

FOLLOW ME



and I will make you fish for people

MARK 1:17



+ Third Sunday After The Epiphany +

January 24, 2021

AS WE GATHER

When someone calls you on your phone, do you always answer? In our present day with caller identification, many are apt to let the call go to voicemail to wait and see what the message is and who it's from and at times wait to respond depending on the level of importance. How about when God calls? Especially, if that call is one to repentance? Do you answer? We hear in today's Readings of the response of some. Jonah was a reluctant follower. He went to Nineveh begrudgingly, but through him God would issue a call for the Ninevites to repentance. Jesus would call Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, and promised that through them, God would issue a call of repentance to many. In Baptism, God has called us to follow Him in a life of faith and repentance, and He promises that through us, others will also be called to that same repentance and new life.

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:

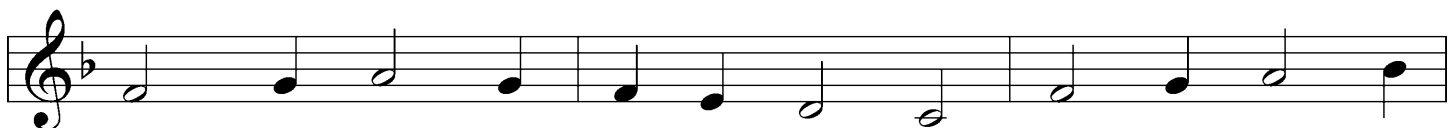
Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prelude Cody Clemons

Welcome

Stand

Gathering Hymn..... *"Praise to You and Adoration" #692*



1 Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in

Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to
 pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with
 share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may
 me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,
 From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and
 And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your
 joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing.
 life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text and tune: Public domain

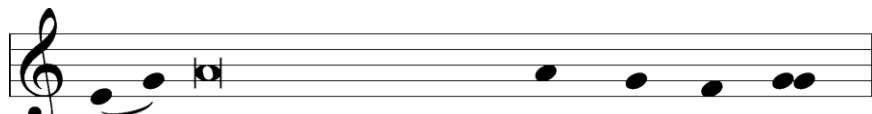
Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... *page 235*

L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.
C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.
C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon..... page 235



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.



G O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite..... page 236



G O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy - ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.



I Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.

II The sea is His, for He made it;

and His hand formed the dry land.

I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;

let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.

II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple

of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphonpage 237

L Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 62 *(spoken in unison)*

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress;
I shall not be greatly shaken.

How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.

They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress;
I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

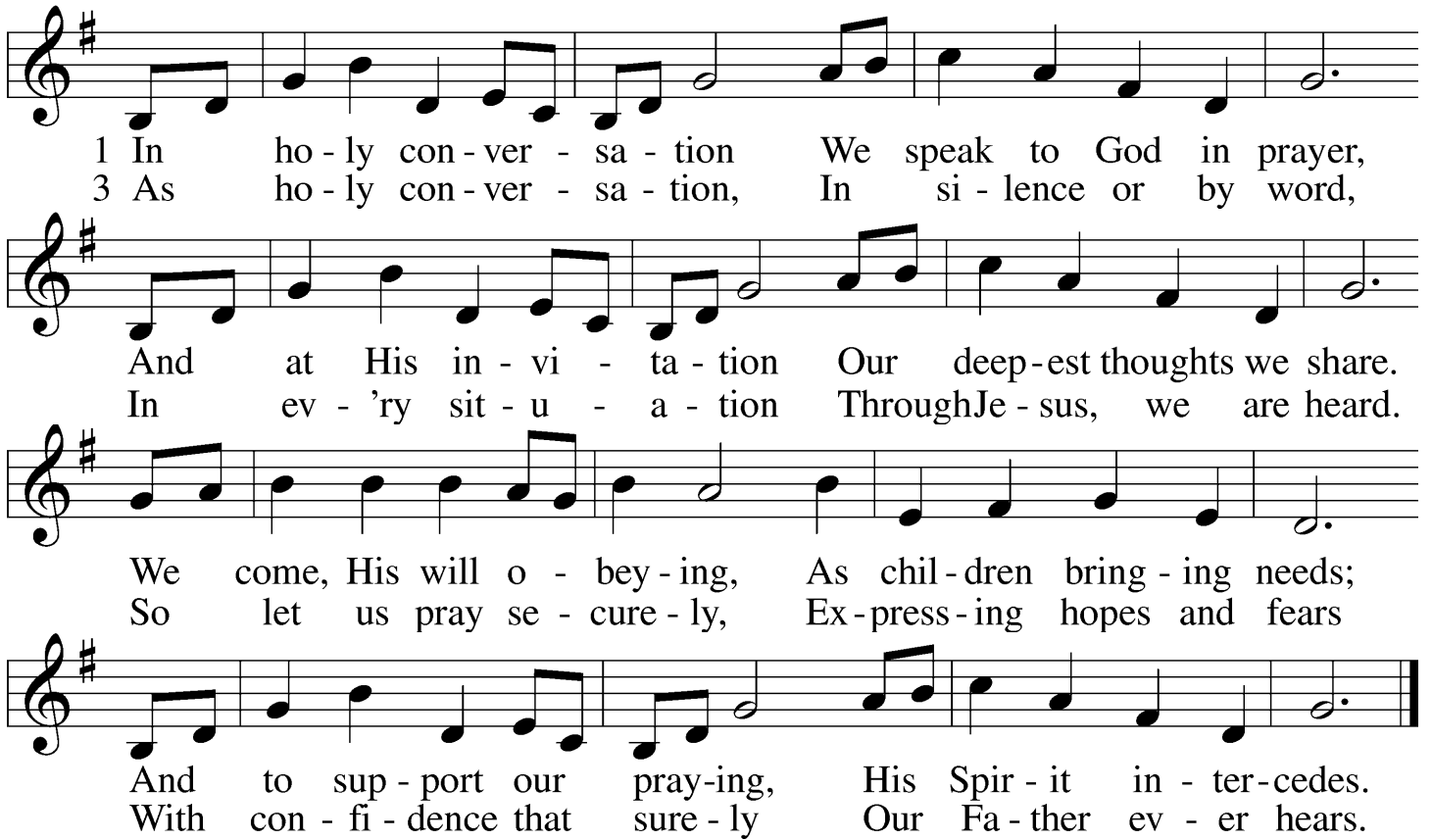
Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.

