

AS WE GATHER

Today's Epistle is from Hebrews 11, the "by faith" chapter. It lists heroes of faith, people who trusted in God's promises, assured of what they hoped for (the definition of faith). The Reading from Genesis singles out Abram believing God, for which God counted it to him as righteousness. Now we can look back, knowing that in one descendant of Abraham, Jesus, all God's promises were kept. His calming words in the Gospel give us the assurance we need to rely on God's care and concern when we don't have all we think we need. "Seek [God's] kingdom, and these things will be added to you," He promises (Luke 12:31). Our faith-filled response echoes today's Psalm: "Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You" (Psalm 33:22).

REGARDING COMMUNION When we gather at the Lord's Table, the cup of blessing we receive is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We who are many are one bread and body in Christ (I Cor. 10:16-17). As a people baptized into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to us in this holy meal to renew us individually and together in our life of faith and following him. 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.

PreludeGary Moege, Lorraine Miller



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Divine Service, Setting Two Confession and Absolution

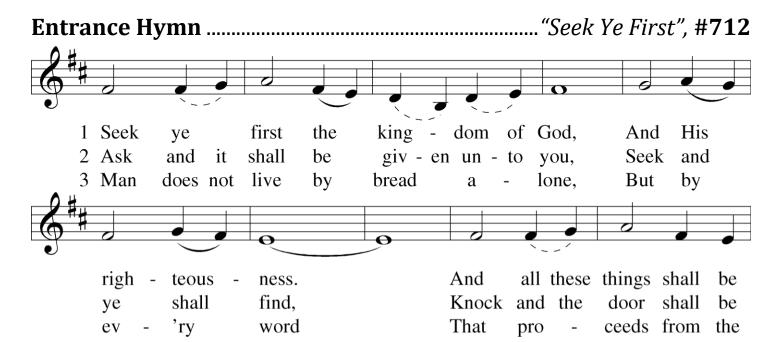
(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, but longer portions are sung.)

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

Confession and Absolution.....page 167

- 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.
- 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 in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

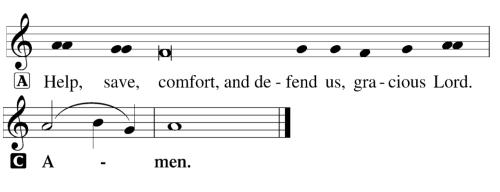




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.....pages 168-169



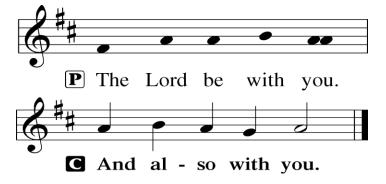


Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast" page 171





Salutation......page 172



Collect of the Day(spoken in unison)

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; 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 TestamentGenesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

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

Gradual (spoken in unison)

Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. (Psalm 24:9, 19)

Epistle...... Hebrews 11:1-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they

desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Versepage 173



Holy GospelLuke 12:22-40

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



[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

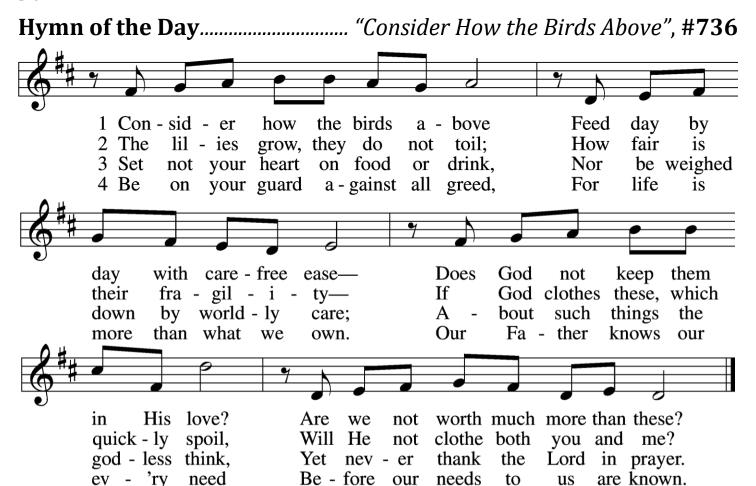
"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit



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

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

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Sermon "Da	rk Sky, Bright Ligh
Stand	
Nicene Creed	page 17
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 fro	om heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Ma	ary
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 Scr	iptures
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.....page 175

- P In peace, let us pray to the Lord,
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** . . . now and forever,
- C Amen.

