



Third Sunday in Advent December 12, 2021



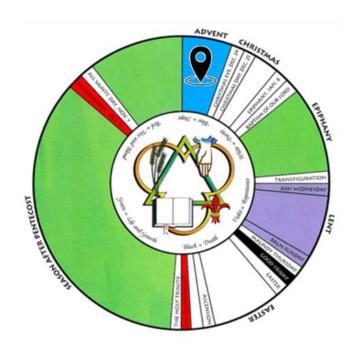
AS WE GATHER

Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

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).

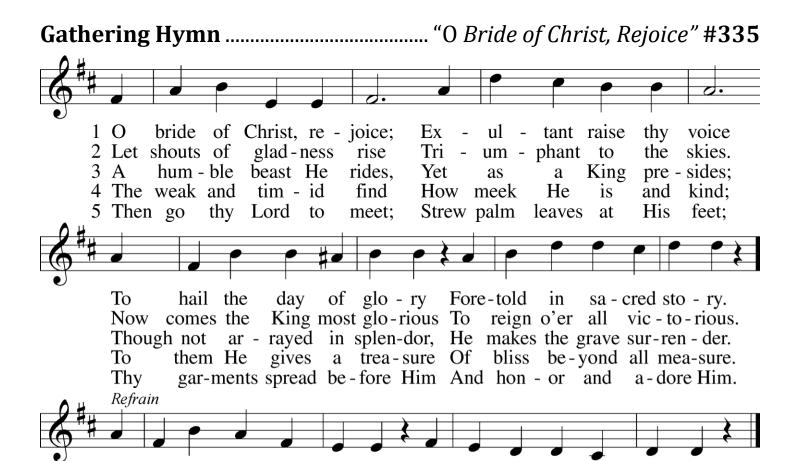
Liturgical Color:

Blue is the color of water and sky, thus hope, for the baptized who know Christ came down from heaven to earth and is coming again.



Prelude Schmillerwoods

Welcome



Tune and text: Public domain

Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

glo - ry!

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P Let us pray.
- O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A Time of silence is observed.

Ho-san-na, praise, and

- P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.
- Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
- according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

Kyrie for the Third Sunday in Advent



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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.

come,

let

us

sing

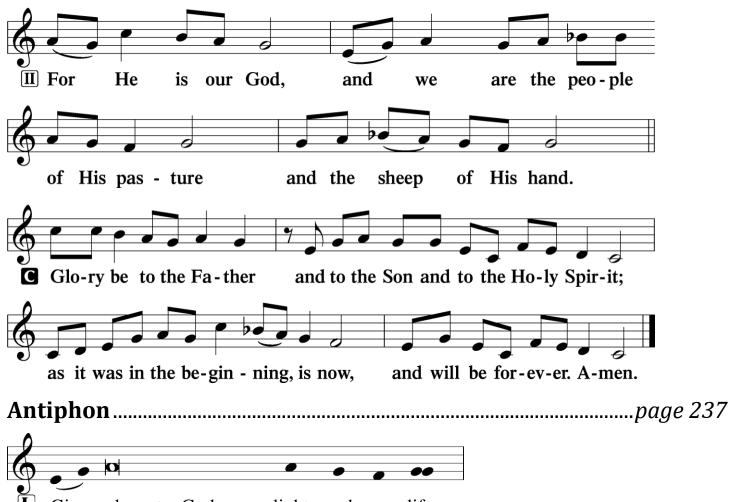
Morning Prayer

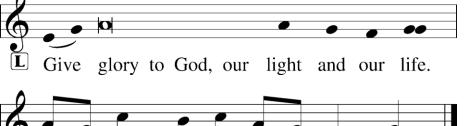
Opening Verses...... *page 235* Lord, o - pen my lips, and my mouth shall de-clare Your praise. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men. **C** Al - le - lu al - le - lu - ia. ia, **Psalmody Antiphon**...... page 235 Give glory to God, our light and our life. let us wor - ship come, Him.

the Lord;

to







O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 85 (spoken responsively by half-verse)

LORD, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;

you covered all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath;

you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

and put away your indignation toward us!

Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Will you not revive us again,

