

REJOICE!





+ Nativity Of Our Lord: December 24 +

## Christmas Eve

### December 24, 2021

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#### AS WE GATHER

Throughout history, our gracious God has made outlandish promises. His spokesmen, the writers of biblical books, said that a descendant of David would come to sit on an eternal royal throne. More than that, His titles would include some reserved for God in heaven. He was and is a Wonderful Counselor, revealing God's love in His own life and death; the Mighty God, though hidden within fragile flesh and blood; the Everlasting Father, though trapped in time and space; and the Prince of Peace, ruling not by enforcement of divine law but by forgiving all who call to Him for grace and mercy. Today, we celebrate His birth among us in time, as promised long ago and in our hearts each day.

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#### REGARDING COMMUNION

Jesus was born in a town called "house of bread" (Bethlehem) and laid in a feeding trough (a manger) where the livestock normally found their grain. Little surprise then that Jesus spoke of himself as "the bread who came down from heaven" (John 6:41) and as "a grain of wheat falling into the earth" (John 12:24)! Christmas is the celebration of the Eternal Son Jesus, God of God and Light of Light, taking on flesh and dwelling among us so that we behold in him the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Our word "Christmas" simply means *Christ's Mass* and reminds us that Jesus is still present among us in body and blood through the sacred gifts of bread and wine. In this vein, Luther once said: "Word and Sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes into which it has pleased Christ to lay himself." May we come to Christ's manger (the Altar) humbled in repentance for all that is wrong in our lives so that we may receive his gracious meal for forgiveness and renewal. ***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:

*White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church such as Christmas Eve*

## Taper Candle Lighting

*Fifteen minutes or less prior to the start of tonight's service, please light your candle and place it in one of the sandboxes in the chancel—**making sure there's some space between it and the others and that it's not too close to the sides!** Please use the side doors to the chancel (ramp or steps), then return to your seats down the steps by the baptismal font, if able. Make that moment a time of hopeful prayer and thankful joy for the light shining in the darkness! Your candle will give light to the chancel throughout the evening's service.*

**Prelude** ..... Jerrode Marsh (6pm), Rich Vanderburgh (10pm)

*Please rise (when invited to do so) and turn to face the entrance to the sanctuary.*

## Invocation

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

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

**C** Amen.

## Kyrie

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Brothers and sisters, although "God abides in us and His love is perfected in us," we often fail in sin and need the assurance of His forgiveness. Let us commend ourselves anew to our Maker and Redeemer, seeking His grace to amend our lives and walk in newness of living. Lord Jesus, the love of God made manifest among us,

**C** **we have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Without Your help we cannot change. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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.

*Turn to face the processional cross as it passes by and goes to the front of the sanctuary.*

**Processional Hymn** ..... *“O Come, All Ye Faithful” #379*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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*The Gospel is read from the midst of the congregation as a reminder that Christmas is the celebration of the Word taking on flesh and dwelling among us (John 1:14).*

## **Service of the Word**

**Processional Gospel** ..... **Matthew 1:18-25**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*You may be seated.*

*(Those who did not have a chance to light a candle earlier may come forward and do so at this time.)*

**Hymn of Praise** ..... *"Silent Night" #363*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
 O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
- C** **Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;**
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## The Jesse Tree Symbol

### Old Testament Reading..... **Isaiah 7:10-14**

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn..... *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” #393*

1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new  
 Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.

Swift-ly wing-ing, An - gels sing-ing, Bells are ring-ing, Tid - ings bring-ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic-ing, Greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Tune and text: Public domain

## Epistle Reading ..... 1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn..... *"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"* #369

1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:  
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;  
 Sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:  
 His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
 Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,  
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.  
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

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**Stand**

**Holy Gospel ..... Luke 2:8-17**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.



**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day** ..... *“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #361*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**..... *“The Christmas Child”*

**Response Hymn** ..... *“Angels We Have Heard on High” #368*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Please rise.*

**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.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** . . . Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C** hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.

**P** . . . Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C** hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.

**P** . . . Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C** hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.