Offering

Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west 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)





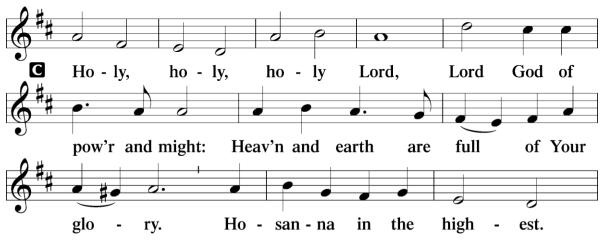
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

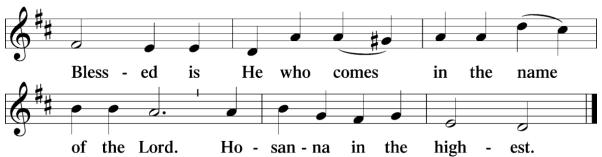
Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 177-180

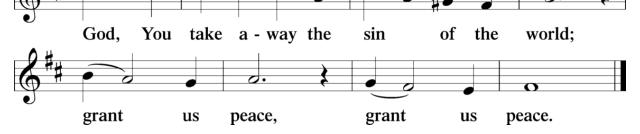


.....page 178 Sanctus.....





Lord's Prayer......*page 179* Lamb of God, You take a-way the of the world; sin Lamb of God, You take a-way the have mer-cy on us. sin of the world; have mer-cy Lamb of on us.



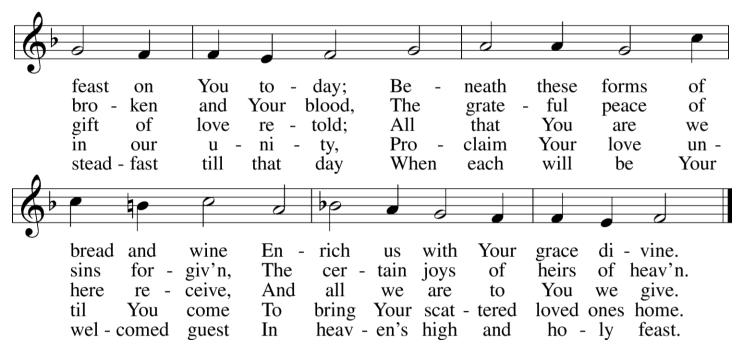
Sit (until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).

Instrumentals

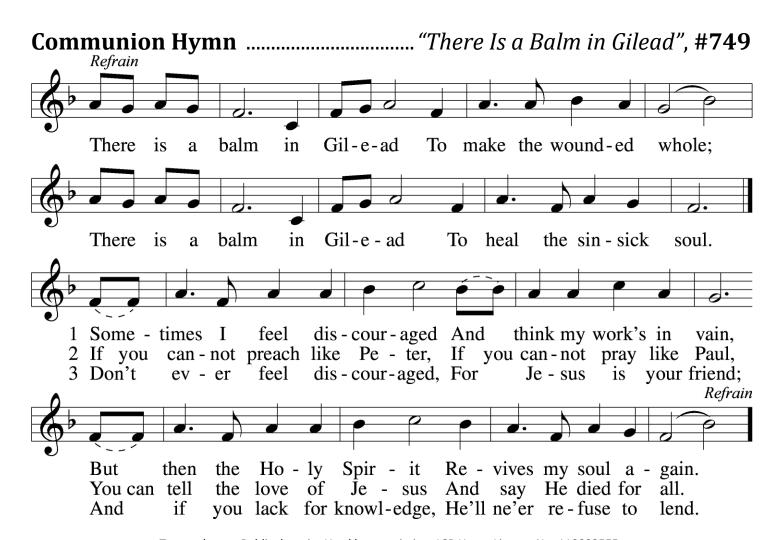
(Communion Hymns-Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray", #623



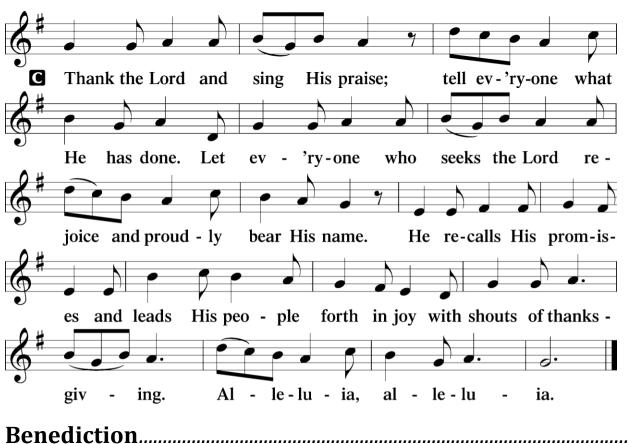


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Post Communion Canticle......page 181



