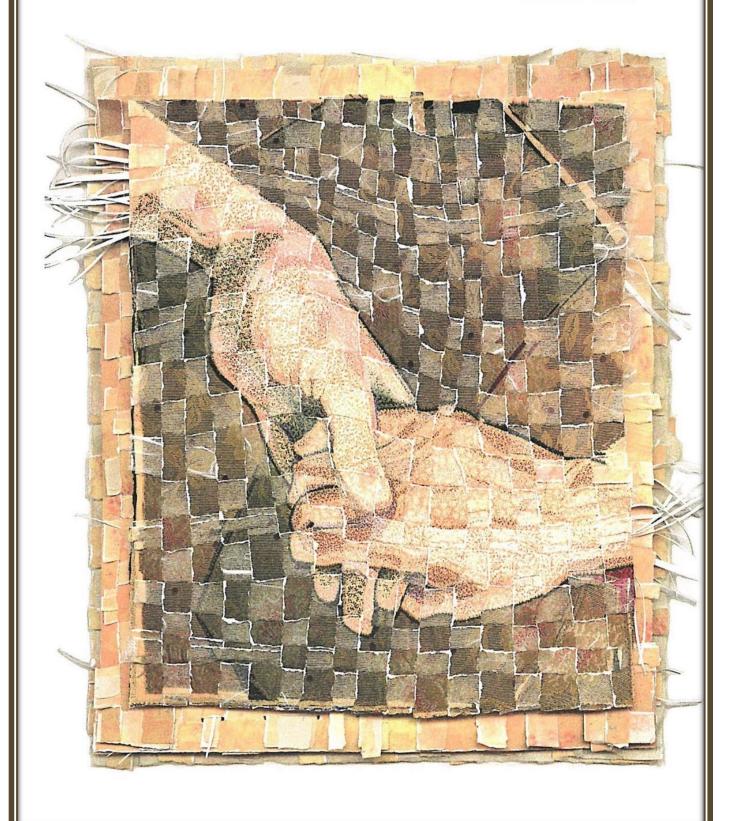
# Abide in my love JOHN 15:9





#### **AS WE GATHER**

"In the sight of God" is a phrase used throughout Scripture. It reminds us of God's unceasing care and concern for His creation. In Proverbs: "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man" (Proverbs 3:3–4). All our life is in God's amazingly loving sight as He watches over all His creation and especially over people. Out of love for Christ and one another, we can strive to see others around us in the same way that God sees them.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every  $1^{st}$ ,  $3^{rd}$ , and  $5^{th}$  weekend (and major festivals).

#### **Liturgical Color:**

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church

Prelude ......Sheri Mattson

## Welcome

Stand

## Psalm 98

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm

have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness

to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together

before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

**Gathering Hymn** ......" "O Sing to the Lord" #808 (1, 2, 5) sing God the Lord, O sing to a new song. O sing to the 2 For the Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is God is the 5 For is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus Je - sus Lord, sing God the Lord. a new song. O sing to Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the Lord! Lord! men! Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus For is Lord! sing God new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God. a God has done won-ders. O sing to our God, O sing to our God. men! Al - le - lu - ia! our God, O sing to sing to our God. Text: © Gerhard Cartford. Tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

# **Service of Prayer and Preaching**

Opening Versicles (Common)......page 260

- **P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- **C** Teach me Your paths.
- P Sanctify us in Your truth.
- **C** Your Word is truth.
- P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- 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.







Sit

# Readings

First Reading......Acts 10:34-48

Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

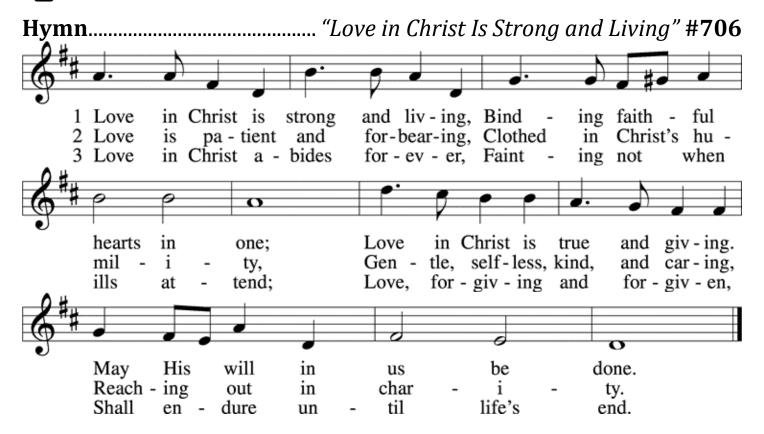
# Epistle Reading ......1 John 5:1-8

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And

his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



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#### Stand

Holy Gospel ......John 15:9-17

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

**Responsory** (Common)......page 263

- P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**Catechism** (All)......page 264

#### **Ten Commandments**

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

# **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# Lord's Prayer

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.

