

A low-angle, circular shot of a diverse group of young people looking upwards. The image is framed by a yellow border. The text is centered over the image.

May they become  
as we are  
**one**

JOHN 17:22



+ Seventh Sunday Of Easter +

**May 28-29, 2022**

## **Memorial Day Weekend**

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### **AS WE GATHER**

The Early Church realized that there should be twelve apostles, as they carried on the ministry our Lord gave them. So they replaced Judas with Matthias. Their names are even inscribed in the foundations of the perfect new Jerusalem in John's vision in Revelation. There, Jesus identifies Himself as "the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 22:13). There is no other; He is perfectly united with the Father. Because of our imperfect condition, however, our Lord prays for our oneness with Him, "so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me" (John 17:23). Today, we ask God to help us display the oneness and love that we have received from Him, rejoicing with the psalmist, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

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### **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**

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

*Please stand, as able.*

**Invocation Hymn**..... "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" #793



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your  
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple  
3 Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,  
frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,  
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,  
Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,  
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.  
al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.  
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

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## **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

**P** 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.

**C** 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.

**C** 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 . . .

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn ..... *"Where Charity and Love Prevail" #845*



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His  
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



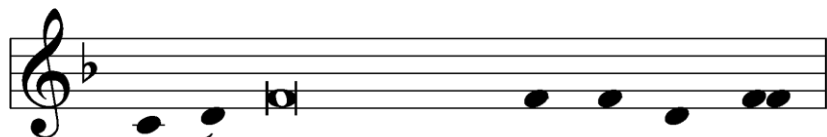
God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er  
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and  
we our faults con - fess, And let us love each  
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.  
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.  
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst  
Dwells Christ, His only Son;  
As members of His body joined  
We are in Him made one.

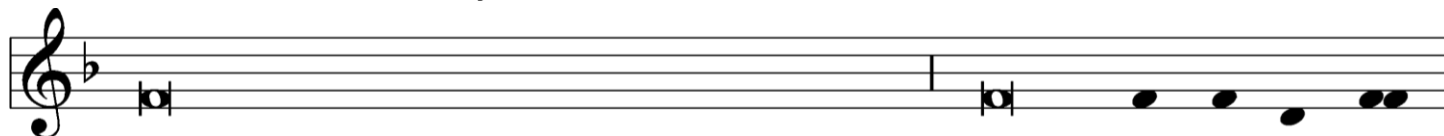
6 For love excludes no race or clan  
That names the Savior's name;  
His family embraces all  
Whose Father is the same.



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



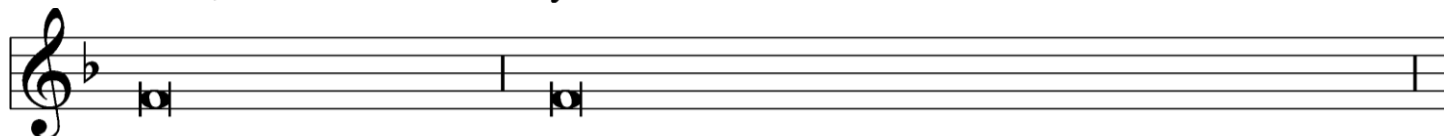
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



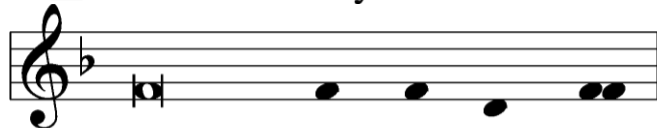
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



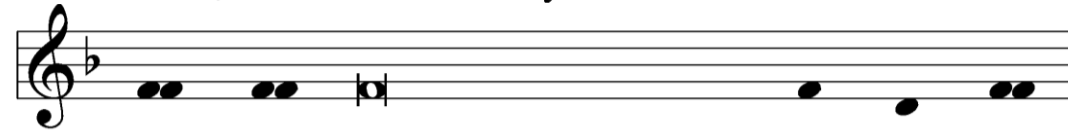
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

**C** A - men.

**This is the Feast** .....page 155

*Refrain*

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Salutation** .....page 156

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

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

**O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Sit*

**First Reading** ..... **Acts 1:12-26**

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate,  
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;  
and

“‘Let another take his office.’”

