, knowing that the answers to those important questions are all YES, carefully consider these words of instruction from Deuteronomy chapter 6 (NIV):

⁶ These commandments [words of instruction] that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

- **What does that mean for parents?** The Word of God must be ♦well known, ♦thoroughly understood, and ♦diligently practiced by parents so that they are equipped to successfully follow the next verse!

⁷ Impress them [these commandments, God's Word of instruction about our sin, God's work to save us, and living as Christians] on your children.

- **What does that mean?** God has told us exactly **how**, **when**, and **where** to impress His commandments / Holy Word upon our children:
 - **Talk about them:**
 - [when you sit at home](#) – turn off the TV!
 - [when you walk along the road](#) – turn off the radio, CD, DVD!

- [when you lie down](#) – do something significant at bedtime with the Bible!
- [when you get up](#) – take time to begin your family's day with God's Word!

- ⁸ Tie them [as symbols on your hands](#) – wear and explain Christian symbols!
- **bind them on your foreheads** – wear and explain Christian symbols!
- ⁹ Write them:
 - [on the doorframes of your houses](#) – places you normally pass through!
 - [on your gates](#) – places where everyone will be reminded every day!

Our enemies are powerful; therefore, we – us and our children – need the full armor of God:

^{NAU} **Ephesians 6:11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

God will richly bless us through His Word:

^{NAU} **Psalm 1:1** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

^{NAU} **Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

^{NAU} **Acts 20:32** And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Membership Changes

Since our Last Newsletter

Transfers to Paradise: Fred Amels; Joan Schuenaman
Others are in the process of transferring to BLC!

New Members by Adult Confirmation: Eric & Erin Nellis; Sara Wagner. Grace Nellis has also become a baptized member.

Memorials Received

In Memory of *Verna Hirzel:*

Gerry Moore	Rhoda Werner
M/M Ed Pysz	June Murany
Hilda Mikitta	Marilyn McClintock
Natalia Ford	Miriam Engelman
Robert Podwils	M/M Les Koenig
Margaret Santabarbara	M/M Bill Gahr
Lee Vandia	Violet Maharidge
M/M Jim Prahst	Paul Martens
Ellen Caldwell	Marilyn Stephen
Dorothy & Arline Bode	Doris Chmielewski

In Memory of *Betty Mohney:*


June Murany	Miriam Engelman
M/M Jim Prahst	Paul Martens
Anne Reiff	Jean Whitsett
Mary Jane Sabota	

In Memory of *Virginia Kelley:* June Murany



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	Facility Maintenance – 
Care – Rachel Harper	Facility Imp. – Terry Tomasch
Education – Cat Liptak	Grounds – Tom Merkle

Childcare Ministry Team



The Childcare Ministry Team is starting a prayer request box for our childcare staff and families. As we start this new outreach to the childcare, would you please join the childcare team in praying for our staff and families? We will make the prayer requests known to the congregation by way of the weekly bulletin. The prayer requests can be made anonymously or they can leave their name.

If anyone is interested in reading a story to the children at the childcare center in the mornings, please contact Tammy Cole. This can be a one-time commitment, or on a weekly or monthly basis; whatever works for you and your schedule. It is very important for us as a congregation to reach out to those families. Thank You! *Childcare Ministry Team*

Fellowship Team Ministry

Fellowship Activities

Movie Night!

Friday, September 9 at **7:00**

- ☺ Watch the movie "**What If**"
- ☺ Enjoy ice cream & popcorn too!
- ☺ Mark your calendars now!
- ☺ Everyone is invited!

Cosmic Bowling!

Saturday, September 24 – **3 – 5:00**



- Unlimited bowling! \$8/includes shoes or \$10/includes shoes and unlimited soda!
- Join us after for supper at a local restaurant!
- Everyone is invited!

Movie Night!

Friday, October 14 at **7:00**

- ☺ Watch the movie "**Encounter**"
- ☺ Enjoy ice cream & popcorn too!
- ☺ Mark your calendars now!
- ☺ Everyone is invited!

Outreach Team Ministry

Outreach Activities

Help Feed the Hungry

Sunday, October 9

3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Save the date! Mark your calendar **NOW!**
- We will be serving a meal to 80-120 people at Redeemer Crisis Center, near W. 25th and Clark in Cleveland.
- *We are prayerfully seeking the assistance of volunteers.*
- A great opportunity to disciple those in need in our community!
- **October 8** – Preparation at Bethlehem for the dinner to be served @ Redeemer Crisis Center.
- Watch for a sign-up sheet during month of September and more information; contact Cheryl Schabel (216-410-0884) with your questions.

Building Hope in the City

Join BHITC and Thrivent in September for a service project so big it impacts three cities — Cleveland, Akron and Massillon! They will have work teams and projects going on in all three locales on **Saturday, September 17**. On Sunday, join us for a BBQ and “Walk for Hope” event. It’s all meant to be an opportunity for God’s people to serve in various ways!

Getting Out of the Box

Bruce Becker

Early in His ministry, Jesus traveled with His disciples through the region of Samaria. They stopped at the town of Sychar to rest. While the disciples walked into town to get lunch, Jesus sat by Jacob’s well and engaged a Samaritan woman in conversation.

