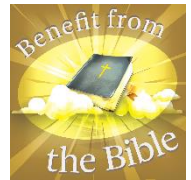




Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2024

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 4/13 at 4 pm; Sunday, 4/14 at 9 am



Thanks for Putting Jesus First: Whatever we put first is what we are worshipping, so may the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit always hold the first-place position in our lives (Mt. 6:33)!

Church Year: Third Sunday of Easter.

Divine Service: Setting Four, LSB 203-212.

Today: We are focusing on being courageous!

- ☺ **Visitors:** Welcome! Please complete an attendance slip 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
- ☺ **Worship From Your Car:** Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).

BELL and CANDLELIGHTING – Please be seated!

PRELUDE: Come Ye Faithful Raise The Strain Beck
We listen in silence...

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Admitting our sins, having godly sorrow, and trusting in Jesus, let us be sure that our sins are forgiven!

- L:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
- C:** Amen.
- L:** Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C:** **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalms 124:8*
- L:** Let us pray: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?
- C:** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.** *Psalms 130:3-4*
- L:** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that we *have sinned in thought, word, and deed*, and that we *cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition*. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, *our heavenly Father*, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

- L: ☩ God, be merciful to me a sinner.
- C: Almighty God, ♪have mercy upon us, ♪forgive us our sins, and ♪lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- L: Almighty God, *merciful Father*, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ➡ Hymn

Sunday ➡ Entrance Hymn and Procession

↑ **HYMN:** *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

See the words below / LSB 474

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! **Ref**
**Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
- 2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Refrain
- 3 Jesus the vine, We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. **Ref**

KYRIE *Mark 10:46-52*

- L: O Lord, the Lamb who was slain,
C: have mercy upon us.
- L: O Christ, our Risen Savior,
C: have mercy upon us.
- L: O Lord, our Life-Sustaining Vine,
C: have mercy upon us.

HYMN: *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

See the words below / LSB 474

- 4 Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. **Ref**
**Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
- 5 City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! **Ref**

Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004492

SALUTATION and COLLECT:

- L: The LORD be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
- C: And also with you.**
- L: Let us pray: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness, and eternal joys; through 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:

Are You Afraid of the Dark?



"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8 NIV).

FIRST READING: Acts 4:1-12

NAS-95

Will be read during today's sermon!

PSALM: 4**ESV**

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

When David was in distress, he trusted in God,
called on God, and received peace and joy!

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my
righteousness! You have given me relief
when I was | in distress.*
Be gracious to me and | hear my prayer!
 - 2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned |
into shame? *
How long will you love vain words and
seek | after lies?
 - 3 But know that the LORD has set apart the
godly | for himself; *
the LORD hears when I | call to him.
 - 4 Be angry, and | do not sin; *
ponder in your own hearts on your beds,
and be | silent.
 - 5 Offer right sacri- | fices; *
and put your trust | in the LORD.
 - 6 There are many who say, "Who will show | us
some good? *
Lift up the light of your face upon us, | O
LORD!"
 - 7 You have put more joy | in my heart *
than they have when their grain and |
wine abound.
 - 8 In peace I will both lie | down and sleep; *
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in |
safety.
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1900 / Own Bible

Thankful for heaven, let's practice righteousness!

¹ See how great a love the Father has
bestowed on us, that we would be called children
of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the
world does not know us, because it did not know

Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and
it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We
know that when He appears, we will be like Him,
because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And
everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies
himself, just as He is pure.

⁴ Everyone who practices sin also practices
lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know
that He appeared in order to take away sins; and
in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him
sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows
Him.

⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives
you; the one who practices righteousness is
righteous, just as He is righteous.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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

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: Luke 24:36-49 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1644 / Own Bible

The risen Jesus appears to His disciples, eats in
their presence, reminds them what has
happened, reminds them they are witnesses, and
tells them about being clothed with power!

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the
twenty-fourth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O LORD.

