does not consist in the abundance of possessions

LUKE 12:15



AS WE GATHER

The three Readings today all tell of the contrasts between people who have faith in Christ and those who do not. The important message is that we recognize God's gracious blessings and so reflect them as we live. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15) and warns about one who is "not rich toward God" (v. 21). When in Ecclesiastes "the Preacher" sees vanity all around, he writes, "to the one who pleases Him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy" (Ecclesiastes 2:26). In the Epistle, Paul promises that we who, in our Baptism, "have been raised with Christ, . . . will appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:1a, 4b). We have been given not only physical life but also eternal life.

REGARDING COMMUNION

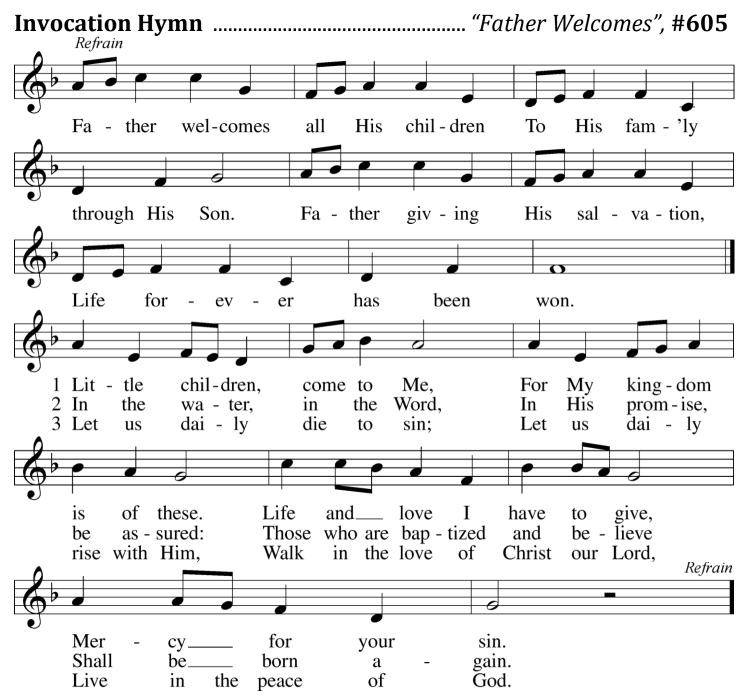
After his resurrection, the crucified but now-living Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas (who had his doubts that Jesus could really be alive again): 'Touch my pierced hands and feel my wounded side; stop doubting and believe.'

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:

Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prelude



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Rite of Holy Baptism for Anita Mary Katherine Murrell & Elias Albert Reagan Murrell

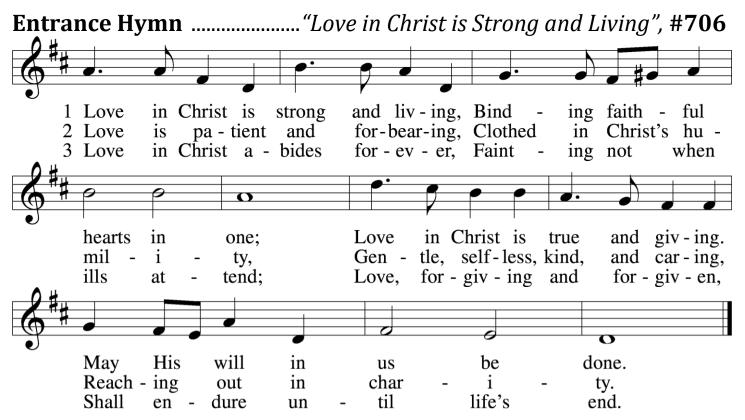
Divine Service, Setting Four Confession and Absolution

Invocation..

.....page 203

- In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **G** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered . . .God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God, . . .
- C Amen.

Service of the Word



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riches of Your grace; 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......Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-26

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity....

I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind....

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

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

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

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news, who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.

