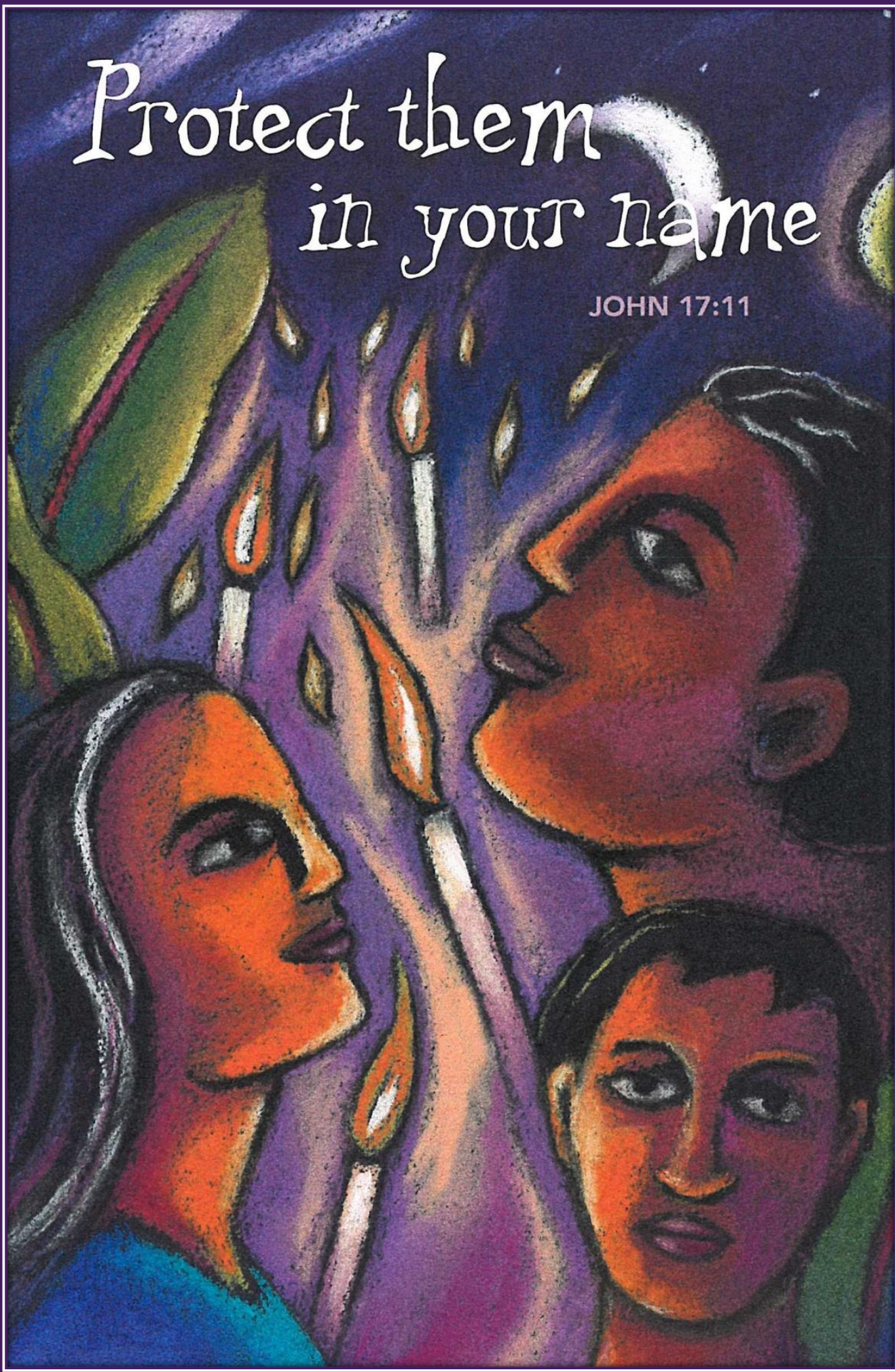


Protect them in your name

JOHN 17:11





+ Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany +

May 15, 2021
Armed Forces Weekend

AS WE GATHER

Some of the most memorable portraits of Jesus shared with us by the Gospel writers depict times when He prayed. We remember Him teaching the disciples to pray when He was on the mountain, sharing the heart of His teaching. We have the powerful portrait of Him praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night He was betrayed. And in John's Gospel is recorded what is known as the High Priestly Prayer of our Lord. Jesus prayed for His people during His earthly ministry; He continues that praying for us. In his first epistle, John writes that "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). There is holy conversation in heaven just as sure as there is holy conversation on earth when we pray!

