



# July 2017 Newsletter

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Family Childcare

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com ♦ Podcast: Benefit from the Bible

Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma ♦ Bethlehem Family Childcare

7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134 ♦ Church: 440-845-2230; Childcare: 440-884-0430

### BIG Temporary Changes for Bethlehem

Dear Friends,

Over the years, things at Bethlehem – in many respects – have continued the same; however, sometimes changes are needed and can be positive.

Both Kathy and I have served about 20 years at Bethlehem, *me a little more than 20 and Kathy a little less than 20*. Over the years we have done our best; sometimes we experienced joy in the ministry, but, other times, struggles and stress – generally behind the scenes and unknown to others.

Since church ministry has become so stressful nowadays, church bodies encourage congregations to offer a sabbatical (*please see page 4 for the meaning*) of 3 to 6 months to their pastors every 7 years – *as a time to refresh and renew* (I have never had one). Therefore, the leadership and pastor teams met together to discuss such an offer. Initially Kathy and I asked for the offer to be put on hold; then, weeks later, we accepted it. Therefore, both of us will be off, and basically away from Bethlehem, for the months of July, August, and September 2017.

Since Kathy and I have been active in doing many things, the time of sabbatical will need many volunteers and will also see a reduction in some areas. These are some of the details:

### Sundays:

- Same schedule: Service at 8:00; Classes at 9:30; Service at 10:45
- Lord's Supper offered every week (we need help with setup, cleanup).
- Eight different pastors / men will be preaching and teaching.

### Mondays:

- NO MONDAY SERVICE for July through September – due to the many things that need to be setup and cleaned up, lack of volunteers, the difficulty of getting the substitutes to return, etc.
- Will resume in October.

**Visiting:** Thank you to Jerry Huttner, a longtime BLC member and pastor team member, as well as the Care Team Members; they will be visiting our care facility and shut-in members.

**Story Time and Bible Time:** Those take place with our childcare center each Wednesday; thank you to Dr. Giessler for continuing that important teaching with the children.

**Other Areas:** Other people will be helping with various office-related tasks, website updating, etc. If you will help in any way, please contact Dr. Giessler.

**Everyone:** Please pray for us, our family, and our congregation – our leaders, all who serve, other members, visitors, etc. When you see something that needs to be done, please do it!

Thanks for giving us the time! God bless you!

*Pastor and Kathy*

## Gather and Be Blessed

*Our July Service and Sunday Class Schedule*

**S, 7/2:** Service 8:00; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45

**S, 7/9:** Service 8:00; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45

**S, 7/16:** Service 8:00; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45

**S, 7/23:** Service 8:00; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45

**S, 7/30:** Service 8:00; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45

## Living the Lutheran Lectionary Bible Class

**Thursdays:** **10 AM** – Study the upcoming assigned readings; in our Christian Life Room.

## From the Childcare Director

Miss Tricia Wise ♦ [ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com](mailto:ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com)

Summer is officially here and we're enjoying soaking up the sun and having fun with our friends! We're thrilled to announce that **we are now a 3 Star rated program in Ohio's Step Up to Quality rating system!** Our teachers go above and beyond every day to provide the children with a high quality Early Childhood Education and they earned this honor. Our classrooms are filling up for the Fall; if you need to make a schedule change, please let us know as soon as possible. We'll try to grant all requests, but need to maintain appropriate ratios. *Have a Happy Fourth of July!*

## Infant News

Miss Kim, Miss Amanda, Miss Ann Marie

July will be a fun filled month in the Infant Room! We will celebrate the Fourth of July, go for buggy rides, explore the colors red and blue and observe changes in nature. The babies have fun playing with bubbles, both inside and outside! We enjoy going to the pavilion for finger plays and to sing, too! Happy July!

## Toddler News

Miss Tammi

Our Toddlers have been enjoying water at Splash Days this summer! We love painting, both on the easel and finger-painting. We learned about Noah's Ark and recreated the gathering of animals. We named and paired them up, two by two. This month we will continue to splash, do some amazing science experiments, read from the Bible, and lots of music and movement to keep our busy Toddlers on the go! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and safe journeys to all travelers!

## Junior Preschool 1 News

Miss Michelle & Miss Nadia

The Jr. Preschoolers welcome Summer and Ava to our class! We have been enjoying the sunshine and splash days. We will be celebrating Maci and Ella's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthdays; and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with a parade. We will paint some special projects using red, white and blue, too! We will continue to grow our gross motor skills with some fun obstacle courses outside. We will continue to review our letters and numbers, shapes and colors!

## Preschool News

Miss Joni

The Preschool class will be learning all about Joseph in Chapel. Our theme for the month is "Leaders." We will talk about who leads us in our families, school, city, and country. We will discuss what it takes to be a leader and how can we become one. We will work on our scissor skills and handwriting, while strengthening our fine motor skills. We will work on strengthening our social/emotional skills and try to work as a team. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and don't forget to play!

