Bethlehem Parma (LCMS)
BIBLICAL • UNDERSTANDABLE • RELEVANT
TRADITIONAL • FRIENDLY • CARING

2026
Saturday, 9/26 at 4:00
Sunday, 9/27 at 9:00

A Disciple of Jesus – Part 2

Church Year: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost | **Divine Service** – Setting **Four**: LSB 203-212

WELCOME:

- ☺ **Visitors:** *Welcome! See our Welcome Table, sign our book, take a bag, and tell us 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.*
- ☺ **Difficult to Stand:** *It's okay to remain seated.*
- ☺ **Service Folder:** 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…*
Lord of the Dance — Carter/ Wagner

↑ 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: Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C: whose sin is covered.
L: Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
C: and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
L: ↺ For when I kept silent,
C: my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
L: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
C: my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

L: Let us pray:
A: Dear LORD, I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Ps. 32:1-5*
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.
L: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C: but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
L: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
C: and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! *Ps. 32:10-11*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ➡ Hymn
Sunday ➡ Entrance Hymn and Procession

HYMN OF THE DAY:

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: Lord, **C: have mercy.**
L: Christ, **C: have mercy.**
L: Lord, **C: have mercy.**

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: Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led to know all truth and live as His disciples; through the same Jesus Christ, 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:

What Is Most Valuable to You?

OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 NAS-20

God Deals Justly with Individuals

[1] Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, [2] "What do you *people* mean by using this proverb about the land of Israel, saying, **'The fathers eat sour grapes, But *it is* the children's teeth *that* have become blunt'**? *[In other words, our fathers sinned, but **we** are suffering.]*

[3] As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "you certainly are not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore. [4] Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die. *[In other words, A father's sins can certainly hurt his children. But God does not declare the child personally guilty merely because his father sinned.]*

[25] Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Hear now, house of Israel! Is My way not right? Is it not your ways that are not right? [26] When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness, commits injustice and dies because of it, for his injustice which he has committed he dies. [27] But when a wicked person turns away from his wickedness which he has committed and practices justice and righteousness, he will save his life. [28] Since he understood and turned away from all his offenses which he had committed, he shall certainly live; he shall not die. [29] But the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Are My ways not right, house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right?

[30] "Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, each according to his conduct," declares the Lord GOD. **"Repent and turn away from all your offenses, so that wrongdoing does not become a stumbling block to you. [31] Hurl away from you all your offenses which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why should you die, house of Israel? [32] For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live!"**

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

GRADUAL: Psalm 91:11, 103:1 ESV

L: He will command his angels concerning you
C: to guard you in all your ways.
L: Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C: and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

EPISTLE: Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18 NAS-20

Be like Christ: [1] Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, [2] make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. [3] Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; [4] do not *merely* look out for your own personal *interests,* but also for the *interests* of others….

[14] Do all things without complaining or arguments; [15] so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, [16] holding firmly the word of life, so that on the day of Christ I can take pride because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain. [17] But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. [18] You too, *I urge you,* rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

↑ ALLELUIA and VERSE *John 6:68* **LSB 156**

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: Matthew 21:23-27 NAS-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
C: Glory to You, O LORD.

Authority Challenged

[23] When [Jesus] entered the temple *area,* the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" [24] But Jesus responded and said to them, "I will also ask you one question, which, if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. [25] The baptism of John was from what *source:* from heaven or from men?" And they *began* considering *the implications* among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?'[26] But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the people; for they all regard John as a prophet." [27] And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." He also said to them, "Neither am I telling you by what authority I do these things.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN: *Take My Life and Let It Be*
See the words below / TLH 400 / LSB 783

1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

SERMON: A Disciple of Jesus – Part 2

5 – A Disciple Knows and Treasures God's Word

Psalm 119:11 "Your word I have treasured *[highly valued]* in my heart, That I may not sin against You." // Disciples treasure God's word more than temporal sinful pleasures.

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ richly *[abundantly]* dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." // The word imparts wisdom, caution, advice, and encouragement, which moves us to give thanks.

