



AS WE GATHER

The disciples thought they knew what Jesus was saying, but it was before Easter, and they could not understand. They would, "in that day," that is, after Jesus' victory and the Spirit's gift of faith. Now we with them know that He has overcome the world, all opposition, and even death itself. John's vision in Revelation depicts a perfect Jerusalem, clear and beautiful, with the Lamb as its lamp. Anticipating such nearness of God, in this our day we can pray, asking for whatever we need, confident of our Father's hearing. In the Reading from Acts, Paul has to tell everyone about his Easter joy, and the Lord opens Lydia's heart. She is baptized and opens her home for Paul and Luke to use to tell others. With the clarity of our Spirit-given Easter joy, we know, pray, and tell!

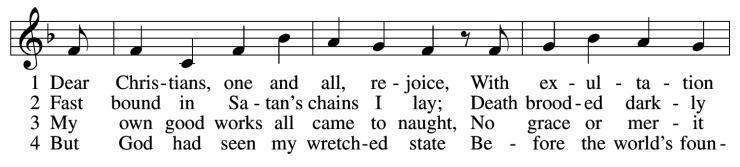
The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

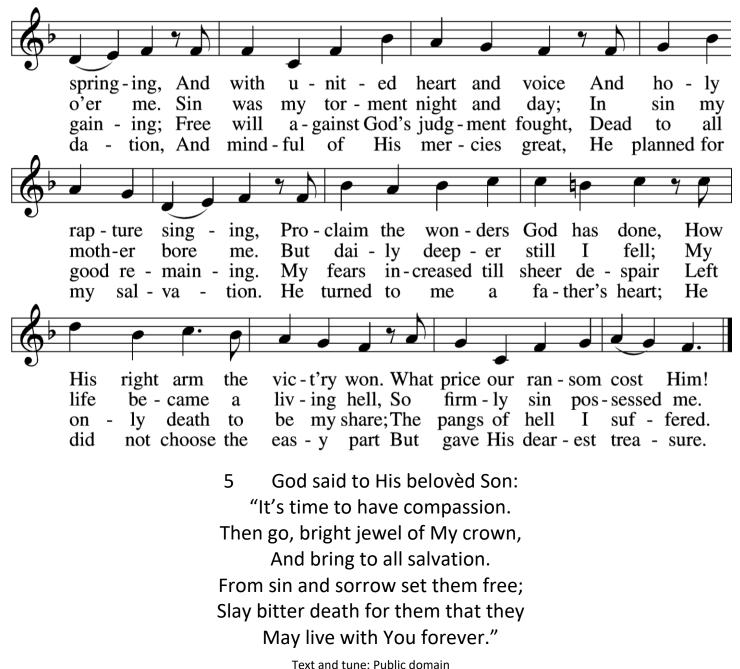
Liturgical Color:

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

Prelude

Gathering Hymn "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" #556 (1-5)





Text and tune: Public d

Stand

Service of Prayer and Preaching

- **P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- **C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

- P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- **G** Teach me Your paths.
- **P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- **C** Your Word is truth.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- 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.

Old Testament Canticle pages 261-262





Readings

First Reading Acts 16: 9-15

A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67 (spoken in unison) May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was I the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

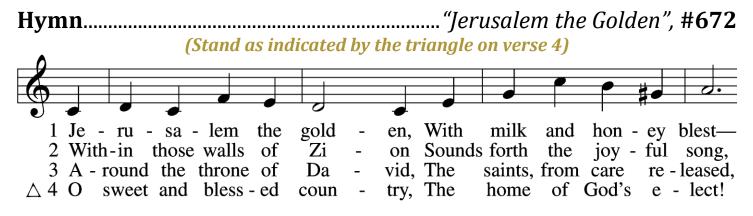
Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb....

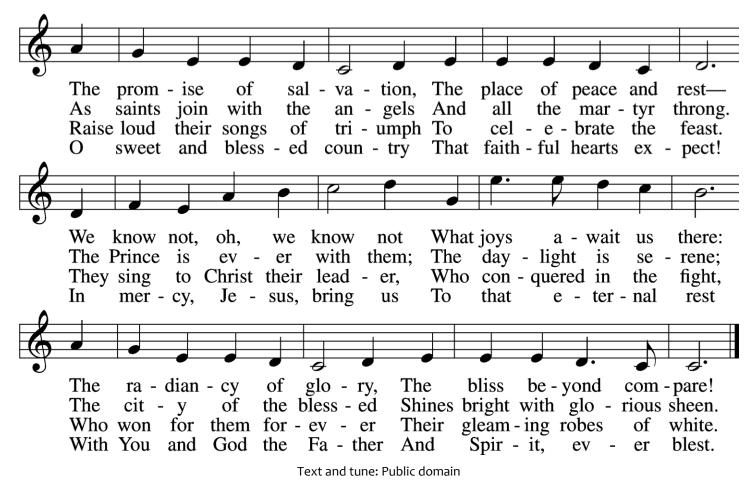
And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.