Sit

Sermon....."Loving God & Doing Good"

# Offering

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

"Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:15-16)

# **Prayers**

#### **Stand**



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Collect of the Day ......(spoken in unison)

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# Collect for the Word ......page 265

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

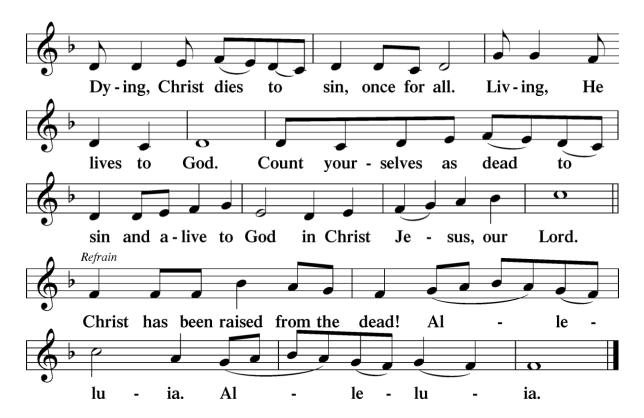
#### **C** Amen

# Morning Prayer.....page 266

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

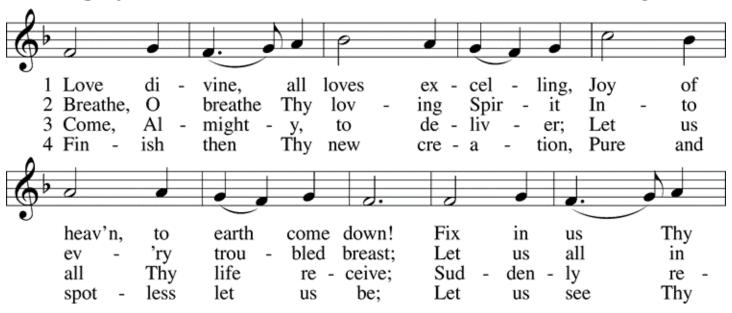
New Testament Canticle ......page 266

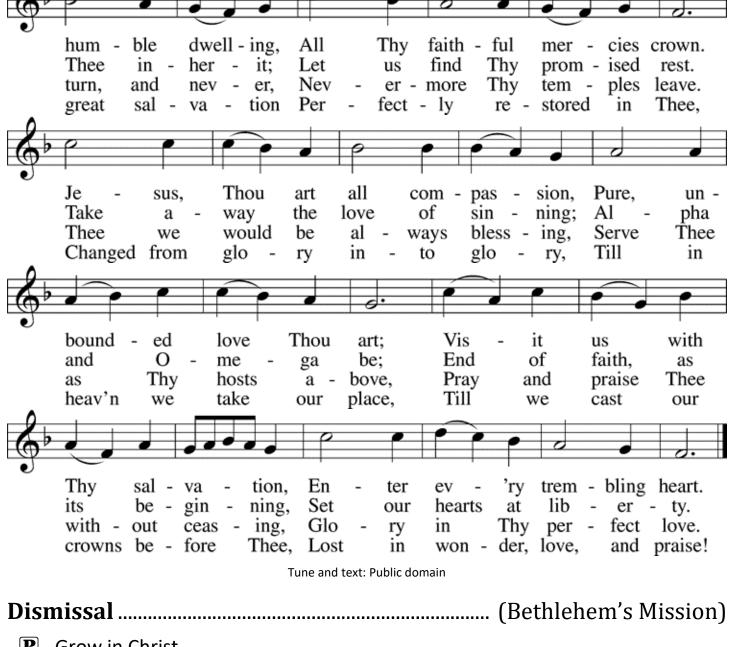




- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.
- **P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C Amen.

Sending Hymn ...... "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #700





Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude ......Sheri Mattson

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#### **Next Week's Readings**

First: Acts 1:12-26; Epistle: 1 John 5:9-15; Gospel: John 17:11b-19

**Attendance Sunday: 39 Attendance Saturday: 26 Total Offering: \$4,944.00** Missions: \$0.00

Home Use: \$4,944.00 Benevolences: \$0.00

MusiciansAltar Committee		Jack Easterwood (Sat), Willie Crespo (Sun) Sheri Mattson Sheree Moody (Chair), SueAnn Carter, Erika Freeman, Peggy Hoyer
Flower Committee		Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase
This Week's Schedule		
Monday-10	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild Meeting (Heroes Restaurant)
Tuesday-11		Pastor at Circuit Conference
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday-12	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Thursday-13	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	1:00 p.m.	Card Group
	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Service
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study—"With God in the Garden"
Friday-14	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday-15	10:30 p.m.	Brown and Rohner Baptisms Here
	11:00 a.m.	Trail Blazer Workday
	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Outdoor Worship
Sunday-16	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
3 di 1 di 3 di 7		

# **Altar Flowers**

9:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

2:00 p.m.

