



September 12, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Look out! There were snakes biting the Israelites, sent by God as punishment for complaining about the manna, that miraculous food He gave on the way to the Promised Land. But look up! See the bronze serpent Moses put on a pole. Everyone who looked up at the serpent will live. The serpent was a type of Christ, a parallel symbol in the Bible. We, too, have snakes—our discontent with God's daily blessings and lack of faith in His promises. But as we look up in faith to Jesus, the Christ on the cross, we shall be saved. That faith is a gift of God in His grace. Jesus is the center of the gracious Good News. We are God's workmanship, and now He holds the door open as we walk through, looking up to 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 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

Liturgical Color:

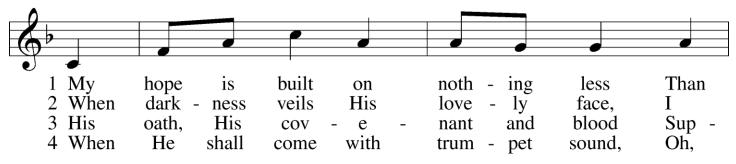
Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

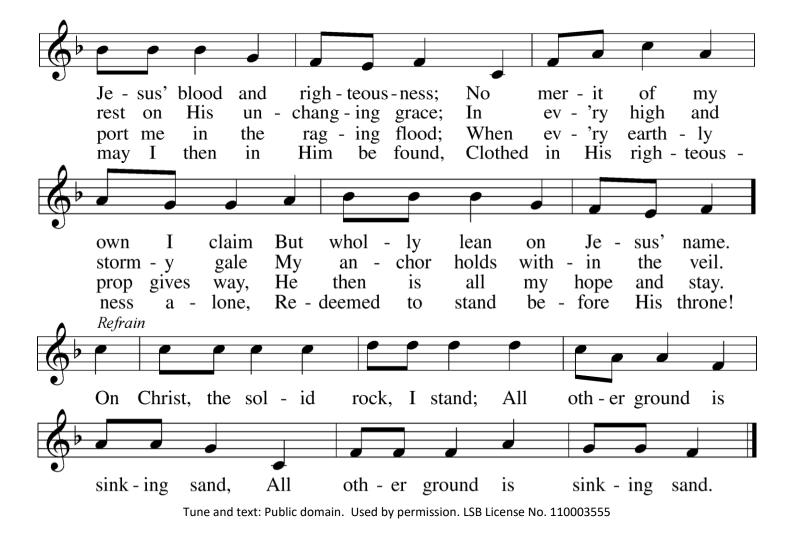
PreludePaula Easterwood, Lorraine Miller

