



AS WE GATHER

Christians do good works most of the time without even thinking about it. That's because faith is an active, living, real thing. God's Word for this day is all about how God-given faith shows itself in a Christian's life—in one's attitude, relationships, words, and deeds. Those without faith, like many of the Pharisees in today's Gospel, consider "good works" only as a way to influence or manipulate other people and even God. Such good works are never really good at all but are tainted with sin, selfishness, and pride. True faith, on the other hand, is not even our work alone at all, but the work of God the Holy Spirit who, through the Word of God and His Holy Sacraments, instills and inspires in the Christian the mind of Christ, the faithfulness and righteousness of Jesus. Such faith also endures the cross and all sufferings related to living in the world still disfigured by deadly sin. In faith God equips you with "everything good that you may do His will" (Hebrews 13:21). Offer up the sacrifice of praise to God in thanksgiving for His gift of redemption through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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:

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

Welcome

4 Son

of

God.

Gathering Hymn"Son of God, Eternal Savior", #842



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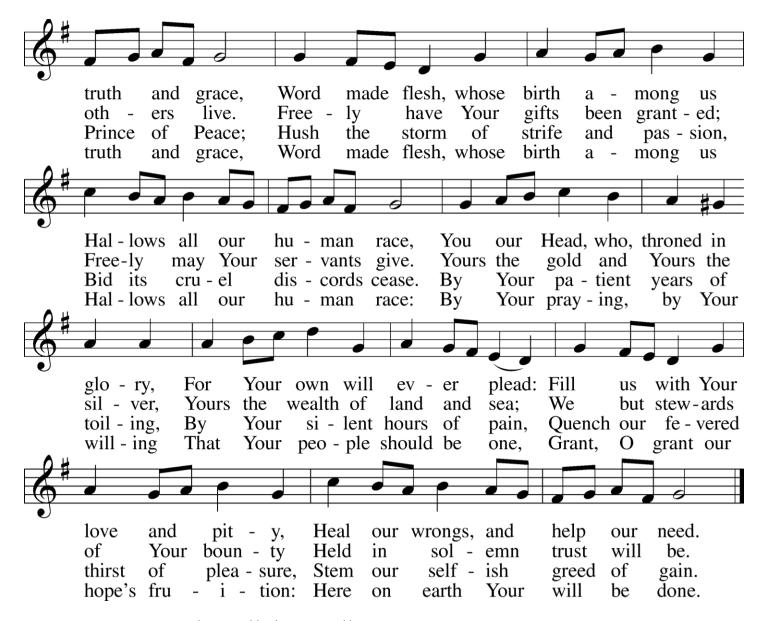
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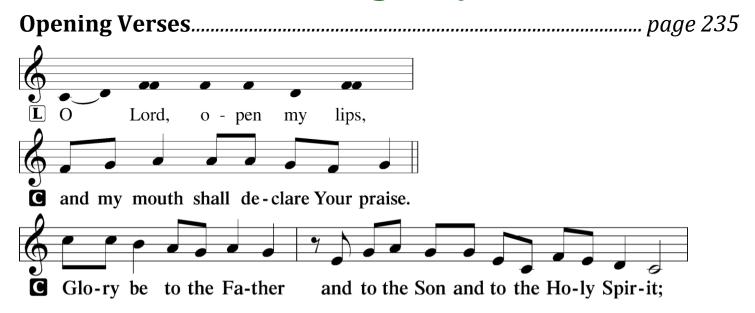
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Please rise.

