

BLC Newsletter – October 2025

Be Informed and Faithfully Receive God's Gifts

www.BLC7500.com

Church Pictorial Directory

Picture Days are Coming – from 2:30 to 8:30

➔ On Wednesday, 10/22

➔ On Thursday, 10/23

Schedule today by:

- **Contacting Kathy G**
- **Going online:**
 - Go to www.ucdir.com
 - Click on **Photography Session Sign-Up**
 - Enter Church Code: **oh2874**
 - Enter password: **photos**
 - Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time.
 - If you have *6 or more* in your family, please use *2 consecutive time slots*.



Need to change or cancel your appointment?

Contact Kathy G: 440-785-3802

Some Rooms Have New Names

Our new signs should be in place soon! See the September Newsletter for the changes.

October and Christians *Important Info For You!*

Christians: God has worked, by grace, to show us the truth, make us sorry for our sins, and gift us with faith by which we trust in Jesus for eternal life! *Those are GREAT and AWESOME blessings!*

God has made us “...a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that [we] may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

We are different – we do live in the world, but we are not to be like the world: “You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God” (James 4:4 NIV).

Some Application:

- Ramadan – I'm not a Muslim, so I don't endorse or observe that Muslim holiday.
- Halloween – I'm not a Satanist, so I don't endorse or observe that Satanic holiday.
- Reformation – I am a Christian, so I do **endorse and observe October 31, 1517**, which is when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church to spark a theological debate on what the Bible teaches about the way to heaven. Let's put God's word OVER our common sense:
 - **No one will be saved by keeping God's Law: Romans 3:20** “...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”
 - **Salvation is ONLY by faith alone in Jesus for eternal life: Acts 16:30-31** “Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**” They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved....”
 - **All Christians do good works, BUT they are NEVER added to the all-sufficient work of the Christ: Romans 3:28** “...a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”

Summary of October 31, 1517

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, an event widely considered the start of the Protestant Reformation. The Theses criticized the Catholic Church's practice of selling indulgences and challenged papal abuses, sparking theological debates that ultimately led to a major break from the Catholic Church and the emergence of Protestantism.

Key Details:

- Who: German monk and theology professor Martin Luther.
- What: He posted his "95 Theses," a document outlining 95 revolutionary opinions and criticisms of the RC Church.
- Where: The Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.
- Why: Luther was protesting the sale of indulgences, which were essentially pardons for sins and were being used to raise money for the Church.

Significance:

- Start of the Protestant Reformation: This act is seen as the catalyst for the widespread movement that challenged the Catholic Church's authority and doctrines.
- Challenged Church Authority: The Theses questioned the Pope's power and the perceived corruption within the Church.
- Led to Religious Change: The Reformation brought about significant changes in European religious and political landscapes, leading to the formation of various Protestant denominations and influencing concepts of religious freedom.

FYI: The Lutheran Church, in 1555, was the first Protestant church body to be recognized by the Holy Roman Empire.

Regular Weekend Schedule

Saturdays – Class at 3:00; Service at 4:00

(less formal, but very similar to Sundays)

Sundays – Service at 9:00; Classes at 10:30

(amazing refreshment time: 10:15 – 10:30)

- Adults and Older Youth – Timothy Room
- Younger Youth – Middle Office
- Sunday School – Acts Room

Other Classes – You Are Invited

Sisters of Light – Every Other Wednesday: 1:00

- October 8 & 22
- Ladies – join us in the "Acts Room"
- Questions? Ask Rhonda: 330-260-5194

Living the Lutheran Lectionary – Thursdays: 10:00

- Join us in the "Timothy Room"
- Learn about the upcoming readings
- Questions? Ask Harold: 440-454-2139

Men's Group – First Saturday of *Many* Months:

- *Skipping October* – Join us on **11/1**
- Free Breakfast at 9:00
- Study Begins at 9:15
- Questions? Ask Dr. G: 216-374-5973

Leadership Team

Open positions for 2026-2027: Coordinator, Grounds, Building, Fellowship, Outreach (*the other positions continue through 2026*). Note: Some who are currently serving have expressed interest in continuing but you can get your name on the ballot or join a team as a teammate.

Summaries of the Open Positions:

Coordinator: Lead the leadership team meetings, hold the team leaders accountable for their responsibilities, and be the leadership team spokesman to the congregation.

Grounds: The leader and teammates do or supervise whatever is necessary to maintain and improve our grounds, including the

mowing, landscaping, plowing, garage, pavilion, playgrounds, and outdoor lighting.

Building: The leader and teammates do or supervise whatever is necessary to maintain and improve our facility.