that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

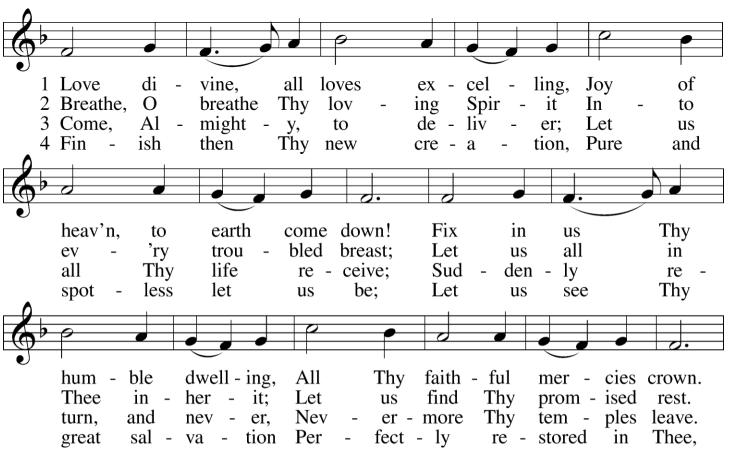
Righteousness will go before him

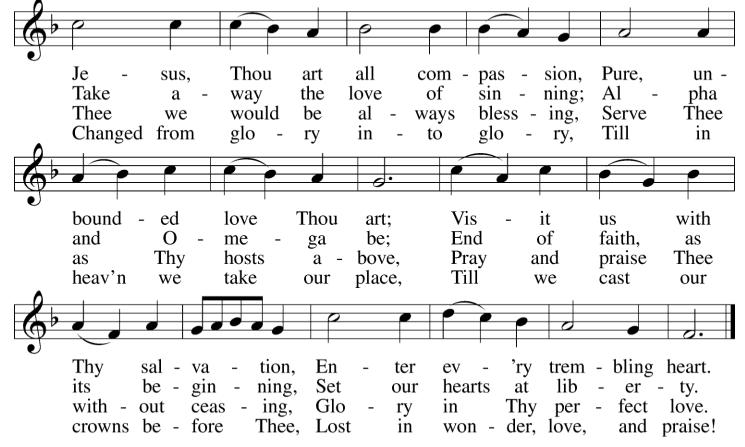
and make his footsteps a way.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sit







Tune and text: Public domain

The Jesse Tree Symbol

Readings

Old Testament Reading......Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

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

Choir Anthem "Advent Carol of Hope"

Epistle Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Stand

Holy GospelLuke 7:18-35

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

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and

plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

"'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

- P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

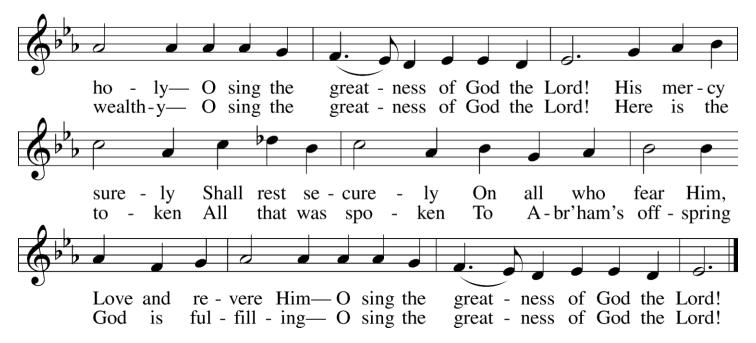
Sit

Children's Message

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon....."[oy Again!" **Stand** My spir - it Sing 1 My soul re - joic - es, voic - es the 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the For God my Sav - ior Has shown me the Lord! great - ness of The proud He scat - ters, Their rule great - ness of the Lord! fa - vor— Sing the Lord! With praise and the great - ness of shat - ters— Sing Op - pres - sion the Lord! the great - ness of

bless-ing, Join in con-fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might-y and halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun-gry; Emp-ty, the



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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 west 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

Collect of the Day(spoken in unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collects......page 241

- 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.

Lord's Prayerpage 241		
Benedicamus page 241		
Let us bless the Lord.Thanks be to God.		
Benediction		
The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.Amen.		
Sending Hymn"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee", #803		
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love! 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays, △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,		
Hearts un-fold like flow'rs be-fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove. Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un-bro-ken praise. Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!		
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a-way. Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir - it, Foun-tain-head of love di-vine:		
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day. Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee. Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine! Tune and text: Public domain		
Dismissal		
Postlude		

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Next week's readings: OT: Micah 5:2-5a; Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10; Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Attendance Last Saturday: 41 Attendance Last Sunday: 144

Attendance Advent: 45

Total Offering: \$8,187.98 Missions: \$232.00 Home Use: \$5,975.85 Benevolences: \$1,980.13

Serving us today:

Elders	Willie Crespo
Musicians	. Paula Easterwood, Lorraine Miller, Roy Schache
Altar Committee	Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Lisa Gulick,
	Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills, Sheree Moody
Flower Committee	Eunice Cobb (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Advent Bible Study
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' meeting
	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)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Children's Program/Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting

Saints Remembered This Week:

"Next to Holy Scripture there is certainly no more useful book for Christendom than that of the lives of the saints." +Martin Luther

(See what you can learn about these Christians from the past that helps you in the present.)

+St. Lucy, Martyr (280-304 A.D.) +Daniel & the Three Young Men (6th century B.C.)

"Celebrating the Saints" by William Weedon introduces us to a collection of feasts and festivals, as well as saints in both Testaments and from nineteen centuries of the Church's life. Historical sketches and devotional writings in step with the liturgical calendar in Lutheran Service Book reveal these saints not as great exceptions, but great examples of our heavenly Father's faithfulness. Each section also features a prayer, hymn stanza, and additional suggested readings.

