

August 22, 2021

AS WE GATHER

What is your favorite family tradition? Perhaps it is an annual celebration such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas. Perhaps it is a more common tradition—an old family recipe or a favorite game. Traditions are passed down from generation to generation. They are often wonderful and meaningful. But sometimes we pass down traditions that are not good for us or the world. The Israelites had passed down traditions related to divorce and giving that were not what God had intended. Jesus rightly criticizes such traditions. Today we consider the most trustworthy tradition that we continually pass from generation to generation: Jesus.

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.

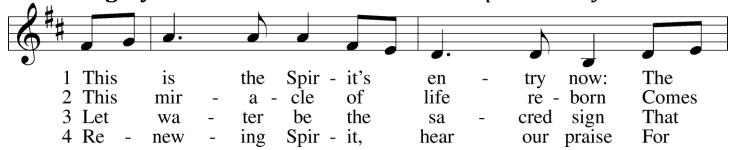
Prelude Schmillerwoods

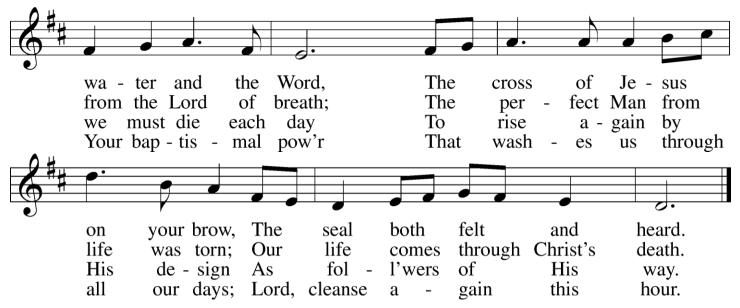
While you have time before the service begins, please take a few moments to write your prayer for the children's new school year on the slip of paper found in the bulletin and have them ready for the middle of the service. Thanks!

Welcome

Stand

Gathering Hymn "This Is the Spirit's Entry Now" #591





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Service of Prayer and Preaching

Opening 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.
- 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.

Old Testament Canticle pages 261-262







Sit

Readings

Old TestamentIsaiah 29:11-19

The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read."

And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, therefore, behold, I will again

do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden." Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me": or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book. and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

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

Epistle Reading Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,

and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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

Psalm 14 (front of hymnal, spoken responsively by half-verse)

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man,

to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;

there is none who does good, not even one.

Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers

who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?

There they are in great terror,

for God is with the generation of the righteous.

You would shame the plans of the poor,

but the LORD is his refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

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

Gospel.......Mark 7:1-13

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

When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless

they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban' (that is, given to God)—then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

- **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.
- 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

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.

Catechism Hymn......"Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain", #865





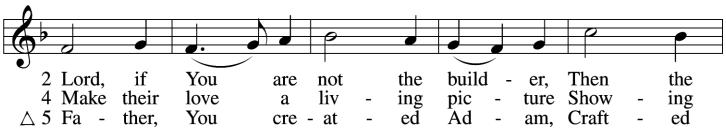
Text and tune: Public domain

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......"Words of Death & Life" **Hymn**....."Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing" #860 (v. 2, 4, 5) (Please stand for the last verse, as indicated by the triangle, in praise of the Trinity.)





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Sit

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

Prayers	page 263
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- **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)

Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

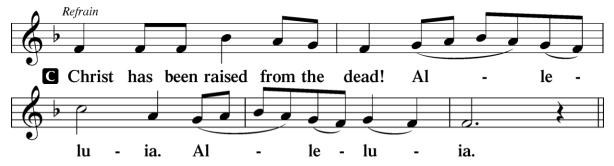
Collect for the Wordpage 265

- 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, one God, now and forever.
- **G** Amen

