

KEEP AWAKE

MARK 13:37



+ First Sunday In Advent +
November 29, 2020

AS WE GATHER

The Church Year begins by taking us to the scene of our Lord's final entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week. Yes, Christmas is at hand. Surely the preparations for the celebration of His incarnation, His earthly birth of the Virgin Mary, are already well under way. But wait a moment. We enter this new year already knowing why He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit for us and for our salvation, which is only by way of His passion, death, and resurrection. We begin by continuing to "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" on the Last Day (1 Corinthians 1:7), sustained by Him now in the forgiveness of our sins, guiltless and ready. In readiness, we boldly pray that our Lord comes to rescue and save us.

REGARDING COMMUNION

*Advent calls our attention to Jesus—the Word made flesh who came among us, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)—who comes to us still in the bread of His Body and wine of His Blood in Holy Communion and will come again on the last day. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we celebrate and receive Christ's Holy Supper for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us so that we might show forth his death and resurrection until He comes. **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

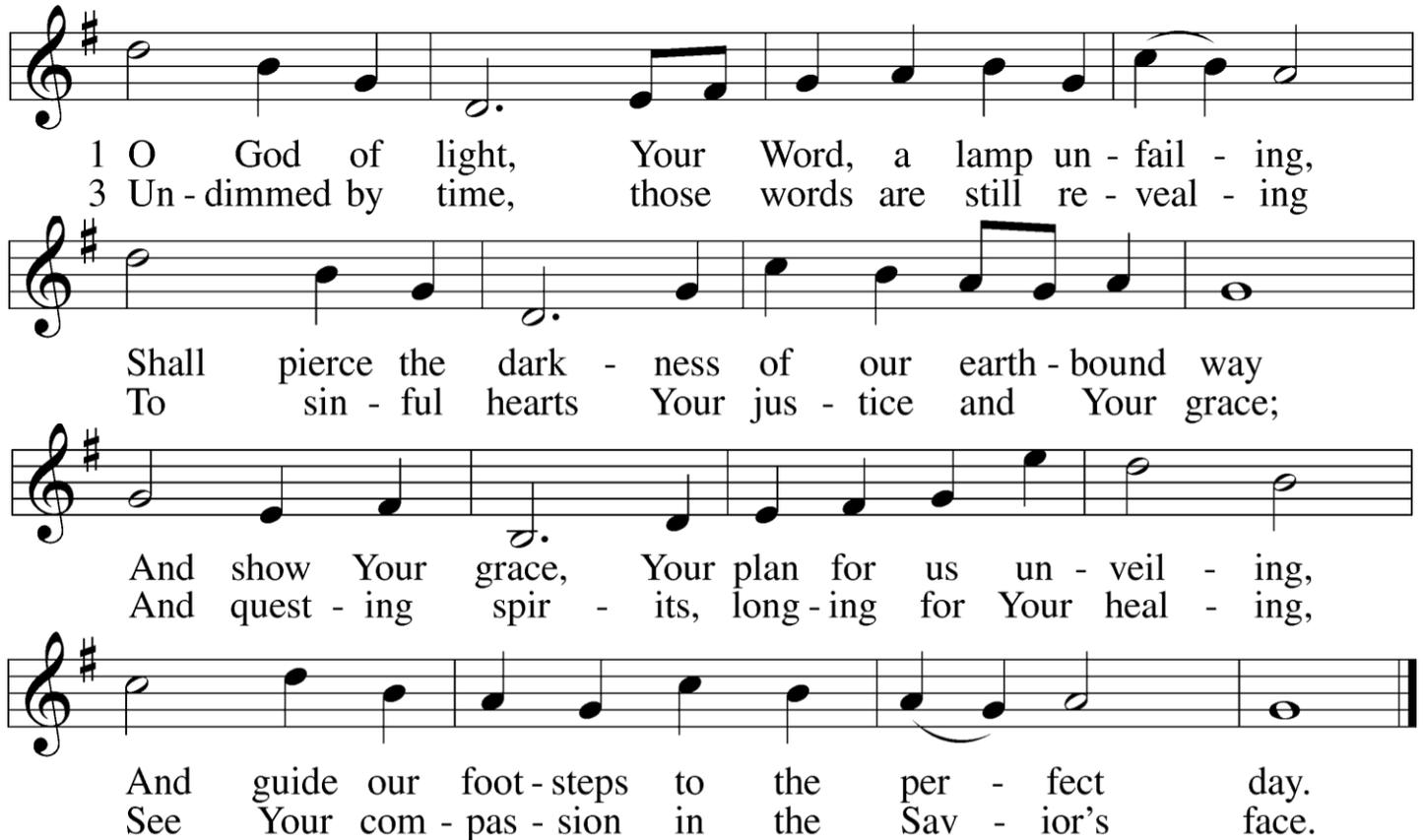
Liturgical Color:

Blue is the color of water and sky, thus hope, for the baptized who know Christ came down from heaven to earth and is coming again.