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas,

who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**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.**

**Epistle Reading** ..... **Revelation 22:1-20**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."



“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Stand

## Alleluia and Verse .....page 156



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel .....John 17:20-26

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you

have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

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

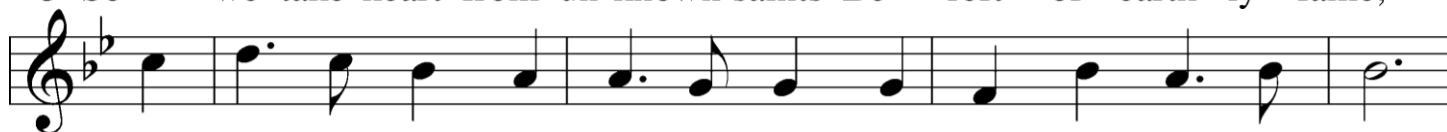
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day** ..... *“We Sing for All the Unsung Saints” #678*



1 We sing for all the un-sung saints, That count-less, name-less throng,  
 2 Though un-in-scribed with date or place, With ti-tle, rank, or name,  
 3 So we take heart from un-known saints Be-reft of earth-ly fame,



Who kept the faith and passed it on With hope stead-fast and strong  
 As liv-ing stones their sto-ries join To form a hal-lowed frame  
 Those faith-ful ones who have re-ceived A more en-dur-ing name:



Through all the dai-ly griefs and joys No chron-i-cles re-cord,  
 A-round the mys-t'ry in their midst: The Lamb once sac-ri-ficed,  
 For they re-veal true bless-ing comes When we our pride ef-face



For-get-ful of their lack of fame, But mind-ful of their Lord.  
 The Love that wrest-ed life from death, The wound-ed, ris-en Christ.  
 And of-fer back our lives to be The ves-sels of God's grace.

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**Sermon** ..... *“Together as One”*

*Stand*

**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

*Worshippers 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)*

## Offertory .....pages 159-160



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-

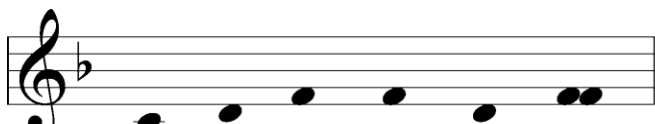
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the

courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Communion Liturgy .....page 160



**P** The Lord be with you.



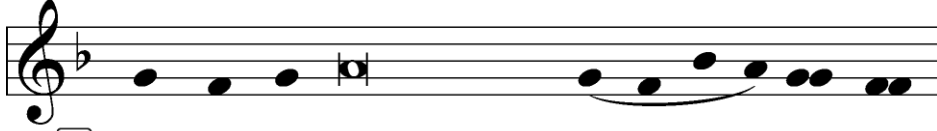
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



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



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

**Sanctus**.....*page 161*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**P** Blessed are You . . . one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

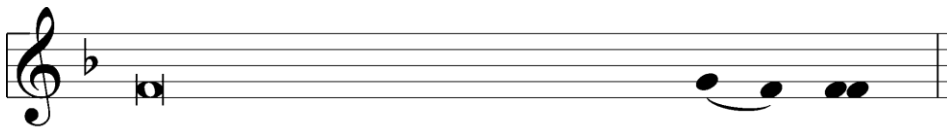
**Prayer of Thanksgiving**.....*page 161*

**The Words of Our Lord**.....*page 162*

**Proclamation of Christ**.....*page 162*

**Lord's Prayer**.....*page 162-163*

**Pax Domini**.....*page 163*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

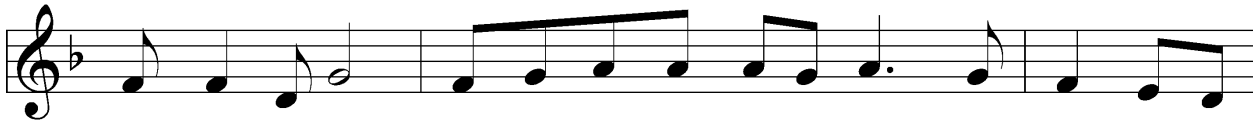


**G** A - men.

**Agnus Dei**.....page 163



**G** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Communion Distribution**

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

**Instrumental Music** ..... Schmillerburchs

**Communion Hymn** ..... "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face" #631



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,  
3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;  
4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;  
Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;  
This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;  
An - oth - er arm but Thine to lean up - on.