The flowers on the altar have been placed by Charlie Becker in loving memory of his wife Betty Becker (on Mother's Day) and in thanksgiving for the wedding of their granddaughter Amy Peterson yesterday!

**Holy Communion** 

**Outdoor Get Together** 

Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at

www.blchurch.com, under the Sermons tab)

Bible Study and Jr. and Sr. Youth Sunday School

#### **Congratulations**

<sup>\*</sup>We pray the Lord's fullest blessings to Jordan & Amy Martin and their children on their marriage and unfolding life together as a family in Christ's love. Every goodness and joy to them!

\*We also share our joy with Jonathan & Bridgette Sharp as they will be moving to Jacksonville Beach, Florida, for a year of vicarage at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and to our former vicar Pr. Aaron Boerst as he will be married to Megan Johnson on May 16 at his congregation—Bethlehem in Wales, Wisconsin!

\*Much joy to Matthew & Maddy Rohner on the Baptism of their son Braxton here on Saturday the 15th... and to his cousin Grace and her parents Brittany & Joe Brown on her Baptism the same day—with prayers for the Lord's traveling mercies to them as the move to Alaska the week of the 16<sup>th</sup>!

#### **Prayers**

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization, rehabilitation, and chemotherapy: Don Apprill (Cindy Schnell's dad), Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Denise (Penny Humphrey's sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Sharon Hochsprung, Mary Johnson, Creed Kueker (Pr. Jesse Kueker's son—Trinity, Clinton), Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Lynn Lowe, Kathy Marshall, Vivian Meyer (young daughter of Kaye Fair's close friend), Johnny Nichol, Christopher Pierce (Judy Pierce's son), Sue Rice (Judy Pierce's niece), Jim Rudy, Pat Spanton, Bryan Tebbenkamp, Lynne Trimble (Kaye Fair's sister). We remember the healthcare providers who have worked tirelessly to prevent the spread of COVID and treat those who've been ill ... and pray in thanksgiving for the diminishment of the illness!

**For Pregnant Mothers,** especially Bridgette & Jonathan Sharp, Corinne & Jeremy Allison, and Bekah & Chris Kelley. 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.

**For Our Confirmands** who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday—the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter Sunday—**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Zach Brown, Gabby Fatka, Azriel Hartwig, Nate Stewart and Gracyn VanWey. The Lord continue to guide them with his Holy Spirit!

**Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care**—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact 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**

**Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** You can also watch them live on Facebook or YouTube, or go to it directly from the webpage at <a href="block">blchurch.com</a>.

Saturdays begin at 5:00 p.m. with a Children's Message and services start at 5:30 p.m. and will be outdoors—out back under the cottonwood tree—again from May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 4th. In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved indoors. All of the Saturday services will be a non-Communion devotional service, but Wednesday Communion services will be held indoors during those months.

Wednesdays Communion Services will be at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday—from May 5th through September 1<sup>st</sup> (the next will May 19<sup>th</sup>). For these nine devotional Communion services, we'll be meditating on the nine fruits of the Spirit—one at a time. Consider making this part of your spiritual growth this summer!

**Ascension Day Service**—Join with others in our sanctuary on **Thursday, May 13**<sup>th</sup> **at 7:00 p.m.** as we mark the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter Sunday! We'll recall together the significance of Jesus' departure from the disciples as he returned to the Father and dwell a bit on its meaning for us.

# **Opportunities to Serve**

Confirmand Bake Sale—This year's confirmands will be baking some goodies and having them available for sale by donation on the weekend of May 15 & 16 following the services—and at the afternoon get-together (if anything is left). The funds will be donated to With God's Little Ones (<a href="www.wglo.org">www.wglo.org</a>), an agency for which Pr. Joel serves on the board, that shows the love of Christ in the tangible ways needed by the most vulnerable in Cambodia and Madagascar.

June is Bethlehem's month to staff the Food Center! We will need 6 volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday in June from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Food Center is still serving clients curbside, so 4 people will fill orders indoors and 2 people will meet the clients socially distanced at the curb. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. Contact Sue Cottrill for any questions.