Prelude "Trio in F Major" (Movements 1-4, J. J. Quantz)

Welcome

Invocation Hymn "O God of Light" #836 (1&3)



1 O God of light, Your Word, a lamp un-fail-ing,
 3 Un-dimmed by time, those words are still re-veal-ing
 Shall pierce the dark-ness of our earth-bound way
 To sin-ful hearts Your jus-tice and Your grace;
 And show Your grace, Your plan for us un-veil-ing,
 And quest-ing spir-its, long-ing for Your heal-ing,
 And guide our foot-steps to the per-fect day.
 See Your com-pas-sion in the Sav-ior's face.

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Divine Service, Setting Four

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution.....page 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** 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.
- P** 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: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

G **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P 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.

G **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit *(spoken in unison)*

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

Kyrie *page 204*



G Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

The Jesse Tree Symbol

Old Testament Reading **Isaiah 64:1-9**

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
But now, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O Lord,

and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

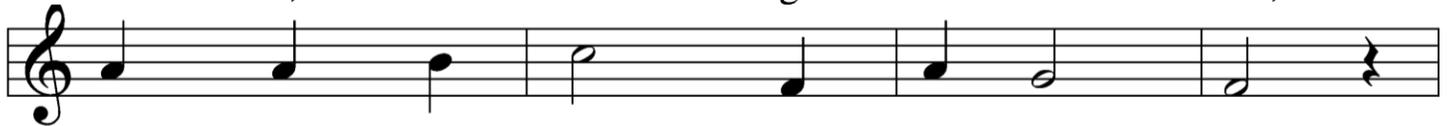
P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”* #355 (1-3)



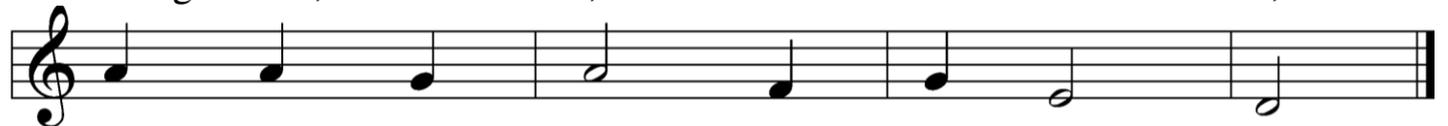
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;
3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;



Come down, come down with might - y stride;
As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.

Tune: Public domain

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Epistle Reading **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Versepage 205



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel **Mark 13:24-37**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock

crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed..... page 206

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day ... "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" #336 (1-2)

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - ly
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon..... "Tearing Things Up & Staying Awake"

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

Sit

Offering

Offering plates will not be passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the entrance.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 208-209

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
. . . (additional petitions)
- P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayerpage 209

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord.....page 209

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini.....page 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei.....page 210



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).

Communion Distribution

Distribution of the Lord's gifts in Holy Communion will be standing format with Pastor near the chancel steps. Families will be released one at a time by the usher to partake, maintaining physical distance between each family unit. Pastor and Elders will be wearing masks and gloves. Pastor will drop the wafer into your hands, so please cup them together and hold them chest-level. Individual plastic cups only are being used, so if you're not taking the non-alcoholic wine from the center, please

make sure to take from the outer circle first until all of those are gone before reaching for the next level in. "A basket to the left of the table is available for you to place your used cup inside.

Communion Hymns Instrumental

"He Was Despised (G. F. Handel, from "The Messiah"

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

"Amazing Grace" (John Newton, arr. by Gary Moege)

Stand

Post Communion Canticle *"Nunc Dimittis" page 211*

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect *page 212*

P Let us pray.

. . . 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..... page 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn..... *"The Advent of Our King" #331 (1-3)*



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.

