

BLC Newsletter – August 2024

Be Informed and Faithfully Receive God's Gifts

www.BLC7500.com

My Dad Has Bees

Today I went to his house, and he showed me all the honey he had gotten from the hives. He took the lid off a 5-gallon bucket full of honey and on top of the honey there were 3 little bees, struggling. They were covered in sticky honey and drowning. I asked him if we could help them, and he said he was sure they wouldn't survive. Casualties of honey collection I suppose.



I asked him again if we could at least get them out and kill them quickly, after all he was the one who taught me to put a suffering animal (or bug) out of its misery. He finally conceded and scooped the bees out of the bucket. He put them in an empty Chobani yogurt container and put the plastic container outside.

Because he had disrupted the hive with the earlier honey collection, there were bees flying all over outside. We put the 3 little bees in the container on a bench and left them to their fate.

My dad called me out a little while later to show me what was happening. These three little bees were surrounded by all their sisters (all the bees are females) and they were cleaning the sticky nearly dead bees, helping them to get all the honey off their bodies.

We came back a short time later and there was only one little bee left in the container. She was still being tended to by her sisters.

When it was time for me to leave, we checked one last time and all three of the bees had been cleaned off enough to fly away and the container was empty.

Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by family and friends who would not give up on them, family and friends who refused to let them drown in their own stickiness and resolved to help until the last little bee could be set free.

Bee Sisters! Bee Peers! Bee Teammates! We could all learn a thing or two from those bees!

Author unknown; Art: Autumn Skye Morrison

Classes – Join Us and Benefit

1 Timothy: *Come on any week to any class!*

- **Saturdays at 3:00; Sundays at 10:30**
- Enjoy our delicious Sunday Refreshments!
- Food, fellowship, knowledge, certainty!
- Not able to attend, help yourself to the current handout – *from the top or the right side of the Bible shelf in the hallway.*

Sisters of Light:

- Every other **Wednesday at 1:00: 8/14 & 8/28**
- Call/text Rhonda for more info: 330-260-5194; *all women are invited to attend!*
- Join us in the Sunday School room – *across from the restrooms!*

Living the Lutheran Lectionary: Pick up a handout and treat, then listen, learn, benefit!

- **Thursdays at 10:00.**
- Not able to attend in person, attend online; *help yourself to the current handout* – from the Narthex table rack (on the lefthand table).

Leadership Team

Please pray and volunteer!

- Coordinator – Dr. Giessler
- Finance – Natalia Ford
- Treasurer – *open position*
- Grounds – Ken Hinkle
- Building – Terry Tomasch
- Worship – Rand Stender
- Fellowship – Eileen Kovach

These positions do the ministry:

- Pastor – Robert Green
- Care – Alan Carlson
- Education – Cedrick Hilliker
- Outreach – Rhonda Shuler

P
R
A
Y
&
V
O
L
U
N
T
E
E
R

July “Leadership Team” Highlights

Volunteer; be a Teammate; talk to any Leader!

FINACIAL: Giving for the month of June was very good (***thanks for being faithful***). Chuck has moved \$50,000 from Key Bank to a US Bank Money Market to earn a better rate of interest.

BUILDING:

- Floor Stripper machine tabled until September meeting. Terry will talk to Nick Ventura. (FYI: ABC Rental rents a similar machine for approximately \$100 per day.)
- Waiting for quotes: Mennonite Insurance Company, B-Lock and a company that makes concrete boulder/planters to be placed at

entrance ways of building to prevent vehicles from ramming into the building.

PASTOR TEAM:

- Organist Situation: After Jim’s recovery from surgery, he will play Saturdays and Gayle will play Sundays.
- Visit Team and Health: Recruit Linda Blaha to help visit shut ins, etc. Cost estimated at \$3,000 per year to be paid from our Staff Expansion Fund.

PASTOR:

• **Membership changes:**

- **Patricia Beal** – transfer to Bethlehem from St. John, Strongsville.
- **Thomas Tomasch** – has been removed per his request.

• **Mount Calvary Funds – Mission Approvals:**

- **\$1,800** – Vicar Kitimbo Grace (Uganda): for the construction of a latrine, church lighting, and sound system.
- **\$1,500** – Teacher Daniel Souk (Togo): to purchase a motorcycle.
- **\$2,500** – Rev. Michael Waiswa (Uganda): to put a concrete floor in his church.
- **\$1,800** – Rev. Samuel Ondieki Onsongo (Kenya): to put doors and windows in his church building.
- **\$400** – Rev. Emanuel Gilo (refugee camp in Kenya): for emergency food and water.
- **\$800** – Rev. Okach Opiew (Ethiopia): to travel and purchase emergency supplies for his family due to the unrest in Kenya.
- **\$2,000** – Discretionary Fund – Foreign: to help with needs between meetings.

