

↑ **HYMN:** *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*  
See the words below / TLH 261 / LSB 655

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

**KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy**

Mark 10:47

- L: O Lord, God's only begotten Son,  
**C: have mercy upon us.**  
 L: O Christ, God in human flesh,  
**C: have mercy upon us.**  
 L: O Lord, the One in whom we trust,  
**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: Merciful Lord, cleanse and  
 defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ.  
 United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us  
 grace to keep receiving the fruits of His  
 redeeming work and daily follow in all His  
 ways; through the same 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: Q Verse**

Q – "Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to  
 become angry." James 1:19

**OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 23:16-29 NAS-20**

***False Prophets Denounced***

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD of armies says: "Do  
 not listen to the words of the prophets who are  
 prophesying to you. They are leading you into  
 futility; They tell a vision of their own  
 imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> "They keep saying to those who despise  
 Me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace";  
 And as for everyone who walks in the  
 stubbornness of his own heart, They say,  
 'Disaster will not come on you.'

<sup>18</sup> "But who has stood in the council of the  
 LORD, That he should see and hear His word?  
 Who has paid attention to His word and listened?

<sup>19</sup> "Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone  
 forth in wrath, Even a whirling tempest; It will  
 swirl down on the head of the wicked.

<sup>20</sup> "The anger of the LORD will not turn back  
 Until He has performed and carried out the  
 purposes of His heart; In the last days you will  
 clearly understand it.

<sup>21</sup> "I did not send *these* prophets, But they  
 ran. I did not speak to them, But they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup> "But if they had stood in My council, Then  
 they would have announced My words to My  
 people, And would have turned them back from  
 their evil way And from the evil of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup> "Am I a God who is near," declares the  
 LORD, "And not a God far off?

<sup>24</sup> "Can a person hide himself in hiding places  
 So that I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do  
 I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the  
 LORD.

<sup>25</sup> "I have heard what the prophets have said  
 who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a  
 dream, I had a dream!'

<sup>26</sup> How long? Is there *anything* in the hearts of  
 the prophets who prophesy falsehood, *these*  
 prophets of the deceitfulness of their own heart

<sup>27</sup> who intend to make My people forget My  
 name by their dreams which they report to one

another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?

<sup>28</sup> The prophet who has a dream may report *his* dream, but let him who has My word speak My word truthfully. What does straw have *in common* with grain?" declares the LORD.

<sup>29</sup> "Is My word not like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer *which* shatters a rock?"

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

#### 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!

#### ↑ **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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**EPISTLE:** Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3 NAS-20  
*Will be read during today's sermon!*

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 12:49-53 NAS-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

### ***Christ Divides People***

<sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I came to provide peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; <sup>52</sup> for from now on five *members* in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** ↓

**Go here to read my 2016 sermon on the same text:**

<https://blc7500.com/Sermons/28236/DownloadText>

#### HYMN: *Fight the Good Fight*

See the words below / TLH 447 / LSB 664

- 1 Fight the good fight with all your might;  
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Your joy and crown eternally.
- 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

**SERMON:** Is Your FAITH Living, Busy, Active, Mighty?  
Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3 NAS-20

1. <sup>17</sup> **By faith Abraham, when he was tested** [Gen. 22-10], **offered up Isaac** [as a burnt offering], and **[Abraham] who had received the promises was offering up his only son;** <sup>18</sup> **it was [Isaac] to whom it was said, "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE NAMED."** <sup>19</sup> **[Abraham] considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received [Isaac] back as a type.**

