

BLC News

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

January – February 2012

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

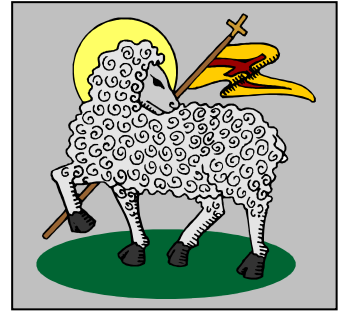
Food for Thought

What are Good Works?

They “are not the root
but the fruit of faith.”

(Handling the Word of Truth, 32)

Join us for more on Law and
Gospel; Wednesdays in January
at 7:00 p.m.



Contact Information / Hours / Church Web Site: www.blc7500.com

Pastor – Robert Green: Phones: Church: 440-845-2230; Cell: 440-292-5915; Home: 440-842-0694; E-Mail: Pastor@blc7500.com

Secretary – Kathy Green: Phone: 440-845-2230; E-Mail: Secretary@blc7500.com; Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00

Childcare Director – Sharon Harmon: Phone: 440-884-0430; E-Mail: ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com

Childcare Center: Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00; Web Page: www.bethlehemfamilychildcare.com

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!

Our Divine Service Schedule

Please Join Us! Invite a Friend!

Sundays – Beginning on January 8

Worship 8:00 & 10:45

Food & Fellowship 9:10

Bible Classes & Sunday School 9:30

Worship-Study Wednesdays

January 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 7:00 p.m.

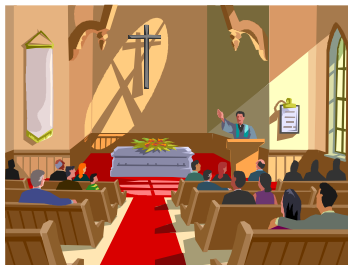
Topic: Law & Gospel, *Handling the Word of Truth!*

Imagine This...

Dear Member of Bethlehem,

Since I am the current pastor and you are a current member it's possible – *regardless of your age* – that I could be asked to speak at your funeral.

Imagine this: ✦ You have died, ✦ your loved ones are grieving, and ✦ we are gathered at Bethlehem Lutheran for your funeral. Your loved ones have gathered with the hope of hearing that you are in heaven.



What could I say that would bring them true comfort and peace? Please give that question some careful thought; then give me your answer soon in writing – *by note, letter, or e-mail*. Please include your name. *I'm looking forward to your reply!* Pastor

Am I Your Pastor

Dear Member of Bethlehem,

I'm your pastor *because of my position at Bethlehem* but also *because you are receiving the blessings of God's Word through me* – ✦ by your attendance in Divine Service and Study or, *for those who cannot attend*, ✦ by my visits to you.

If you not in either category, I challenge you to take action: → *Come to Church* or → *Invite Me to Come to You!*

Pastor

Study Opportunities in January

Please choose one or more; then join us, with a friend!

For more details, see the next page!

1. **Handling the Word of Truth:** Wednesdays in January at 7:00 p.m. – **Beginning on January 4.** Please join us for four Worship-Studies on the topic of Law and Gospel. *A right understanding of Law and Gospel is essential for a right understanding of the Bible!*
2. **Lutheran Basics Course:** Thursdays in January at 7:00 p.m. – **Beginning on January 5.** This study also includes two Thursdays in February.
3. **Walther:** Sundays in January at 9:30 a.m. – **Beginning on January 8,** please join us for the four-part DVD with Commentary.

Classes for Christian Growth

Disciples Learn, live, and Share the Word!

Sundays at 9:30 am



Adults – Location: *Christian Life Room!*

- January: **DVD on C. F. W. Walther** – A man who sacrificed his homeland, his health, and nearly his life for the freedom to speak freely, to believe freely, and to live freely, for his church and the faith of those he loved and for us who would come after. The series begins in Germany and concludes with the last years of Walther's life; it includes Lutheran persecution in Germany, traveling to America, and the founding the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
- February: Eventually back to 1 Samuel.



Youth – Location: *Upper Room!*

- **Please pray for our Youth Teachers:**
 - Luke Liptak (lukeliptak@gmail.com)
 - Ben Morgan (mo.b1991@gmail.com)
 - Jennifer Morgan (jennifmorgan@gmail.com)
- Parents: *please set the example; youth: please join us each week!*



Sunday School – Our Director: Tammy Cole

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 Cole know your needs*)
- **Thank you** to our *dedicated teachers* and *faithful parents!*
- **Please know and live:** Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Mondays at 4:30 – Youth Confirmation



Please pray for *our youth and their families!*

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm – Stephen Ministry

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Christ Caring for People through People!

I'm rejoicing to announce that Stephen Minister Training will resume on **January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** Please pick-up a schedule from a table in the narthex!