Fellowship: The leaders and teammates coordinate our various meals, including Wednesdays in Advent and Lent, Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, and a church picnic.

Outreach: The leader and teammates oversee, develop, and act in various ways to reach out to non-members.

Blessings on Your Month!

Stay Close to Jesus!

- ➔ **Pray** for those in need. *If you have a prayer chain request*, text, or call Kathy G: 440-785-3802
- ➔ **Use** Your Abilities: See our “**Serve the LORD with Gladness**” brochure (*by main entrance*).
- ➔ **Reach** those who are lost – by giving them one of our many resources, praying for them, and inviting them.
- ➔ **Grow** through our website: www.BLC7500.com – many sermons, studies, and brochures are available.
- ➔ **Listen** to The Lutheran Hour: Sundays at 6:30 AM on WTAM 1100; Sundays at 8:00 AM on WHKW 1220
- ➔ **Watch** Worship Anew – *A Lutheran Service for shut-ins*: Sundays at 11:30 AM: Cox: 12; Direct TV: 67, 377; Dish: 47

Prayer (chain) Multiplier

Be a prayer warrior! Prayers are sent by text:

- Do you have a request?
- Would you like to be added to the list?

Call or text Kathy G. 440-785-3802

Choir-Made-Easy – Join Us!

Contact Harold: 440-454-2139;

weselohduh@gmail.com

- ✓ Receive the hymn and melody for the first Sunday of each month via email.
- ✓ Practice on your own.
- ✓ Meet at the organ on the first Sunday of each month at 8:45.
- ✓ Sing during that service.
- ✓ Ask Harold for a choir schedule.

Grief Share – Fall Cycle

- ➔ The Fall cycle: 9/2/25 – 12/16/25.
- ➔ Interested? Contact Norma to register to attend and get the benefits: 216-406-4871

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.
- ➔ *You could benefit from a Stephen Minister!* Questions? Contact Norma: 216-406-4871

ACME Community Cash Back

Community Cash Back is an easy, local fundraiser for non-profit organizations! Simply start collecting receipts and place them in the blue holder in the Narthex. We earn 5% cashback on certain products. The program runs 8/1/25 – 2/15/26.

October Physical Birthdays

10/1 Linda Taylor
10/1 Linda Widzinski
10/5 Ed Cepis
10/6 Lilli Riechert
10/16 Kenneth Hinkle
10/16 Hannah Hlavacek

10/20 Mark Dennison
10/24 Kathleen Green
10/27 Sue Coufalik
10/29 Ivy Miller
10/29 Nick Ventura



October *Spiritual* Birthdays

10/2 Lynne Sala
10/6 Heather Hilliker
10/7 Christl Kissinger
10/7 Courtney Slepko
10/9 Olive Jasulevich
10/9 Kayleigh Musil
10/10 Rachel Widzinski
10/10 Shawn Widzinski
10/11 Chris Sala
10/12 Sherrie Dennison
10/14 Helga Haller
10/15 Matthew Potantus
10/17 Tracy Liddy
10/17 Matyas Yu-Hsin Liao
10/28 Nevin Sherepita



October *Wedding* Anniversaries

10/9 David and Angela Rohman (21st)
10/15 Jim and Linda Widzinski (39th)
10/17 Rand and Deborah Stender (55th)
10/21 Michael and Briar Miller (2nd)
10/22 Mark and Sherrie Dennison (42nd)
10/22 Matthew & Megan Samarin (21st)
10/30 Kenneth and Linda Hinkle (49th)
10/30 Gregory and Klara Seefeld (33rd)

Note: If your name is missing or a date is incorrect on any of the lists above, *please contact the church office.*

Your IRA Distribution Make Your RMD a QCD



If you own an individual retirement account (IRA) and are at least 70 1/2 years old, you can support the Lord's work by directing a **tax-free distribution** to Bethlehem. See this article from Thrivent for a full explanation: [click here](#)
No internet access? Copies of the Thrivent article are available in the Narthex.

Parking Lot Church



Not feeling well?
LISTEN FROM YOUR CAR! Pick up everything need – just inside our main entrance, then tune your radio to **FM**

89.9. For all the details, read the special insert in each parking lot church service folder.

Online Giving – To BLC

You can donate online through our Bethlehem PayPal account. Scan the code to get **OR** go to www.BLC7500.com and click “Donate” button. **Thanks!**



FYI: See the 9/21/25 sermon to discover the great blessings God has promised to those who follow His money management principles!

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **October 22** at Noon
- ⇒ Wednesday, **November 26** at Noon

Bethlehem Parma; www.BLC7500.com