REGARDING COMMUNION

After his resurrection, the crucified but now-living Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas (who had his doubts that Jesus could really be alive again): 'Touch my pierced hands and feel my wounded side; stop doubting and believe.'

We come to the Lord's Table with our own doubts and worries, fears and sorrows, often lingering on uncertainty and the realities we think are beyond change. Our Lord points us to his unchanging yet life-changing reality—he has died, he has risen, he will come again. His Holy Supper is the place where we encounter his saving, risen, and healing Body and Blood ... as he said: 'Those who feed on my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.' **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:

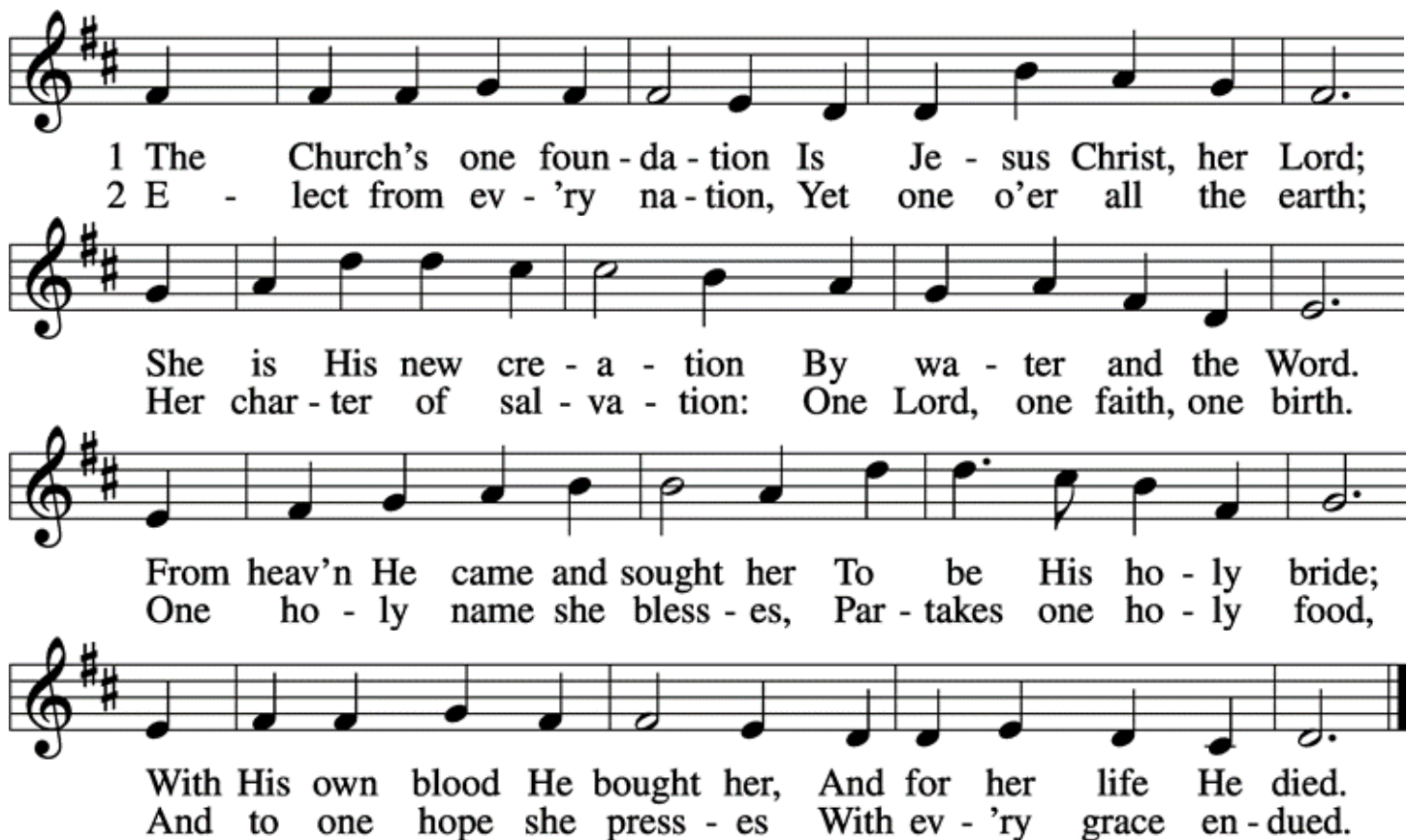
White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church

