



AS WE GATHER

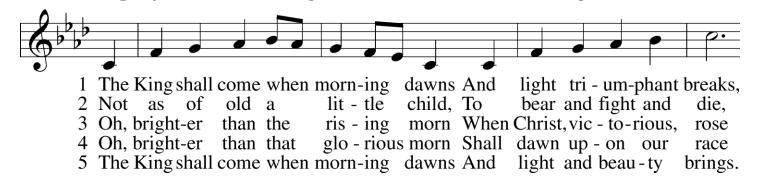
In today's Readings, we hear warnings about the coming day of the Lord. Such warnings can fill us with fear and questions. But we are also encouraged by God's faithfulness and steadfastness. He protects us from the assaults of Satan. He establishes us and keeps us. He directs our hearts toward love. "May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ" (2 Thessalonians 3:5). God grant us such hearts!

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.

Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit or in the Record of Fellowship books found on each pew. **Do you have basic questions about Bethlehem? Refer to the information sheet inside the Record of Fellowship books or ask. A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway and there is a nursery downstairs as well.**



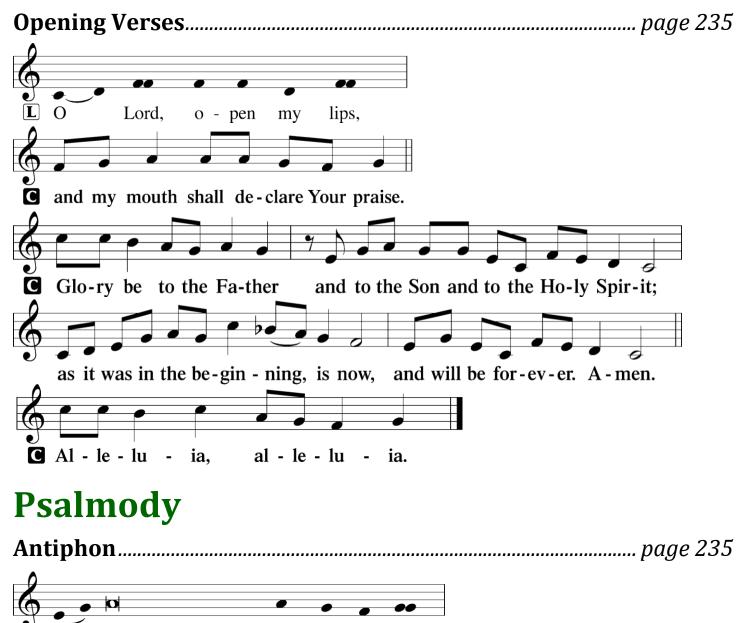


When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes. But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky. And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes. The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