6 – A Disciple Denies Self and Follows Jesus

Luke 9:23 [Jesus said:] "If anyone wishes to come after Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." // **The life of being a disciple of Jesus:**

- **Deny self** – say "no" to our will.
- **Take up cross daily** – willing to bear the suffering and loss that come with faithfully following Christ, even death.
- **Follow Jesus** – say "yes" to His will as we live our daily lives.

7 – A Disciple Lives for Christ rather than Self

2 Corinthians 5:15 "[Jesus] died for all *[for everyone]*, so that they who live [that is, spiritually, by grace through faith] might no longer live for themselves *[following their own desires]*, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." // Due to sin – inherited and committed, we were *spiritually dead* and *hell-bound* **but now**, THROUGH JESUS, we are ***spiritually alive*** and ***heaven-bound***. So, as He died for us, *let us live for Him*.

8 – A Disciple Loves God and Neighbor

Matthew 22:37 [Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:5:] "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."

- HEART – *what I love and desire*
- SOUL – *who I am and how I live*
- MIND – *what I think and believe*

Matthew 22:39 [Jesus quoted Leviticus 19:18:] "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." // So, how do we love ourselves? We see our needs and try to satisfy them:

- Hungry – *we seek food*
- Cold – *we seek more clothes*
- Confused – *we seek truth*
- Guilty – *we seek forgiveness*

Therefore, let us pay attention to others and seek their good in body and soul—➧helping with physical needs, ➧speaking God's truth, and ➧sharing Christ's forgiveness and hope.

Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon
Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

↑ CREEDAL HYMN: *We All Believe in One True God*
See the words below / TLH 252 / **LSB 953**

1. We all believe in one true God,
   Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
   Ever-present help in need,
   Praised by all the heav'nly host;
   All He made His love enfolds,
   All creation He upholds.
2. We all believe in Jesus Christ,
   Son of God and Mary's son,
   Who descended from His throne
   And for us salvation won;
   By whose cross and death are we
   Rescued from all misery.
3. We all confess the Holy Ghost,
   Who from both in truth proceeds,
   Who sustains and comforts us
   In all trials, fears, and needs.
   Blessèd, holy Trinity,
   Praise forever be to Thee!

Offering: Plates are available in the center aisle.
The LORD has blessed us with life, salvation, and all we need, so let us trust Him, thank Him, honor Him!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *1 Tim. 2:1-4*

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

RENEW Your Request: Names with a **(3)** must 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.

Nation

- **Our Nation**…
- **US Armed Forces:** *Kohen Berkley, Timothy Boyle, Teagan Dedula, Nathaniel Kaye, Nick Riviotta,* ***Chris*** *Sala,* ***Nevin*** *Sherepita (****Fort Benning****), Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny (****Jordan****), Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh.*

Congregation

- **Baptism:** *Raelynn Ann Taylor* (infant daughter of Michael & Jennifer) – baptism: 9/27, 11:40.
- **Grief Share:** Pray for facilitators & participants.
- **Stephen Ministry:** Guide our Stephen Ministers and bless their care receivers.
- **Care List: Helga** B, **Pat** B, **Zach** B, **Doris** C, **Sandy** C, **Jim** F, **Trudy** F, **Carole** G, **Esther** H, **Hilda** K, **Edmund** & **Christl** K, **Bill** M, **Regina** M, **June** R, **Jean** S, **Cindy** T, **Mike** & **Susanna** T, **Vicki** T (most are offered mailings & visits).
- **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - **Pat Beal** (2) heart valve: *peace, guidance*.
  - **Ed Cepis** (2) heart: *cardiac rehab success*.
  - **Miriam Engelman** (2) *phys. therapy success.*
  - **Natalia Ford** (2) cancer: *continued healing.*
  - **Matt Hlavacek** (1) Lyme, clots: *peace, healing.*
  - **Matt Kussmaul** (2) macular: *peace, guidance*.
  - **Cindy Slepko** (1) broken ankle: *healing.*
  - **Mike Tischler** (2) heart valve 9/14: *healing.*
  - **Lynda Tomasch** (2) surg. 9/16: *cont. healing.*

Others

- **Temporary Health Issues:**
  - **Dave** (1) stroke, *continued healing, rehab*.
  - **Tim** (2) *peace in Jesus, continued healing.*
  - **Jim Coufalik** (3) many health issues: *healing*.
  - **Stacey Dames** (2) *continued healing*.
  - **Melanie Himmelberger** – *peace and comfort as she transitions from this earthly life*.
  - **Shirley Myers** – cancer: *chemo, healing*.
  - **Janie Wagner** (1) leg infection: *healing.*