Jim Schabel, Stephen Leader

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm – Law & Gospel

A few of these chapters will be covered each week:

- ➔ **Chapter 1: Two Different Doctrines:** *Some basics!*
- ➔ **Chapter 2: The High and Hard Art:** *It's difficult to properly distinguish between L & G!*
- ➔ **Chapter 3: Making Christ a New Moses:** *Let us never add anything to the Gospel!*
- ➔ **Chapter 4: The Mix Makes the Muddle:** *We need the full sternness of the L and the full sweetness of the G!*
- ➔ **Chapter 5: First Things First:** *First we are saved by Christ; then we live for Christ!*
- ➔ **Chapter 6: Looking in All the Wrong Places:** *Terrified sinners should never look at what they are doing but at what Christ has done!*
- ➔ **Chapter 7: By Faith Alone:** *God has done everything; He even gives and sustains our faith!*
- ➔ **Chapter 8: Right Repentance:** *It hammers away at everything a sinner seeks to cling to for security and comfort that is not of Jesus Christ!*
- ➔ **Chapter 9: The Power of Sin:** *For those who share in Jesus' victory over sin, their lives are no longer dominated by sin!*
- ➔ **Chapter 10: The Church: Community of the Gospel:** *People are justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by their association with churches that rightly teach God's Word!*
- ➔ **Chapter 11: Evangelical Sacraments: Faith, Not Ritual Works:** *God's gifts are received by faith, not by going through the motions!*
- ➔ **Chapter 12: Alive by the Gospel:** *Let us understand that being converted, awakened, born again, etc. is God's work to make us alive in Christ!*
- ➔ **Chapter 13: The Gospel Gets the Last Word:** *The Law is never to be used on an unbeliever to entice him to stop sinning, thus to become more godly!*

Thursdays at 7:00 pm – Lutheran Basics



This course is for people who: ➔ seek the saving truth, ➔ want to better understand the super-important things of God, ➔ want to be sure that their sins are forgiven, ➔ want to better understanding how Lutherans are the same and different in comparison to other Christians, ➔ want to understand and benefit more from our Sunday liturgy, ➔ want to grow in their relationship with the Triune God, ➔ want to become confirmed Lutherans.



If you are planning to attend this course, **please RSVP by Tuesday, January 3** so a copy of the course materials can be prepared for you.

Saturdays at 8:30 am

- ✦ **Fellowship Saturday** (January-October) – Breakfast; Fellowship; Studies for Men and for Women; get acquainted; grow in the Word!
- **January 28** – Watch for the exciting topics!
 - **February 25** – Watch for the exciting topics!

Ash Wednesday is February 22

Please plan to join us at 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. for Divine Service. Like Christmas, the season of Lent points to the sad reality of our sins, but also to the good news of Jesus' sinless living and sacrificial dying – *to take away the sin of the world!*

Membership Changes

Since our Last Newsletter

New Members by Baptism:

Abigail Grace Kloos
Jonah Stephen Liptak



New Members by Transfer:

Timothy & Janet Chilton (Concordia, Independence)
Brian, Lori & Kevin Edwards (Good Shepherd, Brandon, MS)

Transfer to Paradise: **Adelbert Fowler**

Rev. J May & Family

Please Pray, Support Financially

God is working through Rev. May to eternally bless many people who speak many languages 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!*

Memorials Received

In Memory of Helen Heinrich:

Gloria Hurka



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 – Jesse Kloos	

Fellowship Team Ministry

Fellowship Activities

Things recently done:

- Advent Lunches & Soup Suppers: 11/30, 12/7, & 12/14
- Christmas Caroling at nursing homes/assisted living facilities where three of our members live: 12/10 – 20 some people sang; *thanks!*
- Christmas Light Tour on Lolly the Trolley: 12/10 – 26 people attended!

Things coming soon:

- **Friday, January 13:** Movie Night – “Grace Card”
- **Saturday, January 28:** WhirlyBall – *Indoor fun at its best!*
- **WATCH FOR THE DATE:** Game Night – Join us for board games, ping pong, indoor corn hole, karaoke, and more. Food, fun & fellowship – *come one and all!*
- **WATCH FOR THE DATE:** Group Bowling Outing

Our team meetings will be:

- Friday January 20, 2012
- Friday February 17, 2012

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

Service Cancellation Policy

- * We will almost never cancel a service. If you are ever in doubt, *call the church office.*
- * If we must close, we will make every effort to put that message:
 - o On our church voice mail: 440-845-2230
 - o On our church website: www.blc7500.com
- * Please disregard any messages on your television in regard to Bethlehem Lutheran Church being closed unless it specifies: **Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Parma** (*remember, there are at least three churches with that same name in the greater Cleveland area.*)
- * *God bless your winter!*



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** – *We are here to help you; let's talk!*

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ➔ **February 19** – *for March-April 2012*
- ➔ **April 22** – *for May-June 2012*
- ➔ **June 17** – *for July-August 2012*

Please e-mail your information to secretary@blc7500.com in MS Word format by the deadline noted above.

The Essential 100 Challenge (E100)

Are you aware that 90+ percent of American households own at least one Bible?

However, the staggering statistic is that only 20% of those who own Bibles will ever read through it completely in their lifetime. That includes regular church-going members. With those statistics in full

view, it is unfortunately easy to conclude that *Bible sales far outpace Bible reading!*

The Essential 100 Challenge (The E100) is a proven systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible without getting bogged down and frustrated. The E100 is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages -- *50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament.* The passages are usually one to two chapters in length and *can easily be read in 10 minutes or less.*

What is the E100 challenge?