• **BLC Mission Funds – Reaching Category:**

\$1,000 – given to support Youth for Christ.

Next Leadership Team meeting: Monday, 9/16 at 7:00 pm. *Everyone is welcome to attend!*

Grief Share – Fall 2024

You can move from Mourning to Joy!



Register Today:

+ www.GriefShare.org
+ call Norma: 216-406-4871

Begins September 3

Tuesdays
6:30 PM

Brochure of the Month

From the Bible we know that ♣all have sinned, ♣sin leads to death, and ♣death can be very painful and difficult. Therefore, with the guidance and encouragement of Norma

Sweeny, our Grief Share Leader, we began our Grief Share Program in 2022.

Alan and Linda Blaha are our Lead Facilitators, so they lead our weekly gatherings. Other facilitators – including Alan Carlson and Inez Giessler – assist with the setup, welcoming, refreshments, etc.

It is our prayer that the program will be a special blessing to you in many ways! If you need help, please talk to Pastor or any of the people listed in this section.

The Fall session begins **9/3**. Registration options: www.griefshare.org or Norma: 216-406-4871

Food and Fire Saturdays

Volunteer to schedule a date, then Kathy will advertise it. The person scheduling the date also recruits people to help:

- Bring the needed items (plates, cups, beverages, etc.) from the church building and return them after the event.
- Ensure food is being brought by attendees or needed food is being purchased.
- Make and maintain the fire.
- Put a liner in the garbage can, empty it after, and install a new liner.

See the bulletin board! Thanks for considering!

Who Are You Praying For?

Sadly, many are blind to the truth. They have blinded themselves by refusing to hear, read, think about, and believe God's Holy Word.

- Some think they are doing okay, **but the Bible says:** ^{NAS} **Proverbs 14:12** "There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."
- Many see others who are like them – *decent people, doing good* – believing their way will end in heaven, **but Jesus said:** ^{NAS} **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

May the Holy Spirit grant us compassion for the lost and move us to love them and share God's truth! Use a recent sermon, brochure, etc. Jesus said: ^{NAS} **John 8:32** "...you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

August Physical Birthdays

8/1 Esther Hofener
8/1 Michael Tischler
8/1 Sara Green
8/7 Linda Carlson,
8/7 Helga Haller
8/8 Cameron Krafcik
8/9 Michael Kaderle
8/11 Tracy Crites
8/12 Doreen Weseloh
8/12 Andrew Sherepita
8/14 Jim Cannonie
8/15 Bharath Meeraj
8/18 Gayle Powers
8/22 Justin Liddy
8/23 Michael Browning
8/24 Gerry Ventura
8/25 Nancy Burton
8/25 Stacey Jasulevich
8/26 Roger Dowell
8/27 Lynne Sala
8/28 Aidan Blaha
8/30 Carole Gellings



August Spiritual Birthdays

8/7 Jim Kovach
8/8 David Rohman
8/10 Michael Dickau
8/16 Wilhelm Mild
8/17 Reggie Nellis
8/17 Kevin Liddy
8/17 Maci Green
8/19 Michael Kaderle
8/27 Doreen Weseloh
8/31 Ruth Blaha



August Wedding Anniversaries

8/6 *Christian and Monica Krafcik (13th)
8/7 Terry and Lynda Tomasch (43rd)
8/19 Eric and Erin Nellis (20th)
8/21 Alan and Linda Carlson (48th)

Stephen Ministry

- ➔ Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic illness, or terminal illness.
- ➔ Could you benefit from a Stephen Minister? Contact Norma: 216-406-4871

Need a Ride?

Contact the church office. We will try to help you get a ride to a doctor's appointment etc.

Online Giving – To BLC

You can donate online through our Bethlehem PayPal account. Just scan the QR code to get started **OR** go to www.BLC7500.com and click on the "Donate" button. **Thanks!**



Mighty Deeds of God

Start sharing the cards!

Mighty Deeds of God

- + HE created everything out of nothing!
- + HE knows the intent of our hearts!
- + HE wants us to be with Him forever!
- + HE made the one way through Jesus!
- + HE is calling all to repent and believe!

Learn More - Receive the Benefits

Go to this page...

www.BLC7500.com/MightyDeeds

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **August 28** at Noon
- ⇒ Wednesday, **September 25** at Noon

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road,
Parma, OH 44134, 440-845-2230
secretary@blc7500.com