



New Year's Day/ Second Sunday After Christmas January 1 & 2, 2022

AS WE GATHER

Have you tired of those Christmas gifts yet, or are you still enjoying them? God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom. God's wisdom was a gift Solomon displayed vividly at times, but at other times, it seemed he had regifted it. In Jesus, we see the gift of God's wisdom on full display when He is found in the temple, at age 12, asking questions and providing answers beyond His years. God continues to reveal His wisdom to us through the Bible. What is your plan for connecting with God and His wisdom this year?

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

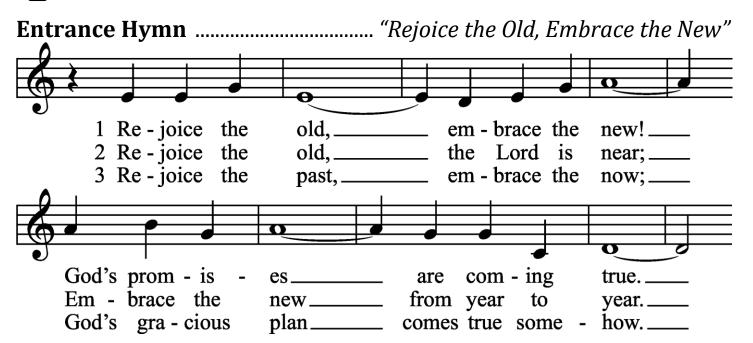
Prelude Rich Vanderburgh & Lorraine Miller Welcome **Invocation Hymn**""Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #686 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to 2 Here I raise Eb - en - e - zer, by Thy my Hith - er 3 Oh. to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -4 Oh. that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy Thy grace: of nev sing Streams mer - cy, ceas - ing. er help I've come: And Ι hope. by Thy good plea - sure, Let like strained to be: that grace now a fet - ter Clothed then the blood - washed lin - en. 1yface: in love Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the of end-less hope Safe - ly ar - rive home. Je sus sought me when a to at wan-d'ring heart Thee: Prone wan - der, Lord, I Bind my to to How I'll sing Thy won-drous grace! Come, my Lord. no long - er heart joy Teach glo Fills my with and love, me ry Wan - d'ring from strang - er, the fold of God: He. to Prone leave the God love. Here's feel it; to Ι my tar ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine a - dore Thee; May I still Thy to good - ness prove. In - ter-posed His res - cue me from dan - ger, pre - cious blood. for Thy take and seal Seal it courts a - bove. heart, O it, Me to realms of an - gels soon to car - ry end - less

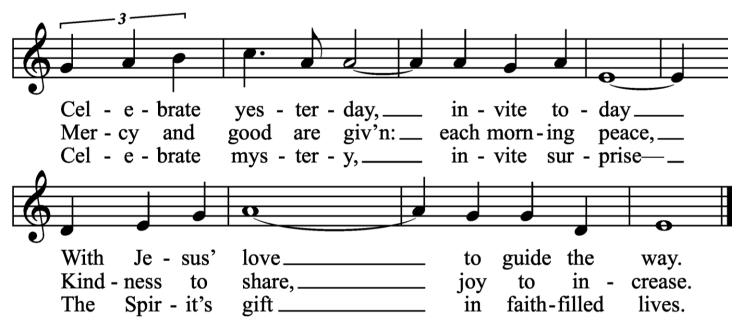
Divine Service, Setting Four Service of the Word

Stand

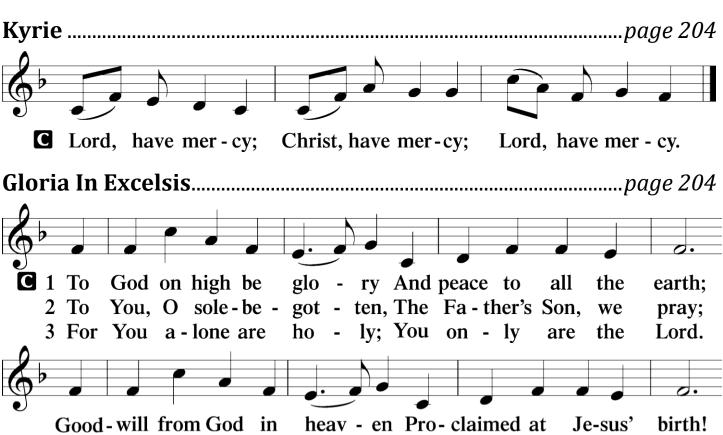
Invocation

- f 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,
- who made heaven and earth.
- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered . . . God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.