Their voice has gone out to all the earth,

and their words to the ends of the world. (Romans 10:15b, 18b)

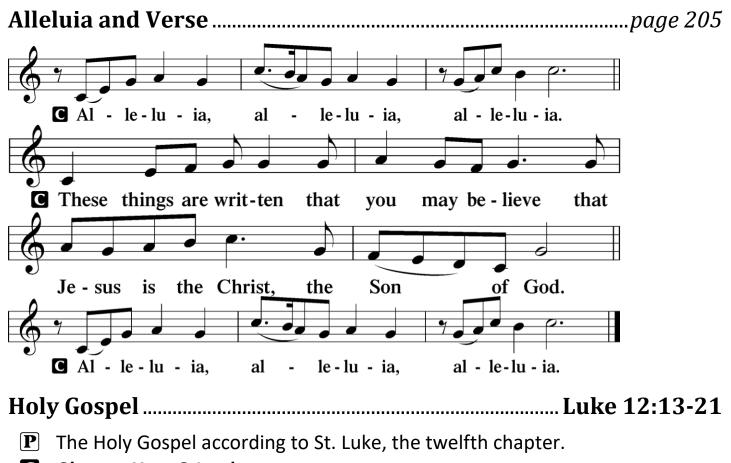
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Glory to You, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

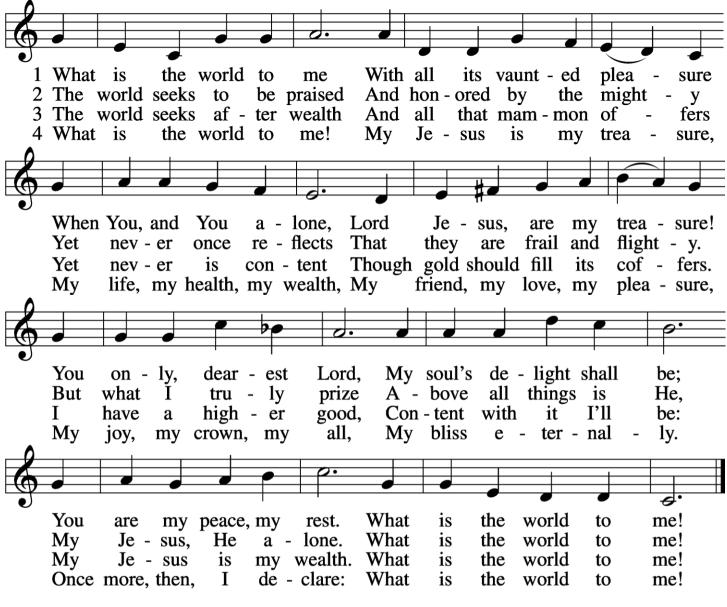
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

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..... "What Is the World to Me" #730



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Sit

Sermon"Seeking Life"

Stand

New Member Welcome of Lynda Creech by Transfer Prayer of the Church

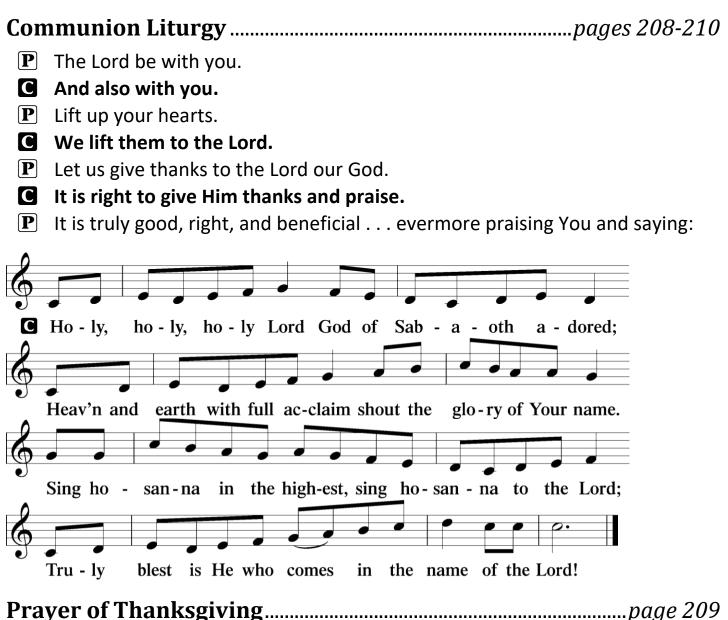
- **P** Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