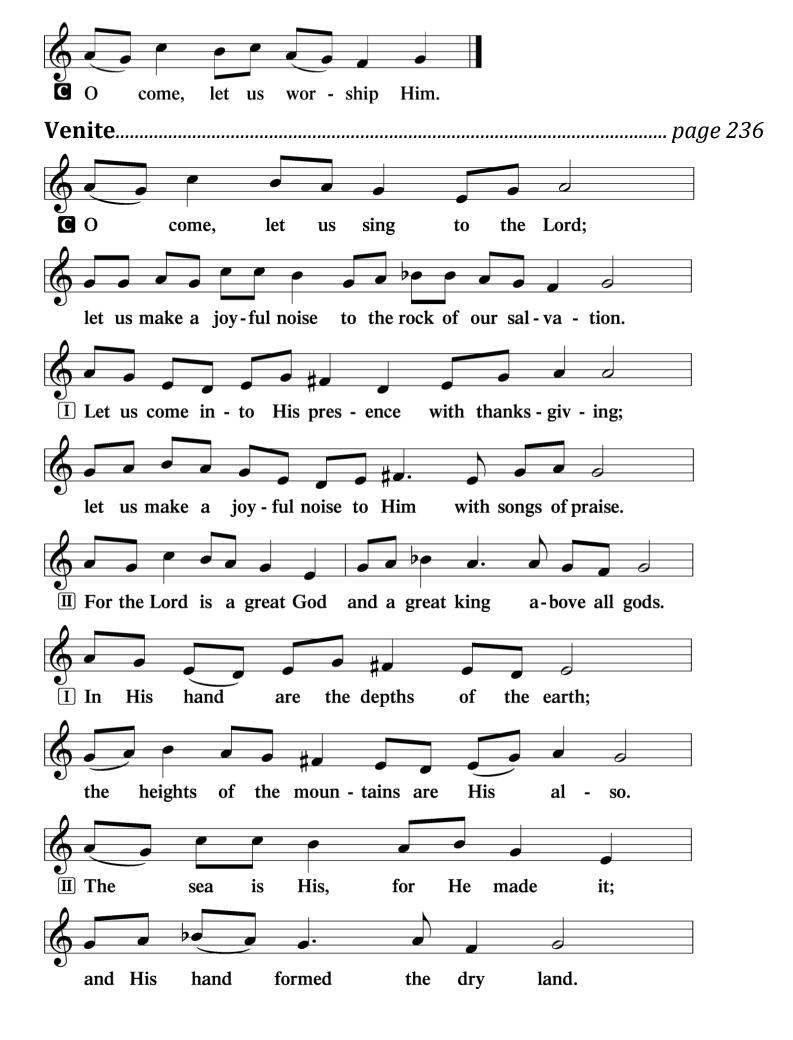
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Please rise.

Morning Prayer



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.







Readings

Old Testament Reading...... Malachi 4:1-6

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

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

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Holy GospelLuke 21:5-36

While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

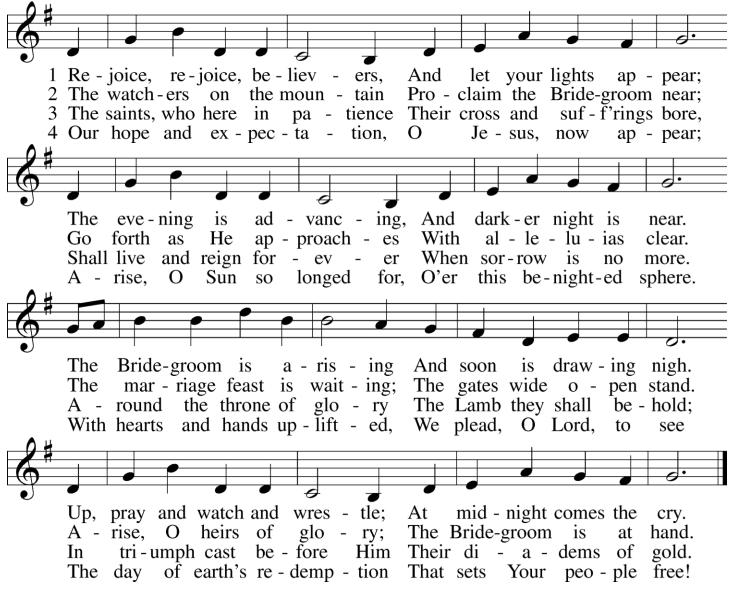
- P Oh Lord, have mercy on us.
- С

Thanks be to God.

In many and various ways, God Spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

G But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

G 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. Please be seated. Children's Song "Thank You Lord for Giving Us Life" **Children's Message**



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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)

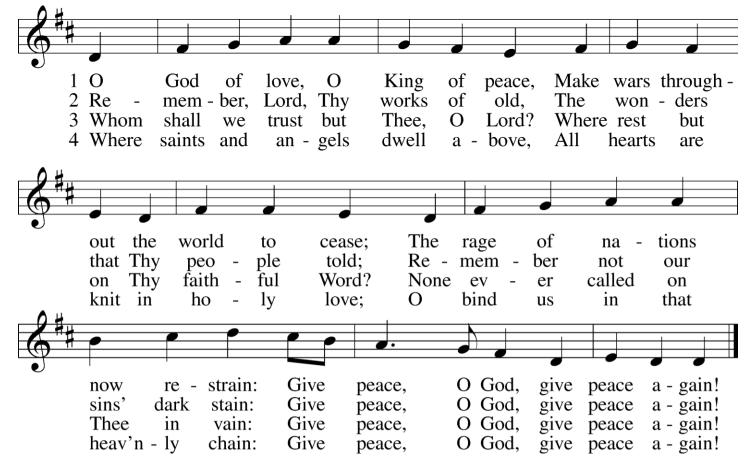
Prayer

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

- P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought 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.