Morning Prayer......*page 266*

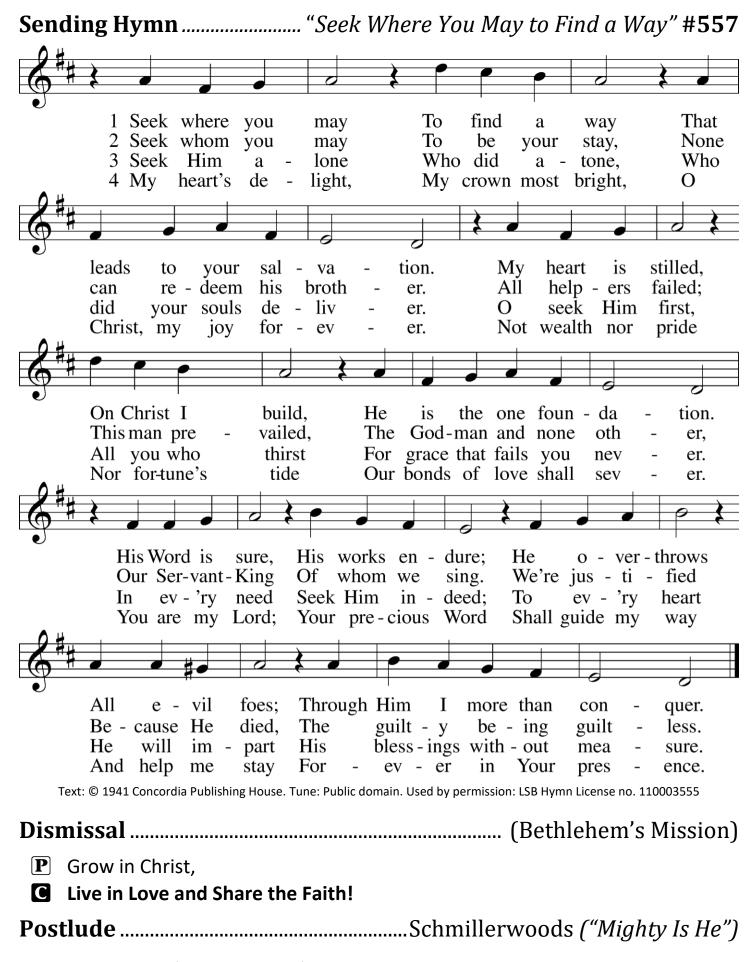
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul,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

New Testament Canticlepage 266





- **P** 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.



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Next week's readings:

OT: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20; Gospel: Mark 7:14-23

Attendance Last Saturday: 14	Attendance Last Sunday: 76
Total Offering: \$3,353.00	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$3,233.00	Benevolences: \$120.00
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serving as today.	
Elders/Ushers	Jeremy VanWey
Musicians	Paula Easterwood, Lorraine Miller, Roy Schache
Altar Committee	Cindy Schnell (Chair), Diana Hoemann, Judy Schache

Samantha Schnell, Stephanie Schumaker, Lauryn Schumaker

Flower Committee Karen Haase (Chair), Lana Vanderburgh

This Week's Schedule

Serving us today:

Today-22		Music Planning Meeting (Following Service)
	1:00 p.m.	Pastor's Rooted in the Faith Class (Conference Room)
Monday-23	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday-24	7:30 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday-25	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Wednesday Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Card Group
Friday-27	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday-28	5:00 p.m.	Children's Message
	5:30 p.m.	Outdoor Worship
Sunday-29	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
	12:00 p.m.	Church Picnic

Prayers

Of Rejoicing for Bekah & Chris Kelley (Luke & Debbie Hagle's daughter & son-in-law) on the safe arrival of their daughter Riley Rae! May Christ fill them with great joy in growing together as a family.

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 and rehabilitation: Don Aprill (Cindy Schnell's Dad), Paula Brewer, Michelle Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Denise (Penny Humphrey's sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Renae Ernesti (Charlene McCarter's niece), John Kleindienst (Liz Fatka's brother), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Creed Kueker (the young son of Trinity— Clinton's pastor & his wife), Katie Kurz, Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Lynn Lowe, Kathy Marshall, Lloyd McCarter, Vivian Meyer (young daughter of Kaye Fair's close friend), Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Ben Smith, Pat Strayhorn (friend of a member).

For Pregnant Mothers (and Fathers) Corinne & Jeremy Allison, 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, Gabe Crespo, Chance Hillsman.

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 it live on Facebook and YouTube, or go to it directly from the webpage at <u>blchurch.com</u>.

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.