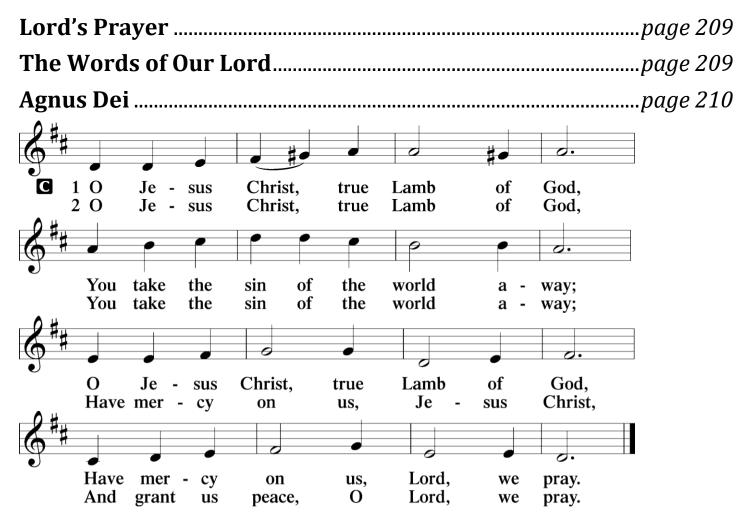
Offering

Offering plates are not passed for collection during the service. Worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west entrance. Reflect on how we are to offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the Lord and in service to others:

"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 & to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Service of the Sacrament



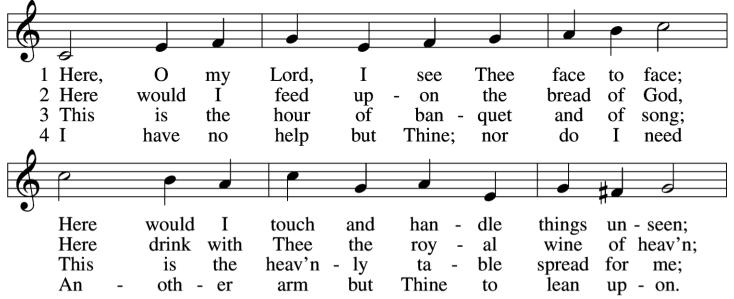


Communion Distribution

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

Instrumental Music

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



Ś	Here Here Here It	grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace would I lay a - side each earth - ly load, let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;	, ,
6	And Here The My	all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean. taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n. brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee. 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;

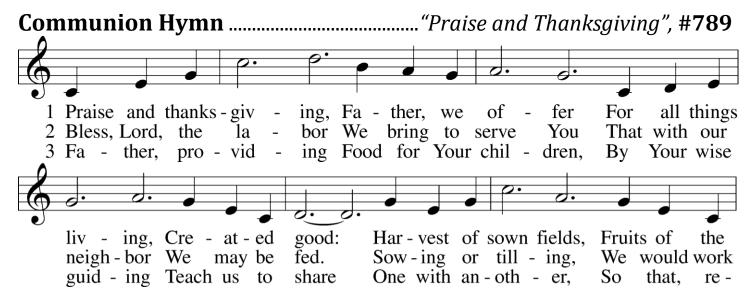
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;

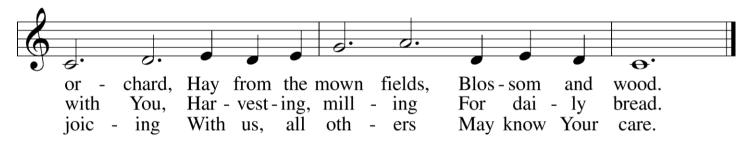
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;

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.

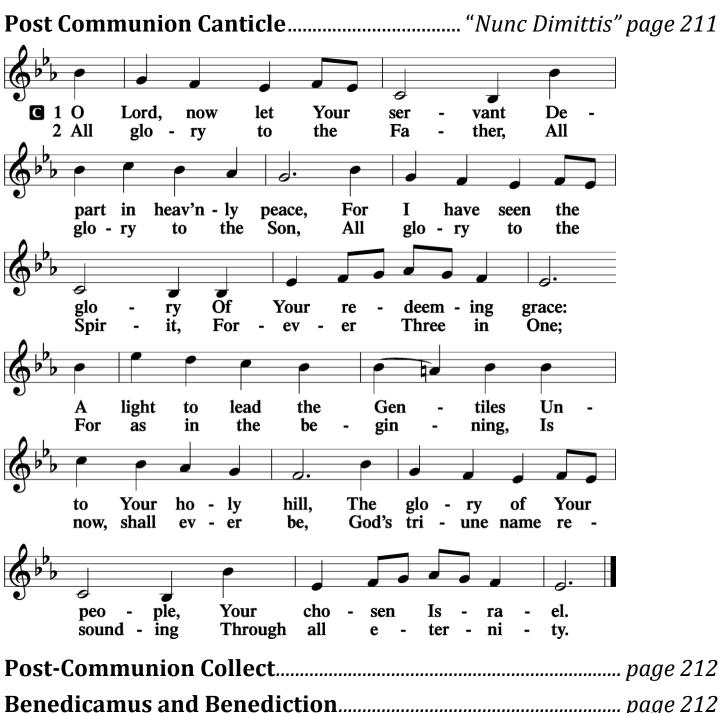
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Stand