Prelude Cody Clemons

Welcome

Stand

Invocation Hymn..... "The Church's One Foundation" #644 (1-2)



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;

She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.

From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.

Text and tune: Public domain

Divine Service, Setting One

Confession and Absolution

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

Confession and Absolution.....page 151

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole

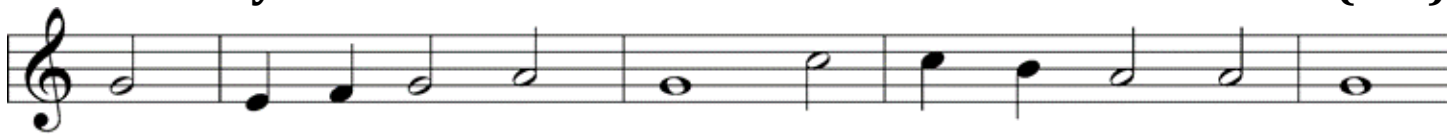
heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

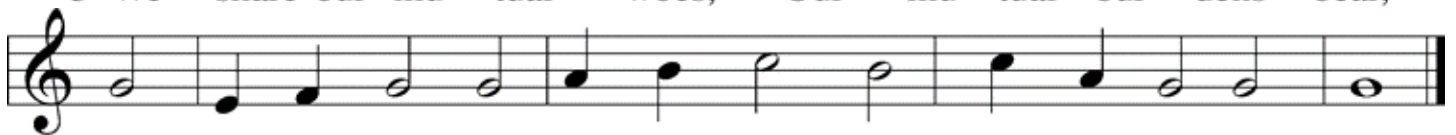
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #649 (1-3)



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.

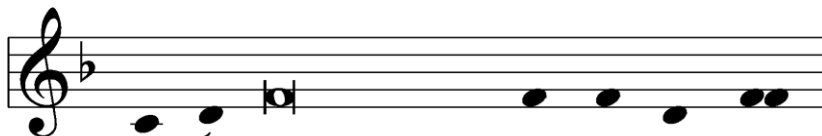
Text and tune: Public domain

Psalm (*spoken in unison*)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell in unity.

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!

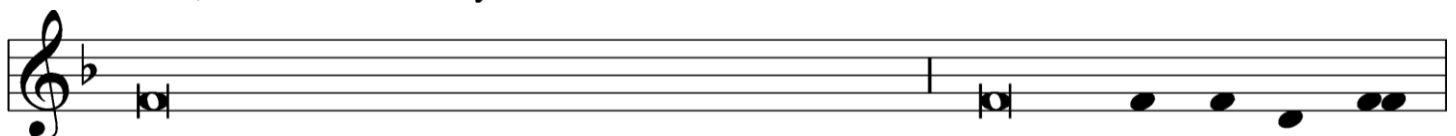
Kyrie.....*pages 152-153*



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



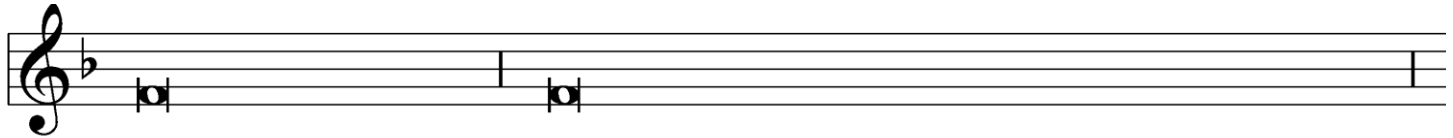
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



