



AS WE GATHER

Now we know the end of the story. In John's vision in the Epistle, heaven will be like an eternal wedding feast. All of us in the Church have been made presentable by Christ, the Bridegroom. Unlike the disciples, who in today's Gospel still had to experience their Lord's absence from Good Friday through Easter morning, we can be confident that no one can take our joy from us. Now we know that because He has paid the price on the cross, the Bridegroom will freely make all things new. In place of torrents of tears will be the spring of the water of life. When we receive His body and blood in the Sacrament, it is a foretaste of the feast to come, and we cannot wait to enjoy the rest of the eternal celebration!

REGARDING COMMUNION

After his resurrection, the crucified but now-living Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas (who had his doubts that Jesus could really be alive again): 'Touch my pierced hands and feel my wounded side; stop doubting and believe.'

We come to the Lord's Table with our own doubts and worries, fears and sorrows, often lingering on uncertainty and the realities we think are beyond change. Our Lord points us to his unchanging yet life-changing reality—he has died, he has risen, he will come again. His Holy Supper is the place where we encounter his saving, risen, and healing Body and Blood ... as he said: 'Those who feed on my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.' Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.

Liturgical Color:

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church

(Stand as indicated by the triangle on verse 3)

Invocation Hymn...... "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" #477 1 Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise: 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de-feat: \triangle 3 Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be God on high: to hymn of glad-ness, Sing to Sing to God a God a hymn of praise; See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat: the Say - ior Al - le - lu - ia to Who has gained the vic - to - ry; vic-tim For He who on the cross a the world's sal - va-tion bled— Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty! to Je-sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead. Je-sus Christ, the world's Re-deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore. Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty! Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Divine Service, Setting One Confession and Absolution

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

Confession and Absolution.....*page 151*

- In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

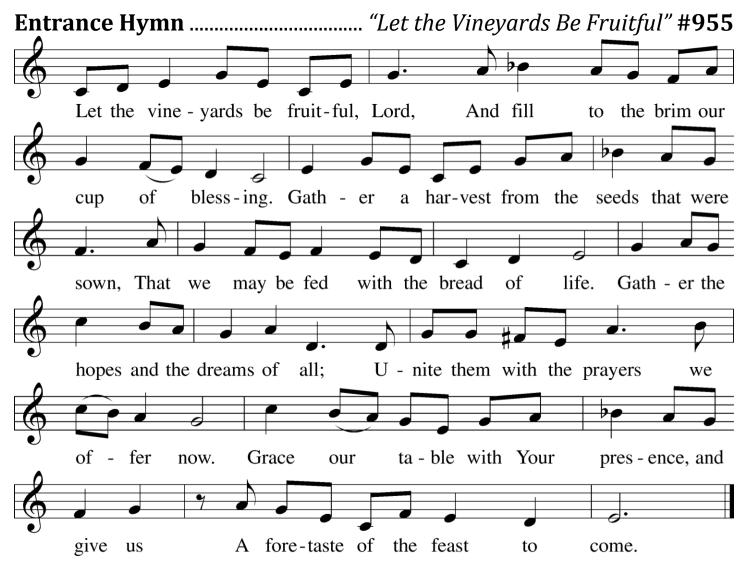
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God . . .

Amen.

С

Service of the Word



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P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (spoken in unison)

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First ReadingActs 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (spoken in unison)

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

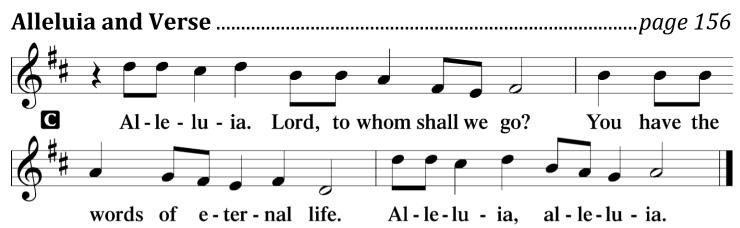
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy GospelJohn 16:12-22

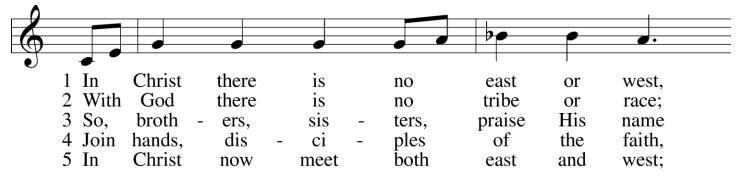
- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.
- **G**lory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

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

Hymn of the Day "In Christ There Is No East or West" #653



6	•	•		• • •	p.				•
•	In In Who What - In		no so we all to set your rac meet so	t us ce may	north, one. free be; north.		But one He love From sin Who serv All Chr	es us , di - es my	fel - low - as His - vi - sion, Fa - ther souls are
6	•	•	•					•	<i>d</i> .
	ship chil - hate, as one	of dren and His in	love through shame, child Him	Throug Our From Is Throug	faith spite sure	a -	he whole in His nd en - ly kin he whole	wide dear mi - to wide	earth. Son. ty! me. earth.