³⁶ While [the Emmaus' Road travelers] were
still talking [to Jesus' disciples] about [meeting the
risen Jesus], Jesus himself stood among them and
said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were
startled and frightened, thinking they saw a
ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled,
and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at
my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me

and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised [*that is, the Holy Spirit*]; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

HYMN: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

Turn in a maroon hymnal to LSB 761

SERMON: Acts 4:1-12

NAS-95

1. **Peter and John Lived with Courage:** ¹ As they were speaking to the people [*about Jesus*], the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, ² being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. // Remember, on the very day that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Bible says...
2. **Peter and John were Arrested:** ³ And [the Jewish leaders] laid hands on them and put

them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. // The Jewish leaders had...

3. **Many Who Heard about Jesus Believed:** ⁴ But many of those who had heard the message [of Peter and John] believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. // A year or so earlier on the Day of Pentecost, 3,000 were added...
4. **Another Golden Opportunity for Peter and John:** ⁵ On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; ⁶ and Annas the high priest *was there*, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. ⁷ When they had placed them in the center, they *began to inquire*, “By what power, or in what name, have you [healed the man who was born lame]?” // Try to imagine being Peter or John...
5. **Courage in the Face of Fierce Opposition:** ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, ⁹ if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health.”
 - a. Filled with the Spirit: What does that mean?
 - b. Proclaiming Jesus: The powerful leaders...
6. **Clarifying the Greatness of Jesus:**
 - a. The Chief Corner Stone: ¹¹ “[Jesus] is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, *but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.*”

- b. The Only Way to be Saved: ¹² **And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.** // See the image to understand!



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.

Thanks for Honoring the LORD!

How Does Giving Work? “...he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully” (2 Cor. 9:6 NAS).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

1 Timothy 2:1-4

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16b NIV).

Request a Prayer: Complete a PRAYER REQUEST card (available in the Narthex). Want a prayer sent through our prayer chain, call or text Kathy G at 440-785-3802.

Prayer List Procedure: Names on our list with a (3) need to be renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person to see how he/she is doing; then give Kathy an update. For non-members on our list, *share their address with Kathy* (secretary@blc7500.com).

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

Nation

- ➔ **USA:** Let us repent now – *before it is too late!*
- ➔ **Armed Forces:** Strength and honor to all who serve, including Chris Sala, Nick Riviotta, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, and Chris Weseloh.

Congregation

- ➔ **Making an Eternal Difference:** May the Holy Spirit use every one of us to make an eternal difference in the lives of others!
- ➔ **Care:** People who normally cannot attend and are struggling with chronic issues: **Wally A, Helga B, Roger D, Carole G, Lois K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Bonnie M, Connie P, June R, Jean S, Gertrude S, Mike & Susanna T.** (They receive mailings and visits.)
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Pray for Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, Rhonda S, Bill S (ministers), and their care receivers.
- ➔ **Grief Share:** Pray for guidance for the facilitators and comfort for the participants.

➔ Temporary Health Issues:

- Doris Chmielewski (3) strength, balance.
- Jim Jenni (2) stroke, rehab success.
- Bonnie Moyer (1) now on hospice; comfort and peace for Bonnie and her family.
- Connie Pysz (2) comfort, peace, and guidance for Connie and her family.
- Cindy Taress (3) broken foot.
- Harold Weseloh (2) eye issue; cough; recovering from lung tumor surgery 4/1.
- Lisa Woodward (2) broken ankle, pain relief.

For Others

➔ Temporary Health Issues:

- Ali (1) in rehab; good care and recovery.
- Michael Beauchesne (3) cont. healing.
- Renata Heinemeyer (3) healing.
- Melanie Himmelberger (2) bone cancer.
- Ed Stash (2) cancer, chemo.; pneumonia
- Mark Woodward (2) femur fracture and surgery (4-7), pain relief, recovery, strength.

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

- 4/14 Matthias Moyer
4/15 Miriam Engelman
4/17 Erin Nellis
4/18 Pranay James
4/19 Rhonda Shuler

Spiritual Birthdays:

- 4/16 Natalia Ford
4/17 Carl Burton

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:

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Turn in a maroon hymnal to LSB 633, vv. 1-3

LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

"Let a person examine himself" (1Cor. 11:28 ESV).

Should I receive the Lord's Supper today?

Yes – if I can answer "Yes" to the nine questions!

More details, pick up the brochure by our entrance.

