A painting with a textured, expressive style. In the center, a woman with her arms raised wide, wearing a white top and a long white skirt, stands under a large, light-colored canopy. She is sheltering two children. To her left, a child in a white top and blue pants stands with arms crossed. To her right, a child in a dark long-sleeved shirt and blue pants stands with hands on hips. The background is dark and moody, with a warm glow from above. The text is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

How often
have I desired to
gather your children together
as a hen gathers
her brood
under her wings

LUKE 13:34



+ Second Sunday In Lent +

March 13, 2022

AS WE GATHER

In the first stanza of the hymn “Amazing Grace” we confess, “I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!” (LSB 744). When we say we were lost, we may think of the parable of the prodigal son. We mean that apart from God, like the rest of the world, we do not truly know our real spiritual need. Likewise, the blindness we confess is our condition apart from the enlightenment of God’s word and deliverance. Blind Bartimaeus in today’s Gospel, by the enlightenment of God’s Word, believed that Jesus as the “son of David” is the divine agent, the Son of God come to save. He had heard through Isaiah the prophet that one of the first things the Messiah will do would be to open blind eyes (Isaiah 35:5). With this blind man, we come today with the heartfelt prayer “have mercy on me” and discover more. Our eyes are enlightened to see God’s mercy as we join this man and Jesus’ disciples following Him in the way, on the road to Jerusalem. There we discover the mercy and gracious reign and rule of God in the mighty suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord of life.

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:

Purple is the color of humility and repentance.

Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!

***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, and there’s a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don’t hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders, or talk to the pastor.*

PreludePaula Easterwood, Lorraine Miller

Welcome

Gathering Hymn..... *"Christ, the Life of All the Living", #420*



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
shame-ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

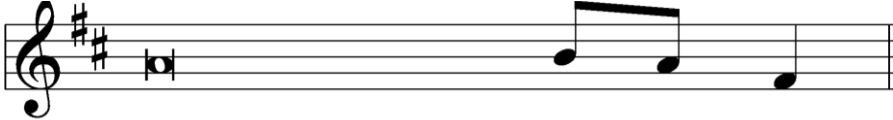
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Matins

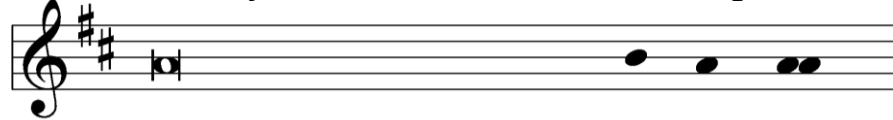
Opening Verses..... page 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



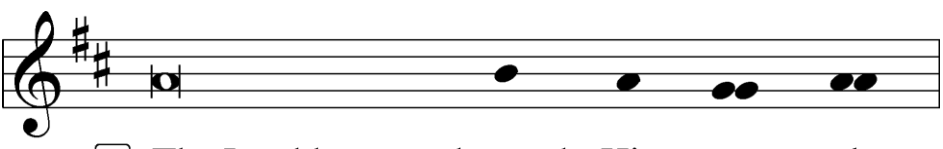
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalmody

Antiphon (Lent)..... page 220

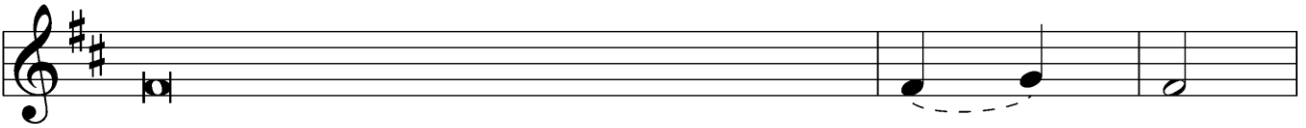


L The Lord has re - deemed His peo - ple.