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For over 100 years Lutheran Hour Ministries has been committed to sharing the Gospel with those who need to hear it. Today, LHM energizes, equips, and engages Christians to share the Gospel throughout North America and around the globe. We are able to offer many free or low-cost resources because people like you have already joined our mission. Learn more about how you can get involved at lhm.org/discoverlhm.

Stand

Nicene Creedpage 158
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.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,

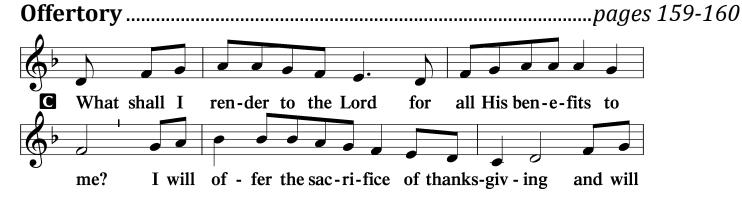
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Offering

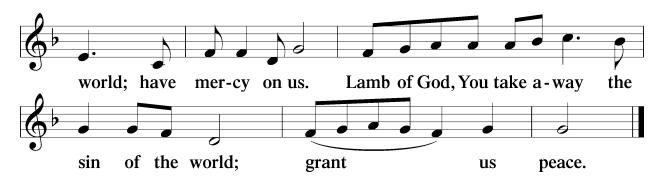
Worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the entrance.

"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)





