The birds of the air make nests in its shade

MARK 4:32



June 13, 2021

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:

Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prelude"All in All" Welcome Stand Gathering Hymn""Take My Life and Let It Be" #783 1 Take my life Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to and let it be Thee: let them move At the im-pulse of 2 Take my hands and Thv love: 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King; and my gold, with - hold; 4 Take my Not a mite would I sil - ver

Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee. Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee. Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Holy One of Israel.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of Prayer and Preaching

| Ope | ening Versicles (Common)page 260 | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| P | This is the day which the Lord has made; | | |
| C | 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. | | |
| C | Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in th | | |
| | beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. | | |
| Old | Testament Canticlepages 261-262 | | |
| Т | he Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. | | |
| V | /ith joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation. | | |
| | nd you will say in that day: | | |
| | Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, | | |
| n | nake known His deeds among the peoples, | | |
| р | roclaim that His name is exalted." | | |
| Т | he Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. | | |
| Si | ing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; | | |
| | et this be made known in all the earth. | | |
| S | hout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the | | |

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

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.

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Sit

Readings

Old Testament Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it."

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

Epistle Reading2 Corinthians 5:1-17

We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so

that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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

Psalm 1 (front of hymnal, spoken in unison)

Blessèd is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

nor stands in the way of sinners,

nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

but his delight is in the law of the Lord,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

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.

Stand

Holy Gospel Mark 4:26-34

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

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- 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

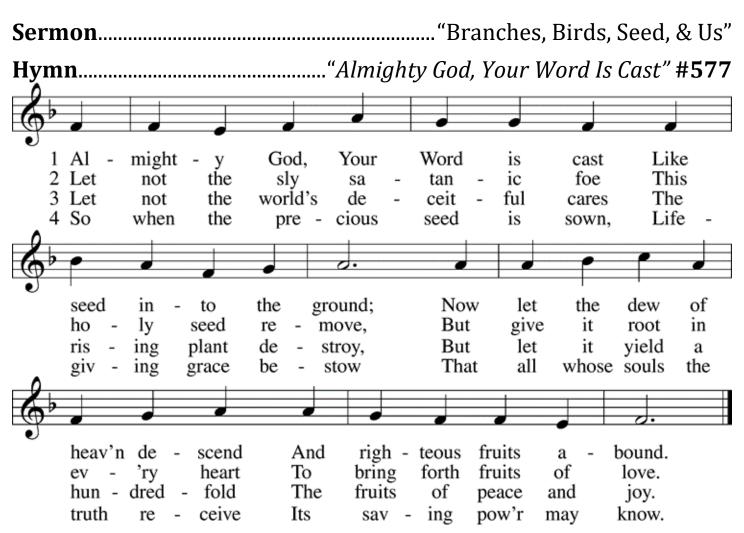
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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

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.



Text and tune: Public domain

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

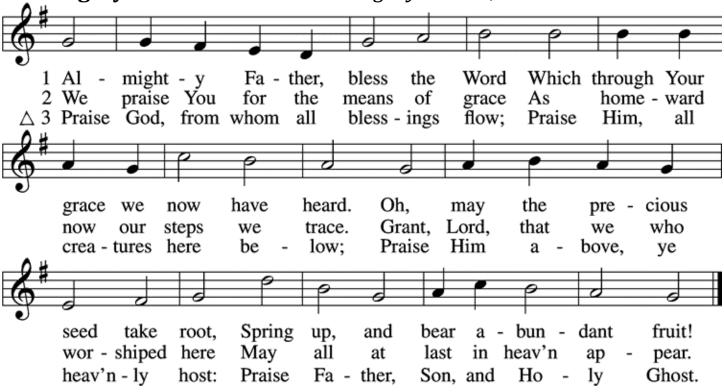
Stand

- **P** . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

| Collect of the Day | (spoken in unison) |
|---|--|
| Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scrip learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen | mark, learn, and inwardly digest e blessed hope of everlasting o lives and reigns with You and |
| Collect for the Word | page 265 |
| P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy S learning. Grant that we may so hear them, to heart that, by the patience and comfore embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope Christ, Your Son, our lord, who lives and Spirit, on God, now and forever. C Amen | read, mark, learn and take them ort of Your holy Word, we may of everlasting life; through Jesus |
| Morning Prayer | page 266 |
| I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus have kept me this night from all harm and darkeep me this day also from sin and every evil, please You. For into Your hands I commend methings. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the me. Amen. | nger; and I pray that You would that all my doings and life may yself, my body and soul, and all |
| New Testament Canticle | page 266 |
| Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia | . Alleluia. |
| Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. Raised from the dead, He will never die again. Death has no more dominion over Him. | • |
| Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia | . Alleluia. |
| Dying, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Living, He lives to God. | |
| Count yourselves as dead to sin and alive to G | • |
| Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia | |
| Blessing | page 267 |
| Let us bless the Lord.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" "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" #923



Tune and text: Public domain

Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude"Shine, Jesus Shine"

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Next week's readings:

OT: Job 38:1-11; Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

Attendance Last Saturday: 28 Attendance Last Sunday: 47 Total Offering: \$6,306.50 Missions: \$150.00

