

- **Confession and Absolution:** We ♦acknowledge our sins, ♦express our sorrow, and ♦profess our trust in Jesus; then we hear the announcement that *God has forgiven us*.
- **Hymns:** They are ♦Bible-based and ♦theologically rich, so, let us *think about the words and apply them in our lives*.
- **Kyrie** (Greek for “Lord”): We ask the Lord to show us His mercy by helping us according to our needs.
- **Salutation:** “The Lord be with you.” He is with the congregation to enable them to hear, understand, and benefit, and with the pastor to enable him to pray, read, and preach.
- **Scripture Readings:** The Bible is ♦God’s word and ♦guides our lives in Christ.
- **Credo:** We use three, which summarize what we believe: Apostles – *Baptism*, Nicene – *Lord’s Supper*, Athanasian – *the relationship within the Holy Trinity*.
- **Lord’s Prayer:** Jesus taught it to His followers (Mt. 6; Lk. 11). The more we understand each petition, the more we will pray with meaning and richness.
- **Lord’s Supper:** After His sinless living in our place, Jesus gave His body and shed His blood to take away the sin of the world. When we receive with repentance and faith, we receive anew the forgiveness of our sins.
- **Benediction** (Latin for “blessing”): Consider these words: **Numbers 6:22-27** ...the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: **The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to**

you; The LORD lift up His countenance [face] on you [in a favorable way], And give you peace.’ So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I *then* will bless them.”

Much more could be written about the richness of our liturgy. Any questions, *please ask!*

Our Service Schedule

Saturdays: class **3:00**; service **4:00**

Sundays: service **9:00**; refreshments **10:15**; classes – adults, youth, and children **10:30**

Festival Services: See our [Join Us](#) brochure.

Our Lord’s Supper Practice

Since Christians cannot live without sin (Eccl. 7:20), *God keeps assuring repentant sinners of His forgiveness through the Lord’s Supper*.

Over the centuries the basis for who can receive the Supper has varied. Long ago, the basis was a shared belief in the Nicene Creed. Today, there are various requirements.

1 Corinthians 11:23-31 has important instructions regarding the Lord’s Supper. This is verse 28: “**a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**” So, we encourage self-examination using the **10 questions** noted below.

LORD’S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION

Let’s answer honestly and receive with repentance!

1. **Do I believe the Bible is true?** Y N Jn 17:17
2. **Am I sorry for my sins?** Y N 2 Co 7:10
3. **Am I trusting in Jesus for eternal life?** Y N Acts 4:12
4. **Am I baptized?** Y N Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Titus 3:5
5. **Do I desire to live for Christ?** Y N 2 Co 5:15
6. **Am I forgiving all others?** Y N Mark 11:25

7. **Am I doing my part to reconcile?** Y N Mt 5:23-24
8. **Are the elements of the Lord’s Supper bread, body, wine, and blood?** Y N 1 Co 10:16
9. **Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins?** Y N Matt. 26:26-28
10. **Do you understand and agree with the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)?** Y N 1 Co 10:15-22 — The Lord’s Supper is a meal of unity; we receive as members of the one body of Christ. The Bible says that “**those who eat the sacrifices are sharers in the altar**” (18). So, when we receive from an altar, we are expressing our agreement with the teachings of that altar.

These are ways to learn more:

- Read this brochure: [The Lord’s Supper](#)
- Read this booklet: A Simple Explanation of Christianity (available at Bethlehem)
- Talk / Meet with me – Pastor Green
- Looking for a church? Join us!

Conclusion

I’m glad to visit with you to get better acquainted and answer any questions. Please let me know of your desire. *Pastor*

Mobile: 440-292-5915; EM: RevRLGreen@aol.com

The Scripture references in this brochure are from the New American Standard Bible, the 1995 version.

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube: “Benefit from the Bible”

Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma”

Saturdays: Class 3:00; Service 4:00

Sundays: Service 9:00; Classes 10:30

7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134 / 440-845-2230

(Last Update: 12-25)

Welcome!



Learn About Bethlehem

- ➔ Our View of the Bible
- ➔ Our Basic Beliefs
- ➔ Our Worship Services
- ➔ Our Lord’s Supper Practice

Introduction

Hi! Welcome to Bethlehem! Please keep reading to learn more about us and give us an opportunity to get to know you😊.

The LORD is blessing us at Bethlehem:

- We believe the Bible is God’s word!
- We trust in Jesus for eternal life!
- We have about 100 active members of all ages (infants to 90’s)!
- We have active children and youth who attend our Sunday classes!
- Over half of our active adults attend our classes each week!
- We designate 10% of our budget each year to reach out to those in need!