For you will render to a man
according to his work.

Office Hymn..... *"In Holy Conversation" #772 (1 & 3)*



1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion We speak to God in prayer,
3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, In si - lence or by word,
And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep - est thoughts we share.
In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.
We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;
So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears
And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - cedes.
With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

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Sit

Readings

Old Testament Reading..... **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . .

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading **1 Corinthians 7:29-35**

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Sit

Sermon..... “The ‘Lakes’ of Our Lives”

Stand

Hymn of Calling....."By a Lake We Come to Know You" CWLP (1-3, 6)



1 By a lake we come to know You, Son of God, for
2 When Your friends re - turned from fish - ing All night long with -
3 When You saw the crowd that gath - ered On a hill - side
6 Je - sus, let a lake re - mind us What You said and



what You are. There You called Your first dis - ci - ples,
out a catch, Do - ing what You said con - vinced them
by the shore, You were moved to teach and feed them
what You did, How You sought us, how You called us,



There they fol - lowed You in faith. So You look for
That You know where bless - ings wait. So You re - di -
With an ev - er - last - ing feast. Like those thou - sands,
How You gave our life a goal. Now we know why



us and find us, So You call us one by one.
rect our ef - forts, So You fill our emp - ty lives.
hun - gry mil - lions Still feed on that bread to - day.
we are liv - ing; We can share the joy You give.

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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)

Stand

Prayer

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Additional Collects

Lord's Prayer *page 241*

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.

Benedicamus *page 241*

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction *page 242*

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

Sending Hymn..... "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" #707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
 Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
 And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
 Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

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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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Attendance Last Saturday: 17
Total Offering: \$5,575.00
Home Use: \$4,975.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 70
Missions: \$40.00
Benevolences: \$560.00

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers..... Caleb Thomas
 Musicians Cody Clemons
 Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,
 Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
 Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Sheree Moody

This Week's Schedule

Today	11:30 a.m.	Thrivent Planning Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School

	7:00 p.m.	Great Women of the Bible II-Zoom Bible Study
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	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)
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School—Jr. and Sr. Youth
	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, recovering from hospitalization, and going through rehabilitation: Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter’s mother), Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Denise (Penny Humphrey’s sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Roy Hillmann (Bonnie Rich’s father), Sharon Hochsprung, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons’ father), Troy McCarter (Lloyd McCarter’s brother), Kathy Marshall, Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Lynn Trimble (Kaye Fair’s sister), and Paula Willis (Bonnie Rich’s friend). *We remember as well all who are dealing with COVID—19, especially the healthcare providers who are straining to prevent, stem the spread, and treat those who are ill!*

For Pregnant Mothers, especially Brittany Brown as she and her husband Joe await childbirth next year. 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.