**P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## 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)*

# Service of the Sacrament

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift of 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose birth proclaims the fulfillment of Your promises and makes visible Your love for us and all people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus.....“Holy, Holy, Holy” #507 (4)

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** To You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all praise and glory, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord’s Prayer

# Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei....."Lamb of God" #550



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



*Refrain*  
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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**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. Pastor will drop the wafer into your hands, so please cup them together and hold them chest-level. Common Cup and Individual plastic cups 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 Hymns....."Go Tell It on the Mountain" #388

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



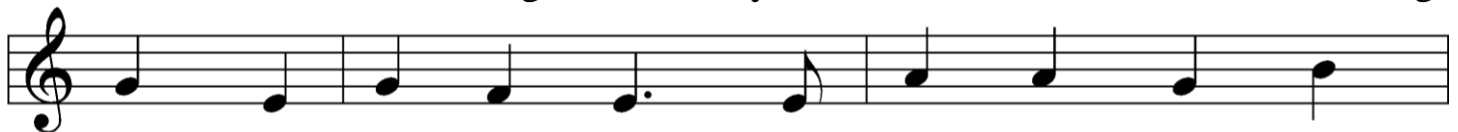
Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Tune and text: Public domain

# "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" #358 (1-5)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Text and tune: Public domain

*"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" #377*



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the  
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er  
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To  
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then  
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us  
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may  
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
 sing, All for to see the new - born King,  
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

Tune and text: Public domain

**Instrumentals for Silent Reflection**

*Stand*

## Collect

- P** Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.
- C** Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, or Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

## Benediction

- 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....."Joy to the World" #387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



## Dismissal ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

**P** Grow in Christ,

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

## Postlude ..... Jerrode Marsh (6pm), Rich Vanderburgh (10pm)

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### Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers.....Jeremy VanWey, Willie Crespo (6pm), Caleb Thomas (10pm)

Musicians ..... Jerrode Marsh (6pm), Rich Vanderburgh (10pm)

Altar Committee..... Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Lisa Gulick,  
Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills, Sheree Moody

Flower Committee .....Eunice Cobb (Chair), Lori Sloan

### This Week's Schedule

Saturday

*Christmas Day*

5:30 p.m. Worship—Lessons & Carols

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](http://www.blchurch.com), under the Sermons tab)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Worship—Lessons & Carols

### Closings/Absence

The office will be closed on **Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** for the Christmas Day Holiday and **Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** for the New Year's Holiday.

**Pastor** will be taking vacation days on **Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Cindy** will be taking a vacation day on **Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### Grateful Appreciation

**Heartfelt and humble gratitude** for all of the cards, baked goods, and other signs of generosity so warmly given to me these past weeks and days! I am truly thankful for your kindness and thoughtfulness, and will certainly continue to extend your generosity in all the ways I can to others. May Christ our Savior continue to fill your lives with goodness and every flourishing of faith this Christmastide and beyond! **Pr. Joel.**

**Rebecca Stewart and Cindy Smith** would like to thank everyone for the Christmas cards, gifts, goodies and even a meal at Heroes that was given to us. We are so

blessed to have such a wonderful church family and hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Shawn and Beryl Lindley** would like to thank our friends at Bethlehem for their kind wishes and gifts we have received. We wish all the congregation a Blessed Christmas and Peace in the New Year.

### **Bethlehem Gifts Given Near & Far**

Thanks to a special gift from an anonymous parishioner, the following donations have been given for the furtherance of ongoing good in the name of Christ: Papua New Guinea Mission Society; With God's Little Ones; Journey Home; Refuge on Ming; Johnson County Fuller Center for Housing; Food Center; Christmas Store; Survival House; Salvation Army and Standing in the Gap. Also, special service offerings from earlier this year have been distributed in these following ways: Dakota Boys Ranch; Ministerial Association; Sacred Ground; Food Center, Warrensburg CROP; Manna Harvest; Salvation Army; Fort Wayne and St. Louis Seminary Food Banks; Recovery Lighthouse; Refuge on Ming and Bethlehem Emergency Fund. May every goodness continue to abound in us and through us to the glory of Christ and the good of others!

### **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 Military Members**—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Gabe Crespo, Chance Hillsman.

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

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

### Worship Services

**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 [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

**New Year's Eve Service** will be held on **December 31 at 7:00 p.m.** Invite others and come yourself on this Watch Night as we reflect, in Scripture and song, on the Lord who keeps us in his mercy and grace throughout all passage of time. **Offerings for New Year's Eve, not designated elsewhere, will go for Pastor's Emergency Fund.**

**Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us**—a recent book by medical doctor and conservationist Matthew Sleeth—is the topic of our **Faith Night sessions on the first Wednesday of each month.** The last session will be held on **January 5 at 5:30 p.m.** Bring your own dinner and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome!

### Sunday School and Christian Education

**Sunday School for PreK-12<sup>th</sup> 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.** "Epiphany 2022" will be a new Zoom bible study class coming after the first of the year. We will be discussing God's forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. This Bible Study focuses on the scripture readings each Sunday. The class will start on **Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.** and run through March 10. Please let Rebecca or Cindy know if you would like to join the group.