Welcome

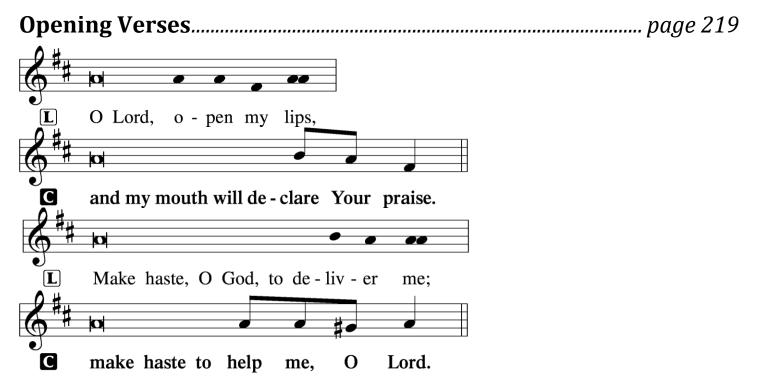
Stand

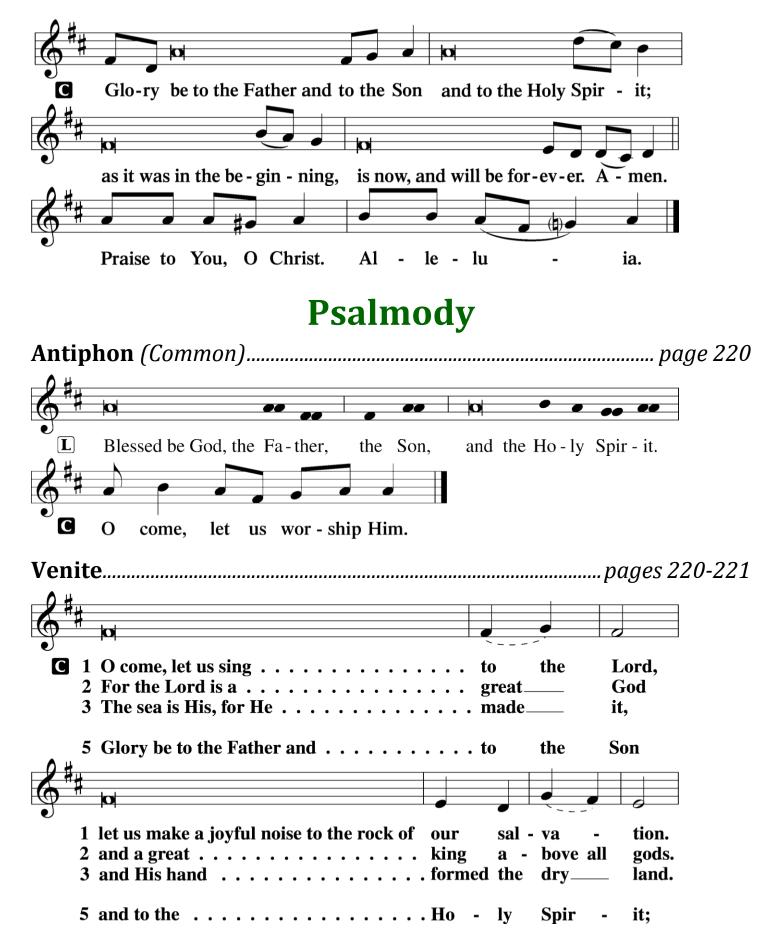
Gathering Hymn...... "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" #576

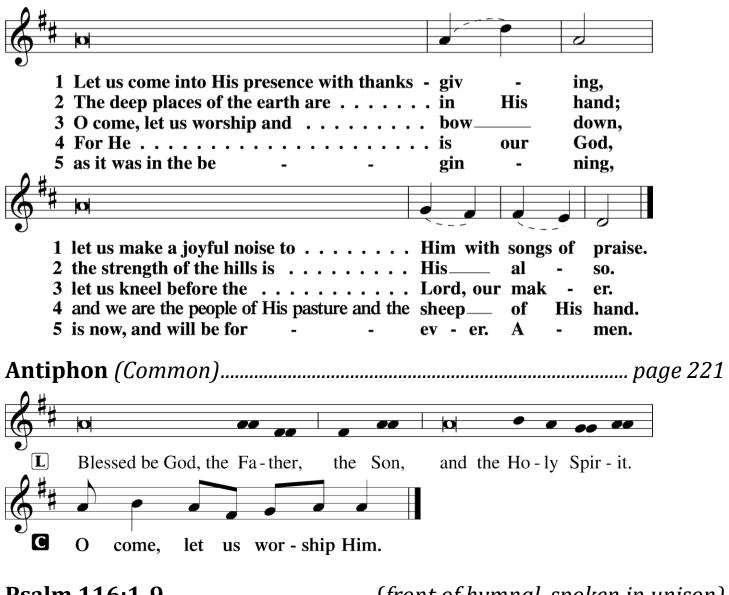




Matins







Psalm 116:1-9.....(front of hymnal, spoken in unison) I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!" Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death,

my eyes from tears,

my feet from stumbling;

I will walk before the Lord

in the land of the living.

Sit



6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 50	:4-10
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The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord

and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle ReadingJames 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

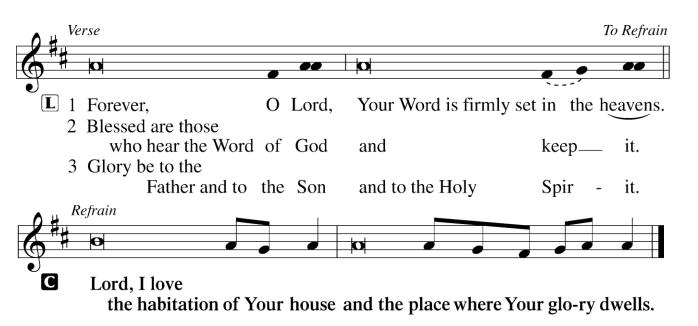
Holy Gospel Mark 9:14-29

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him

mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

- **P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- С
- Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Common)......page 221



Sit	
Children's Message	Ellen Pederson
Sermon	"Focus"

Stand

Canticle



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Offering

Offering plates are not being 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)