Morning Prayer

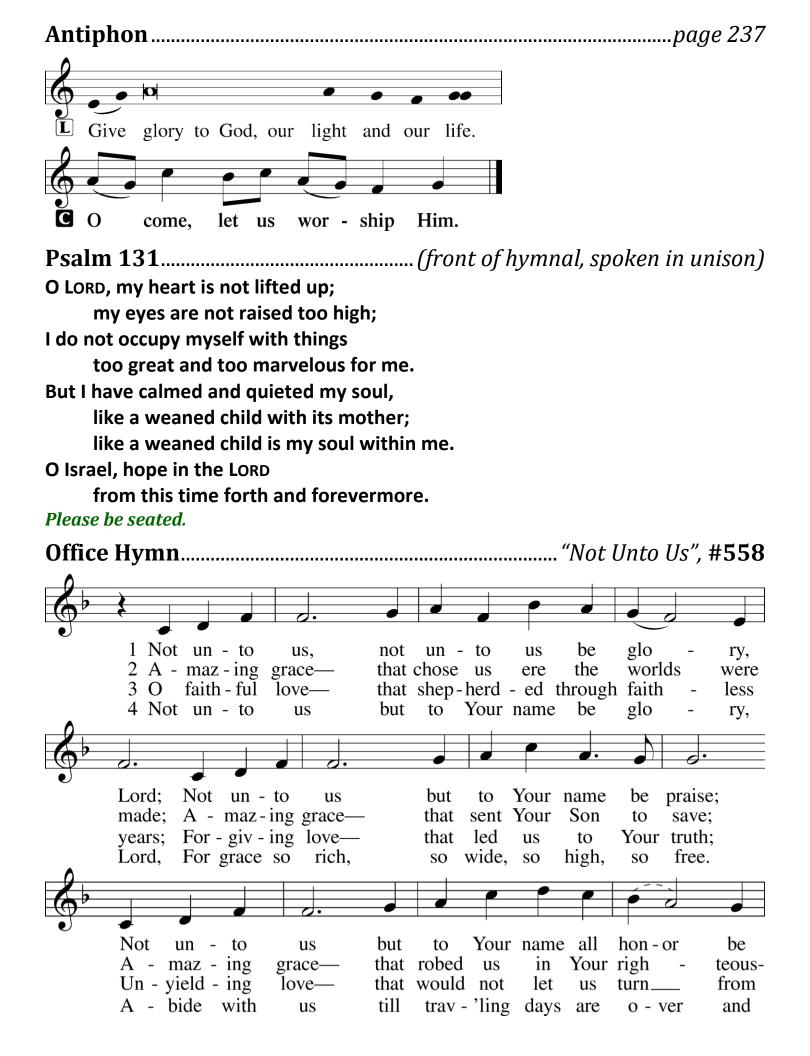


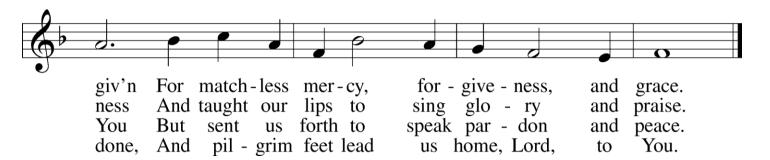


Psalmody









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Readings

Old Testament Reading.....Proverbs 25:2-10

It is the glory of God to conceal things,

but the glory of kings is to search things out.

As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,

so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

Take away the dross from the silver,

and the smith has material for a vessel;

take away the wicked from the presence of the king,

and his throne will be established in righteousness.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence

or stand in the place of the great,

for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"

than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

do not hastily bring into court,

for what will you do in the end,

when your neighbor puts you to shame?

Argue your case with your neighbor himself,

and do not reveal another's secret,

lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,

and your ill repute have no end.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Hebrews 13:1-17

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage

bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him 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.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Holy GospelLuke 14:1-14

One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" And they could not reply to these things.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a

wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

- P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of hold by the prophets.
- But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles' Creed

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.

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Rebecca Holland, Jack Easterwood, Rich Vanderburgh Bryon Freeman, Ellen Pederson and Penny Humphrey

Children's Message Sermon......"Surprising Faith" Please rise. Canticle Hymn..... "Voices Raised to You We Offer", #795 1 Voic - es raised to You of - fer; Tune them, God, for we to praise You; 2 All cre - a - tion ioins Earth and Your sky 3 Christ, the song of Touch - ing with Love in - car - nate, earth 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, Kin dle faith with -5 How praise Mea - sure the an - y we of - fer all can songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute works dis - play. Art and mu - sic. gifts You lend us, heav - en's grace. For Your liv - ing, suf-f'ring, dy - ing, in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus; our hearts and voic - esthanks we owe? Take hands and gifts through all For le-lu - ia! Your our days. **A1** We le-lu - ia! turn You to - day. re to Al For Your ris le-lu - ia! ing, hear our praise! **A1** Through our hands A1 le-lu - ia! Your love im - part. **Gifts** of love we can be - stow. A1 le-lu - ia! sing! Al - le - lu - ia! You Tri - une God, we to Al - le - lu - ia! God. Cre - a - tor. of life! source Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, Re - deem - er, Lord of life! Al - le - lu - ia! Help - er, of life! Spir - it, breath Al - le - lu - ia! Tri une God. to You we sing!

