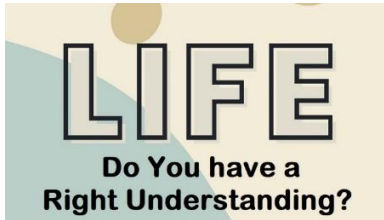
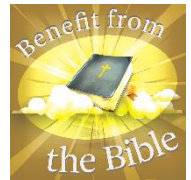




# Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2025

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 2/15 at 4 pm; Sunday, 2/16 at 9 am



Church Year: Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany. | Divine Service: Setting One, LSB 151-166.

## WELCOME:

- ☺ **Visitors:** Welcome! Please fill-out an attendance slip insert 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** ➔ Aria

J. S. Bach

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTIONA:

- 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: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

See the words below / TLH 134 / LSB 394

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest  
In Thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
- 3 Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

### KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

- L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### 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 Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

#### LIFE – Do You have a Right Understanding?

##### Most People

##### God's Plan For Believers

1. Born ----- Spiritual Birth through Baptism
2. Grow ----- Grow in Knowing Jesus
3. Study ----- Study the Bible
4. Work ----- Follow God's Plan
5. Retire ----- Keep Living for Jesus
6. Die ----- Go to Heaven through Jesus

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 17:5-8

NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1201 / Own Bible

Let us trust IN THE LORD!

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup> For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant."

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD  
And whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup> For he will be like  
a tree planted by the water, That extends its  
roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat  
comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not  
be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield  
fruit.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**



PSALM: 1

ESV

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

Let us KNOW AND FOLLOW GOD'S WORD!

L: Blessèd is the man who walks not in the  
counsel of the wicked,

C: **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in  
the seat of scoffers;**

L: but his delight is in the law of the LORD,

C: **and on his law he meditates day and night.**

L: He is like a tree planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf  
does not wither.

C: **In all that he does, he prospers.**

L: The wicked are not so,

C: **but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

L: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the  
judgment,

C: **nor sinners in the congregation of the  
righteous;**

L: for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

C: **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

A: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to  
the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1789 / Own Bible

Jesus, the Christ, IS RISEN, INDEED!

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is preached, that He has been  
raised from the dead, how do some among you  
say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

<sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead,  
not even Christ has been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ  
has not been raised, then our preaching is vain,  
your faith also is vain. <sup>15</sup> Moreover we are even  
found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we  
testified against God that He raised Christ, whom  
He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.  
<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ  
has been raised; <sup>17</sup> and if Christ has not been  
raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your  
sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in  
Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If we have hoped in Christ  
in this life only, we are of all men most to be  
pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But now Christ has been raised from the  
dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

*Will be read during today's sermon!*

HYMN: *Thy Strong Word*

See the words below / LSB 578

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,

Breathed Thine own life-giving breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

**SERMON:** Do You Have a Right Understanding of Life?  
Luke 6:17-26 NAS-95

1. **Setting:** <sup>17</sup> Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and *there was* a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. <sup>19</sup> And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing *them all*.

2. **Great Teaching Opportunity:** <sup>20</sup> And turning His gaze toward His disciples...

a. **The Blessed [Happy] Ones:**

- i. **"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."**
- ii. <sup>21</sup> **"Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied."**
- iii. **"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh."**
- iv. <sup>22</sup> **"Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets."**

b. **The Cursed [Unhappy] Ones:**

- i. <sup>24</sup> **"But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full."**
- ii. <sup>25</sup> **"Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry."**
- iii. **"Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep."**
- iv. <sup>26</sup> **"Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way."**

**Conclusion:** LIFE – 2 choices:

- Do your own thing and hope for the best – leading to a horrible eternity! **OR**
- Be open to God's word and trust in Jesus – leading to a wonderful eternity!

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

Narhex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

**HYMN:** *Thy Strong Word*

See the words below / LSB 578

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

**↑ Please Arise!**

6 God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

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

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

*The LORD has blessed us with life, salvation, and all we need, let us trust Him, thank Him, honor Him!*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

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

**Prayer List Procedure:** Names with a (3) need to be renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person; update Kathy (call: 440-845-2230; text: 440-785-3802).

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

➔ **USA:** Dear LORD, as things are changing rapidly, help us to rightly understand the changes and keep praying for Your guidance and mercy.

➔ **US Armed Forces and Police:** Praying for all, especially: *Rachel Cepis, Kevin Mild, Eric Mild, Teagan Dedula, Nick Riviotta, Brad Sala, Chris Sala, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh.*

**Congregation**

➔ **Bethlehem:** Dear Holy Spirit, enable each of us to see Your hand of guidance and help in our daily lives; then, being thankful, move us to follow God's will for our lives!