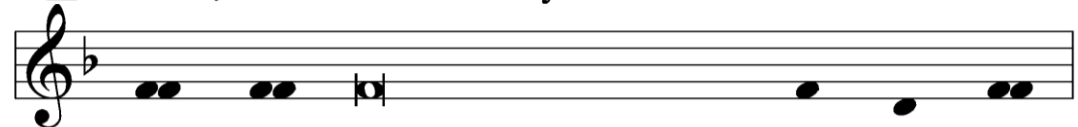
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This is the Feastpage 155

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

1 — Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutationpage 156

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First ReadingActs 1:12-26

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All

these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“‘Let another take his office.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual..... (*spoken in unison*)

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle Reading **1 John 5:9-15**

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne

concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Versepage 156



C 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.

Gospel..... **John 17:11b-19**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord" #771



1 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord, For
2 You need not mul - ti - ply your words Nor
3 Wait, then, in qui - et con - fi - dence, Your
4 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord; On



God is al - ways near. Be - fore your mind is
pray with prac - ticed art. Be - yond all speech, God
anx - ious thoughts at rest. God knows your needs be -
God in pa - tience wait. God's love, un - seen, sur -



moved to pray, God lis - tens and will hear.
un - der - stands The hun - ger of your heart.
fore you ask And works for what is best.
rounds your life; God's help will not be late.

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Sit

Sermon..... "Kept"

Stand

Nicene Creed

**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.

Prayer of the Church

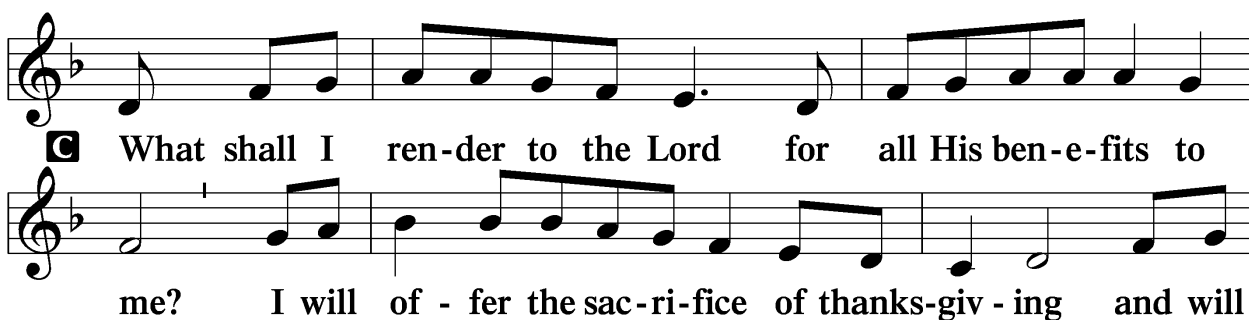
- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
P . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Offering

Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west 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)

Offertorypages 159-160



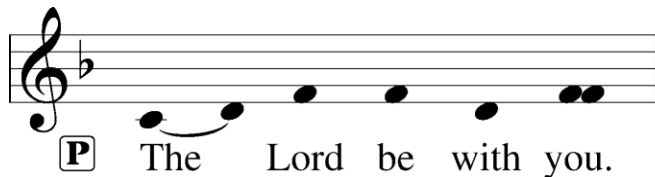
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



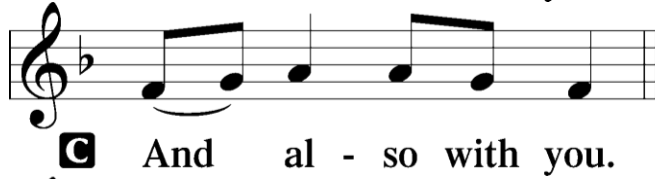
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

