

- ➔ **By Profession of Faith:** Anyone who has already been confirmed as a Lutheran – *but is not a current member of a LCMS congregation* – may join by profession of faith (please request an application).
- ➔ **By Confirmation:** Complete our Bible Basics course; then participate in the rite of confirmation. Let the pastor know of your desire.

Bible Basics Course

Taking this course is a good way for **anyone** to find out more about the teachings of Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

This course is also the process in which non-Lutheran youth, older teens, and adults become communicant members of Bethlehem.

This short course includes these topics:

1. Bible
2. Jesus
3. Assurance of Heaven
4. Creation
5. Martin Luther
6. Luther's Small Catechism Highlights
7. Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
8. Bethlehem Lutheran Church
9. Our Divine Services
10. Conclusion – Desire to Join

The course is offered in two ways – self-study and regular classes. If you are interested, please let me know.

Youth Confirmation Classes

- ➔ **Age:** Generally, for those in sixth grade and older.
- ➔ **Classes:** During the school year.
- ➔ **Curriculum:** An expanded version of the Bible Basics Course.
- ➔ **Register:** Let me know or contact the church office.

Conclusion

I'm glad for your interest in joining and would like to get better acquainted. I'm glad to visit you at home, or we could meet at the church. Let me know of your desire:

- ➔ Mobile: 440-292-5915
- ➔ Email: RevRLGreen@aol.com

Members and non-members are always welcome to join us for our:

- ➔ Divine Services
- ➔ Bible Classes
- ➔ Sunday School Classes
- ➔ Etc.

Questions: Let me know!

Prayer Request: Please let me know or complete a yellow request card – available on a table in the Narthex.

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com _

YouTube: "Benefit from the Bible"

Facebook: "Bethlehem Parma"

Saturdays: Class 3:00; Service 4:00

Sundays: Service 9:00; Classes 10:30

7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134 / 440-845-2230

(Last Update: 8-25)

Membership



Introduction

Dear Friend: I am glad to hear of your interest in becoming a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church☺. Since ♦the Bible is God's Word, ♦all have sinned, and ♦Jesus is the only way to heaven, membership *in God's kingdom and in a Bible-believing congregation* is important! *Pastor Green*

As the pastor of Bethlehem, it is my desire to be an eternal blessing to you and your family!

Please keep reading and attending to gain these important benefits:

- ➔ Learn more about what we believe.
- ➔ Compare our teachings with the Bible.
- ➔ Get acquainted with our BLC family.
- ➔ Be fed by the Spirit through the Word.
- ➔ Live for Jesus, who lived and died for us.
- ➔ Become a member of our BLC family.
- ➔ Support God's work to bless others.
- ➔ Serve with us in God's kingdom.

Lutherans in General

There are approximately 40 different Lutheran Church Bodies in North America. Some hold very closely to God's word, the Bible, *which is our position at Bethlehem* (see our "Welcome" brochure for more about Bethlehem). Others are using a different method of Bible interpretation, which can lead to different teachings – some of which are contrary to Scripture.

Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

That is the name of our Church Body; we go by the letters: LCMS. The LCMS has approximately 2 million members in 6,000 congregations across the United States.

The LCMS is the *oldest* and *second largest* Lutheran Church Body in the United States. The LCMS was established in 1847 by German immigrants.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem is one of those 6,000 congregations. Bethlehem, Parma was established in 1904 by members of St. Mark, Cleveland. Bethlehem has approximately 200 members.

These are some key ingredients of Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

- ➔ We base all we believe, teach, and confess on a careful interpretation of the Bible.
- ➔ We encourage every member to be faithful in daily devotion, weekly attendance, and living God's Word.

- ➔ God is our Father and Jesus is our Savior, *so we are one forever family*.
- ➔ We are small enough to be personal, but large enough to accommodate the needs of most believers.
- ➔ We offer various fellowship and service opportunities.
- ➔ We desire to reach out to those who do not yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord!

Attendance Prior to Joining

Prior to becoming a member, everyone is encouraged to attend Divine Service at least six times and meet with the pastor to get acquainted. Doing so will help you get to know us better!

This is our regular schedule:

- ➔ Saturdays:
 - Bible Class 3:00
 - Divine Service 4:00
- ➔ Sundays:
 - Divine Service 9:00
 - Bible Classes and Sunday School 10:30

We also have many festival services during the year – see the "Join Us" brochure for the details.

Two Types of Membership

- ➔ **Baptized** – All members are baptized members.
- ➔ **Communicant** – All members who have been confirmed *as Lutherans* are also communicant members. (*For those who have not yet been confirmed as Lutherans, confirmation takes place after the completion of our Bible Basics course – see the back for more info.*)

Become a Baptized Member

- ➔ **By Baptism**: Please ♦obtain a Baptism Information packet by our main entrance, ♦follow the instructions in the letter, and ♦schedule a meeting with the pastor. Everyone baptized at Bethlehem LC automatically becomes a baptized member.
- ➔ **By Transfer**: Previously baptized children and youth (17 years old or younger), *whose parents become communicant members*, can become baptized / communicant members along with their parents.

Become a Communicant Member

Glad you are interested! Please let our pastor know of your desire. There are three options:

- ➔ **By Transfer**: If you are a member of another LCMS church, contact that church (by phone, email, etc.) to request your membership be transferred to Bethlehem LC Parma.