➔ **Care List:** **Helga B, Doris C, Sandy C, Carole G, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Miriam P, June R, Jean S, Mike & Susanna T.** (They receive regular mailings and visits. Pray for our visitors: Pastor, Harold, and Linda Blaha.)

➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, and Rhonda S (ministers). *Please pray for them and their care receivers.*

➔ **Grief Share:** Resumes on **March 4 at 6:30 PM.** *Grieving?* Contact Norma Sweeny to register.

➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**

- **Cedrick Hilliker** (1) shoulder: *relief, healing.*
- **Ray Klesch** (3) health concerns: *peace.*
- **Matt Kusmaul** (1) eye issues related to diabetes: *peace, success with shots, healing.*
- **Kevin Liddy** (3) tooth infection: *healing.*
- **Tom Merkle** (1) bladder cancer; 8 weeks of chemo & radiation: *peace, patience, success.*

**For Others**

➔ **Sympathy:** *comfort and peace* for the family and congregation of Rev. Rick Sweney, (emeritus, Bethany, Parma), as they mourn his sudden passing on Tuesday, February 11.

➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**

- **Jim** (1) brain surgery 2/11: *peace healing.*
- **Jerry Allen** (1) receiving skilled nursing at home: *peace, patience, good workers.*
- **Henry Byham** – brain cancer: at home now, *comfort; peace to family.*

- **Mike Cepis** (3) leukemia: future bone marrow transplant, *success, peace*.
- **Melanie Himmelberger** – bone cancer.
- **Steve Kershner** (2) *continued strength*.
- **Jill Kohlmeier** (2) has a dangerous form of cancer in both legs: *peace, healing, comfort*.
- **Linda McKay** (2) health issues, spine surgery 3/10: *peace, guidance, strength, success*.
- **Jim Vrabel** (1) leg infection again, surgery 2/11, recovering at Parkside in Middleburg.

### Celebrate and Give Thanks

#### Spiritual Birthdays:

2/16 Wendy Meikle

2/17 Paul Moyer Sr.

#### Wedding Anniversaries:

2/20 Harold & Doreen Weseloh (3<sup>rd</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:

*Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord*

See the words below LSB 637

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
- 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
- 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

### LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION: 1 Cor. 11:28

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

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

Learn More: 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*

### ↑ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST:

- L: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Cor. 11:26*
- C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Rev. 22:20*
- L: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess  
 ♦Your virgin birth, ♦Your sinless life, ♦Your holy cross and passion, ♦Your blessed death, ♦Your rest in the tomb, ♦Your resurrection from the dead, ♦Your ascension into heaven, and ♦Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

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

**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** → **Fairest Lord Jesus** *Arr. Wood*

**LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL**

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

**L:** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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 – *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit* – ♦be within you to refresh you, ♦be before you to guide you, ♦be around you to protect you, ♦be beneath you to uphold you, and ♦be above you to bless you.

**C: Amen.**

**CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:**

**Sunday** → **Thy Strong Word**

**February Newsletter – Available in the Narthex**

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

**Schedule: 2/16/25 – 2/23/25**

**2/19 – Wednesday**

1:00 – Sisters of Light

**2/20 – Thursday**

10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

**2/22 – Saturday**

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Service

**2/23 – Sunday**

9:00 – Service

10:30 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

**Thanks For Serving on 2/15 & 2/16**

**Altar Guild:** Don & Carol D

**Saturday:** Organist: Gayle P Usher: Matt K  
Welcome & Distribution: Mike C

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

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Financial Assistants

**Thanks For Serving on 2/22 & 2/23**

**Altar Guild:** Heather H

**Saturday:** Organist: Gayle P      Usher: Matt K  
Welcome: Mike C

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

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Financial Assistants

### Numbers From Last Week

#### **Received God's Gifts – Services:**

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **26**; car: **5**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **52**; car: **0**

#### **Studied God's Word – Classes:**

- Saturday at 3:00: **12**
- Sunday at 10:30: **39**
- Thursday at 10: **8**

#### **Supported God's Work:**

- **Needed** each week to cover the budget: **5,443**
- **Received** last week for the budget: **3,822**
- **YTD Budget Deficit** as of last week: **-6,201**



## Focus on Your Amazing Savior

- † **Our Lenten Plan and Schedule** – get your copy
- † **The Passion of the Christ Movie & Study** – beginning on **March 2 at 3:00 & March 3 at 10:30**
- † **Ash Wednesday is March 5** – Service at 11 & 7
- † **Each Wednesday in Lent** – Service at 11 & 7
- † **Free Meals** – Each Wednesday at 12 & 6 – beginning on **March 12** – join in the food & fellowship

### 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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