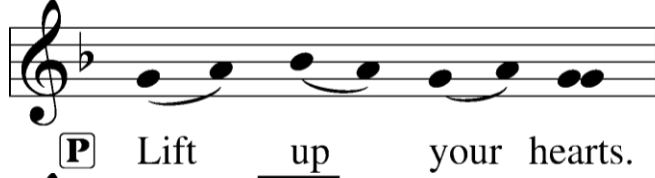
Communion Liturgypages 160-162




P The Lord be with you.



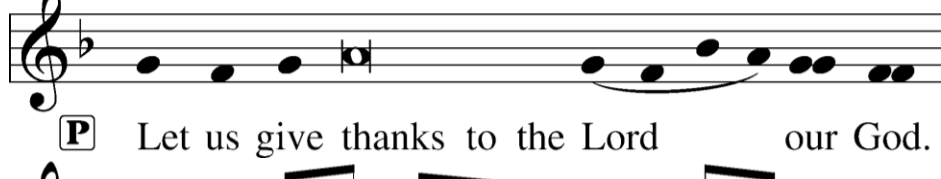
C And al - so with you.



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 . . . Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth . . .
 To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

Pax Dominipage 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

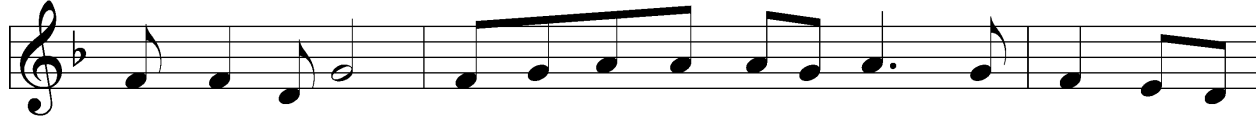


C A - men.

Agnus Dei.....page 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

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 is in standing format with Pastor and the Elder near the chancel steps. You will be released by the usher to head forward, maintaining physical distance between each person or family unit. 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*

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” #702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life’s tran - sient dream, When death’s cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
 My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



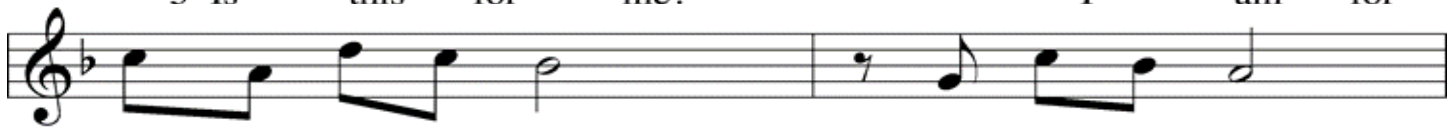
guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
 trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text and tune: Public domain

"What Is This Bread" #629



| | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|--------|----------|----------|
| 1 | What | is | this | bread? | Christ's | bod - y |
| 2 | What | is | this | wine? | The | blood of |
| 3 | So | who | am | I, | That | I should |
| 4 | Yet | is | God | here? | Oh, | yes! By |
| 5 | Is | this | for | me? | I | am for - |



| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ris - en from the dead: | This bread we break, |
| Je - sus shed for mine; | The cup of grace |
| live and He should die | Un - der the rod? |
| Word and prom - ise clear, | In mouth and soul |
| giv - en and set free! | I do be - lieve |