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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......page 205

- **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 have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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...... 1 Kings 3:4-15

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and

honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

Gradual.....(spoken in unison)

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

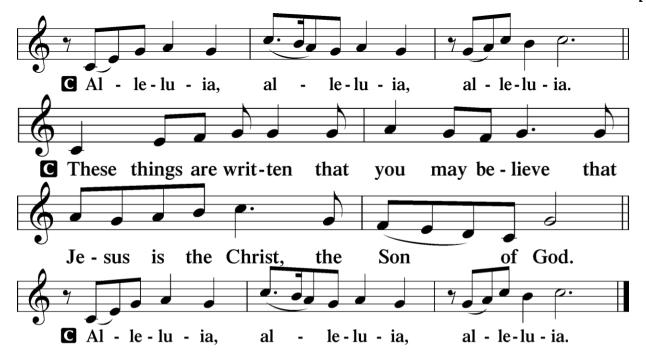
Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

Alleluia and Versepage 205



Holy GospelLuke 2:40-52

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

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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.

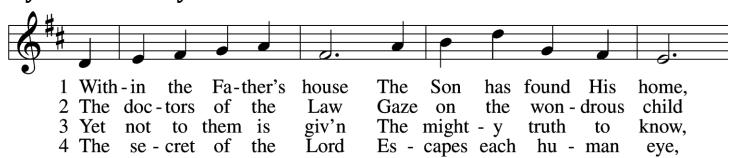
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

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" "Within the Father's House" #410





to His tem - ple And And mar-vel His at lift the earth - ly То

The Lord of life has come. sud - den - lv gra-cious words Of wis-dom un - de - filed. veil that hides In - car-nate God be - low. And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a - wait The full e - piph - a - ny.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls And teach us by Thy grace Each dim revealing of Thyself With loving awe to trace

 \triangle 6 Till we behold Thy face And know as we are known Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Coequal Three in One.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "The Way of Wisdom"

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- **P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

Offering

Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west entrance.

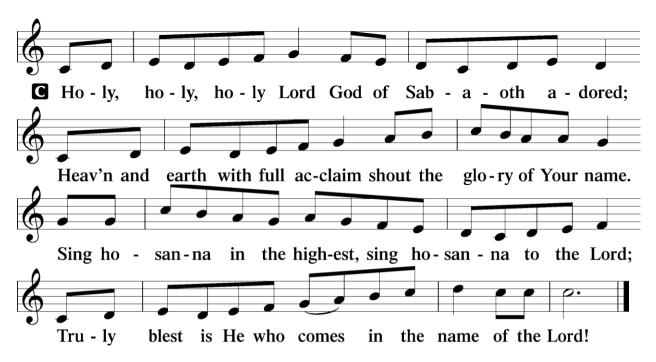
"Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good & to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Service of the Sacrament

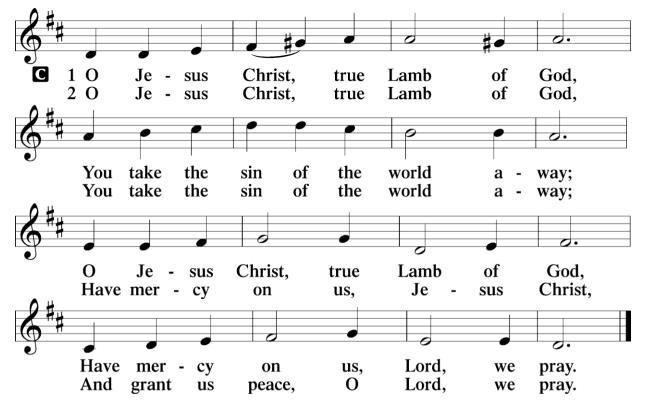
Communion Liturgypages 208-210

P The Lord be with you.

- C And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:



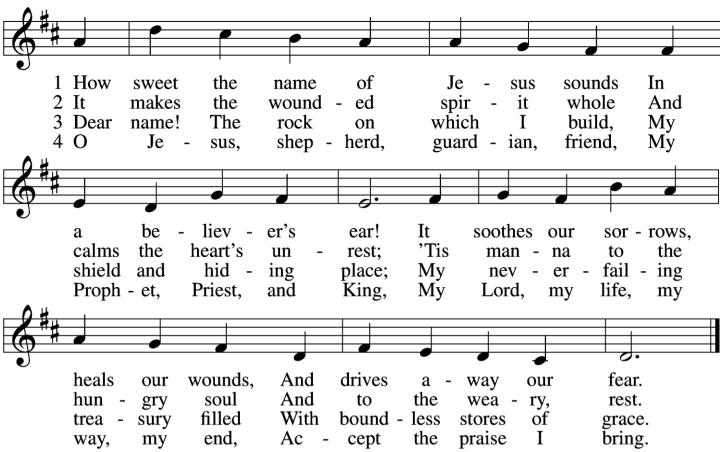
Agnus Dei*page 210*



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.





