

Jesus taught them
as one having
authority

MARK 1:22





+ Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany +

January 31, 2021

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel from Mark 1, we are reminded of Jesus' divine authority in His teaching to the people and also in His power over evil spirits. This power and authority was foretold by prophets such as Moses, pointing to the One who would fulfill all things as the long-awaited perfect prophet and Savior. In that power and authority, Christ has won our victory through His death and rising, and we are blessed with freedom in that faith to be used to His glory in service to others.

REGARDING COMMUNION

Epiphany means "the manifesting" or "showing forth." Jesus was *made known* as God in flesh by the descent of the Holy Spirit and voice of the Father when baptized, as well as through the miracles of healing he did for the ill and suffering. We come to our Lord's Table as a people baptized into the name of the Holy Triune God ... as Christians who desire to continue in the faith and life of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus *makes himself known* to us still as we gather at the altar to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine for our forgiveness and healing and strength. Then we go forth to *make him known* to others in word and witness. ***Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

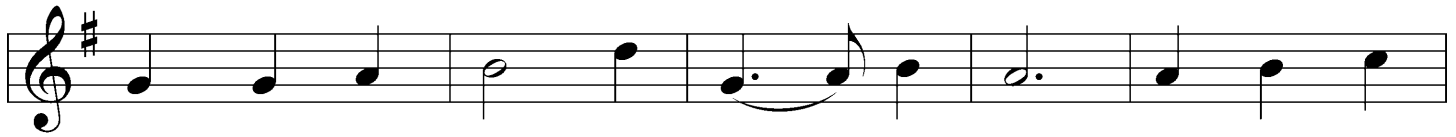
Liturgical Color:

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

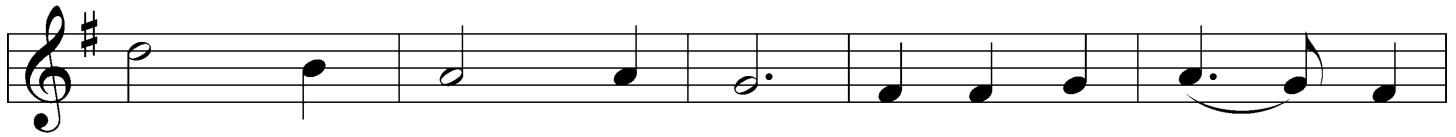
Welcome

Stand

Invocation Hymn "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" #839 (1-4)



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
 2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
 3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
 4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
 lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
 find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
 wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
 in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
 sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
 walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,

Tune and text: Public domain

Divine Service, Setting Four

Confession and Absolution

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

Confession and Absolution.....page 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are revered.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of

this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn *"You Are the Way; through You Alone" #526 (1-3)*

1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
 claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
 trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

Tune and text: Public domain

Kyrie.....*page 204*

C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation..... *(spoken in unison)*

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

Collect of the Day..... *(spoken in unison)*

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading..... Deuteronomy 18:15-20

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual *(spoken in unison)*

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle Reading **1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his

conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Versepage 205



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



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

Holy Gospel **Mark 1:21-28**

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

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

They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with

authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed..... page 206

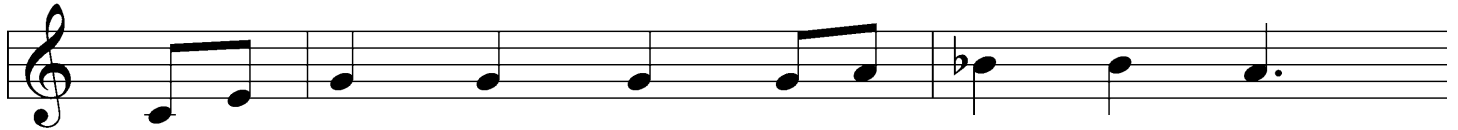
**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day "Away from Us!" the Demon Cried" #541



1 "A - way from us!" the de - mon cried
 2 But Je - sus spoke with God's own pow'r;
 3 O ris - en Christ, God's liv - ing Word,
 4 Drive out the doubt that cri - ples faith;
 5 Then help us, Lord, to greet each day



When Christ, the Lord, drew near. "Our dark, dis - or - dered
 "Come forth!" was His com - mand; For e - vil can - not
 To us, we pray, draw near. Come, speak the truth that
 Ex - pel our pride and greed That we, from pow'rs that
 With hearts and wills made new And, when You call us



world is lost When You, the Light, ap - pear!"
 bear the Light Nor sin the Truth with - stand.
 cleans - es sin With love that con - quers fear.
 threat - en us, May, by Your grace, be freed.
 forth to serve, To rise and fol - low You.

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Sermon..... "The Authority of Knowledge & Love"

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

Sit

OffertorySheri Mattson

(Music for reflection while preparation is made for Holy Communion.)

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)

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 208-209

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His Cross and receive the blessing of forgiveness, life and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer.....*page 209*

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.**

The Words of Our Lord.....*page 209*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).

Communion Distribution

Distribution of the Lord’s gifts in Holy Communion is in standing format with Pastor and the Elder near the chancel steps. You will be released by the usher to head forward, maintaining physical distance between each person or family unit. Pastor will drop the wafer into your hands, so please cup them together and hold them chest-level. Individual plastic cups only are being used, so if you’re not taking the non-alcoholic wine from the center, please make sure to take from the outer circle first until all of those are gone before reaching for the next level in. A basket to the left of the table is available for you to place your used cup inside.