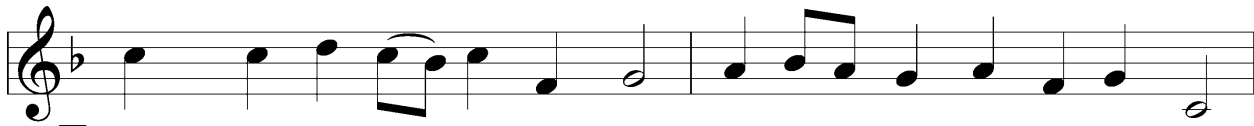
| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| This life we take, | Was crushed to pay for our re - |
| Brings His em - brace | Of life and love un - til I |
| My God, my God, | Why have You not for - sak - en |
| He makes us whole— | Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this |
| That I re - ceive | His ver - y bod - y and His |



| | | |
|--------|------------------|--------------------|
| lease. | O taste and see— | the Lord is peace. |
| sing! | O taste and see— | the Lord is King. |
| me? | O taste and see— | the Lord is free. |
| meal. | O taste and see— | the Lord is real. |
| blood. | O taste and see— | the Lord is good. |

Communion Blessing

Post Communion Canticle..... "Thank the Lord" page 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



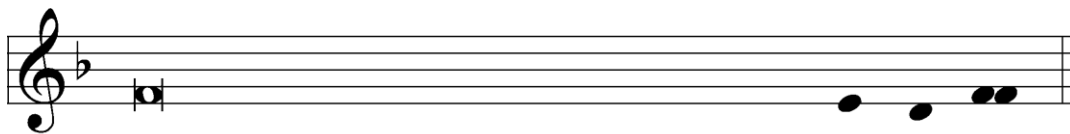
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Collect..... page 166

P Let us pray.

C We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this beneficial gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction..... page 166



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 A - men.

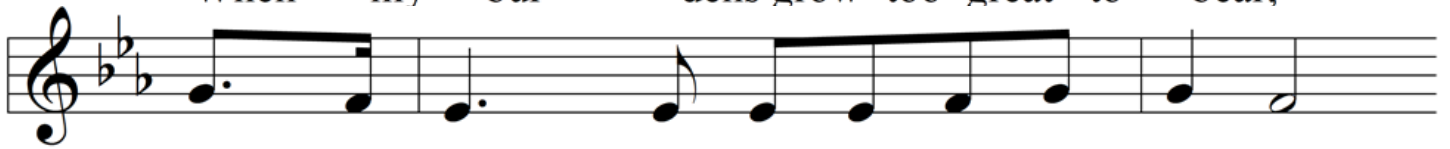
Sending Hymn..... "Day by Day"



1 Day by day, Your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me,
2 Day by day, I know You will pro - vide me
3 Oh, what joy to know that You are near me



Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;
When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;



Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, You send me
I will seek Your lov - ing will to guide me
Oh, what joy to know that You will hear me



Draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal.
O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
When I come, O Lord, to You in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure,
I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row,
Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,



Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
I will trust in Your en - dur - ing grace.
You will hold me ev - er in Your hand.



Sav - ior, lead me to the home I trea - sure,
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;
 Sav - ior, with Your pres - ence here to guide me,



Where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold Your face.
 I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

- P** Grow in Christ,
- C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Cody Clemons

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Next week's readings:

OT: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Second: Acts 2:1-21; Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Attendance Last Saturday: 17
Total Offering: \$3,725.00
Home Use: \$3,410.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 57
Missions: \$215.00
Benevolences: \$100.00

Serving us today:

- Elders.....Jack Easterwood (Sat), Caleb Thomas, Jeremy VanWey (Sun)
- Musicians Cody Clemons
- Altar Committee..... Sheree Moody (Chair), SueAnn Carter,
 Erika Freeman, Peggy Hoyer
- Flower Committee Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase

This Week's Schedule

- Today 2:00 p.m. Congregational Get-Together
- Monday-17 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
- 10:00 a.m. Moms and Tots
- Tuesday-18 6:00 p.m. Mission Board Meeting

| | | |
|--------------|------------|--|
| Wednesday-19 | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Merry Widows Luncheon |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Midweek Devotional Communion Service |
| Thursday-20 | 9:30 a.m. | Pastor at WCS |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Card Group |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Fellowship Board Meeting |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom Bible Study—"With God in the Garden" |
| Friday-21 | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| Saturday-22 | 10:00 a.m. | Catechesis Wrap-Up |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Children's Message |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Outdoor Worship |
| Sunday-23 | 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) |
| | 9:15 a.m. | Bible Study and Jr. and Sr. Youth Sunday School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday—Holy Communion |

Congratulations & Joy for New Beginnings

*Christ's abiding love to Pr. Aaron & Megan Boerst as they are united in marriage this afternoon in Wales, Wisconsin. The Lord grant them many good years to come!