Prayer

Sunday School Teachers' Blessing

Rebecca Holland, Jack Easterwood, Rich Vanderburgh Bryon Freeman, Ellen Pederson and Penny Humphrey



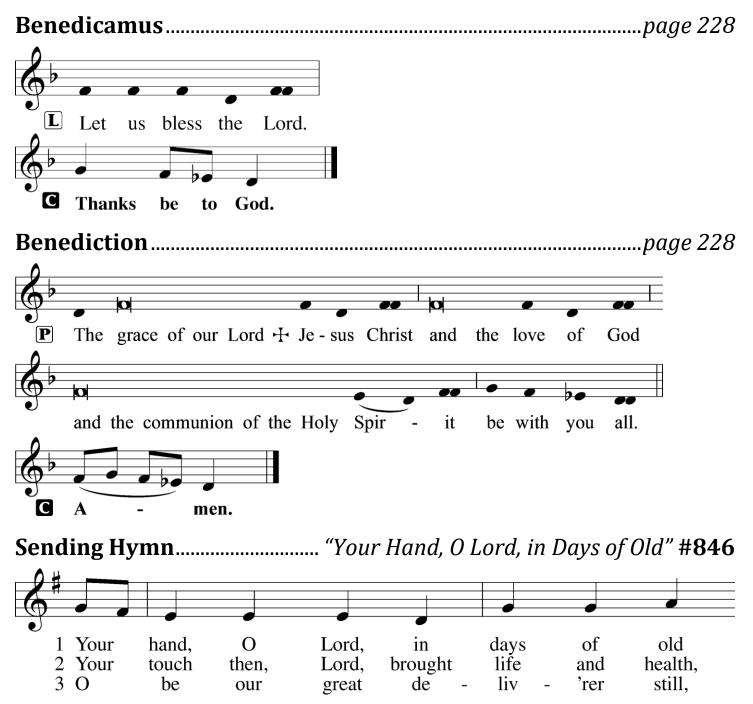


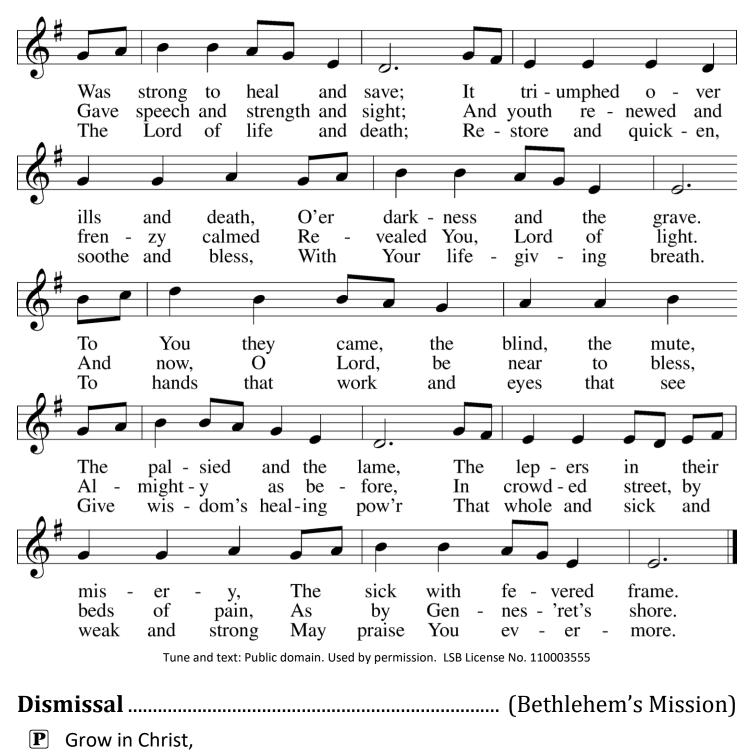
Collect of the Day (in unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Additional Collects ending Amen.

- P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.





C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

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Next week's readings: OT: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Epistle: James 3:13-4:10; Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Attendance Last Saturday: 20 Total Offering: \$6,604.34 Home Use: \$5,856.00 Attendance Last Sunday: 50 Missions: \$418.00 Benevolences: \$330.34

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers	Caleb Thomas
Musicians	Paula Easterwood, Lorraine Miller
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

Monday-13	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	7:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild Meeting
Tuesday-14	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday-15	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
		NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY
Thursday-16	11:30 a.m.	Merry Widows/Friends Luncheon
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Class-"Forgiveness"
Friday-17	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday-18	10:30 a.m.	Rohner Wedding
	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
	6:45 p.m.	Bible Study
Sunday-19	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.	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis Class

Absence

Pastor Joel will be on vacation from September 7th to the 16th. If you need assistance during his absence, please call Jeremy VanWey or your Elder.