Home Use: \$5,943.50 Benevolences: \$210.00

| Serving us today: | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Elders/Ushers | Willie Crespo |
| 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

| Tills Week 5 5c | iicaaic | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| Sunday-13 | 5:00 p.m. | VBS – Rainforest Explorers |
| Monday-14 | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Moms and Tots |
| | 5:00 p.m. | VBS – Rainforest Explorers |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Mary Martha Guild Meeting |
| Tuesday-15 | 5:00 p.m. | VBS – Rainforest Explorers |
| Wednesday-16 | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Wednesday Bible Study |
| | 5:00 p.m. | VBS – Rainforest Explorers |
| Thursday-17 | 11:30 p.m. | Merry Widows/Friends Group |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Card Group |
| | 5:00 p.m. | VBS – Rainforest Explorers |
| | 7:30 p.m. | VBS – Concluding Program |
| Friday-18 | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| Saturday-19 | 10:00 a.m. | Garden Workday |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Trustees' Meeting |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Children's Message |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Outdoor Worship |
| Sunday-20 | 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 |
| | 9:45 a.m. | Preschool/Elementary Sunday School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | |

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, Mary

Johnson, Creed Kueker (Pr. Jesse Kueker's son—Trinity, Clinton), Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Lynn Lowe, Robbie McCarter, Kathy Marshall, Vivian Meyer (young daughter of Kaye Fair's close friend), Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy and Bryan Tebbenkamp.

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.

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 (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 June 23rd. 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!

Sunday School for Preschool/Elementary

Children's faith lessons are held each Saturday at 5:00 p.m. near the cottonwood tree out back, half an hour before the Saturday service. Sunday's faith lessons are happening at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall downstairs. These are great opportunities for your children to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in trust toward their Savior!

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—"Psalms: Poetry on Fire" by Brian Simmons. 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 be on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** 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 has resumed; all are invited to join in this gathering in our conference room. It looks like Saturday Bible studies will resume in September, after Labor Day.

The Lutheran Witness for June/July is available at both church entrances. This issue discusses Jesus' holy Bride, the Church, under the theme "Una Sancta-One Holy".

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (Outdoors)—Mark your calendars for June 13-17 for VBS—Rainforest Explorers: Jesus Leads the Way! We will be serving a sack meal each night starting at 5:00 p.m. The lessons and activities will run from 5:30-8:15 p.m.

VBS Mission—VBS students will be collecting items for Orphan Grain Train Christmas Gift Boxes. If you would like to donate items, please see the lists of needed items at the collection points near the church entrances. The packing list for OGT boxes is specific and variations are not allowed. OGT is a Lutheran-based relief agency, headquartered in Norfolk, NE, that connects people (often children) with needed resources for the flourishing of life. To learn more about them, visit www.ogt.org.

Packing Boxes—Orphan Grain Train is in need of McDonald's McFry shipping boxes or those similar to that size. If anyone would like to contact the Warrensburg McDonald's about collecting them and getting them to OGT's building in Concordia,

please contact either Kenny Nierman: 660-221-3136 or Ken Schroeder: 660-281-2838. Many thanks!

The VBS closing program will be held on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.! Come and see the children's mini program which will showcase what they've spent all week learning. The Men's Club will also be providing "Kona Ice" snow cones from Sedalia for everyone to enjoy. Plan on celebrating with us that night!

Opportunities to Serve

A Garden Workday will be held on Saturday, June 19, starting at 10:00 a.m. (even though some might be here earlier to get a head-start). There's plenty to plant and weed and cultivate in the still-in-progress converted raised bed community vegetable garden in the fast-moving summer, so plan on coming and helping us get things under control. We'll aim to be done by noon, but you can leave early or leave late as needed. Thanks for helping out with this good endeavor, and talk to Shawn Lindley or Pr. Joel if you'd like to be part of the regular greenspace stewardship team here at Bethlehem!

Fellowship

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.

The Merry Widows/Friends will be meeting at Bethlehem on June 17 at 11:30 a.m. Betty Wienberg will be the hostess for June. Simply bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided. Any ladies of the congregation are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship.

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".

Miscellaneous

Job Openings—St. Paul's Lutheran School has an opening for a full-time Pre-Kindergarten teacher. Must possess a teaching degree. Lutheran Teaching Diploma or colloquy are preferred but not required. Pay is based on experience per the salary guidelines of the Missouri District. This is a year-to-year contract. St. Paul's is

also taking applications for a part-time classroom aide and Extended Care worker. Please email resumes to jebonar@stpaulsconcordia.org.

St. Paul Lutheran High Benefit Hog Roast/Brat Dinner—June 27, 11 a.m.—1 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran High: Krueger Dining Hall. "Free Will Offering". Live auction starts at 12:30 p.m. Online silent auction: sign in and bid from June 15-26 at https://event.gives/splhs.

Summer Help Needed—Lutheran Bible Translators is looking to hire 4 people for the summer nursery/youth program July 11-16 in Concordia, MO. Needing workers starting Sunday from 7:00pm-8:00pm and Monday through Friday from approx. 7:45am to 4:30pm. The position pays \$10.30/hour. Lunch will be provided during the week. Please email HR Manager Melissa Schweigert (Melissa.Schweigert@LBT.org) to apply. Applicants must be 18 or older.

Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-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

GUESS WHAT TIME IT IS?



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

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith
Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm
660-747-6742
officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart
Tue - Thurs: 8am-2pm
clf@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman
Tuesday: 3pm-6pm
Thurs. 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.