- 5 How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought! But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
- 6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath; And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death

Tune and text: Public domain

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Post Communion Canticle......" "Nunc Dimittis" page 211
  C 1 0
           Lord,
                              Your
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    2 All
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                                                      the
                         peace.
                                       Ι
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Post-Communion Collect...... page 212
Benedicamus and Benediction......page 212
Sending Hymn ....."O Jesus, I Have Promised"
     1 O
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                                            To serve You
              Je - sus,
                       Ι
                                                                  the
                                                             to
     2 Oh.
                                            The world is
                      feel You near
             let me
                                       me:
                                                             ev - er
     3 Oh.
             let me hear You speak - ing
                                            In
                                                  ac - cents clear and
              Je - sus, You have prom - ised
                                                  all
                                            To
                                                      who
                                                             fol - low
     4 O
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wan - der from the path - way If You will be my guide. Je - sus, then draw near - er To shield my soul from sin. speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul. give me grace to fol - low, My mas - ter and my friend.

Tune and Tune: Public domain

Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

PostludeRich Vanderburgh and Lorraine Miller

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Attendance Midweek: 48 Attendance Last Saturday: 15 Total Offering: \$8,339.00 Home Use: \$4,645.00 Attendance Christmas Eve: 125/24 Attendance Last Sunday: 32 Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$3,694.00

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers	Jack Easterwood (Sat), Alan Miller & Caleb Thomas (Sun)
Musicians	Rich Vanderburgh, Lorraine Miller
Altar Committee	Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,
	Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee	Penny Humphrey (Chair)

This Week's Schedule

Monday		Church Office Closed – New Year's Holiday
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	Braille in Concordia
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Faith Night
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Card Group
	7:00 p.m.	"Epiphany" Bible Study (Zoom)
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship
	6:45 p.m.	Bible Study
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.	Worship
	11:45 a.m.	Thrivent Planning Meeting
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service

Closings/Absence

The office will be closed on **Monday, January 3rd** for the New Year's Holiday. Pastor will also be taking off **Tuesday, January 4th**.

Grateful Appreciation

Wilma Gertz would like to thank her Bethlehem Church family for the many cards, visits and cookies. She wishes everyone a Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

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 & Faith Discussion

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 of block of block of the webpage at block and block

Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us has been the topic of our Faith Night sessions (on the first Wednesday of each month) since the fall, but we still have to finish the last session since we had to skip it in December. So, even if you missed all of the others, join us for this last session on January 5 at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own dinner and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome! A new one on the Lord's Prayer—line by line—will begin in February.

Sunday School and Christian Education

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. "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

Thrivent Meeting—All Thrivent members are encouraged to attend a brief **2022 planning meeting** immediately after services on **Jan. 9, 2022** in the Church Conference Room. Please help us establish our schedule of activities for 2022. After the brief meeting everyone can leave for lunch on their own. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let me know by phone or e-mail if you have questions or interest in any specific activities that you would like to participate in during 2022. Larry Haase at 747-6356 or haase@iland.net.

Mary Martha Guild will have their first meeting of 2022 on Monday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. They will have a white elephant gift exchange at this meeting. All ladies of the congregation are invited to come. Wrap up something you no longer need and bring it along for a fun evening!

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 Youth room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. 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

Trinity Lutheran Alma Men's Club invites you to a Pitch Party on **Sunday, January 16**, in the school cafeteria. A light lunch will be served beginning at **5:00 pm**, with cards following at 6:00 pm. All are invited. For any questions, contact Rodney

Roepe at 660-238-1894, or Larry Becker at 660-641-3669.

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.

2022 Elders

Willie Crespo will be the head Elder for 2022

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-D) 660-679-8121, willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com Ricky Bertels (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

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

Alan Miller (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, alorrmiller@aol.com

Caleb Thomas (last name begins S-Z) 660-441-2010, calebthomas50@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 Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: blcwarrensburg

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm 660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart
Tuesday & Thursday: 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.