



## February 13, 2022

#### **AS WE GATHER**

Throughout the season of Epiphany, we experience a sense of brightening. As we grow nearer to springtime, there is more daylight with each passing day. The world becomes brighter and brighter. As the weeks of this Epiphany season continue, we see our Lord Jesus more clearly, and we hear His words that speak to our hearts and lives. The well-loved hymn "Beautiful Savior" has the classic line "Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky" (LSB 537:3). God grant that brighter light shine forth in our lives as we reflect the wondrous light that is Christ, the Light of the world.

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:**

Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

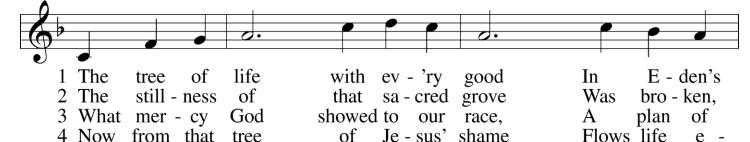
**Visitors:** We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit or in the Record of Fellowship books found on each pew. **A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway.** 

Prelude .....Lorraine Miller, Roy Schache, Rich Vanderburgh

## Welcome

Stand

Gathering Hymn ......""The Tree of Life", #561

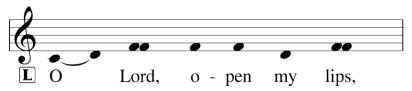




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# **Morning Prayer**

Opening Verses......page 235





# **Psalmody**



I Let us come in - to His pres - ence

with thanks - giv - ing;





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



**Psalm 1** .....(spoken responsively by half verse)

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

but his delight is in the law of the LORD,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

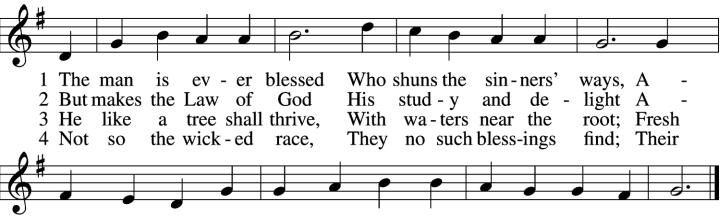
Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Office Hymn......""The Man Is Ever Blessed", #705



nev - er stands, Nor takes the scorn-ers' mong their coun - sels place. And watch-es mid the la - bors of the day of night. name shall live, His works are heav'n-ly the leaf his fruit. as emp - ty chaff Be - fore the driv - ing hopes shall flee like wind.

- 5 How will they bear to stand
  Before the judgment seat
  Where all the saints at Christ's
  right hand
  In full assembly meet?
- 6 He knows and He approves
  The way the righteous go;
  But sinners and their works shall
  meet
  A dreadful overthrow.

Text and tune: Public domain

# Readings

## Old Testament Reading.....Jeremiah 17:5-8

Thus says the LORD:

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.

He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

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

## Epistle Reading ...... 1 Corinthians 15:1-20

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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

Stand

Holy Gospel .....Luke 6:17-26

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

[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation."

"Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

"Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

"Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

**Apostles' Creed**......(back cover of hymnal)

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 Hymn......"

Children's Message

Sermon......"

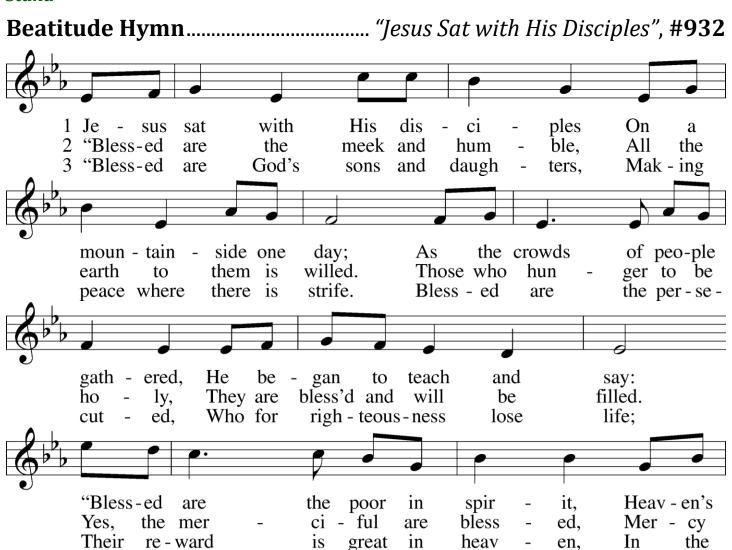
Raised, Rooted, & Remembering"