## Pre-K News

Miss Andrea, Miss Alina

The Summer Camp class is excited to welcome Miss Alina back! We can't wait to hear about her trip and hope she shares pictures with us! We have been having lots of fun with our visitors from Tri-C who spend Tuesday afternoons with us. Our dramatic play area will be turned into an ice cream shop and we will graph our favorite flavor of ice cream! We will be going to Doc's Shake Shoppe for a special treat, permission slips will be sent home soon. Be on the lookout. We will have a variety of art projects: under the sea art with foil, make our own dream catcher, nature sun catchers, firework salt painting and we'll make bird food ornaments for the trees. The children will continue reviewing material to prepare them for the school year.

## God's Word on the Go / at Home

### Listen and Learn: Issues, Etc.

You can listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

### Worship – For the Homebound:

Sundays 11:30 AM; WRLM-TV 47 [TCT]

- ✦ Time Warner: 12, 67, 194
- ✦ Direct TV: 67, 377
- ✦ Dish: 47
- ✦ Cox: 12



## July BLC Physical Birthdays

- 2 Gerald Huttner
- 6 Bradley Sala, Brian Sala
- 10 Jeff Cheatham, Wilhelm Mild Jr.
- 11 Bronson Flora, Reggie Nellis
- 12 John Haller
- 14 Jim Kovach
- 15 Jonas May, Rand Stender
- 16 Courtney Slepko
- 17 Maci Green
- 21 Samuel Prochaska
- 23 Lindsey Cheatham, Kevin Liddy
- 24 Eleanor Lewis
- 26 Sofia May
- 28 Bart Pendley
- 29 Jeffrey Kitzler



## July BLC Baptismal Birthdays

- 1 Larry Haslem, Paul Moyer Jr.
- 8 Matthew Zeleznikar
- 16 Miranda Weekley
- 18 Erin Nellis
- 24 June Murany
- 25 Eric Nellis
- 27 Jonas May
- 29 June Russell



## July Wedding Anniversaries

- 9 Matt & Trudy Fischler (21<sup>st</sup>)
- 16 Ed & Connie Pysz (57<sup>th</sup>)
- 21 John & June Gutwein (61<sup>st</sup>)
- 26 Tom & Dolores Merkle (14<sup>th</sup>)



## Those Serving in July

Altar Guild: Bonnie Moyer, Angie Zeleznikar  
Candles: Lynda Tomasch  
Financial Team: Natalia Ford, Jerry Huttner (7/5);  
Janet Chilton (7/11); Paul Martens  
(7/18); Dee Kaderbek (7/25)

### 8:00 Service

Ushers: Rand Stender, Diane Martin,  
Jeanette De Simone  
Lord's Supper: Alan Carson  
Prayer Partner: Dee Kaderbek (7/3, 24); Alan Carlson  
(7/10, 31); Millie Sluka (7/17)

### 9:10 Refreshments

Miriam Engleman, Doris Chmielewski

### 10:45 Service

Ushers: Jim Ford, Paul Martens, Lilli Riechert  
Nursery: Lindsey C. (7/3); Sara Green (7/10);  
Angie Z. (6/12); Kathy G. (7/17);  
Hannah H. (7/24); Angie Z. (7/31)  
Lord's Supper: Brian Zeleznikar  
Prayer Partner: Brian Zeleznikar (7/3, 31); Matt  
Hlavacek (7/20); Ray Dmytriv (7/17);  
Jerry Huttner (7/21)

## What is a Sabbatical?

A sabbatical is a release from the routine of the call for the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the ministry leader.

### A Biblical Perspective on Sabbaticals

The word sabbatical is drawn from Sabbath. The Hebrew word for Sabbath means to “close or rest” and is connected with the last day of Creation when God rested (Genesis 2:3). God both models and commands Sabbath rest for his people. “Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8-11). The Biblical example of Jesus’ own frequent withdrawal to a quiet place to meditate, pray and be renewed is a model. In His ministry, the constant demands of people led Jesus to step away on a regular basis. See also: Genesis 1 and 2; Exodus 20:8-11, 23:10-12; Leviticus 25:1-7 (Sabbatical Year),

24:8-25 (Year of Jubilee); Psalm 23; and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

### Why Is A Sabbatical Important?

The rapid change and complexity of congregational life and ministry raises the need for three months of sabbatical rest and renewal every four to seven years. 20% to 30% of ministry leaders are in a state of severe burnout. Another 20% are on the way to severe burnout.

### What Does the LCMS Say Regarding Sabbaticals?

Rev. Bruce M. Hartung, Ph.D., Dean of Ministerial Formation and Associate Professor of Practical Theology, Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis shares... There are natural rhythms in the order God created that, even in a fallen world, are health-giving and spirit-enhancing. Failure to appreciate and connect to these rhythms propels us toward disease and ill-health. Acknowledging and coming into “sync” with these rhythms strengthens our resilience and creativity.

There are many such rhythms. One of them is time off and away, of which Sabbath-keeping and sabbatical-taking are two manifestations. It is in the best interest of both parish and church worker to consider both of these. The motivation for sabbatical-taking is not exclusively remedial or preventive. It is simply health-giving and spirit-enhancing. It promotes wellness and wholeness.