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)

Prayer

Collect of the Day(spoken in unison)

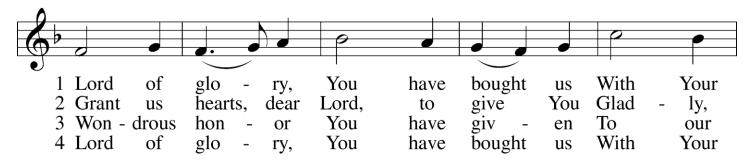
O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

- Defend us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Lord's Prayerpage 241Benedicamuspage 241Benedictionpage 242

Sending Hymn....."Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us", #851





C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Cody Clemons

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Next week's readings:

OT: Deuteronomy; Epistle: Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-35

Attendance Last Saturday: 32
Total Offering: \$2,170.24
Home Use: \$2,137.59

Attendance Last Sunday: 58
Missions: \$25.00
Benevolences: \$7.65

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers	Willie Crespo
Musicians	Cody Clemons
Altar Committee	Cindy Schnell (Chair), Judy Schache, Samantha Schnell
	Lauren Schumaker, Stephanie Schumaker
Flower Committee	Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase

This Week's Schedule

Today	12:30 p.m.	Annual Church Picnic
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
·	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Card Group
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

Congregational Meeting

Our Church Building's Roof—There will be a short congregational meeting immediately following the morning service on **Sunday, September 11**, to hear about and vote on the urgent need of replacing our building's roof.

Altar Flowers

The beautiful flowers on the altar are in celebration of **Ben and Cindy Smith's 15**th wedding anniversary on August 25 and Rev. Ricky and Janice Bertels' 35th wedding anniversary on August 29. May the Lord bless everyone with health and happiness for many more years to come!

Prayers

For Mary Ann Hein and her family on the death of her husband Ralph Hein. May the Lord surround them in the grief of their loss with comfort and peace, upholding them by the Holy Spirit in the love of 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: Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ben Burd (friend & coworker of Jeremey VanWey), Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Donna Cuellar (Betty Weinberg's daughter), Marion Droege, Nathan Frerking (Phil Frerking's brother), Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Marty Lehn, Lynn Lowe, Deb Matson (Ellen Pederson's mother), Shana Neumann, Johnny Nichol, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, Cathy Welsh & Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Colleen & Jeremiah Murrell. The Lord's good provision to all parents in the daily welcome and care 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 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.

Bethlehem's Fall Mission Festival will be observed on the weekend of **September 10 & 11. Saturday evening**—following the service—those who would like to join the guest speakers, Rudy & Dorothy Schaser, for dinner out are welcome to do so, but let Pr. Joel know in advance. **Sunday morning—from 9:15 to 10:10**—the Adult Bible Class and Sunday School will have a combined Christian Education hour in the Fellowship Hall, during which we will hear from the Schasers about the work of With God's Little Ones. *A light breakfast will be served! Please plan to come, and invite others.* (See the end of the bulletin for more information on With God's Little Ones).

Sunday School and Christian Education

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings, but there will be none next week, September 4—Summer Sunday School ends this weekend, and Labor Day weekend will be off. The new calendar year will kick off for both on Sunday, September 11 with the Fall Mission Festival combined Christian Education time mentioned above!

Sunday Bible Study is finishing 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.** as we wrap up on **September 4** and begin a new topic of discussion on **September 18.**

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

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.

Faith Night resumes in September! Join others in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, September 7 from 5:30-6:00 p.m.** for a simple meal (bring something simple you'd like to share) and conversation, followed by a discussion from **6:00 to 6:45.** Faith Night happens on the first Wednesday of every month, and we're continuing our discussion *The Lord's Prayer, Line by Line* by exploring the fourth petition ("Give us this day our daily bread").

UCM Students—The UCM Lutheran Student Center is located at **215 S. Holden Street** and is a place on campus for students to gather for fellowship. The Student Center has a meal and Bible study every **Thursday, starting at 5:00 p.m**. Their contact number is 660-747-7603 and Facebook @UCMLutherans. You are also invited to gather with us at Bethlehem for worship, Scripture study, faith discussion, and projects at any time. We welcome you to grow and serve alongside us here at Bethlehem!