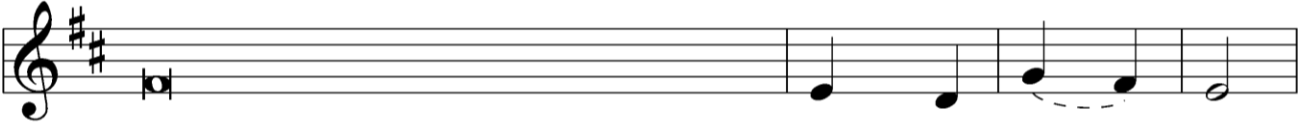


C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

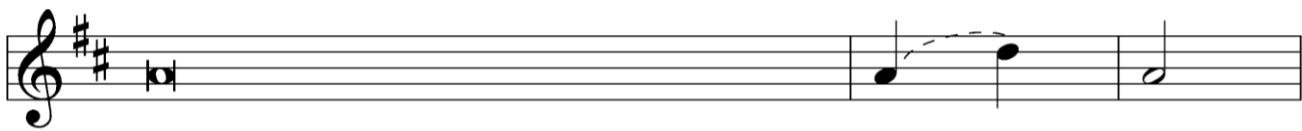
Venite..... pages 220-221



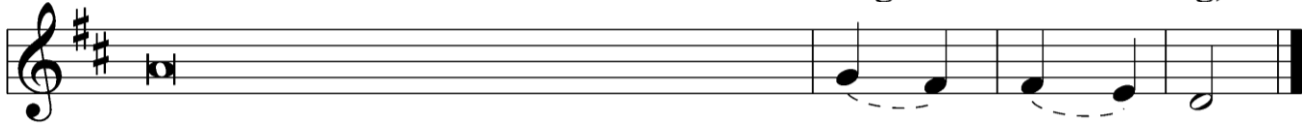
- C** 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great God
- 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
- 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
- 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow — down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His — al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep — of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon (Lent)..... page 220



L The Lord has re - deemed His peo - ple.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 4 (*spoken in unison*)

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
 You have given me relief when I was in distress.
 Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
 How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?
 But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
 the LORD hears when I call to him.
 Be angry, and do not sin;
 ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.
 Offer right sacrifices,
 and put your trust in the LORD.
 There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
 Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"
 You have put more joy in my heart
 than they have when their grain and wine abound.

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
 for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.
 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 *“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” #423*



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
 pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
 love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading **Jeremiah 26:8-15**

When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Philipians 3:17-4:1

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (*Lent*)page 222



- L** 1 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- 2 Blessed is he whose transgression is for - giv - en and whose sin is put a - way.
- 3 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.



C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the peo-ple.

Sit

Children's Song "His Banner Over Me is Love"

Children's Message

Sermon..... "Lawlessness or Love!"

Stand

Canticle

Lenten Hymn "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" #435

1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -

by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er

Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -

pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

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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 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

Kyrie.....page 227

☐ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer Hymn "Father in Heaven"



1 Fa - ther in heav - en, gra - cious God a - bove,
 2 Your king - dom come, Your rule of love with - in;
 3 Give us this day our dai - ly bread, we pray;
 4 Lead us, O Lord, and keep our foot - steps true
 5 Yours, Lord, a - lone the king - dom, pow'r, and praise;



Bold - ly we come be - fore Your throne of love:
 Lord, by Your Spir - it turn our hearts from sin.
 Thank You for all Your gifts to us each day.
 When we are tempt - ed to a - ban - don You.
 Your glo - rious reign shall last for end - less days . . .



Ho - ly Your name of tri - une maj - es - ty,
 Your will be done in ev - 'ry place on earth,
 For - give our debts, our debt - ors we for - give—
 Keep us from e - vil, res - cue us from harm;
 "Yes, yes, dear Lord!" With faith we say a - gain:



May all we do re - flect Your pu - ri - ty.
 As it is done where an - gels sing Your worth.
 Your mer - cy known, Your mer - cy we must live.
 Lord, let Your love our fears at death dis - arm.
 "So shall it be— A - men! A - men! A - men!"

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Collects.....page 227-228



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



G And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day *(in unison)*

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Additional Collects ending Amen.

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.

Benedicamus *page 228*



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction *page 228*



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Sending Hymn..... *“Children of the Heavenly Father” #725*



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude Paula Easterwood, Lorraine Miller

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Next week's readings:

OT: Ezekiel 33:7-20; Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Attendance Last Saturday: 27	Attendance Last Sunday: 60
Lenten Midweek Attendance: 45	
Total Offering: \$2,620.00	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$2,245.00	Benevolences: \$375.00

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers..... Caleb Thomas
 Musician..... Paula Easterwood, Lorraine Miller

Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,
Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild Meeting
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	John Burden Visitation
	2:00 p.m.	Funeral Service for John Burden
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	11:30 a.m.	Merry Widows/Friends Luncheon
Friday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	4:30 p.m.	"Look for the Green" Herb Garden Cutback
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom-Lent Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	"Grow Green" Shine! Event Planning Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get Together

Prayers

For Those Who Mourn, especially Bambi, Andy, Sierra, Ruby, Emerald, Opal, & Rowan, and Olivia & Troy on the sudden loss of beloved husband, father, and grandfather John Burden this past Sunday night. May Christ our crucified and risen Lord uphold them with every comfort and peace as they grieve his loss but also give

thanks for the life they shared and the life he has now with all the company of heaven—awaiting the resurrection yet to come!