The Essential 100 Challenge (The E100) is an effective Bible reading program. It will enable us to get the big picture of God's Word and in the process develop a daily Bible reading habit. *The E100 Challenge is simple, achievable and creates a contagious enthusiasm for reading the Bible.*

It's Achievable!

Most readings are one to two chapters, the perfect length for busy people. The readings are undated. *Nobody falls behind. Nobody feels guilty.*

It's Flexible!

The program works with any Bible translation.

The Plan People Love To Complete!

The E100 Bible passages are usually one to two chapters in length and can easily be read in 10 minutes or less. The E100 Challenge takes a reader through all of the major types of biblical writing including Historical books, Poetry and Wisdom Literature, the Prophets, the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles and Revelation. The Bible passages in The E100 Challenge are organized into 20 sets of five readings each.

Watch for details! *Daily Planners* will be available for those who wish to take the E100 challenge!

The program will **begin** on *Ash Wednesday, February 22* and **conclude** 100 days later on *Thursday, May 31!* You can also choose your own schedule!

The key is to read, think, receive, apply, and benefit – as God the Father works by the Holy Spirit through the Word!

January *Physical* Birthdays

- 5 Darrin Liddy
Gail Lisowski
- 6 Elizabeth Hegedus
- 7 Alex Cole
- 11 Michelle Meikle
Kristen Pendley
- 12 Thomas Tomasch
- 14 Mark Dennison Jr.
- 16 Dylan Jozwiak
Erica Kloos
- 17 Natalia Ford
Renee Werner
- 18 Carol Prahst
Connor Ring
Lillian Ring
- 19 Greg Seefeld
- 21 Giesla Schaefer
- 22 Doris Chmielewski
Michele Kutolowski
Jeff Lessa
- 23 Angelique Cuba
- 24 James Szell
- 27 Jeremy Ragone
- 28 Rosemarie Hoecker
Scott Sala



January *Spiritual* Birthday's

(Born of the Spirit – through Baptism)

- 1 Tim Raines
- 9 Carole Gellings
- 10 Nicole Cannonie
Melissa Pendley
- 12 Tami Taylor
- 13 Karen Thornhill
- 14 Jim Ford
- 20 Blake Kelley
Mark Kelley
Megan Kelley
- 20 Bonnie Moyer
- 23 Evan Davis
- 25 Angie Rohman
- 27 Nicole Belasco
Getrude Conn
Matt Taylor
- 28 Nicole Cook
Darrin Liddy
- 29 Luke Liptak
- 31 Alex Cole



January Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 Phillip & Inez Giessler (12th)
- 11 Ron & Betty Cook (34th)
- 24 Chris & Leanne Davis (14th)
- 24 Ray & Grace Dmytriw (53rd)



February *Physical* Birthdays

- 1 Constance Pysz
- 3 Megan Harper
- 6 Helga Bartel
- 7 Millie Sluka
- 9 Betty Cook
Klaus Kitzler
Klara Seefeld
- 14 Judy Woidke
- 19 Miranda Weekley
- 22 Logan Liptak
- 24 James Alfieri
Kathy Strauss
- 25 Mariah Haslem
- 26 Olivia Zeleznikar
- 27 Susanna Tischler



February *Spiritual* Birthday's

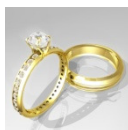
(Born of the Spirit – through Baptism)

- 3 Dolores Susnik
- 7 Regina Mild
- 11 Kristen Pendley
- 13 Klaus Kitzler
- 14 Holly Belasco
Mark Dennison Jr.
- 15 Gabriel Krafcik
Renee Werner
- 16 Wendy Ragone
- 17 Paul Moyer Sr.
- 20 Jeff Lessa
- 28 Michelle Meikle



February Wedding Anniversaries

- 4 John & Carole Gellings (56th)
- 6 Edmund & Christl Kissinger (52nd)



REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW!

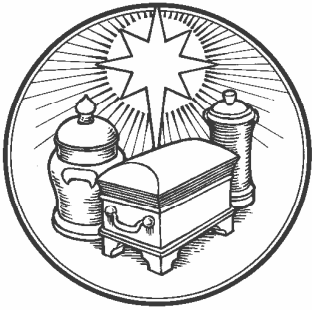
Benefit Yourself; Share with Others!

- 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



“On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” Matthew 2:11 NIV

Our Sunday Schedule: Worship 8:00 & 10:45; Food & Fellowship 9:10; Bible Classes & Sunday School 9:30

All are invited to receive God's eternal blessings at Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

BLC News † *January – February* 2012

Study with us in January – Many opportunities listed inside!

*Our mission is to help all people → KNOW Jesus Christ,
→ GROW in their knowledge of God's Word, and → EXCEL in Christ-like living!*
How 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	Matt & Tammy C.	216-820-7055
	Luke Liptak	440-465-2121

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

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	Jesse Kloos	330-416-9126
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