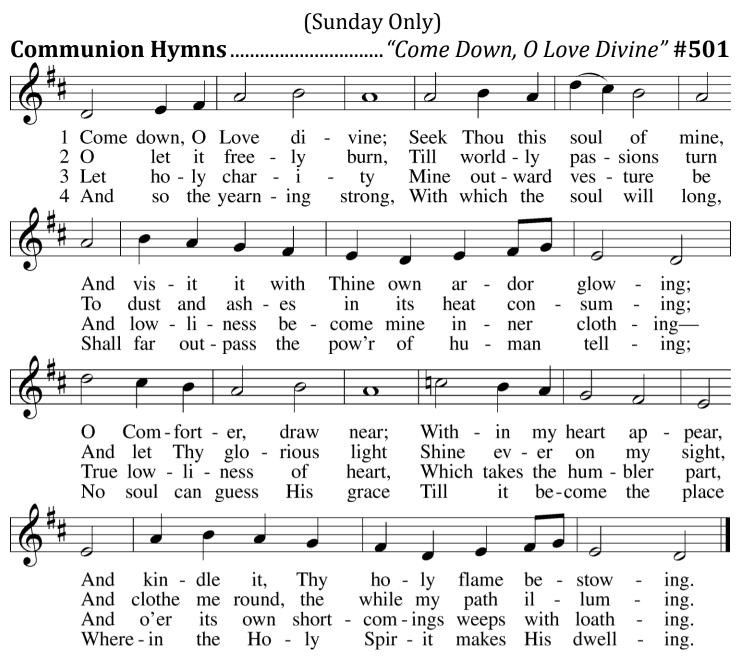




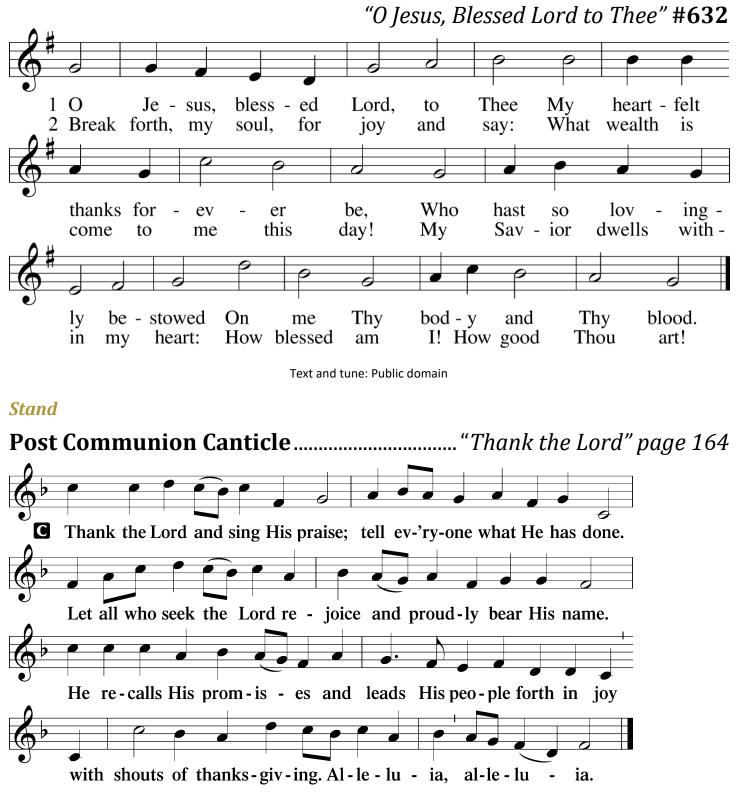
Communion Distribution

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

Instrumental Music "Allegro from London Trio #1 in C Major" (Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege)

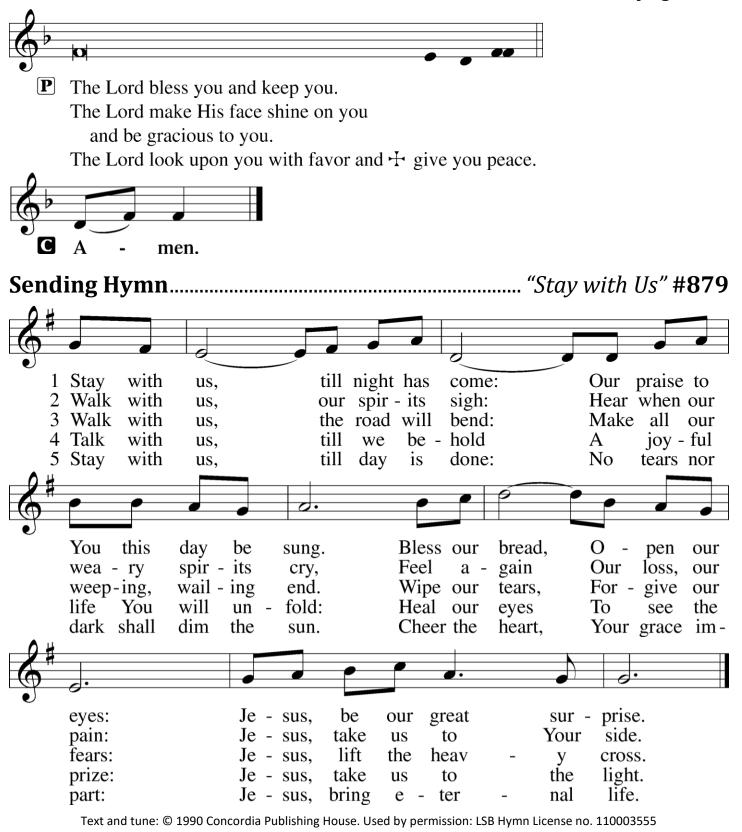


Text and tune: Public domain



Post Communion Collect..... page 166

- **P** Let us pray.
- **C** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this beneficial 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. Amen.



Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Acknowledgements Divine Service, Setting One 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:

First: Acts 16:9-15; Epistle: Revelation 21:9-14,21-27; Gospel: John 16:23-33

Attendance Last Saturday: 22	Attendance Last Sunday: 61
Total Offering: \$8,599.00	Missions: \$350.00
Home Use: \$3,215.00	Benevolences: \$5,034.00

Serving us today:

Elders	Jack Easterwood (Sat), Willie Crespo & Alan Miller (Sun)
Musicians	Jerrode Marsh, Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege
Altar Committee	Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Erika Freeman, Peggy Hoyer,
	Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith, Rebecca Stewart
Flower Committee	Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday		(Pastor's Vacation 16 th -24 th)
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
		No Bible Study
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Lent-Pentecost Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at
		www.blchurch.com, under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Gratitude!

Ukraine Benefit Concert—Many thanks go out to those that helped put together, participated and attended this beautiful and prayerful offering: Jerrode Marsh, the Singing Saints, the Chamber Orchestra, members from the Sedalia Symphony, Bethlehem Musicians, the Fellowship Committee and others involved in the process! The concert brought out more than 210 people this past Sunday and so far has brought in well over \$4,000 (with still more coming in) which will go toward the work of Church World Service.

Absence/Presence

Pastor's Vacation—Pastor Joel will be on vacation visiting relatives from the 16th through the 24th. If something comes up while he is gone, please contact your elder, Willie Crespo (head elder) or Pr. Ricky Bertels. Pr. Ricky will be leading the weekend services in his absence.