Sunday School and Christian Education

We will be having an "End of Summer" youth bash at the Humphrey House on Saturday, August 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m. for youth in 6th-12th grade. We will be providing food and having fellowship outdoors (if the weather cooperates). We have a pond with a few fish so bring your fishing gear (catch and release) or other outdoor games you would like to play. If you will be attending the Saturday Evening service, you are still welcome to stop by afterwards. We will plan on starting a meeting around 7 to discuss youth events including: Festival of Sharing & the

National Youth Gathering in Houston in 2022. We will discuss fundraising as well as brainstorm ideas to start local youth group events again, so please come with ideas. If the weather holds out, we will start a fire & make some s'mores to close out the evening. Please contact Penny Humphrey with questions. (660) 441-8389.

Sunday School Kickoff will be on September 12th at 9:15 a.m. We will have donuts and other goodies to celebrate resuming that time of faith formation together!

Youth Catechesis (ongoing faith formation in preparation for Confirmation) will be resuming next month. If your child is in 7th/8th grades and you haven't been contacted Pastor Joel yet, let him know so that you can be on the planning list for when to start next month.

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

Pastor's Rooted in the Faith Sessions (which focus on the basics of the Christian faith through the Lutheran lens—especially for those wanting to learn more and possibly pursue church membership)—will start this Sunday, the 22nd, from 1-2:15 p.m. in the conference room. Let him know if you're interested but haven't been contacted.

"Reading Romans" Study on Sunday Mornings! We're working through the remaining two 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!

Zoom Bible Study—"Psalms: Poetry on Fire" will be taking a break during the month of August. We will start back up after the Labor Day weekend.

Wednesday & Saturday Bible Studies—Wednesday's 10:30 a.m.—12 noon study on 1 Peter meets in the conference room. Saturday Bible studies will resume on September 19.

Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us—a recent book by medical doctor and conservationist Matthew Sleeth—will be the topic of our Faith Night sessions on the first Wednesday of each month from September through December (5:30-6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall). Bring your own dinner and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome!

Opportunities to Serve

Orphan Grain Train Packing Party—There will be an OGT Christmas box packing party during Sunday School on **August 29**th (from 9:15-10:10, downstairs) to fill the remaining 46 (of 80) boxes before delivering them to the Concordia warehouse the following week. *You're invited to participate and help with this Thrivent Action Team*

event sponsored by Carol Kurz. Each box is a way to share the love and joy of Christ with a child somewhere in the world!

Music Meeting for Everyone—The Elders and Music leaders of BLC would like to invite you to attend a short meeting after service today in the sanctuary. We know that by working together, we can continue to provide a great music ministry at Bethlehem. Many of us miss the wonderful choir (due to COVID restrictions) that we have grown accustomed to for many years. We are looking for the congregation's input and are open to ideas. WE HOPE YOU CAN STAY FOR A BIT!

Bethlehem's Vegetable Garden was converted to raised beds this year and is growing well amid the summer heat and rains. We're glad to have a neighboring family helping out with everything and growing a box of their own, plus, it will get its final overhaul as an Eagle Scout project. Also, the garden cart has returned to the north entrance so that whoever passes by can help themselves to whatever's been recently harvested.

Fellowship

Dinner with Martha Friedmeyer (in Clinton) has been rescheduled for **Friday August 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** For comfort, we will meet at a restaurant of Martha's choosing to have dinner and fellowship. Please contact Sheree Moody, (660) 525-0822 if you are able to attend. Martha will be extremely pleased to see as many of the ladies that are able to make it!

Church Picnic—The annual church picnic is set for **Sunday, August 29, immediately following the church service**. The Men's Club will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. The Fellowship Board will be providing sides, drinks and dessert. All you need to do is bring some play clothes and a lawn chair if you wish. Games will be available for adults and children.

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, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

The Games and Card Group meets on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone, men and women are welcome to come and play board games or cards. Bring a game and a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

Quilting—The Quilting Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

Miscellaneous

Country Kitchen Cards are back. You can get 10 buy-one, get-one meal **FREE** coupons for just **\$10.00**. All proceeds go towards helping the youth group. See a youth member, or you can stop by the office and purchase one.

Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called "Simply Giving". You may also place your offering in the plate in the Narthex.

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

Please sign up for the church picnic via the following link: https://rsvp.church/r/s5QmFZjA

If you do not have internet, please call the office to let us know how many in your family will be coming so we can get a head count.



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>

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Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart
Tue & Thurs: 8am-4pm
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.