2. <sup>20</sup> **By faith Isaac blessed Jacob** [Gen. 27:27-29] and Esau, even regarding things to come.
3. <sup>21</sup> **By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph** [Gen. 48:1-20], and worshiped, *leaning on the top of his staff.*
4. <sup>22</sup> **By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel** [Gen. 15:13; 50:24], and gave orders concerning his bones.
5. <sup>23</sup> **By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child** [Ex. 2:2]; and they were not afraid of the king's edict [Ex. 1:16].
6. <sup>24</sup> **By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter** [Ex. 2:10], <sup>25</sup> **choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin,** <sup>26</sup> **considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.**
7. <sup>27</sup> **By faith [Moses] left Egypt** [Ex. 2:15], not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as though seeing Him who is unseen.
8. <sup>28</sup> **By faith [Moses] kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood** [Ex. 12:1-13], so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch them.
9. <sup>29</sup> **By faith [the Israelites] passed through the Red Sea as through dry land** [Ex. 14:22-29]; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.
10. <sup>30</sup> **By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after the Israelites had marched around them for seven days** [Joshua 6:20].
11. <sup>31</sup> **By faith the prostitute Rahab did not perish along with those who were disobedient** [Joshua 6:23], after she had welcomed the spies in peace. ...
12. <sup>12:1</sup> **Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us** [that is, so many great examples of faith], **let's rid ourselves of every obstacle** [weight (ankle weight)] and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the [marathon] race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> **looking only at Jesus** [like Peter walking on the water], the originator [opening the one way] and perfecter [finisher] of the faith [by the Spirit He poured out], **who for the joy** [of redeeming mankind] **set before Him endured the cross, despising** [thinking little of] the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> **For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

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**HYMN: Fight the Good Fight**

See the words below / TLH 447 / LSB 664

- 3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;  
His boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove  
Christ is your life and Christ your love.
- 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;  
He changes not who holds you dear;  
Only believe, and you will see  
That Christ is all eternally.

**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*

L: O Lord, our God, we ♦acknowledge and give thanks for Your great goodness toward us and ♦praise You for the mercy and grace that our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and our hearts have known.

**C: Help us to say “no” to sin and “yes” to Your will for our lives.**

L: Move our nation to turn from every sin,

**C: So that we may honor You in everything.**

L: Keep our church body and congregations,

**C: True to the teachings of Your word.**

L: For all who attend our classes,

**C: Grant understanding and application.**

L: Move all Christians to gladly and faithfully receive Your gifts,

**C: And grant us hungry hearts that feed on Your word every day.**

L: For our congregation,

**C: Lead visitors to attend, understand, and join.**

L: For all in deception or error,

**C: Open their eyes to Your transforming truth.**

L: Give us hearts of compassion and wisdom,

**C: To pray for and help the needy.**

L: For all who are anxious,

**C: Help them to understand and apply Philippians 4 [5-9].**

L: For all on our prayer list..., Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Grant that we may receive from You our sorrows as well as our joys, knowing that health and sickness, riches and poverty, and

all things come by permission of Your fatherly hand. 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.** ↓

**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).

**Nation**

- ➔ **USA:** Pray for the USA to be a God-fearing nation that models God's truth to the world!
- ➔ **US Armed Forces and Police:** Strength, honor, courage, safety to all, esp.: *Rachel Cepis, Kevin Mild, Eric Mild, Teagan Dedula, Nick Riviotta, Brad Sala, Chris Sala, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh.*

**Congregation**

- ➔ **ABC Verses:** Brochures – *by main entrance!*
- ➔ **Care List:** Helga B, Zach B, Doris C, Sandy C, Jim F, Carole G, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Rose R, June R, Jean S, Bill S, Cindy T, Mike & Susanna T (most are offered regular mailings and visited by our visit team).
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, and Rhonda S (ministers).
- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - Cedrick Hilliker (2) surg. 7/2: *cont. healing.*
  - Matt Hlavacek (3) Lyme disease: *guidance.*
  - Matt Kusmaul – eye issues: *cont. healing.*
  - Tom Merkle (2) *peace and cont. healing.*
  - Regina Mild (3) *cont. pain relief and rehab.*
  - Cindy Taress (3) broken arm, surgery: *relief, healing; cancer: successful treatments.*
  - Lynda Tomasch (3) *cont. healing, strength.*
  - Bill Sweeny (3) *peace, assurance, guidance.*
  - Harold Weseloh (2) sore back: *guidance.*

## For Others

### ➔ Temporary Health Issues:

- **Free-ah** (3) 9 mos., hospitalized with shunt complications: *healing, peace for all.*
- **Kimberly Borland** (1) *proper diagnosis, guidance, healing, strength.*
- **Mikey Beauchesne** (1) *continued healing.*
- **Stacey Dames** (2) *guidance, good health.*
- **Melanie Himmelberger** – cancer: *comfort.*
- **Sue House** (2) stroke 6/6: *healing, rehab.*
- **Linda McKay** (3) surgery 6/19: *cont. healing.*
- **Jim McQueeney** – hospice: *peace in Jesus.*
- **Barb Pilny** (1) (sister of Dolores M) – fell, broken pelvis: *peace, healing, strength.*
- **Shirley Prok** (2) – fell, broken hip, surg. 8/7: *pain relief, comfort, healing, rehab.*
- **Bethany Transue** (3) lymphoma: *peace, successful treatments, relief, healing.*
- **Jim Vrabel** (3) foot wound: *cont. healing.*