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

9/27 Christl Kissinger
9/27 Tammy Shust
9/27 Michael Taylor
9/29 Sherrie Dennison
9/30 Linda Hinkle

Spiritual Birthdays:

10/2 Lynne Sala

Wedding Anniversaries:

9/28 Greg & Tami Taylor (41st)
9/30 James and *Victoria Ford (59th)

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. ↓

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREPARATION MUSIC

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION:

1 Cor. 11:27-28: "…whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

Please examine yourself by asking these questions:

1. **Bible**: Do I believe the Bible is true?
2. **Repentance**: Do I desire to turn from my sins?
3. **Salvation**: Am I trusting in Jesus for heaven?
4. **Supper**: Do I believe the supper is bread & body and wine & blood for the forgiveness of sins?
5. **Unity**: Do I agree with Luther's Small Catechism?

Unsure about Receiving? Pick up an envelope on the Welcome table: **"Lord's Supper Info"**
Contact Pastor with your Questions or Concerns

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

L: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Receive our thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit who ➧has made us alive in Christ, ➧keeps us trusting in Christ, ➧convicts us of our sins, ➧guides us through the Bible, and ➧moves us to live unto Your glory. Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and as He has taught us:

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

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 ~ *The 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 550**

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood.
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, I Want to Be like Jesus
Burkhart

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

HYMN: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

See the words below / **LSB 643**

Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

L: Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant ➧that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and ➧that each day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:

L: Let us bless the Lord. *[Ps. 103:1]*

C: Thanks be to God.

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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C: Amen.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:

Lord of the Dance Sydney Carter

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE – Begins Today

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER – Available in the Narthex

Church Picnic – 9/27 Noon!

Provided: Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages.
Bring: Food to share, lawn chair, friend.
Signup: see attendance slip; *signup **once**!*
Help: Cleaning up, setting up at 10:30, etc.
Contact Linda H (call/text 216-534-2704).

Schedule: 9/27/26 – 10/4/26

9/28 – Monday
7:00 – Leadership Team Mtg.

9/29 – Tuesday
6:30 – Grief Share

9/30 – Wednesday
11:00 – Stephen Ministry
7:00 – Youth Confirmation

10/1 – Thursday
10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

10/2 – Friday – 7:30: Bible Thought & Fire – Weather Permitting – If it's on – *you will receive a church text*

10/3 – Saturday
3:00 – Bible Class
4:00 – Divine Service

10/4 – Sunday
9:00 – Divine Service
10:45 – Bible Class & Sunday School

Thanks For Serving 9/26/26 & 9/27/26

Altar Guild: Heather H

Saturday: Organist: Gayle P; Usher: Matt K; Distribution: Brad S

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P; Distribution – Harold W; Ushers: Matthias M, Mel B, Nick B; Acolytes: Noah H, Leo J; Sunday School: Heather H, Cedrick/Harold

Financial Team: Natalia F, Paul M

Thanks For Serving 10/3/26 & 10/4/26

Altar Guild: Kathy G

Saturday: Organist: Gayle P; Usher: Mike C; Distribution: Alan C

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P; Distribution – Cedrick H; Ushers: Michael B, Cedrick H Jr, Michael M; Acolytes: Carter R, Shelby R; Sunday School: Heather H, Cedrick/Harold

Financial Team: Natalia F, Ken H

Numbers From Last Week

Received God's Gifts – Services:
- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **34**; car: **3**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **55**; car: **0**

Studied God's Word – Classes:
- Saturday at 3:00: **11**
- Sunday at 10:30: **42**
- Thursday at 10:00: **7**

Weekly Financial Stewardship:
- Needed: **6,769**
- Received: **6,310**
- Actual YTD: **238,638**
- Budget YTD: **257,222**
- Over/(Short): **(18,583)**

Connect With Us

➡ **Website**: 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; 440-845-2230
Pastor Green:	RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915	**Church Body:**	lcms.org **District:** oh.lcms.org