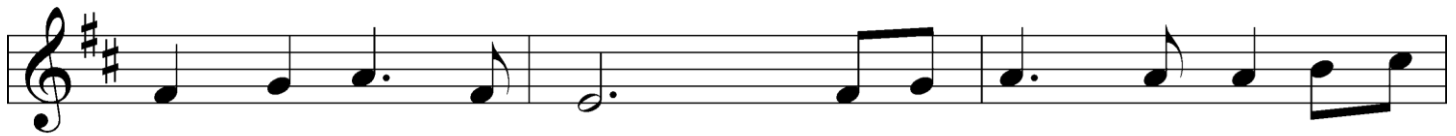


*You are my Son, the Beloved;  
with you I am well pleased*

LUKE 3:22







wa - ter and the Word, The cross of Je - sus  
 from the Lord of breath; The per - fect Man from  
 we must die each day To rise a - gain by  
 Your bap - tis - mal pow'r That wash - es us through



on your brow, The seal both felt and heard.  
 life was torn; Our life comes through Christ's death.  
 His de - sign As fol - l'wers of His way.  
 all our days; Lord, cleanse a - gain this hour.

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## Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... *page 235*



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



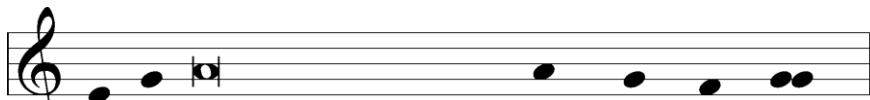
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



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

## Psalmody

Antiphon..... *page 235*



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**G** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

**Venite**..... *page 236*



**G** O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy - ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.



**I** Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



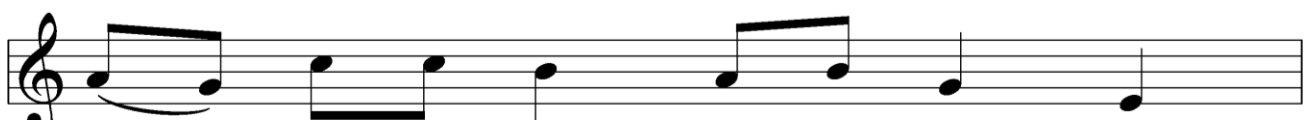
**II** For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



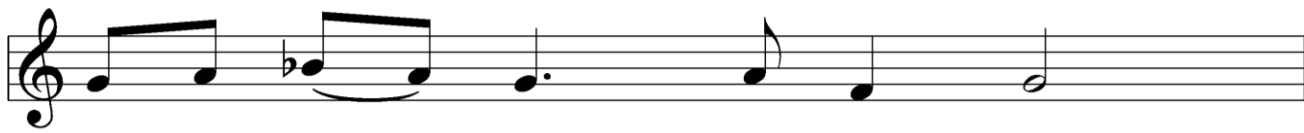
**I** In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



**II** The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



**I** O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



**II** For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

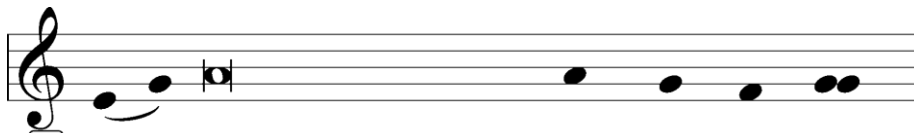


**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



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

**Antiphon**.....page 237



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

**Psalm 29** .....(spoken responsively by half verse)

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
**worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
**the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over many waters.**

The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
**the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
**the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,  
**and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD  
**flashes forth flames of fire.**

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
**the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth  
**and strips the forests bare,  
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
**the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

May the LORD give strength to his people!  
**May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

**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*

**Office Hymn..... "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise", #394**



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,  
 And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;  
 Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
 Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;  
 Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
 All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;  
 That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 Thou by all wilt be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,  
 he who created you, O Jacob,  
     he who formed you, O Israel:  
 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
     I have called you by name, you are mine.  
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
     and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
     and the flame shall not consume you.  
 For I am the Lord your God,  
     the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
 I give Egypt as your ransom,  
     Cush and Seba in exchange for you.  
 Because you are precious in my eyes,

and honored, and I love you,  
I give men in return for you,  
peoples in exchange for your life.  
Fear not, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you.  
I will say to the north, Give up,  
and to the south, Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the end of the earth,  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Epistle Reading ..... Romans 6:1-11**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## **Holy Gospel ..... Luke 3:15-22**



As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

## Apostles' Creed

**C** 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,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

## Children's Message

Sermon..... "Knit Together in Baptism"

*Stand for the last verse, as indicated by the triangle, in praise of the Holy Trinity.*

Canticle Hymn..... "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace", #937

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
 △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
 Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and  
 va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

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Sit

## Installation of 2022 Council

*President-Vacant, Elders-Ricky Bertels, Willie Crespo, Jack Easterwood, Alan Miller, Caleb Thomas; Stewardship-Tim Schnell; Evangelism-Danielle Thomas; Missions-Darlene Laubenstein; Education-Ellen Pederson; Fellowship-Penny Humphrey; Treasurer-Eunice Cobb; Recording Secretary-Sue Cottrill; Trustees-Mark Brown, Kevin Hill, Bob Johansen, Ben Smith; Long Range Planning-Rich Vanderburgh, Bonnie Rich, Mark Schlueter.*