Tune and text: Public domain

Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude *"Trio in F Major" (5th Movement, J. J. Quantz)*

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Attendance Last Saturday: 9

Total Offering: \$5,065.25

Home Use: \$3,314.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 30

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$1,751.25

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers..... Alan Miller, Nathan Wittmaier
Musicians Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege, Rich Vanderburgh
Altar Committee..... Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Lisa Gulick,
Lynn Marsh Johansen, Sheree Moody
Flower Committee Eunice Cobb (Chair), Cindy Smith

This Week's Schedule

Monday		<i>Cindy's Vacation Day</i>
	6:30 p.m.	Hanging of the Greens
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday		<i>Cindy's Vacation Day</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Warrensburg Christian School
	7:00 p.m.	"Advent of the Savior" Bible Study (Zoom)
Friday	4:30 p.m.	Manna Harvest Meal
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School-Jr. and Sr. Youth
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar have been placed by Carol Kurz, in honor of Pastor Joel's birthday which was this past Wednesday, November 25. May the Lord Jesus fill Pastor Joel's life with joy and peace throughout the next year and beyond.

Prayers

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, recovering from hospitalization, and going through rehabilitation: Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Mike Chasar, Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph & Mary Ann Hein, Roy Hillmann (Bonnie Rich's father) Sharon Hochsprung, Heather Jackson (Kaye Fair's niece), Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Kathy Marshall, Johnny Nichol, Jaden Ring, Jim Rudy, Rose Ann Steitz, and Paula Willis (Bonnie Rich's friend). *We remember as well all who are dealing with COVID—19, especially the healthcare providers who are straining to prevent, stem the spread, and treat those who are ill!*

For Pregnant Mothers, especially Brittany Brown as she and her husband await childbirth next year. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Ethan Hillsman, Chance Hillsman and Logan LeBaige.

Gratitude

Grateful appreciation to all who made my birthday special with cards, phone calls, texts, and special gifts! Your expressions of love and care mean more than you know. The Lord bless and keep us all in his grace and merciful care! **+Pr. Joel**

Congregational Events & Opportunities

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request for Pr. Joel, or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other.

Worship Services

Advent Services will start on **December 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** Once again, we will make use of the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer. Our theme this year is *Upheaving HOPE*—focusing on the actions of *Humbling, Orienting, Packing, and Escaping* (through the lens of Mary's Magnificat and portions of Isaiah). Weekly Facebook video devotions will be tied to the theme as well.

Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Masks are required at this service. You can also watch it live on Facebook or YouTube, or go to the blchurch.com webpage and go to the video directly from there.

Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m., with masks are required. The order of worship is the shorter service of Early Evening Prayer. Holy Communion is observed on 1st, 3rd and 5th weekends of the month, as has been our regular practice.

Youth

Sunday School classes for the middle and high school grades have started back up. Join us on **Sunday's at 9:30 a.m.** in the youth room.

Faith Discussion & Bible Study

"Advent of the Savior"—Zoom bible class for Advent will be held on the **first three Thursdays in December at 7:00 p.m.** Our lessons will be "To Us a Child Is Born," "Waiting and Hoping," and "Nothing Is Impossible." If you would like to join, please

contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class. You will receive materials and a link for the zoom class.

Advent Devotions will be available shortly. We will be using a book called “*Prepare Ye*”. This Advent, we invite you to sing Christmas carols—not alone, but with Jesus. He keeps us on key and in rhythm. Singing with Jesus, our joy will overflow. With the help of Israel’s hymnbook, the book of Psalms, we will celebrate Christ’s tender and loving promises as we travel through Advent. Other printable devotions from the Lutheran Indian Ministries will also be available.

Advent Conspiracy Theory—Daily readings from this series will be posted on Facebook. Advent Conspiracy is about the entire body of Christ at work in the world. As we worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all, something begins to happen that is greater than any single person, church, or denomination. As the Church, we are telling the story of Jesus to the watching world. Our prayer is that more churches join together to live out the story of Jesus’ sacrificial love. God is not finished with our world and He is inviting us deeper into the Christmas story. To learn more about this movement, go to adventconspiracy.org.

Local Endeavors Worthy of Support

Chiefs Blood Drive—The City of Warrensburg Police and Fire Departments are sponsoring a blood drive on **Thursday, December 3 from 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. and Friday, December 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** The drive will be at the ABC Community Building located at 415 Commander, Warrensburg. All presenting donors will receive a free limited edition Chiefs T-Shirt. Appointments are preferred and can be booked by going to savealifenow.org/group, then enter the group code CBHB. For additional information call 660-262-4654 or you can email Jeremy VanWey at jeremy.vanwey@warrensburg-mo.com.