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Benediction	page 242



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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

PostludeRich Vanderburgh

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Next week's readings: OT: Malachi 3:13-18; EP: Colossians 1:13-20; G: Luke 23:27-43

Attendance Last Saturday: 32	Attendance Last Sunday: 69
Total Offering: \$5,434.66	Missions: \$532.00
Home Use: \$3,600.00	Benevolences: \$1,302.66

Serving us today:

Elders	Caleb Thomas
Musicians	Rich Vanderburgh
Altar Committee	Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Mary Creswell, Lisa Gulick
	Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills
Flower Committee	Eunice Cobb (Chair), Penny Humphrey

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	12:00 p.m.	Lunch, followed by Annual Meeting
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday		Pastor's Vacation
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday		Pastor's Vacation
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
		NO BIBLE STUDY
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	11:30 p.m.	Ladies Thanksgiving Brunch
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Card Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Four Quarters on Christ
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at

www.blchurch.com, under the Sermons tab) 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Prayers

For the family and friends of Maxine Jaeger, on her death this past Monday. May Christ the Risen Lord fill them with all comfort and peace as they commend her to the Lord's eternal keeping! Her visitation will be here on Friday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 11:00.

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: Holli Burge, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Felisa & Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Betty Landers (Darlene Laubenstein's sister), Johnny Nichol, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Paige & Colin Hart as they get closer to December! 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, feel free to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at <u>blchurch.com</u>.

Thanksgiving Eve Service—Gather together with others in our sanctuary on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. to ground ourselves anew in a life of gratitude and grateful living. Please join us!

Midweek Advent Services will be held on the four Wednesdays leading up to Christmas Eve—**November 30, December 7, 14 and 21—at 7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. As in past years, we'll be using the beautiful and renewing Holden Evening Prayer. Our theme this year is *Keeping Time*. Plan on setting aside this time for a quiet and contemplative keeping of the short and often crowded-out season of Advent!

Sunday School and Christian Education

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. The children are regularly working on songs with the goal of singing in the Sunday service once per month. We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too!) to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ.

Children's Christmas Practice—All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in this year's children's presentation (*We Celebrate a Tree*) which will be held on **Sunday, December 18** during our normal worship service at 10:30 a.m. Practice rehearsals have started, during part of the Sunday School time. For further information, contact Ellen Pederson.

Sunday Bible Study—Continuing through the last Sunday of the Church Year (November 20), we're finishing a study that surveys hunger and harvest, wasting, feasting, and sharing in Scripture and in our lives. The last session will be *Party.* **Join us in the conference room at 9:15 a.m.** We'll start a new study on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27) that will be perfect for the start of the new Church Year's focus on who Christ truly is as he comes among us—an exploration of A. Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion.*

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

Please join us in the sanctuary on **Thursday, November 17** from **7 to 8 p.m.** for the fourth installment of *Four Quarters on Christ—The Influential Jesus. The discussion this will be on "The Eternal Jesus—How He Challenges Us Today. Even if you didn't make the first three sessions, make sure to come to this one. Bring a quarter, if you can, as well!*

Wednesday Bible Study will be on break until November 30, when we'll then begin working our way through the writings of the prophet Zechariah. Join us in the conference room from 10:30 to noon for this time of study, growth, and exploration together.

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!