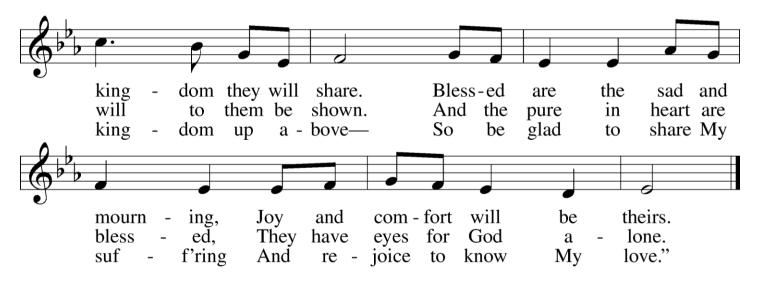
Welcome of New Members by Profession of Faith & Transfer

Mary Creswell, Jerrode Marsh,

Christoph Marsh (in absentia), and Steven Goldsmith

#### Stand





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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)

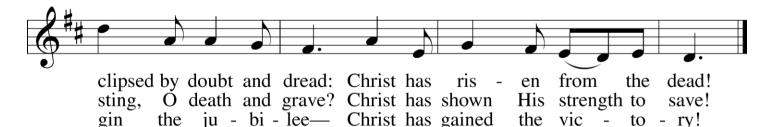
O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**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 Prayer......page 241





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

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

Postlude .....Lorraine Miller, Roy Schache, Rich Vanderburgh

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## Next week's readings:

OT: Genesis 45:3-15; 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42; Luke 6:27-28

Attendance Last Saturday: 15

Total Offering: \$2,860.00

Home Use: \$2,860.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 84

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$0.00

## Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers	Jack Easterwood
Reader	Beryl Lindley
Musicians	Lorraine Miller, Roy Schache, Rich Vanderburgh
Altar Committee	Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,
	Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee	Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

#### This Week's Schedule

Sunday	11:45 p.m.	Valentine Fellowship
	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service
	3:15 pm.	Junior 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 Meeting

Tuesday		Pastor at Circuit Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	11:30 a.m.	Merry Widows Luncheon
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom-Epiphany Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	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.	Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get-Together

#### **Altar Flowers**

**Today's Flowers** on the altar were placed by Ralph and MaryAnn Hein in remembrance of their 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary. May God provide many more blessings to them as they continue to grow together in Christ's love!

## **Thank You**

**Judy Pierce** would like to thank her Bethlehem family for all of the cards, calls and visits during the last month.

## Welcome

New Members—We welcome to our Bethlehem parish family this weekend: Mary Creswell (a member in the past who's recently moved back to Warrensburg from out of state) by profession of faith, Jerrode Marsh and her son Christoph (currently a student at Concordia University—Seward, NE) by transfer from St. Paul's—Concordia, and Steven Goldsmith (who recently moved to town) by transfer from St. Stephen's—Liberty. May our Lord bless our life together as brothers and sisters in Christ!

#### **Prayers**

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barb Compton, Mollie Dinwiddie, 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 Niemeyer, Pam Petersen (Peggy Hoyer's sister), Judy Pierce, Alice Repp (friend of the Limbacks), Jim Rudy, Ben Smith, Linda Tomblinson and Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Samantha & Nathan Schultz (Mark and Felisa Brown's daughter & son-in-law) and Caitlin and Eric Hulshizer. 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 <a href="block">block</a> block or block

#### **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!

#### **Youth Opportunities**

Jr. & Sr. Youth Get-Together and Service Activity—Plan to meet at Bethlehem at 3:00 on the afternoon of Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> (weather agreeing, and, if so, dressed for it) for some time doing yard cleanup for some church members—followed by faith discussion and planning for the year ahead. We'll aim to be done by 5:00.

**Sr. High Youth** who would like to come together with thousands of others their age at the LCMS National Youth Gathering—*In All Things*—in Houston **this summer from July 8-13.** There are several slots still available with the group from St. Paul's in Concordia, so if you want to go, let Pr. Joel know soon. There are congregational funds to help with expenses. **Registration needs to be completed by February 14!** 

A District Jr. & Sr. High Youth Gathering will be held on April 1-3 at Cross Pointe Retreat Center at Lake of the Ozarks. Check your schedules soon and let Pr. Joel if you would like to attend with others from Bethlehem. More information will be coming in the near future.

#### **Faith Discussion and Bible Study**

**Faith Night on Ash Wednesday, March 2.** Join us from **5:30-6:00** (bring your own dinner or you do not have to eat if you are fasting on Ash Wednesday), and **6:00-6:45** for faith discussion. We will be looking at "The Lord's Prayer", line by line.

**Sunday Bible Study** is working through the book *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation* (by Concordia Seminary faculty) and discussing our way through Scripture and personal experiences so that we can all be strengthened in believing and living through Christ's own life, death, and resurrection. Plan to join us **in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.!** 

Wednesday Bible Study is currently exploring the short book of Jonah. Join us in the conference room from 10:30 to noon as we see what Jonah has to do with us.

Thursday Advent Zoom Bible Study. "Epiphany 2022" is happening Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and runs through March 10. Please let Rebecca or Cindy know if you would like to join.