**Food Center Needs:** small Gatorade, flavored tuna pouches, soft granola bars (not crunchy, no peanuts), canned fruit, canned vegetables except corn and green beans and size 4T-5T pull ups. Monetary donation as also welcome. Monetary donations to the Food Center can be claimed at a 50% rate on State Income Tax. Do not take charitable donation, the Food Center will fill out a form for you.

Bethlehem's Community Garden, converted to raised beds this year, will hopefully be planted soon—including a few rows of potatoes and corn! Everyone is welcome to participate. Pick up one of the new pamphlets to learn more, talk to Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley about helping, or take a stroll to the far end of our backyard to see for yourself. Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to be involved!

#### **Faith Discussion and Bible Study**

"Reading Romans" Study on Sunday Mornings! We're working through the remaining chapters of this important biblical letter, and you're more than welcome to join us in the conference room from 9:15-10:10 a.m. as we cover a lot of good ground yet together!

"With God in the Garden" Study on Thursday Evenings! Gardening is more than growing flowers, fruits, and vegetables. It is a spiritual experience that allows us to reflect on our lives, sins, and biblical truths. Martin Luther wrote, God is entirely and personally present in the wilderness, in the garden, and in the field. This Zoom Bible Study will be on Thursdays, at 7:00 p.m. We will be using "With God in the Garden" by Christianity Today International. If you are interested in finding God in your garden, please contact Rebecca or Cindy.

#### **Youth**

**Sunday Youth Bible Study**—Jeremy VanWey is currently leading a study that is exploring C.S. Lewis's classic on the wily ways of evil, *The Screwtape Letters*. Make sure to make it, and spread the word to others so that a good group can work through it together!

Vacation Bible School (Outdoors) — Mark your calendars for June 13-17 for Vacation Bible School! We will be serving a sack meal starting at 5:00 p.m. Bible School will run from 5:30-8:15 p.m. We will be Rainforest Explorers, learning how Jesus leads the way. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to help make VBS happen, please contact Ellen Pederson or the church office. Registration forms for children will be coming out soon. You can pick one up from the church or download one from Facebook or the church website.

#### **Fellowship**

Mary Martha Guild will be meeting on Monday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Heroes Restaurant. They will be celebrating the arrival of Brittany and Joe Brown's baby daughter, Grace Lynn. All ladies are welcome. Please let Sheree Moody (660-525-0822) know if you plan on coming so that she can make reservations.

**Outdoor Congregational Get-Together**—The Elders are sponsoring a "Together Again" outdoor event on **Sunday, May 16 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.** in Bethlehem's backyard. There will be drinks and snacks, bouncy houses, outdoor games, and a time of fellowship for everyone.

The Merry Widows will have their monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the church basement. Just bring yourself! They will be calling in food and having cake and ice cream to celebrate Martha Toellner's birthday.

**Exercise Class** is being held at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

**The Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to join in for some games, coffee and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

#### **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".

#### **Elders**

**Jeff Harris** (last name begins A-E) 660-624-1571, <a href="elvis100669@yahoo.com">elvis100669@yahoo.com</a> **Willie Crespo** (last name begins F-H) 660-679-8121, <a href="mailto:willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com">willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com</a> **Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, <a href="mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com">easter.egg2380@gmail.com</a> **Caleb Thomas** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, <a href="mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com">calebthomas50@gmail.com</a> **Jeremy VanWey** (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, <a href="mailto:jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com">jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com</a>



# A Reflection for Mother's Day

(Martin Luther praised Mary, the mother of Jesus, as the first Christian and the model of a life of faith for us all. This reflection, written by Dr. Raymond Chapman, enables us to meditate on key aspects of her life with Jesus her Son and Savior.)

- May the faith of Mary, told by the angel that she would bear the Son of God, be my example.
- May the family love of Mary, visiting her cousin Elisabeth also with child, be my example.
- May the humility of Mary, giving birth in the squalor of a stable, be my example.
- May the patience of Mary, driven into a strange land to save her child, be my example.
- May the perseverance of Mary, seeking long for her son and finding him in the Temple, be my example.
- May the maternal love of Mary, through years of growth and learning, be my example.
- May the constancy of Mary, close to her Son in his death, be my example.
- May the fellowship of Mary, in company with the Apostles as the Church was be my example.



# **Contact Information**

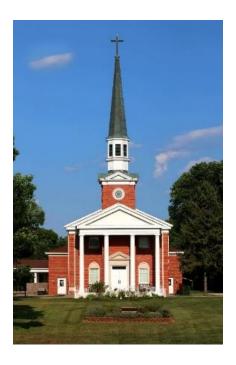
## Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

#### **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: <u>www.blchurch.com</u> Facebook: <u>blcwarrensburg</u>

#### 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.