By doing so, Jesus stepped out of His culture’s “box.” He smashed multiple social norms. Jesus wasn’t at all politically correct in what He did. Jewish males didn’t talk to women who were strangers. Educated

rabbis would rarely engage in dialogue with uneducated women. To top it off, this woman had a questionable reputation as evidenced by her being consigned to draw water during the middle of the day rather than in the morning or evening. The most significant social norm Jesus busted was that He, as a Jew, willingly talked to a Samaritan. But He did it to reach out in love for this woman. Read the fascinating encounter between Jesus and this woman (John 4:1-41).

After her conversation with Jesus, the Samaritan woman in turn stepped out of her box. She went back to the very people who had marginalized her because of her sinful lifestyle. She shared her encounter with Jesus with her neighbors. Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of this woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.”

Jesus got out of the box to engage this woman. She then stepped out of her box to tell others about Jesus. What boxes are you in that keep you from sharing Jesus with more people? Who are the people in your circle of acquaintances that need to hear about Jesus?



Are you ready to get out of the box to tell them?

50 Plus Fellowship

Our annual **RUMMAGE SALE** will be held on **Saturday, October 21 from 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.** Set-up will be Friday, October 20 after 1:00 p.m. Please start gathering your unwanted treasures



NOW! Please bring your items the week of the sale and put them in the Christian Life Room. We also need much help on Friday afternoon (to setup and price) and Saturday around 1:00 (to pack up). Thank you!

Rev. J May & Family

Pray, Support Financially

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.lutheransin africa.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!*
- Double-Dare: Give up going out to eat once each month; then give that amount to LIA!

How to Welcome Guests

In a Smaller Church

Smaller churches have a distinct advantage over larger churches in welcoming first-time guests. First-time guests are easily recognizable...

What can a smaller church do to be more effective in welcoming those people? The following are four effective initiatives in welcoming first-time guests:

1. Demonstrate practical hospitality:

The strength of smaller churches is relationships.

Take advantage of this by encouraging members to not only greet first-time guests but also to include them for lunch or in your home.

- Simple gestures of introduction, invitation, and inclusion can pay enormous dividends.
- Friendliness is expected; hospitality shows you care.
- Friendliness is the first step; hospitality is the walk that welcomes people into the church.

2. Welcome without commotion:

A fine line exists between being friendly and being desperate. And I don't know exactly where that line lies. Smaller churches, since they know who the first-time guests are, will often go overboard in welcoming an individual or family.

This gesture of friendliness can be misinterpreted as being overkill for your guests if too many people make too much “fuss” over the new people. Treat a first-time guest how you would want to be treated when you visit a place for the first time. The next initiative may help...

3. Employ a two-minute offense:

Since everyone knows everyone in smaller churches, the opposite tendency is to speak only to your friends or family, leaving the first-time guest alone. A way to break this behavior is to encourage members to speak to guests before they speak to friends immediately before and after the service.

In a first-time guest's mind, the most important time of a church service is the few minutes before – do they feel welcomed, and the few minutes after the service – does the church care. Simple gestures of smiling, a handshake, introductions, invitations to lunch, to play softball, etc. will go a long way in making first-time guests feel comfortable.

4. Repair, replace, or remove the cracked mirrors:

Cracked mirrors in our homes, if left that way over time, are often overlooked and ignored. (The mind plays a trick on us and we don't notice the crack any longer.) Show that same cracked mirror to someone, seeing it for the first time, and the crack is glaring and obvious.

Churches have cracked mirrors that have become overlooked and ignored to its members. The cracked mirror may be something as simple as the frayed carpet in the foyer or the hollow sound system in the sanctuary to something more complex, such as the kind-hearted person who is overbearing and obnoxious to new people or the music leader who sings every song at the same tempo.

Cracked mirrors need to be repaired or replaced or removed. To a first-time guest, these “cracks” are glaring. They cause the newcomer to question, “Why doesn't someone do something about this? Doesn't the church care? How could this church be so blind?”

Source of Article: <http://www.churchleaders.com>

Next Newsletter Deadline

➔ **October 23** – for November-December 2011

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

September *Physical* Birthdays

- 1 Mallory Massey
Dane Morgan
- 4 Marilyn Massey
- 6 Gertrude Ford
- 7 Desiree Moyer
- 8 Lynne Gellings
- 9 Lois Gergely
- 10 Edmund Kissinger
Maureen Thornhill
- 11 Natalie Cole
- 12 Greg Slepko
- 13 Gabriel Krafcik
- 16 Adam Dennison
Olivia Weekley
- 18 Don Smith
- 20 Tracy Liddy
- 21 Nicole Cook
- 27 Christl Kissinger
Michael Taylor
- 29 Sherrie Dennison
Kim Starr



- 16 John & Helga Haller (50th)
- 19 Jeff & Kim Lessa (13th)
- 20 Louis & Wendy Ragone (25th)
- 26 Ron & Rachel Harper (13th)
- 27 Bill & Judy Soucie (3rd)
- 28 Greg & Tami Taylor (26th)
- 30 Jim & Victoria Ford (44th)

