



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2024

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 4/27 at 4 pm; Sunday, 4/28 at 9 am



**Welcome:** “Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness...”  
(Psalm 100:1-2a NAS-95).

**Church Year:** Fifth Sunday of Easter.

**Divine Service:** Setting Three, LSB 184-202.

**Today:** We are focusing on obeying the Spirit and explaining the word of God to others!

- ☺ **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](http://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:

**Saturday** ➔ Joyful We Adore Thee Kerr

**Sunday** ➔ Little Prelude in g JS Bach

*We listen in silence...*

## 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:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, begging Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the LORD.

**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

**L:** ☩ I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD.

**C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for self-examination.

L: To whom do you confess your sins?  
**C: To the almighty God, my merciful Father.**  
 L: How do you look upon yourself?  
**C: I am a poor miserable sinner.**  
 L: What sins do you confess?  
**C: I confess all my sins and iniquities.**  
 L: What have you justly deserved?  
**C: I have justly deserved temporal death and eternal punishment.**  
 L: What is your attitude toward your sins?  
**C: I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them.**  
 L: What is the basis of your request?  
**C: The boundless mercy of my Heavenly Father and the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.**  
 L: What do we request from our merciful Father?  
**A: Dear Father, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**  
 L: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead *[in the place of]* and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I 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.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Saturday** ➡ Hymn

**Sunday** ➡ Entrance Hymn and Procession

↑ **HYMN:** *Lift High the Cross*

See the words below / LSB 837

**Refrain:**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
 Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
 Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
 The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. **Refrain**  
 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. **Refrain**  
 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
 As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

**KYRIE** (Mark 10:46-52): *Let Us Pray:*

L: O Lord, Our King victorious,  
**C: have mercy upon us.**  
 L: O Christ, the Son of God,  
**C: have mercy upon us.**  
 L: O Lord, our crucified and risen Savior,  
**C: have mercy upon us.**

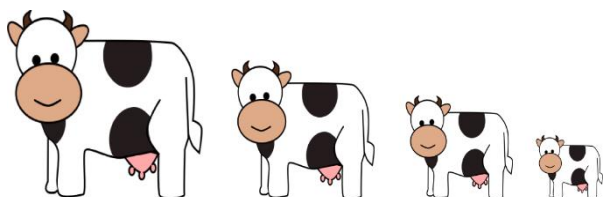
**SALUTATION and COLLECT:**

L: The LORD be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*  
**C: And also with you.**  
 L: Let us pray: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through 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:** Putting Things In Order

➡ Children: Baptized > Believe > Learn > Live  
 ➡ Adults: Learn > Believe > Baptized > Live



**FIRST READING:** Acts 8:26-40 NAS-95  
*Will be read during today's sermon.*

**PSALM:** 150 ESV  
See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

Let *everyone* and *everything* praise the LORD!

- 1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctu- |  
ary,\*  
praise him in his mighty | heavens!
  - 2 Praise him for his | mighty deeds;\*  
praise him according to his excellent |  
greatness!
  - 3 Praise him with | trumpet sound;\*  
praise him with | lute and harp!
  - 4 Praise him with tambou- | rine and dance;\*  
praise him with | strings and pipe!
  - 5 Praise him with sounding | cymbals;\*  
praise him with loud clashing | cymbals!
  - 6 Let everything that has breath | praise the  
LORD!\*
- Praise | the LORD!
- 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 4:1-11 NAS-95  
Pew Bible Page 1902 / Own Bible

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit [every word you hear], but test the spirits [with the word of God] to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit [voice] that does not confess Jesus [to be the Son of God, for example, Judaism and Islam] is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and have overcome them [all who speak against the Christ];

because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be the propitiation* [the source of forgiveness] for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

↑ **ALLELUIA and VERSE** (LSB 156):

See the words below / 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:** John 15:1-8 NAS-95  
See Below / Pew Bible Page 1676 / Own Bible

Let us gladly abide, bear fruit, and glorify God!

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."

<sup>3</sup> "You are already clean [forgiven] because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can*

you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

<sup>6</sup> “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.”

<sup>7</sup> “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

<sup>8</sup> “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

**HYMN:** *Listen, God Is Calling*

*Please Sing All the Words!*

In a maroon hymnal, turn to LSB 833

**SERMON:** Acts 8:26-40

NAS-95

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Are You Paying Attention to the Holy Spirit?

1. **God’s Message to Philip:** <sup>26</sup> ...an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.)
2. **Philip’s Obedience to God – He Went South:** <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.”
3. **Philip’s Obedience to God – He Joined the Chariot:** <sup>30</sup> Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

<sup>31</sup> And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

- a. A Very Important OT Passage about Jesus: <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this [from Isaiah, chapter 53]: “HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. <sup>33</sup> IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”
  - b. Very Important Questions from the Eunuch: <sup>34</sup> The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?”
  - c. Philip Was Used By the Spirit to Teach about Jesus: <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.
4. **The Eunuch’s Desire to be Baptized:** <sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>37</sup> And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
    - a. Why Did He Desire to be Baptized?
    - b. What about V. 37?
  5. **The Eunuch Was Baptized:** <sup>38</sup> And [the eunuch] ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.
    - a. Down Into the Water:
    - b. He Baptized Him:

6. **Mission Accomplished:** <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.
7. **On to the Next Opportunity:** <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

**Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon**

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

**SERMON RESPONSE:** *Sung by all!*

See the words below / **LSB 192-193**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**NICENE CREED:** *See back of either hymnal:*

**Offering:** Plates are available in the center aisle.

**Thanks for Honoring the LORD!**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

**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).

↑ **Today's Prayer: The Litany**

**In a maroon hymnal, turn to page 288.** ↓

**Nation**

- ➔ **Armed Forces:** Strength and honor to all who serve, including Chris Sala, Nick Riviotta, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, and Chris Weseloh.