Holy GospelJohn 16:23-33

[Jesus said:] "In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." **P** This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Common).....page 263

- **P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- **C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- **P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- **C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- **P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Catechism (All).....page 264

Ten Commandments

G You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Sit

Children's Message

"Sorrow and Joy" Sermon..... **Hymn**....."Spread the Reign of God the Lord" #830 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word: 2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still. 3 Tell Re-deem-er's grace, Who, of our to save our hu-man race the Spir - it giv'n Now 4 Tell of God to guide us on to heav'n. 'ry-where His crea-tures call His heav'n-ly To ban-quet hall. Ev How gave Us His own dear Son He from sin and death to save. And pay re - bel-lion's price, Gave Him-self sac - ri - fice. as to just and true, Work-ing both Strong and ho - ly, to will and do.

- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield. But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!
- Lord of harvest, great and kind,
 Rouse to action heart and mind;
 Let the gath'ring nations all
 See Your light and heed Your call.

Text and tune: Public domain

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)

Prayers

Stand

Pray	yerspage 265
	Let us pray to the Lord,
С	Lord, have mercy
P	Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.
С	Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

C Amen

Evening Prayer (Saturday).....page 266

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Morning Prayer (Sunday)page 266

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



C Thanks be to God.

- The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C Amen.

Sending Hymn...... "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness", #849



Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude

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Next Week's Readings First: Acts 1:1-11; Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23; Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Attendance Last Saturday: 23	Attendance Last Sunday: 76
Total Offering: \$6,881.00	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$4,953.00	Benevolences: \$1,928.00

Serving us today:

Elders	Jack Easterwood (Saturday), Willie Crespo (Sunday)
Musicians	Gary Moege (Saturday), Cody Clemons (Sunday)
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

Monday		Pastor's Vacation (through May 24)
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
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
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom: Lent—Pentecost Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Service
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	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

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.

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!*

Wednesday Outdoor Service—We'll be having a simple devotional service outside for the **first Wednesday during June, July and August from 7:00-7:30 p.m**.; same spot, under the cottonwood tree. We'll focus on the next bit of the Lord's Prayer over the three months: June, *Your Will Be Done*; July, *On Earth;* August, *As It Is In Heaven*.

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 (i.e. handing out art supplies, etc.).

Thank you Thrivent—At the last meeting Thrivent voted to donate \$500.00 of Choice Dollars towards expenses for Vacation Bible School this summer. Thank you to those persons who have designated Choice Dollars to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.! The next Thrivent meeting will be September 18, after church.

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.

Opportunities to Help & Serve

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. Thrivent T-Shirts for volunteers are available in the church office if you do not have one.

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.

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!

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.

<u>This & That</u>

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!

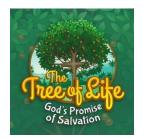
Offerings

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

The Tree of Life Vacation Bible School



From **Sunday, June 5th thru Thursday, June 9th**, Bethlehem Lutheran Church will hold a special Vacation Bible School for children in grades preschool (age 3+) thru sixth grade called The Tree of Life: God's Promise of Salvation. This VBS examines God's plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Each session of this VBS explores Bible accounts that guide us through the epic story of salvation, from creation in the beginning of Genesis, to the cross of Christ in the beginning of the New Testament, and finally to Jesus' return on the Last Day in the Book of Revelation.

Be sure to join us from 5:30 to 8:00pm each night for fun lessons, music, crafts, snacks, and activities to learn how Jesus' cross became the tree of life in which God forgives us and gives us everlasting life. A free meal will be served for children, parents, and volunteers at 5:00pm each evening. Parents and community members are invited to join us at 7:15pm on our last night (Thursday) for a special closing program. Registration forms are at the church or on our website: blchurch.com

ARMED FORCES WEEKEND



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) is authorized as the mission arm of the Synod to support and serve all military chaplains — active and reserve — their families and the veteran population. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains; sponsors annual training for all chaplains; and maintains close, pastoral relationships with chaplains after endorsement, offering counsel, training and advice throughout their entire careers.

Information

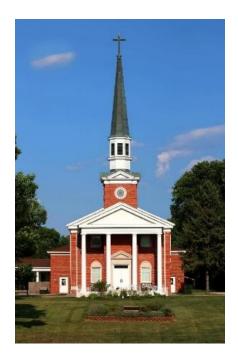
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

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.