Junior & Senior Youth

Jr./Sr. High Youth Group will be meeting on the 3rd Sunday (November 20th) at 3:00 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Woodchux in Warrensburg. Along with axe throwing, there is an area for other activities and games. We are allowed to bring in food and drinks. Closed toed shoes are required for throwing. Please contact Penny Humphrey if you would like to participate so we can make sure we have enough lanes reserved for our group and she will pass on liability/waver instructions at that time. Also, please let Penny know if you have any questions or would like a ride from/to the church.

Opportunities to Help & Serve

The Hanging of the Greens will take place on Monday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone from the congregation is invited and encouraged to come help adorn the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas!

Bethlehem will be participating in the **Annual Holiday Parade** on **Friday, December 2nd, starting at 6:00 p.m.** Everything has to be lit, even the walkers. If you would like to help with the float, walk or ride on the float please call the office at 747-6742 so we can get a group together to plan. It is only a little over a month away. **We need children, adults, and even animals can participate!**

Blanket the County with Love—Once again Thrivent will be collecting blankets during the month of November. These will be given to different agencies in the community, the homeless and others in need. If you would like to donate, please bring the blankets to either entrance of the church, and place them in the collection box. New or gently used blankets will be very much appreciated.

2022 Christmas Store. In December, our community will come together to host Christmas Store 2022. This will be the 49th year we have worked to give those who struggle with food insecurity a meal for the Christmas season. We will again rely on financial contributions rather than food donations. Our plan is to distribute vouchers to those in need to purchase food for a Christmas meal. This year we anticipate feeding over 400 families. To meet this need, we expect to spend approximately \$50,000. Donations can be made by the following: (1) Make a check out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and in the memo section write "Christmas Store" or (2) donate online at: foodcenterjoco.com and click Christmas Store.

Fellowship

Thanksgiving Brunch—All ladies are invited to a Thanksgiving Brunch on Thursday, November 17, starting at 11:30 p.m. Mary Ann Hein will be the hostess and will provide dessert. Danielle Thomas, Erica Tackett and Cindy Smith will be providing all of the food. Just bring yourself and a friend and enjoy some fellowship time with one another. Please call the office and let us know if you can make it.

Gratitude Walk—You are invited to take a leisurely and conversational Gratitude Walk on the Bethlehem Woods Nature Trail on **Saturday, November 19th from 3:00-3:30 p.m.** (weather depending). Meet up under the covered portico at Bethlehem Lutheran Church a bit before 3, then we'll head back to the trailhead at 3. There is some downhill and uphill terrain, along with some uneven surfaces, so decide beforehand if you're up for it or not. If so, we'll walk and talk about gratefulness.

Exercise Class happens 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. **Exercise will not meet during the week of Thanksgiving.**

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

The Quilting Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills are needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker. Quilting will not meet on November 22.

<u>This & That</u>

American Heritage Girls (americanheritagegirls.org) is a Christ-centered group program for girls (ages 5-18). AHG was founded by a group of parents wanting a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters in 1995. The AHG Program is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. AHG girls across the nation and the globe participate in badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement. AHG meets at Faith Lutheran Church in Knob Noster. For more information on dates and times contact Rebecca Holland (660) 441-1271.

Trail Life USA (www.TrailLifeUSA.com) is a Christ-centered outdoor adventure and character development program for boys (ages 5-18). Trail Life partners with churches to grow godly young men. Boys connect with friends, dads and mentors in a safe, encouraging, Christian Environment. Trail Life USA meets at Faith Lutheran Church in Knob Noster. For more information on dates and times contact Jeremy VanWey (660) 909-4765.

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

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, <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

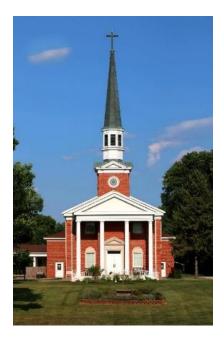
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

 \cdot Grow in Christ \cdot Live in Love \cdot Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm Otherwise by appointment Office: 660-747-6742 Cell Phone: 660-441-5710 Email: <u>pastor@blchurch.com</u>

Website: <u>www.blchurch.com</u> Facebook: <u>blcwarrensburg</u>

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.