C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude

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Next week's readings: OT: Genesis 15:1-6; Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-16; Gospel: Luke 12:22-40

Attendance Last Saturday:	14
Total Offering: \$23,671.33	
Home Use: \$20,955.00	

Serving us today:

Elders	Jack Easterwood (Sat), Alan Miller, Willie Crespo (Sun)
Musicians	Gary Moege (Saturday), Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege (Sunday)
Altar Committee	Cindy Schnell (Chair), Judy Schache, Samantha Schnell
	Lauren Schumaker, Stephanie Schumaker
Flower Committee .	Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase

This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class
	7:00 p.m.	Final Outdoor Service— <i>Green Pastures</i>
Thursday		Pastor Taking Vacation Day
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
Friday		Pastor Taking Vacation Day
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
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
		<u>www.blchurch.com</u> , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Rummage Sale Setup Begins

Prayers

For the Newly Baptized, especially Anita & Elias Murrell, as they are brought into the Trinity's fullness of life through the baptismal washing of water and Spirit this weekend. May Christ lead us all together in faith and joyful trust as his brothers and sisters in grace!

Of Rejoicing as Lynda Creech is welcomed as a member of the Bethlehem family by transfer from Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Garland, Texas!

For our outgoing Congregational Life Facilitator, Rebecca Stewart, as she has finished her time with us in this capacity and prepares to resume teaching school.

May the Lord bless and direct her in the use of her skills for the good of those children entrusted to her care!

For Seminarian Jonathan Sharp as he finishes his vicarage at Bethlehem (in Florida). We look forward to having him, his wife (Deaconess Bridgette), and son David here in two weeks as the guest preacher for our Campus Ministry Weekend!

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: Amanda Atkins (friend of the McComases), Pastor Ricky Bertels, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ben Burd (friend & coworker of Jeremey VanWey), Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barbara Compton, Donna Cuellar (Betty Weinberg's daughter), Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Lynn Lowe, Georgia Luker's brother, Deb Matson (Ellen Pederson's mother), Johnny Nichol, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, and Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Colleen & Jeremiah Murrell ... and may the Lord grant glad provision to all parents in the daily welcome of their children!

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 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

Last Wednesday Outdoor Service! We've been having a simple devotional service—*Green Pastures*—outside under the cottonwood tree, behind the van shelter—for each first Wednesday of these summer months from 7:00-7:30 p.m. We've been exploring the third petition of the Lord's Prayer, so join us this Wednesday, August 3rd, as we reflect together on *As It Is In Heaven*. (Faith Night— a simple meal and faith discussion held on the first Wednesday of each month from September through May—will be resuming and continuing our exploration of the Lord's Prayer.)

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>.

Campus Ministry Weekend will happen on the weekend of **August 13-14**. On Sunday, the Adult Bible Class and Sunday School will have a combined fellowship hour. During that fellowship will hold a light breakfast. Jonathan and his wife Bridgette will share some words about the campus center and their experiences.

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!

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

Sunday Bible Study is currently exploring the last section ("Bodily Life in God's Heavenly Creation") of the book *Death*, *Heaven*, *Resurrection*, *and the New Creation*. **Join us in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.**

Wednesday Bible Study has begun looking at the book of the prophet Zephaniah. Join us in the conference room from 10:30 to noon for this time of study, growth, and exploration together.

Opportunities to Help & Serve

The Warrensburg Food Center is in need of the following items: canned vegetables (no corn or green beans), 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, bath soap bars, laundry soap, bleach, dish soap, toilet paper and grocery bags. (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

Volleyball Court Appreciation—Many thanks to all who helped with the Action Team this weekend as well as in previous weeks to get it to this wonderful new point—especially Shawn Lindley, Don & Teresa Hillsman and their family, Tim at Mid-America Turf & Landscaping, the scouts, and all others! The court will be dedicated in memory of Bill Hillsman at the congregational picnic. Here's to good renewed activity playing in that space Bill made his Eagle Scout project over twenty years ago!

Rummage Sale—Drop off of items will begin on Monday, August 1st. Items can be placed in the Sunday School room downstairs. Do not bring big items until the week of the sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 12 from 10am-7pm and Saturday, August 13 from 8am-1pm. Further details about the sale and a work schedule will be coming in the near future. Please call Peggy Hoyer or Barb Chasar with any questions.

2022 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-D) 660-679-8121, <u>crespo6fam@gmail.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>

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 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 <u>financial@blchurch.com</u>

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.