

BLC Newsletter – October 2026

Weekend Schedule

- Saturdays: class 3:00; worship 4:00
- Sundays: worship 9:00; Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30

What does the Bible say about Discipleship?

Join us for this important study: Sa 3, Su 10:30

Leadership Team

Open positions for 2027-2028: Financial Secretary, Worship, Care, Education & Outreach (*the other positions continue through 2027*). Note: Some who are currently serving in the above positions have expressed an interest in continuing *but you can get your name on the ballot **or** join a team as a teammate*.

Mark 10:45 Jesus said: “**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**” Since a disciple becomes like Jesus, disciples become **servants**.

Summaries of the Open Positions:

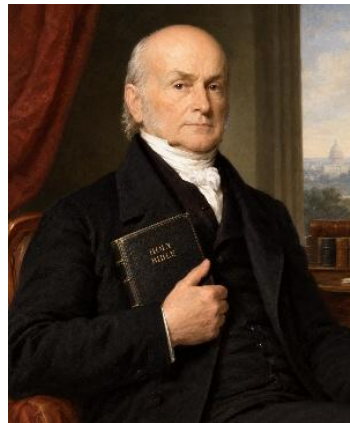
- **Financial Secretary**: The leader and teammates receive, secure, count, record, and deposit the offering; approve the offering envelopes; and prepare and distribute financial statements.
- **Worship**: The leader and teammates oversee the ushers, candle-filler, and altar guild; and put up and take down items in the worship area related to the church year.
- **Education**: The leader and teammates oversee things related to education, such as the Sunday School program and the library.
- **Care**: The leader and teammates extend various forms of loving care to members and

non-members, including prayers, meals, cards, and Stephen Ministry.

- **Outreach**: The leader and teammates oversee, develop, and act in various ways to reach out to non-members.

President John Quincy Adams Knew One Book People Needed to Read to Become Good Citizens

By Marissa Streit
Fox News, 9/17/26



In letters to his son, the sixth president argued Scripture was essential to raising good citizens.

Christianity's rise began among ordinary people long before Constantine:

...this year, it might be worth taking up an assignment our sixth president gave to his son in a remarkable series of letters written while President John Quincy Adams served as minister to Russia.

Adams did not focus on career advice for his son. He did not teach his son how to make money. Instead, Adams insisted upon this: Read the Bible. Every day.

Adams believed no education could be complete without it. He wrote to his son that when "duly read and meditated on," **the Bible is "of all books**

in the world, that which contributes most to make men good, wise, and happy."

...Adams believed children formed by Scripture would become "useful citizens to their country" and "respectable members of society."

...That is why Adams spent letter after letter introducing his son to the New Testament and to the Hebrew Bible — to Genesis, Exodus, the Ten Commandments, and to the Law of Moses. He argued the Mosaic Law represented the greatest moral revolution of the ancient world because it united justice with humanity.

Unlike the legal systems of Greece and Rome, which largely emphasized civic order or individual virtue, Adams believed the Hebrew Scriptures taught something unprecedented: Duties toward other people were also duties toward God. The laws protecting the stranger, the widow, the orphan and even enemies reflect a moral vision unlike anything the secular world had produced.

Adams admired the Hebrew Bible because it did something no human legislature could accomplish. It recognized individual merit and responsibility. It is legislated for human nature.

The Constitution details how we, a free people, govern ourselves. But it cannot teach rising generations how to become worthy of that freedom.

Governments can punish theft. They cannot eliminate envy. Governments can outlaw murder. They cannot command honor, gratitude, humility or self-control.

John Quincy Adams's letters were never simply about raising his own successful children. They were about transmitting civilization itself to all of America's children.

Too many fathers today have outsourced the most important conversations about duty, morality and character to schools, to government

institutions, to coaches or even to celebrities. Mothers play an indispensable role in raising virtuous children, but there is no substitute for the unique influence of an engaged father who teaches his son what it means to be an honorable man. The consequences of absence are all around us.

Young Americans increasingly struggle to distinguish rights from responsibilities. They know how to demand respect but not always how to earn it. They have been taught self-esteem more often than self-government. They build professional résumés but have little aptitude for disappointment, mental resilience or for duty.

This isn't merely an educational, civic or cultural problem. It's a fatherhood problem.

For centuries, American fathers understood that one of their highest callings was to introduce their children to the moral inheritance that made liberty possible.

Not because government requires it. Because freedom requires it.

The Hebrew Bible teaches children that human beings are capable of both good and evil. Actions have consequences. Morality matters. And it importantly teaches every person bears the image of God.

The Founders knew constitutions cannot preserve themselves. Republics depend upon citizens capable of governing themselves before they presume to govern others.

John Quincy Adams understood this better than most. His letters to his son were, in many ways, one manual for raising a free citizen.