Refuge On Ming is Warrensburg's new overnight homeless shelter, operated by House On A Hill Foundation. They exist to serve the unsheltered and share Jesus' love with all mankind. **It is located at 207 Ming Street, Warrensburg.** If you are able to volunteer your time, give food or household essentials or make a donation you can call **(660) 624-1062** or go to their website: <http://refugeonming.org>.

Journey Home is a permanent homeless shelter that helps individuals become self-sustaining. **It is located at 16 SW 265 Road, Warrensburg.** Journey Home recently had its open house and provided tours for the community. They are looking for volunteers to help staff the home. If you are interested, you can call **(660) 851-1419** or search for [@respectedsupportedsheltered](https://www.facebook.com/respectedsupportedsheltered) on their Facebook page.

Christmas Store—The year 2020 has been a struggle for everyone, but especially those who lack the means for food security. This is the 47th year for the Christmas Store project in Warrensburg. The goal is to serve every family needing a meal by raising \$20,000. **This year instead of collecting food all donations will need to be in cash due to the pandemic.** The plan is to give vouchers for perishable items such as meat, dairy, and fresh produce. You can mail donations to Christmas Store 2020 c/o Shiloh Baptist Church, 212 Main Street, Warrensburg or Donate online at www.communitymannaharvest.com and use the Christmas Store Button.

Upcoming Events

Hanging of the Greens will take place on **Monday, November 30, starting at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone from the congregation is encouraged to come help prepare our sanctuary for the Advent season. Drinks and light snacks will be provided by Larry and Karen Haase.

Christkindlesmarkt—You You are invited to Concordia's first annual German Christmas market—the *Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt*, held on the 40-acre campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School. **The market will be outdoors, and open from 4pm to 9pm on Friday, December 11th and on Saturday, December 12th from 11am to 9pm.** The market will also include traditional fresh German Christmas food and drink for sale, all kinds of fun activities for children, and live stage entertainment throughout the day and evening. Please see our Facebook page "Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt" for more details or visit the website at www.splhs.org/events.

Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate on the altar with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called "*Simply Giving*". Go to our website, click on the tab, "Worship Online".

Many thanks to all who have given regularly and generously to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund! It is very healthy during this lean time and well-positioned to continue timely assistance to those in need in our church family and community.

Elders

Nathan Wittmaier (last name begins with A-E) 660-225-1165(H), 660-864-1727, wittmaier@gmail.com

Jeff Harris (last name begins with F-H) 660-624-1571, elvis100669@yahoo.com

James Schumaker (last name begins with I-N) 660-429-3591(H), 660-864-9698, jshoe_1@charter.net

Jeremy VanWey (last name begins O-Z) 606-909-4765, jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com



4 WAYS TO HAVE A JESUS-FILLED CHRISTMAS

adventconspiracy.org

The four weeks of Advent we are going to take a look at 4 ways to have a Jesus-Filled Christmas through resources from adventconspiracy.org.

For starters, **worship**. There's a reason Worship Fully is the first tenet of Advent Conspiracy. We believe that when our hearts are oriented towards Christ, the rest of the tenets will fall into place. The way we spend, give, and love will radically change when it comes from a place of true worship.

Each year Advent brings another opportunity to worship the miracle of the Incarnation when God revealed himself to people in a new way. If you read the Christmas narrative, nearly every character who encountered the infant King had the same response: *worship*.

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the LORD. –Luke 2:10-11

Excitement, anticipation, hope—each of these emotions swell around the object of our dearest affection. The reality is that we spend our time and energy on what matters most to us. Notice what you're spending your time and energy on. Is it drawing you closer to God or is it distracting you from something else?

Here's a tough question: Does the way we spend our time, money, and energy testify that we worship God incarnate? Sit with that today. Ask God to open your eyes and heart to the truth.



WORSHIP FULLY

Some activities to help you Worship Fully:

- Invite a friend over and see how they're doing. Listen well.
- Have your kids read the Christmas story while setting up the nativity.
- For one night, unplug from all technology and social media. In a world full of noise, be intentional about quiet time.
- Participate in the daily Advent devotionals or listen to the audio version of the Bible.
- Turn the radio off in the car and spend 10 minutes thanking God for the ways He has blessed you.
- Listen to the Advent Conspiracy playlist on Spotify. Let the lyrics settle into your heart.



ADVENT : HOPE

Advent Services

Wednesdays

December 2, 9, 16 and 23

7:00 p.m.

Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am–5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart

MTW: 8am–2pm

Thursday by appointment

clf@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

financial@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for the viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.