



LUKE 13:7

**I have come  
looking for fruit**





+ Third Sunday In Lent +

**March 19 & 20, 2022**

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### **AS WE GATHER**

How then shall we live? What a profound question for Christians to consider midway through Lent! The Lord has shown His mercy to us, forgiven our sins, and delivered us from death. Then what? What is the focus of our lives? The call of the Readings for this Sunday points us to the repentance that bears the good fruit of God's kingdom. Like trees that have failed to produce good fruit, the Lord has tended us with His Word, with the warning of the Law and the promise of the Gospel. But if the tree remains unfruitful, the tree will have to be cut down. It is a hard word to hear, but God remains merciful, and most of all, He seeks that we bear the good fruits of faith and repentance in our daily lives.

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### **REGARDING COMMUNION**

*Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the forty days of Lent mark off our journey to Easter. When we were baptized into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sign of the cross was made upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as people redeemed by the cross of the Christ. We rose to newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus and began a life of pilgrimage in faith. The cross of ash made on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repentance (or change from wrongs done) ... a life of constant returning to our Lord's Table to be forgiven and renewed, for here we have the bread of Christ's Body and the wine of his Blood as strength for the journey. **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:**

***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.

**Prelude** ..... Cody Clemons (Sat), Sheri Mattson (Sun)

**Welcome**

*Stand*

**Invocation Hymn** ..... "O Blessed Spring" #595



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us  
 2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain  
 3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their  
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our  
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to  
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
 heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will  
 last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take  
 this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
 rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
 move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
 wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
 vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

# Divine Service, Setting Three

## Confession and Absolution

*(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, but longer portions are sung.)*

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

### Confession and Absolution.....pages 184-185

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.  
**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
**C** who made heaven and earth.  
**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.  
**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.  
**P** Almighty God, . . . Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your Grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.  
**P** Almighty God, . . . Grant this, Lord, unto us all.  
**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Entrance Hymn ..... "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" #955

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were

sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
 hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we  
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and  
 give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

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**Kyrie**.....*page 186*

**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**Salutation**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.  
**P** Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day** ..... *(spoken in unison)*

**O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through**

**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.....Ezekiel 33:7-20**

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** ..... *(spoken in unison)*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. *(Hebrews 12:2)*

**Epistle Reading** ..... **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Pastoral Chant** ..... *“This Gospel, How Precious”*

**Holy Gospel** ..... **Luke 13:1-9**

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered

them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed.....page 191

**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 ..... *“Consider How the Birds Above” #736*

1 Con - sid - er how the birds a - bove      Feed day by  
2 The lil - ies grow, they do not toil;      How fair is  
3 Set not your heart on food or drink,      Nor be weighed  
4 Be on your guard a - gainst all greed,      For life is

day with care - free ease—      Does God not keep them  
their fra - gil - i - ty—      If God clothes these, which  
down by world - ly care;      A - bout such things the  
more than what we own.      Our Fa - ther knows our

in His love?      Are we not worth much more than these?  
quick - ly spoil,      Will He not clothe both you and me?  
god - less think,      Yet nev - er thank the Lord in prayer.  
ev - 'ry need      Be - fore our needs to us are known.

5 Be not afraid to suffer loss  
Of all the things for which you pray,  
For He who faced for you the cross  
Will give you strength to live each day.

6 Seek first God's reign, His boundless grace,  
His holy name in all you do:  
Christ first and last in ev'ry place;  
All else will then be given you.

Sit

Sermon..... “Making Way for Mercy”

Stand

Offertory .....pages 192-193

**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

### 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 of the Church

- P** Let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- ...
- C** Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgy .....pages 194-197



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Lord's Prayer..... "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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Agnus Dei.....page 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).*

**Communion Distribution**

*You might want to use the prayers "Before communing" and "Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament" inside the front cover of the hymnal for your devotional meditation.*

**(Sunday Only)**

**Communion Hymn ..... "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" #609**

1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -  
 say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;  
 And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
 For these words I now believe:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
 From the Law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ hath purchased my release  
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

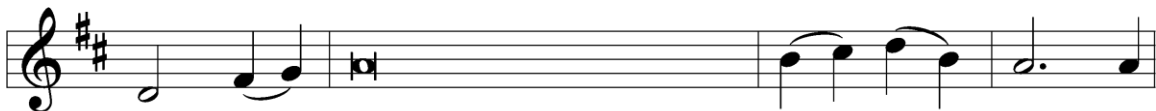
7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
 Also I have been forgiven;  
 And when I this earth must leave,  
 I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

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## Instrumentals

### Stand

## Nunc Dimittis.....pages 199-200



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**Thanksgiving** ..... *pages 200-201*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

**Salutation and Benedicamus** ..... *page 201*

**Benediction** ..... *page 202*

**Sending Hymn** ..... *"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"* #691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er  
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
 loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
 and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
 har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
 Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
 Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
 Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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

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

**Postlude** ..... Cody Clemons (Sat), Sheri Mattson (Sun)

**Acknowledgements** Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

**Next week's readings:**  
**Isaiah 12:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

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<b>Attendance Last Saturday: 30</b>	<b>Attendance Last Sunday: 63</b>
<b>Attendance: Lent: 43</b>	
<b>Total Offering: \$4,320.00</b>	<b>Other: \$460.00</b>
<b>Home Use: \$3,155.00</b>	<b>Benevolences: \$705.00</b>

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## Serving us today:

Elders..... Ricky Bertels (Sat), Alan Miller, Willie Crespo (Sun)  
Musician .....Cody Clemons (Sat), Sheri Mattson (Sun)  
Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,  
Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker  
Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

## This Week's Schedule

Sunday	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get-Together
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom-Lent Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship-Spring Mission Festival
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.	Worship-Mission Festival

## Thank You

We would like to thank all of you who supported our Father, Jim Rudy. This community provided so many acts of kindness, and we are overwhelmed by your generosity. Dad was proud to be a member of this community. After our mom's unexpected passing, this community stepped in to help both him and us. There are no words to adequately express our feelings, but this is our attempt to let you know of our heartfelt thanks. We are humbled by the blessing you have given our family.



May you receive these blessings in return as you continue your life's journey. God bless you and the Bethlehem Congregation. **The Rudy Family.**

## Prayers

**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 (the 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](http://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: 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. *If you’ve been 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) consider donating them to FFTP next weekend or beyond!* To learn more about what they do and where, go to [foodforthe poor.org](http://foodforthe poor.org).

### [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!

**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](#)

**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

**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](https://www.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.

**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.

### Fellowship

**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

**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.

**Annual Sausage Dinner** at Saint Paul Lutheran High School (Krueger Dining Hall) on **Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm**. Menu includes sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes & gravy, green beans, applesauce and cheesecake. Free-will donation to help Servants of the Saints. Dine-in and Drive-Thru options are available.

**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](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

Tue & Thurs: 8am–5pm

Thursday by appointment

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

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

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

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.