



So must
the Son of Man
be lifted up

JOHN 3:14



+Fourth Saturday In Lent+

March 13, 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:

Purple is the color of humility and repentance.

Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!

Prelude Gary Moege

Welcome

Gathering Hymn.... “God Loved the World So that He Gave” #571 (1-4)



1	God	loved	the	world	so	that	He	gave	His	on - ly
2	Christ	Je - sus	is	the	ground	of	faith,	Who	was	made
3	God	would	not	have	the	sin - ner	die;	His	Son	with
4	Be	of	good	cheer,	for	God’s	own	Son	For - gives	all

Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by

Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

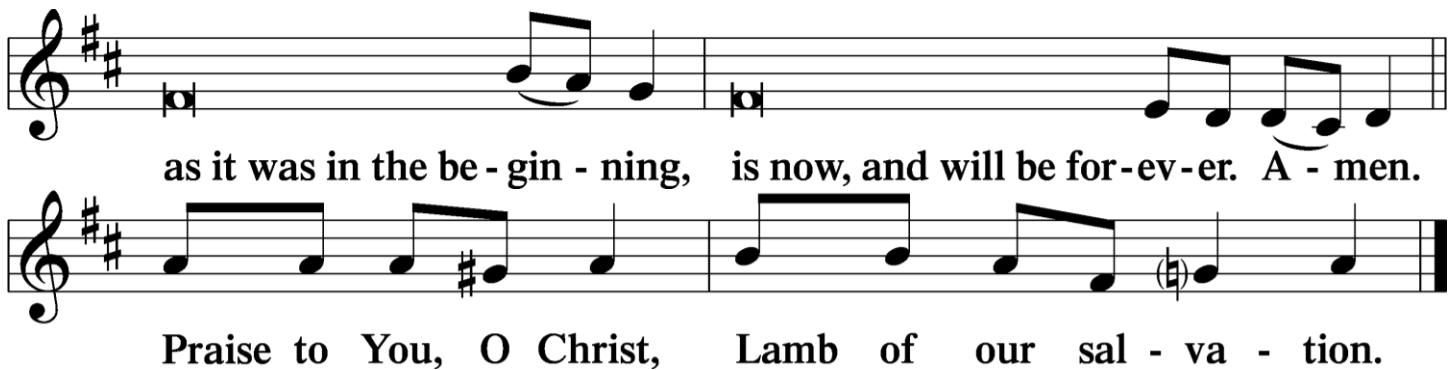
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Vespers

Opening Verses..... page 229

L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



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

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalmody

Psalm 107:1-9..... (*spoken in unison*)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.
Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of men!
For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Sit

Readings

Old Testament Reading..... **Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt

to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the -spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel John 3:14-21

And [Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does

not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory.....page 230

Verse *To Refrain*

L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
 2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
 3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.

Refrain

C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Sit

Sermon.....“Life Lifted Up”

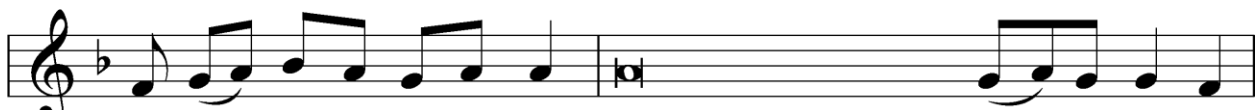
Stand

Canticle

L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat (Song of Mary)page 231-232



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



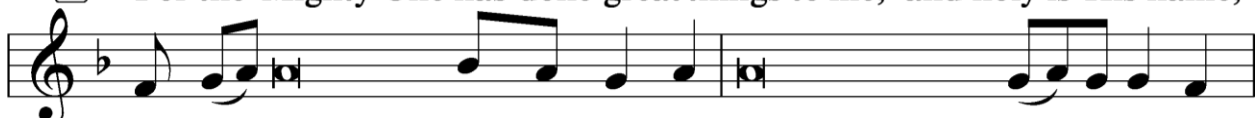
I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