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: Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter's mother), Melvin Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barbara Compton, Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Rose Steitz, and Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Samantha & Nathan Schultz (Mark and Felisa Brown's daughter & son-in-law) and Jeremiah & Colleen Murrell. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation during the months ahead!

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, 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 <u>blchurch.com</u>.

Ascension Day Service—Join with others in our sanctuary on Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. as we mark the 40th day after Easter Sunday and reflect on the meaning of Christ's Ascension for our lives. *This month's Lutheran Witness is all about that, so pick up a copy in either entryway and share one as well!*

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!

Vacation Bible School is fast approaching and we need your help! If you can fill one of the following roles during the week of **June 5-9 (5:30-8:00 p.m.)**, please contact Ellen Pederson. Consider these ways to assist with VBS:

Story Reader—Read and discuss the evening's Bible story with each group of children; volunteer for just one night or all five.

Science station—perform a small (scripted) science demonstration for each group of children and discuss what it illustrates about God; volunteer for just one night or all five.

Music (2 people)—Teach the children several songs and actions; lead the children in these songs during nightly opening and closing as well as the final program Thursday evening.

Team Leaders (3-4 people)—Stay with a group of children as they transition from one station to the next; help at each station as needed (i.e. handing out art supplies, etc.).

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 has begun exploring the short book of the prophet Habakkuk. Join us in the conference room from 10:30 to noon when we resume on May 25th!

Thursday "Lent—Pentecost" Zoom Bible Study is on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We are 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.

Opportunities to Help & Serve

Garden Work—There's not only plenty to do in our still-being-planted community vegetable garden and greenspace, but also much joy to be found in the gifts of Creation and the sharing of its abundance with others. Talk to Shawn Lindley or Pr. Joel if you're looking for a regular way to plug in and help in the process. Thanks!

June is Bethlehem's Month at the Food Center! Bethlehem's month to staff the Food Center is coming up. We will need 4 volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday in June from 12:45 to 3:45 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.

The Warrensburg Food Center is in need of the following items: canned vegetables, beans, diced tomatoes, Hamburger Helper, coffee (regular instant, not pods), dry cereal (regular boxes), tuna and chicken pouches, Vienna sausages, Spam, Pop-Tarts, juice pouches, Gatorade type drinks with electrolytes, stick deodorant, Chapstick, small body lotions, medium size cloth or vinyl bags with sturdy handles, large backpacks (not book bags), dish soap and toilet paper. (No mac and cheese or dry beans). 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

Merry Widows, Friends and Ladies of the Congregation are invited to a luncheon on Thursday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring yourself and a friend. All food and drinks will be provided by Rebecca and Cindy.

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

Esther Keseman's Contact Information: 1701 SE Oldham Parkway, Apt. 146; Lee's Summit, Missouri 64081. She's living at a nice new place called The Princeton Senior Living.

The Concordia Music Conservatory will be holding **choral camp (June 6-10, 9am-4pm)** and **instrumental camp (June 13-17, 9am-4pm)** at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia. **Registration deadline is May 23!** Registration packets are available near the church mailboxes. For additional information contact Jerrode Marsh.

Summer Camps at Saint Paul Lutheran High School. Camps include volleyball, basketball, soccer, Spanish, Hispanic Cooking, football, etc. For more information on dates and times see the flyers posted on the bulletin boards or go to <u>splhs.org/events.</u>

Heit's Point Camps—Throughout the months of June, July, and August, Heit's Point Lutheran Ministries offers a variety of summer camp weeks for youth entering 1st grade through 12th grade as well as for families. No matter the camp, campers will get the chance to participate in games, Bible studies, campfires, Group Initiative Course, fishing, outdoor education, and much more! For more information on camps, go to <u>heitspoint.com/summer camp</u>.

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, <u>willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com</u> Ricky Bertels (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, <u>rick1janice2@gmail.com</u> Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, <u>easter.egg2380@gmail.com</u> Alan Miller (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, <u>alorrmiller@aol.com</u> Caleb Thomas (last name begins S-Z) 660-441-2010, <u>calebthomas50@gmail.com</u>

Information

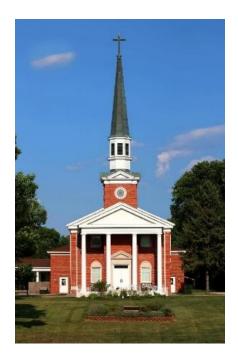
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

 \cdot Grow in Christ \cdot Live in Love \cdot 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: 8am-5pm Thursday: 8am-5pm <u>clf@blchurch.com</u> Bookkeeper: Teresa Hillsman Tuesday: 9am-11am Thursday: 9am-11am 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.