

BLC Newsletter – May 2024

Be Informed and Faithfully Receive God's Gifts

www.BLC7500.com

Thoughts from Pastor

Dear BLC Members and Friends:

Basics Course: I hope you will attend. It's for
♦the curious, ♦those wanting to grow,
♦visitors, ♦those wanting to join, and
♦longtime members.

- Wednesdays at 6:30
- May 1, 8, and 15

Woke: What is it? How long has it been around? Why is it very dangerous for the Christian Church and the USA?

- Join us in Bible Class on Saturdays at 3:00 or Sundays at 10:30.
- Get a Woke brochure – down the hall on the Bible shelf **or** on the website click on “Brochure” and search for “Woke”

Take Turns: If everyone in your family is not able to attend BLC at the same time, these are options:

- Some attend Sat, others Sun.
- Switch who attends every other weekend.

Get Equipped Now: When is it better to get a weapon and learn how to use it? When you need it or before you need it? *Let's agree that “when” is too late!*

- Now is the time to equip ourselves with God's word by memorizing a few key verses!
- Where to begin? See the front of the Woke brochure!

- Someone recently told me: “I'm trying to memorize 5 Bible verses each week.”
Wow! Great! Excellent!

Parking Lot Church: It has been a blessing to many for years; however, it is **BEST** to gather inside. **PLEASE** come in and get the **FULL BENEFITS** of the Divine Service!

Coming Soon – Join Us

Ascension Day Service: **Thursday**, May 9:
Free Meal 6:00; Divine Service 7:00

- Ascension is important (*1 of the BIG 5*).
- Planning to attend the meal? Please tell us on your church attendance slip.
- Possibly bring a dessert to share!

1 Timothy Study:

- Saturdays at 3:00; Sundays at 10:30
- Possibly beginning on May 11 & 12

Dr Barry Young of “**Serving Heroes**” will be presenting two seminars:

- “**Serving Heroes**” – First Responder Peer Support/Chaplain Training – Level 3 on Thursday, **May 23, 9:00 – 3:00**.
- “**Serving Watchmen**” – A Biblically-based, ministry-focused training to keep churches safe on Friday, **May 24, 9:00 – 3:00**.
- Those events are not free, but very worthwhile. Bethlehem may have some free slots available. It's best to contact *Terry Tomasch* at 216-906-3047 to find out more and register.

How to Respond to the Woke Movement

By Brad Scotten, a newer Bethlehem Member!

1. Be an educated and thoughtful citizen/voter.
2. Always vote. Many good men died on battlefields for you and me to have the freedom to vote.
3. Try to hear and understand the issues. Specifically, hear reporting from multiple, reliable media sources to have a more fair and balanced understanding.
4. Have a basic understanding of political history and international influences – realizing that things that are happening now are like things that were happening in the Old Testament. Human nature remains consistent (seeking power over others).
5. Pray to our Heavenly Father to guide our country from our evil ways and look upon us with His mercy.
6. Then, sure of God's forgiveness through Jesus and knowing He is causing all things to work together for good to those who love Him, rest in His almighty arms.



Other Classes – You Are Invited

Sisters of Light:

- Every other **Wednesday** at **1:00**: **May 1, 15, & 29.**
- Call/text Rhonda for more info: 330-260-5194; *all women are invited to attend!*
- Join us in the Sunday School room!

Living the Lectionary:

- Normally every **Thursday** at **10:00.**
- On May 1 & 22 – join us on Wed. at 10.
- **BIG Class on Thursday, May 9** – as we mark Harold's 10th Anniversary of teaching this course – ***without ever missing a single week!*** Join us and say, "THANKS!"



April "Leadership Team" Highlights

Become a Teammate; talk to any Leader!

- Finance Team: March was a good month.
- Grounds Team: Checking on prices to plant five evergreen trees along the south property line, near the end of the fence.
- Pastor:
 - **Mount Calvary Funds** – Foreign Mission Requests:
 - i. \$200 – Rev. Nicholus Ayebazebwe (Uganda) – transportation help for his ministry work.
 - ii. \$2,000 – Vicar James Ojullo (South Sudan) – to construct a building for Sunday School, training seminars, and school students *during the week.*
 - **Youth For Christ** – In the months to come they will take five minutes at the end of our services to explain how they are helping youth in our area and may send some youth to BLC.