### Fellowship

**Exercise Class** will not meet until **Wednesday, January 5, 2022.** Have a great Christmas and New Year's break.

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come and play board games or cards. Bring a game and a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from **9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### Miscellaneous

**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.

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

### Offerings

**Envelopes**—The 2022 envelopes have been put in the mailboxes. All envelopes were RENUMBERED FOR 2022. **DO NOT use old envelopes after December 31, 2021.** Throw them away. If you do not want the 2022 envelopes, please return them to the office or to Teresa Hillsman.

*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](mailto:willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Caleb Thomas** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, [calebthomas50@gmail.com](mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com)

**Jeremy VanWey** (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, [jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com)

## *How Do I Save Them?*

*Author Unknown*

T'was the night before Christmas,  
God glanced over the earth.  
He looked to and fro,  
All over it's girth.  
They missed it again He said with a sigh,  
A heavy heart and a tear in his eye.  
I gave them my son,  
So they could be free.  
My greatest gift,  
To them from me.  
They traded me in,  
For a man in red.  
A little tree,  
And horse drawn sled.  
How do I save them,  
And make them see.  
My love is complete,  
My grace is free.  
How do I help them,  
When all they know.  
Is a talking snowman,  
And a box with a bow.  
Maybe next year,  
they will stop and see.  
The biggest gift of Christmas,  
Is the little child from me.



## Poinsettias



**SueAnn Carter**  
Mike Carter-her husband

**Galen and Eunice Cobb**  
Gerald and Velma Cobb-Galen's parents  
Hubert and Ruby Brunkhorst (Hemme)-Eunice's parents  
Delores Christianson

### **Anonymous**

In Honor of Pastor Joel Kurz, Cindy Smith, the Elders and the Church Council  
Sheree Moody, and Mary Martha Guild Officers. Thank you for your service

**Duane and Becky Limback**  
John and Esther Limback-Duane's parents  
Henry and Martha Ernstmeyer-Becky's parents  
and Grandparents

**Roy and Judy Schache**  
The Loth and Schache Families

**Melvin Theroff**  
Pris Callison-his wife

**Richard and Peggy Hoyer**  
James Petersen-Peggy's dad

**Alan and Lorraine Miller**  
Robert and Joanne Miller-Alan's parents  
Darrell and Alice Carlson-Lorraine's parents, Curtiss Carlson-Lorraine's brother

**Mary Ann Hein**  
To the Glory of God

**Larry and Karen Haase**  
Our Beloved Parents

**Carol Kurz**  
To the Glory of God

**Carol Hillmann and Bonnie Rich**  
Roy Hillmann, Mike and Mark Hillman-Carol's family

**Lloyd and Charlene McCarter**  
To the Glory of God



## **Poinsettias**



**Darlene Laubenstein**  
To the Glory of God

**Judy Smith**  
Walter and Nellie Smith-Larry's parents  
Merland and Winifred Halvorson-Judy's parents  
Lois, Marge and Rich-Judy's siblings

**Tim and Cindy Schnell**  
Leonard and Olga Schnell-Tim's parents  
Don and Anna Mae Apprill-Cindy's parents

**Cody Droege**  
Andy Droege-her husband

**Caleb and Danielle Thomas, Ben and Cindy Smith**  
To the Glory of God

**Rick and Susie Mills**  
Our parents

**Sue Cottrill**  
John-her husband, Laurence and Marie McMullin-her parents  
Irvin and Virginia Cottrill-her in-laws, Irvin Lee Cottrill-brother-in-law

**Sheree Moody**  
Aunt Miller Jean Moody and Betty Jones-Michael's wife

**Willie and Julie Crespo**  
Carie Dickey and Terence Culler-friends of the family

**Joey Kemple**  
In honor of Wilma Gertz and To the Glory of God

**Lynn and Caren Miller**  
Ray and Elynor Miller-Lynn's parents  
John and Mary Ellen Pearson-Caren's parents

**Bill and Pat Brasel**  
Clay Epperson-grandson, Brenda Cowgill-Pat's sister, Dude Brasel-Bill's brother

**Charlie and Esther Keseman**  
To all our family members who have died

## 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](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

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

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

[officemanager@blchurch.com](mailto:officemanager@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregational Life Facilitator:**

Rebecca Stewart

MTW: 8am–2pm

Thursday by appointment

[clf@blchurch.com](mailto:clf@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto: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.