Perhaps that is the lesson we most need today:

- If we want stronger schools, we need stronger families.
- If we want better citizens, we need fathers who teach virtues.

Other Bible Classes

Sisters of Light – **First and Third Wed. at 1:00**

- Location: Acts Room
- Teacher: Rhonda: 330-260-5194

Living the Lutheran Lectionary – **Thursdays at 10**

- Location: Timothy Room / Zoom
- Topic: Studying the upcoming lectionary Scripture readings
- Teacher: Harold: 440-454-2139

Men's Group – **First Saturdays at 9**

- Location: Timothy Room
- Breakfast: 9:00; Study: 9:15
- Teacher: Dr. G: 216-374-5973

Dr. Giessler – Off Site Bible Class:

- Panera, Rocky River: 7 PM
- Oct. 12 & 15 and Oct. 26 & 29

Youth Confirmation Preparation

- **Mostly on Mondays at 7PM**

Bible Thought & Fire

- **Friday evenings at 7PM**
Weather permitting – watch for a church text!

Stay Close to Jesus!

- ➔ **Pray for those in need.** *If you have a prayer request, text, or call Kathy G: 440-785-3802*
- ➔ **Reach those who are lost** – by giving them one of our many resources, praying for them, and inviting them.
- ➔ **Grow through our website:**
www.BLC7500.com – many sermons, studies, and brochures are available.
- ➔ **Listen to The Lutheran Hour**: Sundays at 6:30 AM on WTAM 1100; Sundays at 8:00 AM on WHKW 1220
- ➔ **Watch Worship Anew** – *A Lutheran Service for shut-ins*: Sundays at 11:30 AM: Cox: 12; Direct TV: 67, 377; Dish: 47; Spectrum: 47

Grief Share – Fall Cycle

- ➔ The Fall cycle: 9/1/26 – 12/15/26.
- ➔ Interested? Contact Norma to register to attend and get the benefits: 216-406-4871

Stephen Ministry

What is a Stephen Minister? 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.

If you have a need **and** we have a Stephen Minister available, you could greatly benefit! Find out more: Contact Norma: 216-406-4871

Choir-Made-Easy – Join Us!

Contact Harold: 440-454-2139;
weselohduh@gmail.com

- ✓ Receive the hymn and melody for the first Sunday of each month via email.
- ✓ Practice on your own.
- ✓ Meet at the organ on the first Sunday of each month at 8:45.
- ✓ Sing during that service.

Prayer Multiplier



We could use prayer warriors! Prayers are sent by text message. **Would you like to be added to the list? Do you have a prayer request?** Call or text Kathy G. 440-785-3802

Parking Lot Church



Not feeling well? LISTEN FROM YOUR CAR! Pick up everything needed – just inside our main entrance,

then tune your radio to **FM 89.9**. For all the details, read the special insert in each parking lot church service folder.

Supporting the Lord's Work in and through Bethlehem Parma

Ways to Give

- **Online:** You can donate online through our Bethlehem PayPal account. go to www.BLC7500.com and click on the "Donate" button. **Thanks!**
- **Personal Banking:** Most banks have a free bill payer service.
- **IRA:** If you own an individual retirement account (IRA) and are at least 70½ years old, you can support the Lord's work by directing a **tax-free distribution** to Bethlehem.

October Physical Birthdays

10/5 Ed Cepis
10/6 Lilli Riechert
10/16 Kenneth Hinkle
10/16 Hannah Hlavacek
10/20 Mark Dennison
10/24 Kathleen Green
10/27 Sue Coufalik
10/29 Ivy Miller
10/29 Nick Ventura



October Spiritual Birthdays

10/2 Lynne Sala
10/6 Heather Hilliker
10/7 Christl Kissinger
10/7 Courtney Slepko
10/9 Olive Jasulevich
10/9 Kayleigh Musil
10/11 Chris Sala
10/12 Sherrie Dennison
10/12 Kenton Taylor
10/14 Helga Haller
10/15 Matthew Potantus
10/17 Tracy Liddy
10/17 Matyas Yu-Hsin Liao
10/28 Nevin Sherepita



October Wedding Anniversaries

10/9 Dave & Angela Rohman (22nd)
10/17 Rand & Deborah Stender (56th)
10/21 Michael & Briar Miller (3rd)
10/22 Mark & Sherrie Dennison (43rd)
10/22 Matt & Megan Samarin (22nd)
10/30 Ken & Linda Hinkle (50th)
10/30 Gregory & Klara Seefeld (34th)

Note: If your name is missing or a date is incorrect on any of the lists above, *please contact the church office.*

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

- ⇒ Wed., **October 21** at Noon
- ⇒ Wed., **November 25** at Noon

Bethlehem Parma; www.BLC7500.com