Communion HymnSheri Mattson

(“If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee”, By: J. S. Bach)

Stand

Post Communion Canticle..... “Nunc Dimittis” page 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect..... *page 212*

P Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

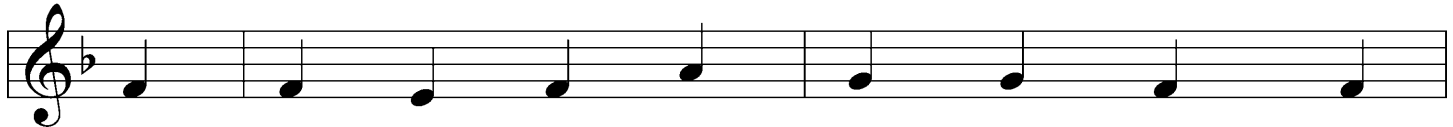
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

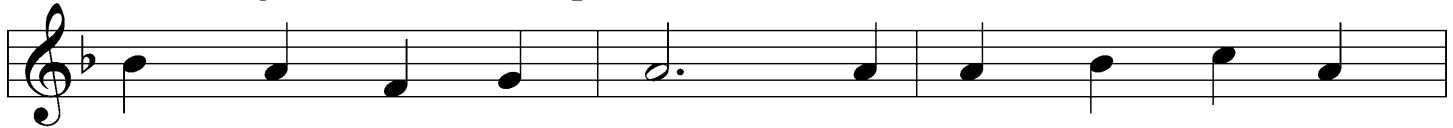
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn..... *“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way” #857 (1-3)*



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

C **Live in Love and Share the Faith!**

Postlude Sheri Mattson

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Next week's readings:

Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; 4:1-6; Mark 1:29-39

Attendance Last Saturday: 15

Total Offering: \$2,710.00

Home Use: \$2,585.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 43

Missions: \$100.00

Non-Offering: \$210.00

Serving us today:

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

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Circuit Forum in Emma (Pastor and Darlene)
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
Tuesday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i> <i>Cindy Out (will return Wednesday, February 10)</i>
Wednesday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	7:00 p.m.	"Jesus' Final Week"—Zoom Bible Study
Friday	4:30 p.m.	Bethlehem's Night at Manna Harvest
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Transformation Tour (out back)
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
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.	Worship (Scout Sunday)

Church Office Update

Cindy Smith, Our Office Manager will be having surgery on **Tuesday the 2nd** and will not be back in the office until **the 10th**. No one is allowed to contact her until she returns! (Joking). Please limit contact to text messages or emails as she will be working from home but won't be able to talk for a bit.

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: 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, Cindy Smith, Caleb Thomas, Lynne 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 this year. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

For Those Who Grieve, especially our former vicar, Pastor Eamonn Ferguson, his wife Carolyn and their daughter Saoirse as they mourn the loss of their unborn son and brother. May Christ crucified and risen be their strength and stay!

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.

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.

Congregational Events

“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.

“Presenting Jesus” will happen on **February 7** during the youth Bible study time **(from 9:30 to 10:10)**. 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 as a Thrivent Action Team event—and get some new t-shirts. This is a good time to do this, just five days past the 40th day after Christmas—when Jesus was presented in the temple and Simeon lifted him up in praise.

Movie Night with Pastor will happen once again 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 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 small and big questions life day-to-day in 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. Those wanting to watch it at home on their own and contribute questions or comments to the discussion are welcome to call, text, or e-mail them to Pr. Joel.

Quilting Group is Back! Quilting will be held on the **2nd Tuesday** of the month, starting **February 9 at 9:30 a.m.** Please consider joining our group if you are free. Sewing and quilting skills are not needed to help with this project. Please contact Georgia Luker if you have any questions.

Service Opportunities

Jeremiah 29:11 Warehouse Membership—Bethlehem has teamed up with three other congregations in town (Warrensburg Church of the Brethren, The Potter’s House Evangelical Free Church, and Mt. Calvary Apostolic Church)—under the name Partners in Christ—to belong to this worthwhile community endeavor. Operating under the Manna Harvest umbrella, the warehouse enables local nonprofits to access product philanthropy (mostly from Amazon, Walmart, and CVS) for the meeting of their needs and those they serve. This is large-scale gleaning that prevents wastage and allows for the flourishing of wise stewardship. The annual membership cost for Partners in Christ is \$1,200, which is split equally by the four congregations, so that provides a total of \$12,000 in “purchasing power” at the warehouse throughout the year— \$3,000 for us and each partner. A bonus this past week was nearly three full pallets (56 boxes) of mystery Amazon items which were divvied up evenly! Items accessed through the warehouse can be used for in-reach and outreach efforts of groups and boards within Bethlehem and/or the congregation as a whole. Darlene Laubenstein (Mission Board chair), Rebecca Stewart (Congregational Life Facilitator), and Pastor Joel are Bethlehem’s three access people. If you’d like to learn more, visit www.mannaharvestinc.org.

Hygiene Product Collection—During the month of February, Mary-Martha Guild and the Mission Board will be collecting hygiene products for Nursing Homes and the Food Center. There is a container by the north entrance where you can leave items that you would like to donate. Some things this might include are: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. These things are extremely needed and will be very much appreciated!

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 in the round barrel by the bulletin board.

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 a vegetable garden out back, along with a perennial herb garden out front ... and in succeeding years added a children's garden out front, fruit trees, berry bushes, and a nature trail in our patch of woods. This past October, we began converting the community garden plot to raised beds. If you'd like to see what's here and get an overview of what's in store (and maybe even see how you could be a part of it), plan on attending this informational tour on **Saturday, February 6th (that's four days after Groundhog Day) at 10:00 a.m.** in the garden plot at the far east 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.**

Miscellaneous

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!

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



Join us for the beginning of the Lent Season beginning with our Ash Wednesday Communion Service on **February 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** (Masks are required).

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](https://www.facebook.com/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

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.