Next Leadership Team meeting: Monday, 5/20 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Grief Share – Tuesdays at 6:30

See the main bulletin board for the current schedule. It's possible to begin attending at any time. To Register: www.griefshare.org or contact Norma: 216-406-4871

Stephen Ministry

- ➔ Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic illness, or terminal illness.
- ➔ Could you benefit from a Stephen Minister? Contact Norma: 216-406-4871

We Are Changing

Me: Hey God.
God: Hello.
Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?
God: I would rather not.
Me: Why?
God: Because you aren't a puzzle.
Me: What about all the pieces of my life that are falling onto the ground?
God: Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.
Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking down!
God: No – you don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back. You aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax. Take some deep breaths and allow those things you don't need any more to fall off you. Quit holding onto the pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

God: Only the very best pieces of you.

Me: I'm scared of changing.

God: I keep telling you – YOU AREN'T CHANGING!! YOU ARE BECOMING!

Me: Becoming who?

God: Becoming who I created

you to be! A person of light and love and charity and hope and courage and joy and mercy and grace and compassion. I made you for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off you. I love you! Don't change! ... Become! Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

Me: There goes another piece.

God: Yep. Let it be.

Me: So ... I'm not broken?

God: Of course Not! – but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!!!

~Author John Roedel

May Physical Birthdays

5/2	Keegan Booth
5/2	Paul Moyer Jr.
5/6	Trudy Fischler
5/15	Ava Cannonie
5/16	Caleb Hlavacek
5/19	Zachary Blaha
5/19	David Liddy
5/20	Robert Green
5/25	Roseanne Dowell
5/25	Heather Hilliker
5/27	Phillip Giessler
5/27	Joann Kissinger
5/29	Janice Martinez
5/31	Emma Rohman



May Spiritual Birthdays

5/2 Monica Krafcik
5/2 Kendra Weekley
5/6 David Rohman
5/6 Susanna Tischler
5/9 Ashley Kovachic
5/15 Timothy Chilton
5/15 Susan Shust
5/17 Matthias Moyer
5/20 Dan Valek
5/25 Doris Chmielewski
5/31 Eileen Kovach
5/31 David Liddy



May Wedding Anniversaries

5/1 Todd and Susan Booth (28th)
5/12 Andrew and Sara Green (12th)
5/18 Jim and Eileen Kovach (28th)
5/19 Donald and Tracy Crites (34th)
5/20 Michael and Hilda Kaderle (63rd)
5/25 Heriberto and Donna Acosta (9th)
5/26 Noel and Janice Martinez (45th)
5/27 Scott and Lynne Sala (35th)
5/29 Alan and Linda Blaha (48th)

LOANS and SCHOLARSHIPS

- ➔ **Elementary Scholarship Fund** –The fund was established to provide financial assistance to our members who choose to send their children to schools operated by other LCMS Churches.

If you are currently benefiting or want to apply for the first time, contact the church office for an application. Deadline is May 31

- ➔ **Barrick Nursing Scholarship** – Contact the church office for an application. Deadline is June 30
- ➔ **Loans for College Bound Students:** Visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2022-2023 application. Deadline is June 30
- ➔ **Mikitta College Scholarship** – To be considered for the scholarship, you must be an active member of Bethlehem, be a full-

time student working toward your bachelor's degree in ♦Christian ministry, ♦education, ♦music, or ♦engineering. Contact the church office for an application. Deadline is June 30

Brochure of the Month

Life is busy, *no one can do it all*, so we do what we think is most important and let the rest go. However, as we are making such

choices, it is *vital* to have a proper view of both time and eternity. Let us gather to show we ♦believe the Bible and ♦trust in Jesus! Discover 10 benefits of attending Divine Service!

Pick up a copy by our main entrance!

Go to the church website, click on Brochures, and search for "Why Gather..."

Why Gather Each Week

BENEFITS



Online Giving – To BLC

You can donate online through our Bethlehem PayPal account. Just scan the QR code to get started **OR** go to www.BLC7500.com and click on the "Donate" button. Thanks!



Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wednesday, **May 29** at Noon
- ⇒ Wednesday, **June 26** at Noon