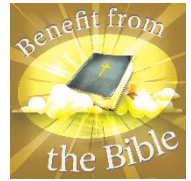




# Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2024

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 10/19 at 4 pm; Sunday, 10/20 at 9 am



**LORD!**  
**Please**  
**Give Us**  
**Soft and**  
**Believing**  
**Hearts!**



**Welcome:** “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD’” (Ps. 122:1 NAS).

**Church Year:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**Divine Service:** Setting One, LSB 151-166.

**Today:** Let us examine our hearts!

- ☺ **Visitors:** Welcome! Please complete an attendance slip and let us know how we can help!
- ☺ **Prayer Request:** Use a “yellow” card (Narthex).
- ☺ **Young Children:** Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).
- ☺ **All Children:** Children’s Message (join us).
- ☺ **Phone:** Please put on silent.
- ☺ **Hearing Assistance:** Available in the Narthex.
- ☺ **Service Folder:** Available on your smartphone:  
[www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder](http://www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder)

☺ **Worship From Your Car:** Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).

**BELL and CANDLELIGHTING** – Please be seated!

**PRELUDE:** We listen in silence...

**Sunday** → Halle, Hallelujah! Blessings Abound  
Arr. Behnke

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:**

**L:** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C: Amen.**

**L:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1Jo. 1:8-9*

Silence for self-examination.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

A: **Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean.**

- I have sinned against You in *thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone.*
- I have *not* loved You with my whole heart; I have *not* loved my neighbors as myself.
- I justly deserved Your *present and eternal punishment.*

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may *delight* in Your will and *walk* in Your ways to the *glory* of Your holy name. Amen.

L: The Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*[John 20:19-23]*

C: Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ➔ Hymn

Sunday ➔ Entrance Hymn and Procession

↑ HYMN: *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

See the words below / TLH 279 / LSB 915

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,  
And all who enter in

Shall find a Father's welcome  
And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav'n.

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

L: O Lord, You shed Your precious blood,

C: **have mercy upon us.**

L: O Christ, You paid our eternal penalty,

C: **have mercy upon us.**

L: O Lord, You opened the gate to the Father,

C: **have mercy upon us.**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

L: The LORD be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray: O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓ Children! Please come forward!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Which Is Better – Hard or Soft?



OLD TESTAMENT: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1040 / Own Bible

Words of wisdom: Think, understand, and apply!

<sup>10</sup> He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. <sup>11</sup> When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on? <sup>12</sup> The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep.

<sup>13</sup> There is a grievous evil *which* I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded by their owner to his hurt. <sup>14</sup> When those riches were lost through a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him. <sup>15</sup> As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.

<sup>16</sup> This also is a grievous evil-- exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind?

<sup>17</sup> Throughout his life *he* also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

<sup>18</sup> Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun *during* the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God. <sup>20</sup> For he will not often consider the years of his life, because God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM:** 119:9-16 ESV

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

Great advice as we await Jesus' return!

- 9 How can a young man keep his | way pure?\*
- By guarding it according | to your word.
- 10 With my whole heart I | seek you;\*
- let me not wander from your com- | mandments!
- 11 I have stored up your word | in my heart,\*
- that I might not sin a- | gainst you.
- 12 Blessèd are you, | O LORD;\*
- teach me your | statutes!
- 13 With my lips | I declare\*

all the just decrees | of your mouth.

- 14 In the way of your testimonies | I delight\*  
as much as in all | riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your | precepts\*  
and fix my eyes | on your ways.
- 16 I will delight in your | statutes;\*
- I will not for- | get your word.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**EPISTLE:** Hebrews 4:1-13 NAS-95

Will be read during the sermon.

**↑ ALLELUIA and VERSE** **LSB 156**

*John 6:68*

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e-ter-nal life.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Mark 10:23-31 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1571 / Own Bible

It's impossible! No one can save himself!

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O LORD.**

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup> Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

<sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." <sup>29</sup> Jesus

said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake,<sup>30</sup> but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.<sup>31</sup> But many *who are first will be last, and the last, first.*”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** ↓

**HYMN:** *O Word of God Incarnate*

See the words below / LSB 523

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky:  
We praise You for the radiance  
That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps,  
Shines on from age to age.
- 2 The Church from You, dear Master,  
Received the gift divine;  
And still that light is lifted  
O’er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass  
That, all life’s voyage through,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands  
Still guides, O Christ, to You.
- 3 O make Your Church, dear Savior,  
A lamp of burnished gold  
To bear before the nations  
Your true light as of old!  
O teach Your wand’ring pilgrims  
By this their path to trace  
Till, clouds and darkness ended,  
They see You face to face!