Opportunities to Help & Serve

Migrant Farmworkers—The Mission Board will deliver supplies to the Migrant Farmworkers in Lexington MO on September 26. These families come to that area each year to harvest the delicious apples from the orchards. The Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund was established to work with these Farmworkers when they first arrive at the orchards in late summer. That includes assistance with medical and dental needs as well as completion of school enrollment for their children. The MSAF continues to work with them for their critical needs until they migrate elsewhere. Some of those critical needs are food and clothing. We, at

Bethlehem, have contributed to these needs for many years, as have other churches in the area, and we plan to do so again this year. We will have a container at the northeast entrance to the church to collect white rice (not instant) and dry pinto beans. Please consider helping, as you can, by placing your contributions there by noon on Monday, September 26. We will deliver them that afternoon. Thank you for your consideration.

The Warrensburg Food Center is in need! As you may have seen on the news or heard on the radio lately, Harvesters are struggling. Harvesters is the primary source of food for our local food pantry. In the past our local pantry received 11 pallets of are down to Harvesters and they are facing staffing issues, as are many businesses. Harvesters contacted the local food pantry last week and told them they would need to begin to source their food locally. Several groups in the community have committed to food drives, but the need is great as they are currently serving over 400 families monthly and the number grows every time they are open as new families sign up for assistance.

Anything you can donate, either in the form of food items or cash, will be put to very good use! Our pantry is supplemental, which means we only try to give food for a week and the families must fend for the rest of the month. **There is a list of needed items on the bulletin board in the north foyer, and there is a donation barrel as well.** You can leave cash donations at the church office or mail to the Food Center, P.O. Box 872, Warrensburg, MO 64093, or put it in Sue Cottrill's or Pastor's mailbox. Thank you for helping to lessen food insecurity in our county!

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.). The picnic will be outside as long as the weather cooperates, but you will be able to eat either inside or outside. 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. Bring chairs or blankets for more comfortable seating. 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. Plan on being here!

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

Get the Red Out—Bethlehem will be participating in "Get the Red Out" (a university street-fair before the first home football game) at UCM on **Thursday, September 8, from 4:00-6:30 p.m.** If you are interested in helping by handing out brochures and items, please let Pr. Joel know ASAP.

Show–Me Christian Youth Home (24302 Mahin Road, LaMonte, MO) will have an open house on **Saturday, September 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** There will be tours, free lunch, special programs, horse expo, kids' activities and performances. For more information you can go to their website at www.showmehelpingkids.com.

Country Kitchen Cards—We have a new batch of Country Kitchen Cards. Stop by the office if you would like to purchase one. They are \$10 and you get 10 buy-oneget-one free meal deals. All proceeds go to the youth group. Thanks for your support!

LSC Meal Support—Those who would like to help provide meals at the Lutheran Student Center can send a check directly to them or put it in your offering with a note in the memo line "LSC Meals." The suggested cost to cover a meal is \$35.

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!

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

MISSION FESTIVAL WEEKEND—SEPTEMBER 10-11 WITH GOD'S LITTLE ONES

For 18 years, our modest non-profit organization has worked to bring help and encouragement to people experiencing tough times. Sadly, the past year has been particularly painful. **Ukraine**. We're sharing resources with skilled, compassionate German and Polish partners, as they serve both those who have fled the war and those still struggling in Ukraine. (See our blog, And You Took Me In.). We've been doing our best to reach hungry, hurting villagers in **Madagascar**, already-impoverished people hit by COVID, malaria, and pneumonic plague, by cyclone and drought. In **Cambodia**, we've launched a concerted effort to reach and assist vulnerable older folks in Kratie Province. We're also helping pay poor folks' hospital bills, bringing food and toys to single mothers alone in the big city, and providing food to orphans in remote villages.

Rudy & Dorothy Schaser are WGLO's Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively. Dorothy grew up here at Bethlehem, and Pr. Joel grew up knowing her and Rudy as they served in the mission field of the Philippines with his parents.

Members of Bethlehem are invited to write personal notes to young students and their teachers in the hard-to-reach village of Kompong Kbeoung, on the Mekong in Sambo district, Cambodia. There are 70 students and three teachers divided into morning and afternoon groups. The school is hoping to use about 80% of the materials from the present building, plus purchase additional materials to construct a new facility. Notes can be written in advance and brought for the Mission Festival, or you can write them that weekend as well.

To learn more about the work of WGLO, go to their website: www.wglo.org.



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

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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.