October *Physical* Birthdays

- 2 Tiina May
- 3 Maggie May
- 6 Lilli Riechert
- 14 Charles Woidke
- 15 James May
- 16 Hannah Hlavacek
- 19 Sarai May
- 20 Mark Dennison Sr.
- 21 Madelyn Kutolowski
- 22 James Prahst
- 23 Jeanette De Simone
- 24 Kathy Green
Irene Lange
- 25 Paul Martens
- 26 Steven Pysz
- 27 Jessie Brown
- 31 Kayla Lessa



September *Spiritual* Birthday's

(born of the Spirit – through Baptism)

- 4 Michael Tischler
- 6 Jim Cannonie
- 7 Walter Kutolowski
- 8 Robert Green
Lisa Raines
- 10 Ingrid Kitzler
- 17 Justin Liddy
Jim Schabel
- 19 Stacey Green
Michael Kaderle
- 20 Helga Bartel
- 23 Amber Schroeder
- 26 Hannah Zeleznikar
- 30 Lois Gergely
Christine Woidke



October *Spiritual* Birthday's

(born of the Spirit – through Baptism)

- 2 Lynne Sala
- 3 Desiree Moyer
Olivia Weekley
- 5 Isaac Cole
Ben Morgan
- 7 Christl Kissinger
Courtney Slepko
- 9 Kayleigh Slepko
- 11 Chris Sala
Robert Wise
- 12 Sherrie Dennison
- 14 Helga Haller
Rhoda Werner
- 17 Gertrude Ford
Dylan Jozwiak
Tracy Liddy
- 18 Mallory Massey
- 28 Natalie Cole
- 31 Tiina May



September Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Ray & Sue Dmytirw (10th)
- 7 Michael & Sandra Hegedus (21st)
- 8 Larry & Gwynne Haslem (21st)
Luke & Cathleen Liptak (4th)
- 9 Fred & Jo Kussmaul (56th)
- 12 Greg & Cindy Slepko (24th)
- 13 Jerry & Nancy Huttner (42nd)



October Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Robert & Dianne Wise (2nd)
- 7 Matt & Tammy Cole (16th)



- 8 Brian & Angie Zeleznikar (6th)
- 9 Dave & Angie Rohman (7th)
- 17 Rand & Debbie Stender (41st)
- 20 Leo & Helga Bartel (55th)
- 22 Mark & Sherrie Dennison (28th)
- 30 Greg & Klara Seefeld (19th)



Your Newsletter

In an effort to reduce our newsletter mailing expenses, we would like to e-mail a copy to anyone who is on-line. **Thanks to all who are already receiving via e-mail!** If you are willing – *but not yet receiving your Newsletter via e-mail*, please send your request to: Secretary@blc7500.com For those who are not on-line we will have a copy of the NEXT newsletter with your name on it available in the Narthex on **the last Sunday in October** AND **the first Sunday in November**. Please pickup YOUR copy! If it is not picked up, it will be mailed. **Thanks!**

Staying in the Word

I hope you keep God and your relationship with Him at the top of your list!



However, if you do miss, you are urged to do one of the following:

- Listen to OR read my sermon (www.blc7500.com).
- Read our weekly news insert (www.blc7500.com).
- Stop by the church during the week for a bulletin, sermon, and weekly news.
- Read your Portals and/or Meditations.
- Read with us in the Know and Grow Bible Reading and Study Program.

Pastor

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Road
Parma, OH 44134
440-845-2230 † www.blc7500.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

Bethlehem's *September – October* 2011 Newsletter

Our Worship / Divine Service Schedule – *Please Join Us!*

Guilt-Free Thursdays – Can't attend on a Sunday? Come on the *PREVIOUS* Thursday!

Note this *ONE WEEK CHANGE*: Worship on Wednesday, 9/7, instead of Thursday, 9/8

Sundays → Worship 8:00; → **Food & Fellowship** 9:10; → **BC & SS** 9:30; → Worship 10:45

*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?

Full and Part-time Paid Staff

Pastor	Robert Green	440-845-2230
Childcare Director	Sharon Harmon	440-884-0430
All Bethlehem Family Childcare Faculty Members		
Secretary	Kathy Green	440-845-2230
Organist	James Alfieri	440-843-9938
Custodians	Larry Haslem	
	Luke Liptak	440-465-2121

Volunteer Staff

Sun. Sch. Director	Tammy Cole	216-820-7055
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Organizations

Altar Guild	Jean Smith	216-524-2446
50 Plus Fellowship	Fred Kusmaul	440-842-3657
Ladies Friendship Cir.	Nancy Huttner	440-886-2089

Men's Softball

Matt Kusmaul 440-668-5475

Leadership Team

Coordinator	Phillip Giessler	216-267-5037
Receivables	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	440-410-8220
Facility Maintenance	Please Volunteer	
Facility Improvement	Terry Tomasch	216-906-3047
Grounds	Tom Merkle	440-885-1282