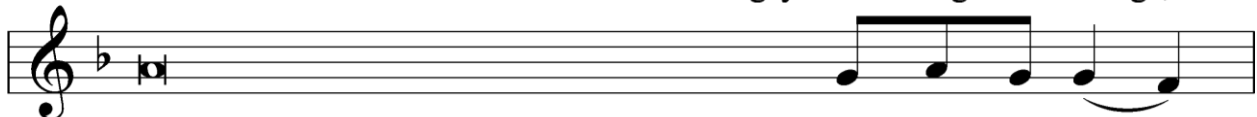
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



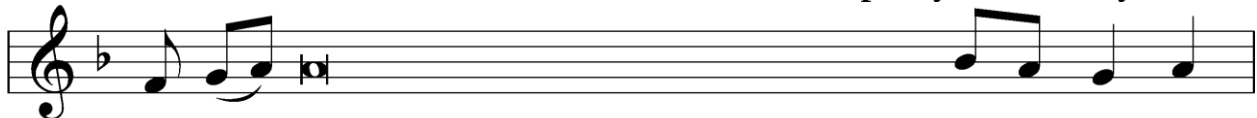
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ev - er.

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.

Prayer

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)

Kyrie.....page 233

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

Lord’s Prayerpage 233

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.



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day *(in unison)*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Additional Collects ending Amen.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, or Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God

and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

C A - men.

Sending Hymn.....“Lift High the Cross” #837 (1-4)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
 4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude Gary Moege

Next week's readings:
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:32-45

Attendance Last Saturday: 32	Attendance Last Sunday: 59
Lenten Midweek Service: 29	
Total Offering: \$6,225.00	Missions: \$150.00
Home Use: \$6,025.00	Benevolences: \$50.00

Serving us today:

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

This Week's Schedule

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.	Adult Bible Class
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School—Jr. and Sr. Youth
	10:30 a.m.	Worship (Irish Music Celebration)
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	"Jesus' Final Week"—Zoom Bible Study
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Elders' Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Trail Blazer Workday
	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion

Rejoicing

For those rejoicing in the birth of children, especially Cindy and Ben Smith on the birth of their new granddaughter, Dakota Sage Meloy, born to Christopher and Kiera Meloy on March 8. Much joy and goodness in the Lord!

Thank You

Friends of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. It is with much gratitude and appreciation that we welcome your gifts of: kindness, food, fellowship, and care. It has made my surgery recovery more bearable and also thank-you for sympathy expressed due to my father's passing. God bless all of you. Also, thank-you to Pastor Joel for his visits and prayers. **Pastor Ricky and Janice Bertels.**

Prayers

For Catechumen Amy Martin as she prepares for Confirmation and reception into church membership **on Saturday, March 20.** The Lord's grace and peace to her as she grows in the way of Christ's cross and resurrection with us!

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: Don Apprill (Cindy Schnell's dad), Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter's mother), Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Kelley Corzine (Melvin's Theroff's granddaughter), Carie (Julie Crespo's friend), Crystal McDaniel (Diane McComas's daughter) Denise (Penny Humphrey's sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Sharon Hochsprung, Mary Johnson, Creed Kueker (Pr. Jesse Kueker's son—Trinity, Clinton), Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Kathy Marshall, Troy McCarter (Lloyd McCarter's brother), Alan Miller, Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Scott Compton (Bob & Barbara's son), Bryan Tebbenkamp, 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 working 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 Seminarian Jonathan Sharp (and his wife Bridgette) as he continues his studies and prepares to receive his vicarage assignment at the end of April.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Ethan Hillsman, Chance Hillsman and Logan LeBaige.

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the

Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

Worship Services (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. Holy Communion is observed on 1st, 3rd and 5th weekends of the month.

Re⁺lent means “to give up or abandon—to become less severe, to soften” and is of central importance to the passage from Joel that sets the tone for Lent: “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?” (2:13b-14). **Re-** is a prefix meaning “to go back or retrace to the original—to do again.” In the season of **Lent** (which has its origin in the root of the word “length”), we head through lengthening daylight toward Easter/spring and find that as we face what darkens our lives. Join us for the following Wednesday Services as we discover anew the blessing of loss and gain through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. **Join us each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. still as we explore March 17-Negativity, & March 24-Trashing.**

Opportunities to Serve

Bethlehem’s Community Garden began its overhaul last fall and winter with the building of raised beds for this year’s growing season ... and a dump-truck load of topsoil was put those planters last weekend by more than a dozen great volunteers across the age spectrum. This is an exciting new venture to which everyone is welcome to participate, and spring planting will be coming up soon! Pick up one of the new pamphlets to learn more, talk to Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley if you’d like to know more, or take a stroll to the far end of our backyard to see for yourself. Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to be involved!