**Congregation**

- ➔ **Care:** People who normally cannot attend and are struggling with chronic issues: **Wally A, Helga B, Doris C, Roger D, Carole G, Lois K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Connie P, June R, Jean S, Gertrude S, Mike & Susanna T.** (They receive mailings and/or 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:** Wisdom for facilitators; openness to truth and comfort for participants.
- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
- **Jim Jenni** (1) stroke, rehab success.
  - **Connie Pysz** (1) good care, comfort, healing.
  - **Cindy Taress** (2) kidney surg (4-15), br. foot.
  - **Harold Weseloh** (1) eye issue; cough; recovering from lung tumor surgery 4/1.
  - **Lisa Woodward** (1) broke her ankle, continued pain relief and healing.

**For Others**

- ➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**
- **Ali** (3) continued recovery, healing, strength.
  - **Liam** (3) brain surgery, doing much better.
  - **Michael Beauchesne** (2) cont. healing.
  - **Melanie Himmelberger** (1) bone cancer.
  - **Gayle Powers** (1) heart attack, successful open-heart surgery 4/23.
  - **Ed Stash** (1) cancer, chemo.; pneumonia
  - **Lorlei Stein-Sapir** (3) liver cancer, peace.
  - **Mark Woodward** (1) femur fracture and surgery (4-7), cont. pain relief, healing.



## Celebrate and Give Thanks

### Physical Birthdays:

4/29 Cindy Slepko  
5/2 Keegan Booth  
5/2 Paul Moyer Jr.

### Spiritual Birthdays:

4/28 Brad Sala  
4/28 Brian Sala  
5/2 Monica Krafcik  
5/2 Kendra Weekley

### Wedding Anniversaries:

4/30 Carl & Nancy Burton (41<sup>st</sup>)  
5/1 Todd & Susan Booth (28<sup>th</sup>)

## THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### SUPPER PREPARATION HYMN:

In a maroon hymnal, turn to LSB 621

### 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 fourth sacrament of the altar question: Who receives this sacrament worthily?
- C: **Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

## PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION:

- L: Dear 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: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 ~ *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.

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## 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:

**Saturday** ➔ Jesus The Very Thought Of Thee Culli

**Sunday** ➔ Voluntary 6 in D Opus 6 John Stanley

## LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

↑ **HYMN:** *Lift High the Cross*

See the words below / LSB 837

**Refrain:**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and  
hell. **Refrain**
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

## THANKSGIVING:

*Psalm 107:1*

L: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
C: **and His mercy endures forever.**

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

L: O God the Father, the fountain and source of  
all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent  
Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we  
thank You that for His sake You have given us  
pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we  
ask You not to forsake Your children but  
always to rule our hearts and minds by Your  
Holy Spirit that we may be enabled  
constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ,  
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

C: **Amen.**

## SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS:

L: The Lord be with you.

2 Tim. 4:22

C: **And also with you.**

L: Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION ~ *Blessing*

*Num. 6:24-26*

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord  
make his face shine upon you and be gracious  
unto you; the Lord lift up His *countenance*  
(face) upon you and give you peace.

C: **Amen.** ↓ **May Newsletter – in the Narthex!**

## CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:

**Saturday** ➔ Lift High The Cross

Busarow

**Sunday** ➔ La Bounette (anonymous from the late  
16<sup>th</sup> century in England)

## Food and A Movie – *The Essential Church*

**Saturday, April 27 at 5:30** Join us down the hall in  
the Christian Life Room; everyone is welcome!

## Basics Course – Wed, May 1, 8, & 15 at 6:30

For visitors and members! Everyone is welcome!  
Join us and bring a friend! Signup today in the  
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

## Save the Date – Ascension Day Meal & Service

Thursday, May 9 – meal at 6:00, service at 7:00

## Schedule: 4/29 – 5/4

### Tuesday

6:30 – Grief Share

### Wednesday

10:00 – LTLL: Preview of Upcoming Readings

1:00 – Sisters of Light

6:30 – Bible Basic Course

### 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 4/27 & 4/28

**Altar Guild:** Don & Carol D

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

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

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

## Thanks For Serving on 5/4 & 5/5

**Altar Guild:** Heather H

**Saturday:** Organist: Jim V   Usher: Matt K  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C  
Distribution – Alan C

**Sunday:** Organist: Jim V  
Pastor Team – Welcome: Tim C  
Distribution – Matthias M  
Ushers: Matthias M, Mel B, Nick B  
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others  
Sunday School: Angie R, Cedrick/Harold

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

## Numbers From Last Week

### Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **34**; car: **5**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **54**; car: **0**

### Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **14**
- Sunday at 10:30: **42**
- Thursday at 10: **6**

### Supported God's Work:

- **Needed** Each Week (budget): **5,134**
- **Received** Last Week (actual): **9,505**
- **Gross Surplus YTD** – *as of last week:*  
**15,348 – Thanks so much!**

**Net Surplus YTD** – *as of 3/31/24:* **5,445**



## 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)