**SERMON:** LORD! Please Give Us Soft and Believing Hearts! Hebrews 4:1-13 NAS-95

1. **Warning:** <sup>1</sup> **Therefore** [because of the delivered-Israelites, who died in the wilderness because of unbelief], let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. <sup>2</sup> For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.
2. **God’s Rest:** <sup>3</sup> For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, “AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”; <sup>5</sup> and again in this passage, “THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.”
3. **Today:** <sup>6</sup> Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”
4. **Work Rest:** <sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. <sup>9</sup> So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. <sup>11</sup> Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

5. **All-Knowing:** <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

**Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon**

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

↑ **HYMN:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow  
See the words below / TLH 644 / **LSB 805**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**APOSTLES' CREED:** See the back of either hymnal.

**Offering:** Plates are available in the center aisle.

**Thanks for Honoring the LORD:** By giving to His work  
♦first, ♦proportionately, and ♦faithfully!

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

1 Timothy 2:1-4

**Request a Prayer:** Complete a PRAYER REQUEST card  
(available in the Narthex).

**Prayer List Procedure:** To keep someone on our list,  
names with a (3) need to be renewed by Wednesday  
at 3:00. Contact your person to see how he/she is  
doing; then give Kathy an update (440-845-2230).

**After Each Petition:** L: LORD, in Your mercy.  
C: **Hear our prayer.**

**Nation**

- ➔ **USA:** Truth, repentance, guidance, unity.
- ➔ **US Armed Forces and Police:** Chris Sala, Brad Sala, Nick Riviotta, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeney, Drew Tenney, and Chris Weseloh.

- ➔ **The LCMS:** Pray for wisdom to know God's will and desire and courage to do it in all things!

**Congregation**

- ➔ **Care:** People who normally cannot attend and have chronic health issues: **Helga B**, **Doris C**, **Sandy C**, **Roger D**, **Carole G**, **Edmund & Christl K**, **Bill M**, **Regina M**, **June R**, **Jean S**, **Mike & Susanna T**. (They receive mailings and visits.)
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Pray for Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, Rhonda S, and Bill S (ministers), and their care receivers.
- ➔ **Grief Share:** For our facilitators – *guidance*; for our participants – *comfort and peace*.
- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - **Dennis** (1) (bro. of Janice Martinez) stroke, fall, broken hip: *peace and healing*.
  - **Zachary Blaha** (2) cellulitis, pneumonia.
  - **Roger Dowell** hospice: *peace and comfort*.
  - **Cedrick Hilliker** (3) shoulder injury.
  - **Hilda Kaderle** (3) fall, torn muscles, memory.
  - **Eileen Kovach** (3) shingles, foot surgery.
  - **Dennis Montick** (3) neck pain: *guidance*.
  - **Miriam Putze** (3) sore back: *healing*.
  - **Lynda Tomasch** (3) surgery 10/7: *healing*.

**For Others**

- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - **Charles Burton** (3) lymphoma, chemo.
  - **Henry Byham** (3) brain cancer: *healing*.
  - **Melanie Himmelberger** – bone cancer.
  - **Jim Vrabel** (3) skin grafts: *continued healing*.
  - **Mark Woodward** (1) cont. peace, strength.
- ➔ **Sympathy:** To the family of **Lois Kadai** who died on 9/27; she was on our Care list.
- ➔ **Sympathy:** Kenneth, bro. of Janice Martinez, died from cancer on 10/8: *comfort and peace*.

**Physical Birthdays:**

**10/20 Mark Dennison**  
**10/24 Kathy Green**

10/26 Steven Pysz

### Wedding Anniversaries:

10/21 Michael and Briar Miller (1<sup>st</sup>)

10/22 Mark and Sherrie Dennison (41<sup>st</sup>)

### Conclusion:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

## THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### SUPPER PREPARATION HYMN:

*Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior*  
See the words below / LSB 619

1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior,  
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,  
These are my life and strength forever,  
By them my hungry soul is fed. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!**

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united;  
I live in Thee and Thou in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted  
It finds its only joy in Thee. **Refrain**

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely  
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely  
With Jesus I to heaven rise. **Refrain**

### LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

"Let a person examine himself" (1Cor. 11:28 ESV).