## 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)*

**Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Additional collects. . .

**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 Prayer**.....*page 241*

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

**Benedicamus**.....page 241

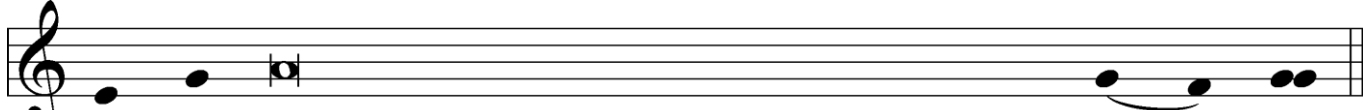


**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**..... page 242

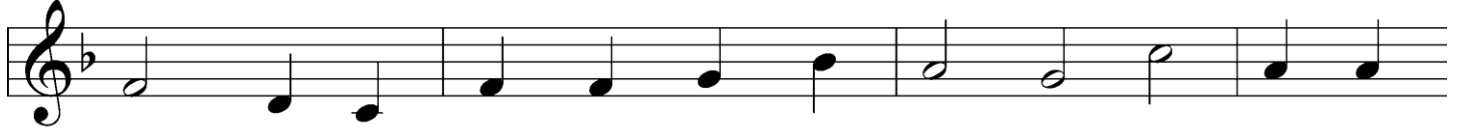


**P** The al - mighty and merciful Lord, the Father,  
the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.

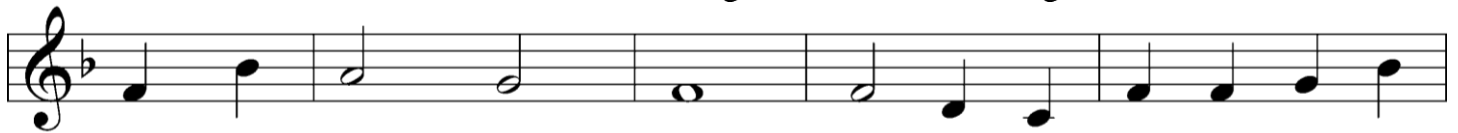


**C** A - men.

**Sending Hymn**..... *“Mark How the Lamb of God’s Self-Offering”, #600*



1 Mark how the Lamb of God’s self - of - f’ring Our hu - man  
2 From this as - sur - ance of God’s fa - vor Je - sus goes  
3 Grant us, O God, the strength and cour - age To live the



sin - ful - ness takes on In the birth - wa - ters of the  
to the wil - der - ness, There to en - dure a time of  
faith our lips de - clare; Bless us in our bap - tis - mal



Jor - dan As Je - sus is bap - tized by John.  
test - ing That read - ied Him to teach and bless.  
call - ing; Christ’s roy - al priest - hood help us share.

Hear how the voice from heav - en thun - ders, "Lo,  
 So we, by wa - ter and the Spir - it Bap -  
 Turn us from ev - 'ry false al - le - giance, That  
 this is My be - lov - ed Son." See how in dove - like  
 tized in - to Christ's min - is - try, Are of - ten led to  
 we may trust in Christ a - lone: Raise up in us a  
 form the Spir - it De - scends on God's A - noint - ed One.  
 paths of ser - vice Through maz - es of ad - ver - si - ty.  
 cho - sen peo - ple Trans - formed by love to be Your own.

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

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

**Postlude** ..... Cody Clemons

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**Next week's readings:**

**OT: Isaiah 62:1-5; Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Gospel: John 2:1-11**

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<b>Attendance Last Saturday: 7</b>	<b>Attendance Last Sunday: 28</b>
<b>Attendance New Year's Eve: 25</b>	
<b>Total Offering: \$2,062.00</b>	<b>Missions: \$0.00</b>
<b>Home Use: \$1,600.00</b>	<b>Benevolences: \$462.00</b>

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**Serving us today:**

- Elders/Ushers ..... Willie Crespo
- Musicians ..... Cody Clemons
- Altar Committee ..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,  
 Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
- Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair)

## This Week's Schedule

Sunday	11:45 a.m.	Thrivent Planning Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Undecorating the Sanctuary
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service
	3:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	7:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild-White Elephant Exchange
Tuesday		<i>Pastor at Circuit Meeting</i>
	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
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom-Epiphany Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
	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 <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis— <i>Rooted in the Faith</i>

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

### **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.!**

**Wednesday Bible Study** is exploring some of the short "J" books of the Bible for January. Join us **in the conference room from 10:30 to noon** this as we look a bit more at Jude and then see what Jonah has to do with us.

**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 for 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 service 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](mailto:haase@iland.net).

**Undecorating the Sanctuary**—The Mary-Martha Guild will be taking down the Christmas decorations following the service today. The congregation is encouraged to help. The more willing workers doing the job, the faster it will be completed and the more joyous it will be!

**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

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

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

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

**Alan Miller** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.com)

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

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am-5pm

[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.