For Those Preparing for Baptism & Confirmation—The forty days of Lent are preparation for the annual remembrance of Jesus’ crucifixion and Easter resurrection, as well as a call to greater awareness of our baptismal life together “dying and rising” daily in Christ’s newness of life. Throughout this season, keep in your prayers Kersten, Trevor, and Connor Thomas (who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil service), as well as Jeremy Allison, Noah Lipham, Jordan Martin, and Mike Rich (who will be confirmed on Palm Sunday). May the Holy Spirit lead us all to fuller life together as the Body of Christ!

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: Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter’s mother), Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barbara 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 great-niece), Lynn Lowe, Ron Niemeyer, Judy Pierce, Rose Steitz, Patsy Theroff (Melvin’s niece), Linda Tomblinson and Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Caitlin and Eric Hulshizer (due soon!) and 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, Luke Lockard (Limback’s grandson) and 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.

Take a 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 Wednesdays in Lent** 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 yet to explore are: 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 (Good Friday)*. **All services will be at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, with Holden Evening Prayer—except for Good Friday.**

Spring Mission Festival—The weekend services on **March 26 & 27** will call attention to the ongoing work of Food For The Poor—an ecumenical Christian agency (based in Florida) which provides life’s basic necessities to the impoverished in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our guest preacher and speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Roy Maack, the former Southeastern District President of the LCMS. This will be his second visit to Bethlehem. *Maybe consider saving up your Lenten alms (offerings for the needy— which can easily collect from money you’re not spending on what you’re fasting from this Lent) to donate to FFTP that weekend!* To learn more about what they do and where, go to foodforthe poor.org.

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!

Third Sunday at Three—All junior and senior high youth are invited (and encouraged) to join up here **on that day (March 20) and that time (3:00 p.m.)** for this monthly youth get-together and activity time. In March, we’ll be doing the yardwork we didn’t get done for the church members in February due to snow, so come dressed for the outdoors. There will also be time for faith-sharing and planning. **We’ll wrap up by 5:00 p.m.**

Lenten Home Devotions

Devotions for the season of Lent will be available from Lutheran Hour Ministries and Higher Things for you to take home. Printed copies (also available in large print) will be found at both entrances of the church. If you would like one mailed or delivered to you, please let the office know.

Reflecting on Jesus' Cross (and Ours) this Lent—A wooden cross and devotional card was handed out Ash Wednesday. An accompanying item is being given out each Wednesday as well. Set the cross in a prominent place within your home and reflect on the connected passages from Scripture (and each new item) throughout each week, then incorporate what you glean from that in your prayers and actions and share that with someone else who might need to hear that.

[Faith Discussion and Bible Study](#)

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 "Lent/Easter Zoom Bible Study is on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing God's forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. This Bible Study focuses on the scripture readings each Sunday. If you would like to join, please contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class.

Four Quarters on Christ—The natural year has the four quarters of winter, spring, summer, and fall, so we'll aim to fill those—give and take a month here and there—with opportunities to see Jesus the Christ more clearly (read the Pastor's Page). Based on John Stott's four-part exploration called *The Incomparable Christ, we'll begin on Thursday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m.* with a talk and discussion on "The Original Jesus: How the New Testament Witnesses to Him." Invite a friend, since this will be open to anyone who wants to come. Also, bring a quarter, if you can!

[Opportunities to Help & Serve](#)

War in Ukraine—As the situation in Ukraine continues, the church prays for peace and for those in harm's way. We also strive to provide for those affected. The Office of International Mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is working with several Lutheran church bodies and missionaries in Europe to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, Lutheran refugees and others affected by the violence. Gifts to the LCMS, including Mission Central, are restricted to providing aid and assistance to persons displaced by the war in Ukraine. **How to Support Displaced Ukrainians:** The LCMS will issue grants to/through our Lutheran partners in the region best positioned to provide compassionate care in Christ's name to those fleeing the conflict. The situation is

developing, and we pledge to use every gift wisely to accomplish the greatest good possible in ways that deliver the Gospel as human needs are met. For more information or to donate online go to lcms.org/ukraine.

“Look for the Green”—On March 17 at 4:30 p.m. (St. Patrick’s Day) we will be cutting back last year’s growth in the herb garden. Anyone is welcome to join!