## Celebrate and Give Thanks

### Physical Birthdays:

8/18 Gayle Powers  
8/22 Justin Liddy  
8/23 Michael Browning

### Baptism Anniversaries:

8/17 Kevin Liddy  
8/19 Michael Kaderle

### Wedding Anniversaries:

8/21 Alan and Linda Carlson (49<sup>th</sup>)

## 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!**

- 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**

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

*Let's be serious, understand, and benefit!*

Please ask yourself these 10 questions...

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*
6. Am I forgiving all others? Y N *Mark 11:25*
7. Am I doing my part to reconcile? Y N *Rom. 12:18*
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*
10. Do I understand and agree with the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)? Y N *1 Cor. 10:15-22*

**Uncertain?** Ask an usher for "The Lord's Supper" brochure and "A Simple Explanation of Christianity."  
*The pastor would be glad to talk/meet with you!*

### ↑ 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:** *Jesus Lived,  
Suffered, and Died to Remove Our Sins!*

- 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 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 / TLH 156 / **LSB 431**

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts  
On Jewish altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace  
Or wash away the stain.
- 2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,  
Takes all our sins away;  
A sacrifice of nobler name  
And richer blood than they.

#### 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 a side aisle.
- ♦ Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

**MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:** One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All  
*Talbot/ Raney*

#### LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

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

**L:** Gracious God, *our heavenly Father*, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, *on the day of His coming*, we may, *together with all Your saints*, celebrate the marriage feast

of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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 – *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:

*Lovely Fragrance*

*Manz*

**Desire a Prayer?** A Stephen Minister should be in ***the first pew on the right*** to pray for you.

**August Newsletter – Available in the Narthex**

**Grief Share:** Fall session begins on 9/2. To register – contact Norma: 216-406-4871

**Join Us: Saturday, August 23 at 5:30**



- ➡ Everyone is welcome!
- ➡ You may bring some food to share!
- ➡ If you want to join us around the fire, bring a chair!

Want to help? Contact **Sue Coufalik: 440-840-4989.**

## Ministry & Outreach Mailings – Learn, Support

- Weekly – to shut-ins, etc. (20-25/week).
- Monthly – to new move-ins (60/month).

Like to donate toward the postage? Write “outreach mailings” on the “other” line of your offering envelope. *Thanks – Kathy G*

- Thanks to **Susan S, Ruth B, and Kelly S** for volunteering to prepare the mailings for the New Move-Ins in Parma and N. Royalton!

## Schedule: 8/17/25 – 8/24/25

### 8/18 – Monday

7:00 – Leadership Team Meeting

### 8/19 – Tuesday

9:00 – Peer Support/Serving Heroes Workshop

### 8/20 – Wednesday

9:00 – Peer Support/Serving Watchmen Workshop

### 8/21 – Thursday

10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

### 8/23 – Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

5:30 – Food & Fire Fellowship

### 8/24 – Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:30 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

## Thanks For Serving on 8/16 & 8/17

**Altar Guild:** Kathy G

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

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P

Pastor Team – Welcome: Matthias M

Distribution – Harold W

Ushers: Terry T, Larry H

Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others

Sunday School: Angie R, Harold/Cedrick

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Linda W

## Thanks For Serving on 8/23 & 8/24

**Altar Guild:** Heather H, Nancy B

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

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Harold W  
Distribution – Matthias M  
Ushers: Terry T, Larry H  
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others  
Sunday School: Kathy G, Harold/Cedrick

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

## Numbers From Last Week

### Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **23**; car: **1**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **47**; car: **1**

### Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **8**
- Sunday at 10:30: **33**
- Thursday at 10: **6**

### Supported God's Work:

- Needed each week to cover the budget: **5,443**
- Received last week for the budget: **3,987**
- YTD Budget Surplus as of last week: **2,322**



## 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)