Sending Hymn......*"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight",* #**720**



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Dismissal		(Bethlehem's Mission)	
P Grow in 0	Christ,	- -	
	ove and Share	e the Faith!	
Postlude		Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller	
rom the ESV® Bible (<i>Th</i>	he Holy Bible, English	Two from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are <i>Standard Version®</i>), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good hts reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.	
OT: Jeremiah	23:16-29; E _]	Next week's readings: p.: Hebrews 11:17-40, 12:1-3; Gospel: Luke 12:49-56	
Attendance: L Total Offering Home Use: \$1	g: \$1,227.00°	20 Attendance Last Sunday: 56 Missions: \$0.00 Benevolences: \$220.00	
Serving us tod	-		
		Willie Crespo (Sat), Alan Miller, Caleb Thomas (Sun) Gary Moege (Sat), Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege (Sun)	
		Cindy Schnell (Chair), Judy Schache, Samantha Schnell	
		Lauren Schumaker, Stephanie Schumaker	
Flower Commi	ttee	Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase	
This Week's So	chedule		
Sunday		Rummage Sale Setup (after church)	
Monday		Rummage Sale Setup (all week)	
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting	
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study	
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group	
Friday	10:00 a.m.	Rummage Sale Starts	
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Rummage Sale	
5:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	Worship-Campus Ministry Weekend	
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.	Joint Fellowship Sunday School & Bible Class	
		(Jonathan & Bridgette Sharp here; light breakfast)	
	10:30 a.m.	Worship-Campus Ministry Weekend	
	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service	

Altar Flowers

The beautiful flowers on the altar are in celebration of Larry and Karen Haase's 55th wedding anniversary on August 6. May God bless them for many more years to come!

Prayers

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 next weekend 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: 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, 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

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 block block and Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block and Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block are supported by the sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at block block are supported by the supp

Bethlehem's Campus Ministry Weekend will be observed next weekend—**August 13-14**. On Sunday morning—from **9:15 to 10:10**—the Adult Bible Class and Sunday School will have a combined Christian Education hour, during which Seminarian

Jonathan Sharp & his wife Deaconess Bridgette Sharp will engage Scripture with the hearers and share about their time at the Lutheran Student Center years ago and more recently at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis as they've learned and prepared for their service to the Church. A light breakfast will be served, and all are welcome to attend this special opportunity in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

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

The Annual Church Picnic will take place on Sunday, August 28, after service (12:30 p.m.). Meat will be provided by the Men's Club, and drinks and utensils will be provided by the Fellowship Board. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share with everyone. During this event we will honor Pastor Joel for 25 years in the

ministry and 15 years at Bethlehem. We will also have the dedication of the William J. Hillsman Volleyball Court with a game or two. Come join the fun! Other games will be provided as well.

Exercise Class will not meet the week of August 8-12 due to the Rummage Sale.

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

Rummage Sale—Big items and furniture can be brought this week. The sale will be held on Friday, August 12 from 10am-7pm and Saturday, August 13 from 8am-1pm. Please sign up by the mailboxes to work during the sale. Many thanks!

2022 Elders

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



HELP IS NEEDED THIS WEEK TO SET UP ITEMS FOR THE SALE. COME ANYTIME YOU CAN, STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN. SETUP OF RACKS, TABLES, ETC. WILL START SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH.

August 12: 10am-7pm August 13: 8am-1pm

1/2 Price Sale: Saturday 8am-11am

Sack Sale: Saturday 11am-1pm

Contact Information

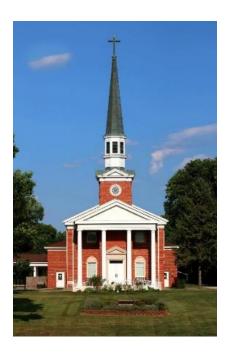
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

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

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Office Manager:

Cindy Smith
Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm
660-747-6742
officemanager@blchurch.com

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.