March Brings Spring! Keep your eyes open for opportunities to help with the ongoing transformation of our Bethlehem Community Garden to raised beds, plus help with planting, cutting back the herb garden, and all sorts of other necessary and enjoyable tasks. If you want to make sure you know about work days and opportunities, let Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley know so that we can make sure you’re aware of what’s happening and needs to be done.

Thrivent Choice Dollars—Members with 2021 choice dollars available need to designate these funds before March 31 or they will expire. You may direct your choice dollars to: Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at Thrivent.com/Thrivent choice or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used \$1,000 of choice dollars to assist with the Warrensburg Angel Tree Project. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions about any of our activities including Choice Dollars and Action Team Projects.

Bethlehem’s 2022 SHINE! Event—Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 30**, from **10-noon** (plus early and after for set-up and take-down) as we host an outdoor community outreach event called *Grow Green—Glow & Glean*. The morning will focus on stewardship living which is rooted in the Lord’s Good Earth and known by growth, harvest, and generous sharing. Hopefully there’ll be workshops, hands-on planting, free seeds and free raffles, information to glean, plus an appearance by the Green Lantern (*if we have a volunteer who wants to take on that role*). This is our unique congregational effort, as part of the district-wide outreach initiative, so the more members who help—including in the planning and preparation—the better! Let the church office know if you’d like to help and in what way. **A meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 11:00 a.m.** for anyone interested in helping.

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.

Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act and talk about dementia. The program can benefit anyone who encounters someone with dementia in their daily lives—including bankers, grocers, other retailers, government and healthcare workers, nonprofit employees, first responders and more. You need not know someone with dementia to benefit and learn from this program. By helping everyone in the community understand dementia and how it affects families, each of us can make a difference for people touched by dementia. Give us an hour, and we will show you how. Register online at goaging.org/event/dementia-friends or call 1-800-748-7826. If there is enough interest from Bethlehem we can have our own group event.

Fellowship

Merry Widows and Friends will have their monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 17 at 11:30 a.m.** (St. Patrick's Day: Wear your green). Bring your own lunch, invite a friend and join us for some fellowship. Dessert will be provided.

Mary Martha Guild will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 14. The program will be about Altar Set-up with Teresa Hillsman and Darlene Laubenstein. We will meet upstairs **AT 6:00 P.M.** This will be informative and interesting even if you are not currently on the Altar Committee. (How Communion is prepared, the vessels cleaned afterward, how/why the paraments and banners are changed, planning for special times like Christmas and Easter, etc. and why it all matters!).

Easter Lilies—The flower committee is taking orders for Easter Lilies. There are forms available at each entrance of the church. The cost of the lilies will be **\$8.00**. The deadline for ordering is **March 28**. Please make checks out to Mary Martha Guild and return to Penny Humphrey or place in her mailbox.

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.

This & That

The *Singing Saints of Saint Paul Lutheran High School*, of Concordia, Missouri, will be performing their home concert on **March 27, at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia. The 50-voice concert choir will be performing a varied program that includes classic works by J. S. Bach, Mendelssohn, and Tomas Tallis, as well as some traditional spirituals, hymns, and anthems, such as the famous "God So Loved the World" by Sir John Stainer, and "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal" arranged by Alice Parker. The award-winning choir is under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Marsh. The concert is free, but donations are kindly requested to help cover their expenses for the annual spring tour.

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

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

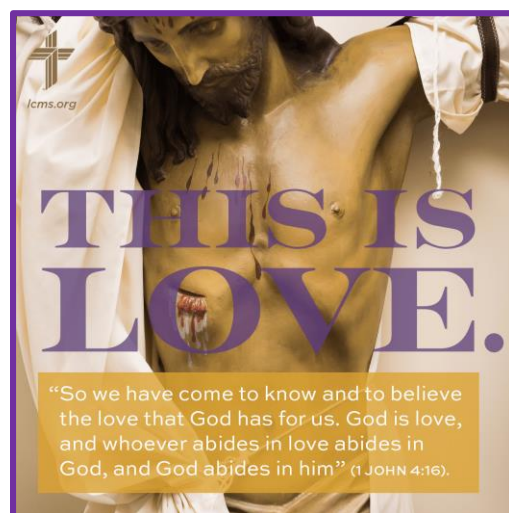
Willie Crespo (last name begins A-D) 660-679-8121, willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com

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, alormiller@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

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

Office Manager:

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Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart

Tue & Thurs: 8am–4pm

Thursday by appointment

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.