As you encounter the lives of these men and women redeemed by the Lamb, you'll gaze into "a mirror of the grace and mercy of God" (Martin Luther). Our fellow heirs of eternal life serve but a humble purpose—to point us to *the* Saint, *the* Holy One, our Lord Jesus Christ. Check it out at cph.org.

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: Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Sue Cottrill, Marion & Leona Droege, Renae Ernesti (Charlene McCarter's niece), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Heather Long (Carol Kurz's niece), Lynn Lowe, Ron McComas, Johnny Nichol, Ron Niemeyer, Pam Petersen (Peggy Hoyer's sister), Jim Rudy, and Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Samantha & Nathan Schultz (Mark and Felisa Brown's daughter & son-in-law). May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

For The Newly Baptized—Especially Lillian Isela Lute (daughter of Matthew and Catherine Lute, former members who moved back to Missouri this year) on her Baptism this weekend. May the Lord enfold and uphold her life with his goodness and grace!

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!

Birthday Wishes

Card Shower—Dorothy Peck, a long time financial supporter of BLC and Paula Easterwood's mother, will be turning 95 years young on Christmas Day. Please join us in showering her with birthday cards. Dorothy's address is 1201 W. 19th St. Higginsville MO 64037. Thank you for helping make her day special!

Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Sunday Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Sunday Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Sunday Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Services are services

Midweek Advent Services are being held on the Wednesdays leading up to Christmas Eve— the 15th and 22nd yet—at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. As in past years, we're using the beautiful and renewing Holden Evening Prayer. Our theme this year—When Heaven Meets Earth, with Questions and Answers. Each week has a different theme, and we have yet to cover "The Man's Man: Why Would Jesus Even Cry?; and "The Hidden King: Why Would He Go Unrecognized? Plan on setting aside this time for a quiet and contemplative keeping of the short and often crowded-out season of Advent!

Advent Offerings, using the seasonal envelopes and not designated elsewhere, will go to the Food Banks at our two denominational seminaries: Concordia—St. Louis and Concordia, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services will be held on **December 24 at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** Let others know, invite, and attend as you can! We gather around the very reason this holy day is called Christmas—Jesus, the Word made flesh!

New Year's Eve Service will be held on **December 31 at 7:00 p.m.** Invite others and come yourself as we reflect, in Scripture and song, on the Lord who keeps us in his mercy and grace throughout the passage of time.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Children's Christmas Presentation—Practice for the children's Christmas presentation is happening during the Sunday School opening and closing times in preparation for **Sunday, December 19**th during the morning worship service. Contact Ellen Pederson or Penny Humphrey if you have questions.

Sunday School for PreK-12th **grade begins at 9:15 a.m**. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity for children and youth to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in love toward the Lord and our neighbors, as Jesus said matters most!

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

Saturday Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew follows the evening service (from **6:45 to 7:30 p.m.** in the conference room) if enough people are present to have a class. Consider joining us as we explore the life and ministry of Jesus.

Sunday Bible Study is working through the recent book *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation*, as well as through companion passages in Scripture, so that we can all more firmly believe and live through Christ's own life, death, and resurrection. Plan on joining us **in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.**

Thursday Advent Zoom Bible Study. We will be discussing God's forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. This class will be held on **Thursday, December 16, and 22 at 7:00 pm.** If you would like to join, please contact Cindy or Rebecca and we will provide you the materials for the zoom class. See you in December.

Fellowship

Exercise Class is 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.

Special Events & Opportunities

The Warrensburg Salvation Army is in need of men's coats (which will be given for free to those who need them). If you are able to donate some, please bring them to Pr. Joel, or take them directly to the Salvation Army Family Services office.

St. Paul Lutheran High School's 2021 Christmas Concert—The Singing Saints Choir and Saint Paul Orchestra will be holding their December concert on **December 12** at **3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia.** There will be a free-will offering to support the SPLHS Music Department. Can't attend? Watch via live-stream at stpaulsconcordia.org.

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

Envelope List— It is that time of year again! New offering envelopes will be distributed by the end of the year. If you currently have a box of envelopes and do not want them for 2022 please let Teresa Hillsman know by December 15th. She will remove you from the envelope list. If you don't currently have a box of envelopes and would like one, please let Teresa Hillsman know by December 15th. She will add you to the list. Drop her an email at financial@blchurch.com or put a note in her box. Thank you.

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 may also place your offering in the plate in the Narthex.

Simply Giving is the online program for donations and offerings. The website has changed a bit recently. If you need assistance, please let the office know and we will provide you with the steps to start it or help you change where you place your funds.

Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-H) 660-679-8121, willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com Caleb Thomas (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, calebthomas50@gmail.com Jeremy VanWey (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com

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

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officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart
Tue & Thurs: 8am-5pm
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 live streaming on the web, 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.