## **Lenten Journey with Joseph**

The last thirteen of Genesis's fifty chapters deal exclusively with the epic saga of Joseph. While his name means "he adds/increases," for a long stretch it seemed nothing but unlucky—subtraction and decreasing to say the least! Nevertheless, Joseph's life of being sinned against by others became a powerful demonstration of the Lord's faithful mercy and freeing forgiveness. It's really no surprise that surveying the pivotal events of his life helps us grasp more insightfully the suffering and saving life-work of Jesus.

Join us for the six Wednesdays of Lent, from March 2 (Ash Wednesday) to April 6, plus Good Friday (April 15), as we undertake *A Lenten Journey with Joseph* and see how it all relates to the intersection of our lives with Joseph's—and more, with the cross of Jesus. The weekly themes we'll be exploring are: 1) The Genesis of Joseph,

2) A Wondrous Silence, 3) A Miracle of Miracles, 4) Wait for the Lord, 5) Chased by a Dirty Conscience, 6) God Does Have a Plan, 7) Forgiveness Finished. All services will be at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

#### **Opportunities to Help & Serve**

Choir Resumes. Greetings Singers! After a long hiatus, choir will be resuming regular rehearsals beginning Wednesday, February 9, at 6:00 pm in the conference/choir room, and will continue at least through Easter. Anthems will be prepared to support Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services. All interested singers between the ages of 12 and 102 are eligible to participate. To help maintain the health and safety of our fellow singers, mask wearing, at least when in confined spaces, is encouraged. I hope to see you all next week! Cathy Welsh.

Worship Readers/Lectors—Please consider volunteering to assist in congregational worship by reading the first two Scripture passages during Saturday or Sunday services! There is a sign-up sheet on the board by the mailboxes, and the Scripture readings are listed by each date. Pr. Joel is available to provide suggestions for those who'd like to have some.

The Warrensburg Food Center is in need of the following items: smaller boxes of dried cereal, this time. Please throw in a few items when you are doing your grocery shopping to help the Food Center. You can place them in the basket by the bulletin board at the north entrance of the building for delivery to the Food Center.

Food Center "Souper" Bowl Sunday, February 13—Once again, our pandemic "Souper" Bowl drive will be 'virtual' cans! Not only are virtual cans lighter, but your donated dollar is equal to 3 cans of soup when purchased at Harvesters, our Kansas City Food Bank. Monetary Donations can be sent to: The Food Center, P.O. Box 872, Warrensburg, MO. 64093. Please make special arrangements with the Food Center (660) 747-6188 for any actual can donations. Check out our "Most Wanted" list on our website for other food donation ideas: www.foodcenterjoco.com.

**Volunteers Are Needed** who would be willing to take church members to doctor appointments, the pharmacy, grocery store, church services, and so forth. Please let Pr. Joel know if you are willing and able to help in this way. Thanks!

## **Fellowship**

**Valentine Fellowship**—The Fellowship Board will be having **Valentine—themed coffee today after service**. Come downstairs and enjoy some tasty treats and drinks, plus worthwhile time visiting with others! We will be sharing the **LOVE** by opening Amazon boxes and finding something we can give to others.

The Mary Martha Guild will hold their February program/meeting on Valentine's Day (February 14) at 7:00pm. Ashleigh Burnett, from Survival House in Warrensburg, will be speaking at the meeting. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come and hear her presentation. Prayer shawls that have been made by some of the ladies at Bethlehem will be given to Ashleigh to give to the ladies who are currently living at the Survival House. Hope to see you there!

Merry Widows will meet on Thursday, February 17 at 11:30 a.m. (weather permitting). Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship time with one another. Lori Sloan and Carol Kurz plan on playing some scrabble after the luncheon. They would love for you to join in for a bit.

**Exercise Class** is being 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**

**Sedalia Symphony will host a Winter Children's Concert on Sunday, February 27 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Heckart Performing Arts Center. All children present will be eligible for a drawing. The winner will conduct the orchestra for one selection (How Fun Is That?). Admission: Students are free and adults are \$10.00.

The Concordia University Nebraska's 72-voice A Cappella Choir, under the direction of Dr. Kurt von Kampen, will be performing a concert at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia, on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. Joining the choir will be the 51-voice SPLHS Singing Saints, under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Marsh. The Singing Saints will open the concert with an anthem of their own, and will also join the university choir in two additional joint anthems. The concert is free of charge, but a door offering will be taken to support the CUNE A Cappella Choir. For more information, please contact Jerrode Marsh at <a href="mailto:jmarsh@splhs.org">jmarsh@splhs.org</a>.

**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 who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

#### **Offerings**

**2022 Envelopes**—If you did not get any envelopes for 2022 and would like a box, please contact the office or 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 (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**

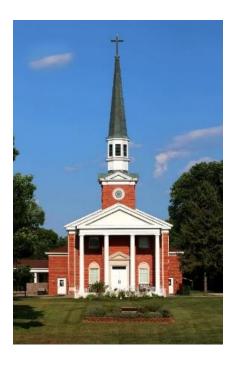
## Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

#### **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.