SHINE! A Community Day of Service is planned for the morning of Saturday, April 17 here at Bethlehem! Each congregation in the Missouri District is encouraged to do something good in and for its community in late April to let our light shine so that others may see and give glory to our heavenly Father here on earth with us (as Jesus said, Matthew 5:16). We are planning a giveaway of items from Amazon’s product philanthropy program, as well as other items accessed through our membership in the Jeremiah 29:11 warehouse, highlighting our community garden, and having a splendid spring morning of giving, receiving, and sharing. Everyone can help in some

way, so let the church office know if you'd like to be a part of this fun endeavor! More details will be coming.

Musical Gifts? The music committee seeks you, your time, and your gifts! 1) If you would like to help in the process of selecting the hymns for our worship services, you could be part of the rotation. It can be a devotionally enriching experience. 2) ANYONE interested in playing for any service is more than welcome to do so! Students preparing for recitals or contests, former church musicians who want to get back in the swing, new learners who want to expand their abilities (this certainly includes visiting grandchildren!), and so on are encouraged to participate. This could even be a selection or two during the service or beforehand. To find out more or ask any questions, please call Paula Easterwood at 660-441-0493. Thanks for your consideration and contact!

Food Center Needs: pouch tuna, canned meats, cake mixes and icing, diapers, jelly in squeezable bottles. Other staples are also welcome. 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.

[Faith Discussion and Bible Study](#)

Sunday Youth Bible Study—Jeremy VanWey has started a new one that is exploring C.S. Lewis's classic on the wily ways of evil, *The Screwtape Letters*. Make sure to make it, and spread the word to others so that a good group can work through it together!

"Reading Romans" Study on Sunday Mornings! To all who attended the Sunday Bible study last year and didn't think we'd finish Romans by the end of the year, you were right! We have resumed class **from 9:30-10:10 a.m.**, keeping it a bit shorter while still packing a lot in. We'll be meeting in the conference room, unless you hear otherwise. Please consider joining us!

Easter Season/Spring Bible Study & Discussion Groups—Pr. Joel would like to offer the study *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation* (by Kent Burreson and Beth Hoeltke at Concordia Seminary, with whom he's worked on projects) during the Easter season. So, if you're interested in this study, **let him know by March 19** which day and time works for you and he'll try to find something that works for everyone. Also, he plans to restart the study and discussion *Reforesting Faith (What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us)*, so let him know as well what works best by the above date—in order to accommodate those most interested.

Lutheran Hour Ministries—How can I use my gifts to love my neighbor, in my own neighborhood? In 2020, a year like no other, many of us were forced to be become

reacquainted with the neighborhood in which we live. We discovered neighbors we never knew, found gifts we didn't recognize before, and began to wonder how we could bring more hope to our neighborhood. If you found yourself thinking any of those thoughts, join Lutheran Hour Ministries and The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. You can learn more at www.lhm.org/together.

Mary Martha Guild

Easter Lilies—The flower committee is taking orders for Easter Lilies. There are forms available in the March Tidings and at each entrance of the church. Please consider purchasing a lily this year in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost of the lilies will be \$8.00.

Offerings

Thrivent Choice Dollars Alert—Members with 2020 Choice Dollars available need to designate these funds before the end of March or they will expire. You may direct your Choice Dollars to Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say “Thrivent Choice”.

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate on the altar with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called “*Simply Giving*”.

Miscellaneous

St. Paul's Servants of the Saints Rummage Sale will be held on **Wednesday, March 17 from 6-8pm** (Preview Sale Only-\$5.00 fee), **Thursday, March 18 from 6am-7pm**, **Friday, March 19 from 8am-7pm** and **Saturday, March 20 from 8am-12pm**. This will be located in the Weis Gym Annex on the SPLHS Campus in Concordia; enter through the north doors. Masks will be required.

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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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.