Congregational Events & Opportunities

“Souper” Bowl Drive is February 7—This year’s pandemic "Souper" Bowl drive will be 'virtual' cans! Not only are virtual cans lighter, but \$1.00 donated is = to 3 cans of soup when the Food Center purchases through Harvesters, our Kansas City Food Bank. Monetary donations can be sent to: The Food Center, P.O. Box 872, Warrensburg, or put donations in Sue Cottrill's mailbox.

Thrivent Action Team called “Presenting Jesus.” will happen on **February 7**. This is the first Sunday after the Presentation of Our Lord (February 2nd, Groundhog Day to many)—the fortieth day after Christmas, when we remember him being brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph. The youth Bible study group and Pr. Joel will put some new Arch Books (that present Jesus in a colorful and creative way) in the children’s library downstairs.

Movie Night with Pastor—The “Movie Night with Pastor” will be on the Wednesday before Ash Wednesday, **February 10 at 6 p.m.** After a year of big losses and questions about death, life, and carrying on (with despair and with hope), we’ll watch and discuss a film that holds a lot for consideration before we begin another Lent and head toward Easter. *The Vessel* (starring Martin Sheen) is a stunning and hopeful film that wrestles with the big questions in the midst of day-to-day life and the shadow of death. We’ll watch it downstairs either in the youth room or the fellowship hall—depending on the size of the group. If you want to bring a dinner or snack for yourself, feel free to do so, but food and drinks will not be provided.

Council Notice: The council will vote during the February Meeting to either support or not support the Synod proposal to delay the "current 2019-2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming National Convention from 2022 to 2023". If you have any questions, please contact your Elders, Pastor or Alan Miller.

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!

Telephone Support Group—A new support group is being started by the Merry Widows. Anyone can take part. If you would like to take part, either making or receiving encouraging calls, please contact Sue Ann Carter (660-441-1786) or Carol Kurz (660-362-0987). It is suggested we start off by making two calls a week. Please let us know when the best time to call would be. A list is being worked on right now. This is a simple way to keep in touch with fellow church members while we are not able to gather together. Thanks for your consideration and involvement!

Food Center Needs: pouch tuna, canned meats, cake mixes and icing, diapers, jelly in squeezable bottles. Other staples are also welcomed. Donations can be dropped off at 137 E. Culton, **T & TR, 1-4 pm & Saturday, 9-11 am** or left at the north church entrance.

Worship Services (Masks required at all services)

Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. You can also watch it live on Facebook or YouTube, or go to it directly from the webpage at blchurch.com.

Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m. The order of worship is the shorter service of Early Evening Prayer. Holy Communion is observed on 1st, 3rd and 5th weekends of the month, as has been our regular practice.

Youth

Let It FLOW—All junior and senior high youth are welcomingly encouraged to attend this Bible study being led by Pr. Joel on every Sunday morning **from now until February 21st** (in the downstairs youth room) **from 9:30—10:10 a.m.** In this Epiphany, from the remembrance of Jesus' Baptism to the emphasis on his works of healing and restoring, we'll focus on what Jesus meant about coming "For the Life Of the World" and what that means for us and the purpose of our lives. Each session will include viewing a superb video and having a discussion that bridges us from there to Scripture and daily life. So, whether you attend Sunday school every week, hardly ever, or never, please consider committing to this excellent and engaging study that you won't regret! (And spread the word!)

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

New Zoom Bible Study—Open to Everyone. This Bible study begins on **February 4, at 7:00 p.m.** Join us for an eight-week study of **Jesus' Final Week**, which will include Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the trial, Jesus' death, and his resurrection. Focusing on these events will bring new understanding to who Jesus is and how he loves us. **Please contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class so we can get materials out to you.**

Looking Ahead to Spring

Bethlehem Community Garden Transformation Tour—Twelve years ago, our congregation started the vegetable garden out back, along with the star herb garden out front ... and in succeeding years we've added the children's garden out front, the side & back planters, fruit trees, berry bushes, and Bethlehem Woods nature trail. The vegetable plot has lain fallow for two of those twelve years, and last October we began converting the area to raised bed gardens—with wood chips yet to come. I've you'd like to get an overview of what's in store, and maybe even how you could be a part of it, plan on attending this informational tour on **Saturday, February 6th** (that's the Saturday after Groundhog Day—otherwise known as the Feast of Our Lord's Presentation, the Fortieth Day after Christmas) **at 10:00 a.m.** in the garden plot at the far end of the Bethlehem's backyard ... and spread the word letting others know they're invited! **If the weather is bad, this will be postponed.**

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*”. If you did not receive 2021 envelopes and would like them, please contact Teresa Hillsman.

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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Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

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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.