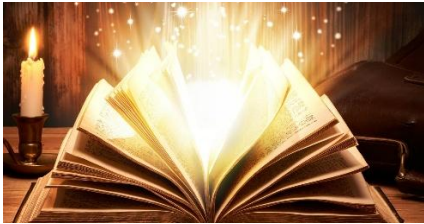
We want to help everyone:

- ➡ Understand God's word of truth.
- ➡ Turn **from** ♦their sins and ♦trust in self **to** trust in Jesus for eternal life.
- ➡ Live a life in harmony with the Bible.
- ➡ Live with peace, joy, and courage!

If you have questions about Bethlehem, please let me know. *Pastor Green*

Mobile: 440-292-5915; EM: RevRLGreen@aol.com

Our View of the Bible



God moved men, *by the Holy Spirit*, to write down His very words. Here is the order:

God the Father ➡ God the HS ➡ Prophets and Apostles ➡ the written word of God.

So, the Bible is **God's very word to us**. God breathed out His word in the languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

For important *evidence* about the Bible being true, read this brochure: [The Bible Is True](#)

Some key passages:

- **Isaiah 40:8** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.
- **Psalms 119:160** The sum of Your word is truth.
- **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God [literally: God-breathed].
- **2 Peter 1:21** ...no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

How We Interpret the Bible

- We use the **Historical-Grammatical** method. To explain that in very simple terms, *we take the Bible to mean what it says*. For example, the Bible says, **Genesis 1:1** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." So that is what we believe: Creation, not evolution.
- We use **Scripture to interpret Scripture**. Much of the Bible is easy to understand; however, when a passage is difficult to understand, we use other passages on that same topic / doctrine to help us rightly understand the one that is difficult. By using that method, **God is telling us the correct meaning**.

Our Basic Beliefs

Old Testament:

- God created a perfect world: Heaven and earth, plants and trees, sun, moon, and stars, birds and fish, animals and people.
- Shortly after the people were created, they sinned – resulting in separation from God, pain, suffering, eventual physical death, and eventual eternal punishment.
- However, *on the same day they sinned*, God promised to send a future descendant of the woman to take away the sin of the world.
- Then, through the prophets, festivals, and sacrifices, God kept reminding the people of His promise to send the Savior.

New Testament:

- At the right time, *which had been set by God*, He sent His Son into the world. He was ♦conceived by the Holy Spirit, ♦born of the Virgin Mary, and ♦given the name of Jesus – *which means, the Lord saves!*

- How did Jesus save us? **First**, He lived a sinless life as our perfect substitute. **Second**, He received our sins and the eternal punishment we deserve, then He laid down His life on Good Friday (and God raised Him to life on the third day).

God is calling all people to:

- Admit their sins and their helplessness to save themselves (*no one can meet God requirement* – **Matt. 5:48**; **Rom. 3:20**).
- Have godly sorrow (**2Co. 7:10**) and turn from their sins (**Act 26:18**).
- Trust in Jesus for eternal life (**1 Pet. 3:18**).

For all who trust in Jesus: God is calling us to:

- Grow in understanding the Bible.
- Gather each week to receive His gifts through word and sacrament.
- Live for Jesus and make Him known.

Our Worship Services

Today: In the US and around the world, there are many forms of Christian worship. Some are *simple and emotional*; others are more *complex and Biblical*.

On the topic of worship: Jesus told us what is essential: **John 4:23-24** "...the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." // What does that mean? Dr. Lenski, who wrote a commentary series of the NT, explained:

- "Omit the spirit, and though you have the truth, the worship becomes formalism, mere ritual observance."
- "Omit the truth, and though the whole soul is thrown into the worship, it becomes an abomination [something offensive to God]" (John 4:23-24).

In other words:

- The **truth** is essential: What is the truth? Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven, "**Your word is truth**" (**John 17:17**).
- The **spirit** is essential: Our spirit is the deepest part of us. God wants that part of us to ♦long for His truth, ♦desire to understand, ♦pay attention, ♦believe His word is true, and ♦make application of His word in our lives.

It is vital to hold a proper relationship between truth and emotions: Truth must be at top, *influencing how we feel*, rather than emotions being at the top, *canceling out God's truth*. For example: The Bible says, **1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." // So, for those who are ♦sorry for their sins and ♦trusting in Jesus for eternal life, God wants them to know they are forgiven. Let us rejoice in ♥God's love, rather than permit our feelings to cancel out God's amazing promises.

Truth and Emotions

Let's keep God's Truth at the top, as most important!
Even though our emotions can be strong and loud, let's keep them below God's Truth!

Our services are normally *liturgical and Biblical*, which means they ♦have order and ♦connect to various parts of the Bible. These are some of the parts of our liturgy:

- **Invocation:** We ask God to be with us in a special way to enable us to ♦understand His word and ♦be assured anew that our sins are forgiven.