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,  
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,  
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long  
 It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.  
 Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.  
 The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.  
 My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the  
 righteousness;  
 Mine is the guilt, but Thine the  
 cleansing blood;  
 Here is my robe, my refuge, and  
 my peace:  
 Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O  
 Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels  
 disappear;  
 The feast, though not the love, is  
 past and gone;  
 The bread and wine remove, but  
 Thou art here;  
 Nearer than ever; still my shield  
 and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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**Stand**

**Post Communion Canticle** ..... *"Thank the Lord" page 164*



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



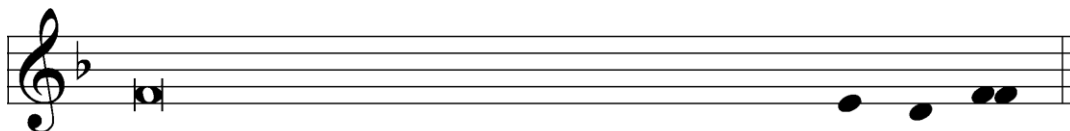
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

**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.

**Benediction.....** *page 166*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

**Sending Hymn.....** *"Lift Every Voice and Sing" #964*



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing Till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
Felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning skies,  
Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry feet  
Thou who hast by Thy might Led us in - to the light,





Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 Come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee;



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get Thee;



Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new day be - gun,  
 Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we stand at last  
 Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for - ev - er stand,



Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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

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

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

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**Next week’s readings:**

**OT: Genesis 11:1-9; Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21; Gospel: John 14:23-31**

**Attendance Last Saturday: 28**  
**Total Offering: \$6,249.69**  
**Home Use: \$3,450.69**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 65**  
**Missions: \$20.00**  
**Benevolences: \$2,779.00**

## Serving us today:

Elders..... Jack Easterwood (Sat), Willie Crespo & Alan Miller (Sun)  
Musicians ..... Lorraine Miller, Roy Schache, Rich Vanderburgh  
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		<i>Memorial Day-Office closed</i> <b>No Exercise Group</b>
Tuesday		<i>(Pastor's Holiday)</i>
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Outdoor Service— <i>Green Pastures</i>
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Lent-Pentecost Bible Study
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 <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.	Holy Communion
	5:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School ( <i>Meal starts at 5:00 p.m.</i> )

## Prayers

**For the Marion and the Droege family** on the death of Leona. May the Lord surround all who grieve her loss with comfort and peace and uphold them in thanksgiving for her life in 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), Melvin Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barbara Compton, Donna Cuellar (Betty Weinberg's daughter), Marion 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 [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

**Wednesday Outdoor Service**—We'll be having a simple devotional service (*Green Pastures*) outside under the cottonwood tree behind the van shelter for the **first Wednesday of June, July, and August from 7:00-7:30 p.m.** We'll focus on the next bit of the Lord's Prayer we didn't get to in Faith Night before summer. Join us on **June 1** as we reflect on *Your Will Be Done!* July will be *On Earth* and August will wrap things up with *As It Is In Heaven*.

### 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!

### 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 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.

### This & That

**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.

**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!

## Special Offering

**District Convention Offering**—Pastor Joel and Alan Miller will be attending the Missouri District Convention in Columbia Missouri on June 12-14. A district-wide offering will be taken at the Sunday evening service, and Council approved \$500 from our funds to be given to that offering. If you would like to add to this amount, please use a special mission district designation for the offering. Funds must be received **no later than June 5th** to process them for the convention. The District will designate the funds in partnership with Concordia Center for Families to train coaches who will work with Missouri congregations to equip parents, grandparents, and those raising children with tools to teach the faith at home. The second part of the mission support will go to minimize cost for a youth leadership summit for high school students—assisting young people into church leadership either in a volunteer capacity or as a professional church worker.

## 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)



## ***The Tree of Life* Vacation Bible School**



From **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**, Bethlehem Lutheran Church will hold a special Vacation Bible School for children in grades preschool (age 3+) through 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](http://blchurch.com)**

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***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 the church service.)

## 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

Tuesday: 8am-5pm

Thursday: 8am-5pm

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

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[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.