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 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), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Pr. Jesse & Creed Kueker (the pastor of Trinity— Clinton & his young son as they recover from kidney transplant surgeries), Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Lynn Lowe, Kathy Marshall, Evan Martin, Vivian Meyer (young daughter of Kaye Fair's close friend), Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Lori Sloan, and Danielle Thomas.

For Pregnant Mothers (and Fathers) Corinne & Jeremy Allison, and Kara & JeVon Savage as they get closer to their due dates next month. 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>.

Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m. and will be indoors.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Sunday School for PreK-12th grade begins at 9:15 a.m. downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Catechesis (ongoing faith formation in preparation for Confirmation) will be starting on **Sunday the 26th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** If your child is in 7th/8th grades and you haven't been contacted by Pastor Joel yet, let him know.

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) meets next on **Sunday the 19th at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room and via Zoom.** Let Pr. Joel know if you'd still like to make these sessions.

"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! *Sunday, September 12, Pastor Ricky Bertels will be leading the bible study on our Old Testament and Epistle lessons for the weekend.*

Zoom Bible Study—**"Forgiveness-Making Peace with the Past"** is taking place on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join us, please contact the office so we can get you the study materials.

Wednesday Bible Study will not be held on September 8 or September 15 due to Pr. Joel being on vacation.

Saturday Bible Study (on the Gospel of Matthew) will resume on **September 18** following the evening service—**6:45 to 7:30 p.m.**—in the conference room. Please join us as we explore the life and ministry of Jesus.

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

Food Center—**September is Hunger Action Month.** The Food Center is always in need of restocking. Please remember the following items as you shop and donate this month and throughout the year: canned vegetables and beans, Hamburger Helper mixes, toilet paper, deodorant and coffee. For the unsheltered: tuna or chicken in pouches, meat ravioli (pop tops), soft Nutri-Grain bars, Gatorade type drinks, water, chap stick, small body lotions and sunblock.

Front Sign Changer/s Needed—The couple who've done that faithfully for the past several years won't be continuing, so how about giving it a try! Congregational youth did it a number of years ago and really enjoyed it. Talk to Pastor Joel and he'll get you started (since he does it from time to time as needed).

Candle Caretaker—we are looking for someone to come in once a week to take care of our altar candles. This takes no special skills and you can come in at your convenience. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

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 is at the north

entrance so that whoever passes by can help themselves to whatever's been recently harvested.

Fellowship

Mary Martha Guild will be meeting on Monday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Karen Haase and Judy Schache will be presenting a program on mission work.

Merry Widows/Friends will be meeting on Thursday, September 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and a friend for some time of 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, 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.

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

Saint Paul Servants of Saints Rummage Sale will be held on Wednesday, September 15 (6-8pm: \$5 preview sale), Thursday the 16th (6-8pm), Friday the 17th (8am-7pm) and Saturday the 18th (8am-12pm). There will be a \$5.00 bag sale on Saturday. Sale is located at Weis Gym Annex, 205 S. Main Street, Concordia.

Wedding Invite—Lloyd and Charlene McCarter would like to invite the congregation to the marriage of their granddaughter, Kala McCarter-Rogers to Eric Xie on **Saturday, October 9 at 2:30 p.m. at Milestones Barn**. A reception will take place at 4:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP you can go to their webpage at <u>https://www.zola.com/wedding/therexiegoes21</u>.

Country Kitchen Cards are available! 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, <u>willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com</u> Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, <u>easter.egg2380@gmail.com</u> Caleb Thomas (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, <u>calebthomas50@gmail.com</u> Jeremy VanWey (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, <u>jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com</u>



Contact Information

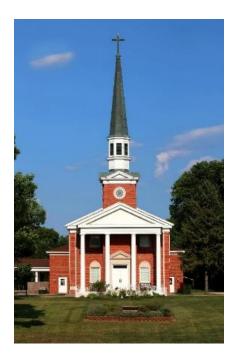
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

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: <u>pastor@blchurch.com</u> 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 MTW: 8am-2pm Thursday by appointment <u>clf@blchurch.com</u>

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.