Part 1: Am I 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 alone for my entrance into heaven?** Y N *Acts 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: Am I right with others?

6. **Am I reconciled with others?** Y N *Rom. 12:18*
7. **Am I forgiving others?** Y N *Mark 11:25*

Part 3: Do I believe what the Bible says about 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*

↑ LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM:

- L: Dr. Luther's third Sacrament of the Altar question: How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C: **Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."**

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION:

- L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the solemn night of Your betrayal You established the holy meal of Your body and blood for us Christians to eat and to drink. Look in mercy on us who will receive the holy Sacrament this day. Grant that we come to Your table in true repentance and faith, that the gift of Your body and blood will sustain us in our afflictions, strengthen us in the communion of Your holy people, and be a pledge of the resurrection of our bodies to life everlasting; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

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

- L: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:
- 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 ~ *Peace of the Lord* *John 20:19*

- L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
- C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN:

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Turn in a maroon hymnal to LSB 633, vv. 4-5

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.
- ♦ After the Agnus Dei: Come forward to the railing.
- ♦ Receive, Go in peace. Return via the side aisle.
- ♦ Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing *Kerr*

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

↑ POST-COMMUNION HYMN:

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Turn in a maroon hymnal to LSB 633, vv. 6-8

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

- L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary *[spiritually beneficial]* gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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:

Gavotte

Wesley

Brief Peace of Mind Seminar – By Busch

15 minutes of our Bible Class time as follows:

- **Saturday, 4/13:** 3:30-3:45
- **Sunday, 4/14:** 10:30-10:45

See the article in the April Newsletter – Narthex!

Opportunities To Serve

- **Can You Provide A Ride** when a member needs transportation? Sign-up in the Narthex or contact Alan Carlson: 216-218-2564
- **BLC Outside Clean-up / Mulching** – Saturday, April 27 at 9 AM! *Please come and help!*

Ask the Expert Workshop – St. Paul, Westlake

FREE – The topics include: ♦ how to select your power of attorney for health care and power of

attorney for finances, ♦establishing guardianship for minor children, ♦how best to support your heirs and ministry, and ♦much more.

Tues, 4/16, 5:30 to 7:30 PM. See the flier in the Narthex. RSVP here: gbrady@oh.rr.com

Schedule

Monday:

7:00 – Leadership Team – *anyone can attend!*

Tuesday

6:30 – Grief Share

6:30 – Youth Confirmation

Wednesday

1:00 – Sisters of Light Study

Thursday

10:00 – LTLL: Preview of Upcoming Readings

Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:45 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

Thanks For Serving on 4/13 & 4/14

Altar Guild: Heather H

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Jim & Shawn W
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C
Distribution – Mike C

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

Financial Team: Natalia F, Paul M

Thanks For Serving on 4/20 & 4/21

Altar Guild: Nancy B

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Jim & Shawn W
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C
Distribution – Mike C

Sunday: Organist: Scott T
Pastor Team – Welcome: Matthias M
Distribution – Cedrick H
Ushers: Terry T, Larry H
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others
Sunday School: Heather H, Cedrick/Harold

Financial Team: Natalia F, Ken H

Numbers From Last Week

Received God’s Gifts – Services:

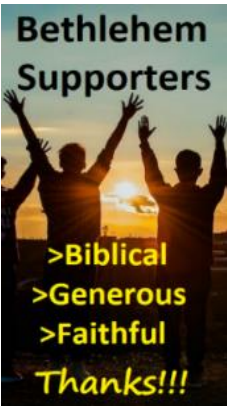
- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **42**; car: **5**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **58**; car: **1**

Studied God’s Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **16**
- Sunday at 10:30: **39**
- Thursday at 10: **6**

Supported God’s Work:

- Needed Each Week (budget): **5,134**
- Received Last Week (actual): **5,110**
- Gross Surplus YTD – as of last week: **10,576** – **Thanks so much!**
- Net Surplus YTD – as of 2/29/24: **– 7,393**
(Why? Some 2023 bills were paid early in 2024)



Connect With Us

➡ **Website:** 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; 440-292-5915

Festivals: Website > Important Links > Festivals

Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

Kathy Green: Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org