*Much joy to Matthew Rohner & Maddy on the Baptism of their son Braxton here yesterday ... 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!

*We pray the Lord's blessings on Andy & Sierra Burden's (and their children Ruby, Emmy, Opal, and Rowan) move from South Korea to Alaska as well, with every goodness on them as they establish their life anew there!

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, Jim Rudy, Bryan Tebbenkamp, and 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, Bekah & Chris Kelley, and Kara & JeVon Savage. 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 next Sunday on Pentecost—the 50th day after Easter Sunday: Zach Brown, Gabby Fatka, Azriel Hartwig, Nate Stewart and Gracyn VanWey. The Lord continue to guide and bless 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 blchurch.com.

Saturdays begin at 5:00 p.m. with a Children's Message, and services start at 5:30 out back under the cottonwood tree (from May 1st through September 4th). In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved indoors. All of the Saturday services are a non-Communion devotional service, but Wednesday Communion services are being provided.

Wednesdays Communion Services are being held at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following the 1st, 3rd or 5th Communion Sunday—**the next will be May 19th.** These devotional services are focused on a different one of the nine fruits of the Spirit each time. Consider making this part of your spiritual growth this summer!

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!

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!

New Zoom Bible Study starting June 3—“Psalms: Poetry on Fire”. Psalms 1-41 over the next 12 weeks. We will discuss poetry of praises, prayers, and laments. In each lesson, we will discuss: discover the heart of God, explore the heart of God, experience the heart of God, and share the heart of God. **This Zoom Bible study will begin Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be using “Psalms: Poetry on Fire” by Brian Simmons. If you are interested in this passionate Bible Study of the Psalms please contact Rebecca or Cindy.

Wednesday & Saturday Bible Studies—Wednesday’s 10:30 a.m.—12 noon study on 1 Peter will resume after a long hiatus on **June 2**; all are invited to join in this gathering in our conference room. Those interested in resuming our Saturday post-service study of Matthew should talk to Pr. Joel to see if they want to resume in June or wait a bit longer.

Vacation Bible School

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.** 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 will be coming soon.

Opportunities to Serve

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.** 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 donations are 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 was converted to raised beds this year. Some has been planted already, but more is waiting to be done. *Would you like to be in the group of regular garden helpers? Talk to Shawn Lindley or Pr. Joel*, plus, pick up one of the new pamphlets to learn more.

Fellowship

Outdoor Congregational Get-Together—Join us this on **Sunday, May 16 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.** for our *“Together Again”* outdoor event held in our backyard (or indoors if it rains). There will be games, snacks, & fellowship for everyone of any age!

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

A request from the Bookkeeper: When designating your offering to a specific fund, please make your check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Write the dedicated fund you are designating the funds for in the memo line of your check and on the outside of your envelope. Dedicated funds, with a few exceptions, are held in the church’s general operating account. That checking account is named Bethlehem Lutheran Church and checks payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church are what the bank will accept. Anything other than checks made payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church may be kicked back by the bank. If you are donating to another agency and make the check payable to that agency, I CAN NOT deposit it in our checking account. Thanks so much! Teresa

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”*.

Thank You

A note to say Thank You to my Bethlehem friends for your prayers, cards, calls, visits and flowers. A special thank you to Pastor Joel. God bless you all! **Pat Spanton.**

Miscellaneous

Immanuel Lutheran School in Higginsville is currently accepting applications for an elementary classroom teacher position for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact Immanuel Lutheran School at ilswildcats.office@gmail.com or call (660) 584-2854 for information.

Elders

Jeff Harris (last name begins A-E) 660-624-1571, elvis100669@yahoo.com

Willie Crespo (last name begins F-H) 660-679-8121, willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com

Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Caleb Thomas (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, calebthomas50@gmail.com

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

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

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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.