**Should I receive the Lord's Supper today?**

**Use these 10 questions to examine yourself...**

More Info: Read through a Self-Examination Brochure

### Part 1 – Basics of Being a Christian:

1. Do I believe the Bible is true? Y N *John 17:17*
2. Am I sorry for my sins? Y N *2 Cor. 7:10*
3. Am I trusting in Jesus for eternal life? Y N *Ac. 4:12*
4. Am I baptized? Y N *Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Tit. 3:5*
5. Do I desire to live for Christ? Y N *2 Cor. 5:15*

### Part 2 – Forgiveness and Reconciliation:

6. Am I forgiving all others? Y N *Mark 11:25*
7. Am I doing my part to reconcile? Y N *Rom. 12:18*

### Part 3 – Elements and Benefits of the Lord's Supper:

8. Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, body, wine, and blood? Y N *1 Cor. 10:16*
9. Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins? Y N *Matt. 26:26-28*

### Part 4 – Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS):

10. Do you understand and agree with the basic teachings of the LCMS? Y N *1 Cor. 10:15-22*

### ↑ LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM: The Sixth Chief Part – The Sacrament of the Altar

L: **3:** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

C: **Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."**

L: **4:** Who receives this sacrament worthily?

C: **Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

### PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION:

L: O LORD, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the forgiveness of sins.

C: **Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins,**

L: and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *See the back of either hymnal.*

L: Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: **Our Father who art in heaven...** *Matt. 6:9-13*

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:**

*Combining: Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1Co 11:23-25*

**PAX DOMINI** ~ *Peace of the Lord* *John 20:19*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

**AGNUS DEI** ~ *Lamb of God* *John 1:29*

See the words below / **LSB 163**

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; grant - - - us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:**

- ♦ If you are ready to receive: Come forward now.
- ♦ Receiving at your pew: Please inform an usher.
- ♦ Alcohol-Removed Wine: Center of each tray.
- ♦ Receive. Go in peace. Return via the side aisle.
- ♦ Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

**MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:**

**Sunday** ➔ As the Deer Longs for the Water Brook  
So My Soul Longs for You *Arr. Wagner*

**LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL**

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:** *Let Us Pray*

L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary *[spiritually beneficial]* gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and

fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:** **LSB 164**

*Thank the Lord*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise;  
tell ev'ryone what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear His name.

He recalls His promises  
and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving.

Alleluia, alleluia.

**BENEDICTION** ~ *Blessing* *Num. 6:24-26*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD look upon you with *favor* and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:**

**Sunday** ➔ Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow!

**Desire a Prayer?** *See a Stephen Minister* – Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, Rhonda S, Bill S, or Norma S.

**Saturday – Fellowship and Pizza**

Join us on October 19 at 5:15 – down the hall

**Sunday – VERY BRIEF VOTERS MEETING**

**10/20 at 10:15 in the Worship Area**

1. Please sign the voter role.
2. Please be ready to accept the proposed constitution and bylaw changes (*they will be ratified at the 11/17 voters meeting*).

**FYI – Stay Informed**

We are beginning to use a system to help you stay informed through calls or text messages. Please take note of the **NEW** TEXT NUMBER *on the next page* ➔

- Calls will show this number: 440-845-2230

- Texts will show this number: **440-298-2791**

### Schedule: 10/20 – 10/27

#### Monday

7:00 – Leadership Team

#### Tuesday

6:30 – Grief Share – Grieving? *Then join us!*

#### Wednesday

1:00 – Sisters of Light

#### Thursday

10:00 – LTLL: Preview of Upcoming Readings

#### Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

#### Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:45 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

### Thanks For Serving on 10/19 & 20

**Altar Guild:** Heather H

**Saturday:** Organist: Jim V    Usher: Jim & Shawn W  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C  
Distribution – Alan C

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Matthias M  
Distribution – Cedrick H  
Ushers: Carl B  
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others  
Sunday School: Heather H, Cedrick/Harold

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Paul M

### Thanks For Serving on 10/26 & 27

**Altar Guild:** Nancy B

**Saturday:** Organist: Jim V    Usher: Jim & Shawn W  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C  
Distribution – Alan C

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Harold W  
Distribution – Matthias M  
Ushers: Carl B  
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others  
Sunday School: Stacey J, Cedrick/Harold

**Financial Team:** Ken H, Linda W

### Numbers From Last Week

#### Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **39**; car: **1**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **67**; car: **1**

#### Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **13**
- Sunday at 10:30: **42**
- Thursday at 10: **7**

#### Supported God's Work:

- **Needed** Each Week (budget): **5,134**
- **Received** Last Week (actual): **5,334**
- **Gross Surplus YTD** – *as of last week:* **26,059** – **Thanks so much!**
- **Net Surplus YTD** – *as of 7/31/24:* **17,631**



## Connect With Us

➔ **Website:** [BLC7500.com](http://BLC7500.com) ➔ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➔ **Facebook:** Bethlehem Parma

**Regular Services:** Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

**Festivals:** Website > Important Links > Festivals

**Studies:** Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30

**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

**Church Office:** Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00

**Kathy Green:** [Secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com); 440-845-2230

**Pastor Green:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915

**Church Body:** [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) District: [oh.lcms.org](http://oh.lcms.org)