



First Sunday in Advent November 27, 2022



AS WE GATHER

"For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:19–20). On the cross, Jesus died for the sins of the world. On the cross, Jesus comforted one of the criminals crucified with Him. On the cross, Jesus interceded even for those who crucified Him. On the cross, Jesus makes peace by His blood.

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:

Blue is the color of water and sky, thus hope, for the baptized who know Christ came down from heaven to earth and is coming again.

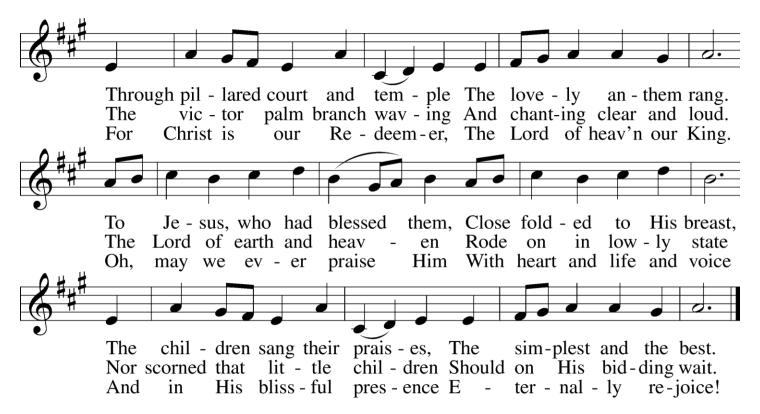
Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit or in the Record of Fellowship books found on each pew. Do you have basic questions 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.

PreludeJerrode Marsh

Gathering Hymn" "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna", #443



- 1 Ho san na, loud ho san na, The lit tle chil dren sang;
- 2 From Ol i vet they fol lowed Mid an ex ul tant crowd,
- 3 "Ho san na in the high est!" That an cient song we sing:



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Rite of Holy Baptism for Ezra Vera Paige Murrell

(All will be asked to rise for the speaking of the Apostles' Creed, then can be seated again.)

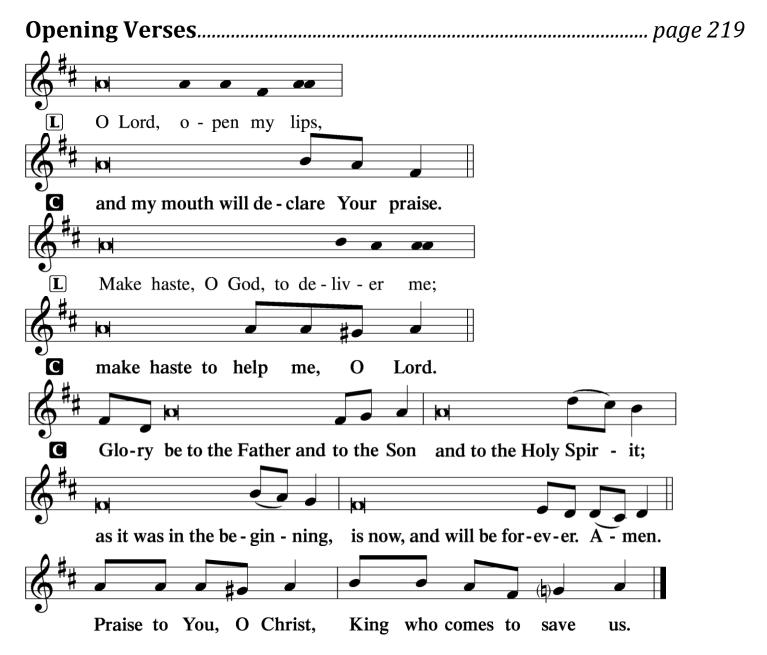
Apostles Creed......back cover of hymnal

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.

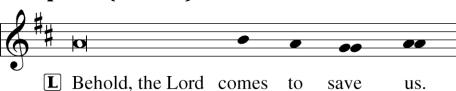
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Matins



Psalmody

Antiphon (Advent)





Venite..... *pages 220-221* to the Lord, 2 For the Lord is a great_ God 3 The sea is His, for He $\dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots$ made_ it, 5 Glory be to the Father and to Son the 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va tion. 2 and a great king a - bove all gods. 3 and His hand formed the dry_ land. Spir it; 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv ing, 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand; 3 O come, let us worship and down, our God, 5 as it was in the be gin ning, 1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise. 2 the strength of the hills is His_ SO. 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak er. 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep. of His hand. 5 is now, and will be for ev - er. A men. **Antiphon** (Advent) 00 **L** Behold, the Lord comes to save us.



Psalm 122.....(spoken responsively)

I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Our feet have been standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Jerusalem—built as a city

that is bound firmly together,

to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel,

to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

There thrones for judgment were set,

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

"May they be secure who love you!

Peace be within your walls

and security within your towers!"

For my brothers and companions' sake

I will say, "Peace be within you!"

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

Glory be to the father and to the Son

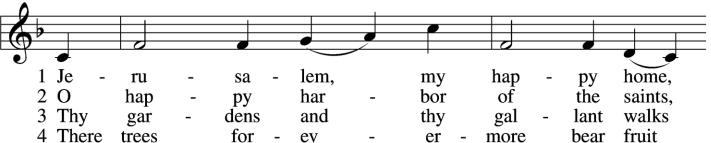
and to the Holy Spirit;

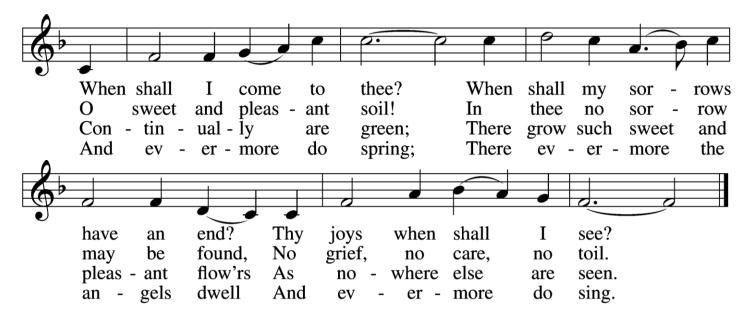
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen

Please be seated

Office Hymn....."Jerusalem My Happy Home", #673





5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there Around my Savior stand; And soon my friends in Christ below Will join the glorious band.

6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare For that bright home of love That I may see Thee and adore With all Thy saints above.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go the law,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

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

Epistle ReadingRomans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Please rise.

Holy Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

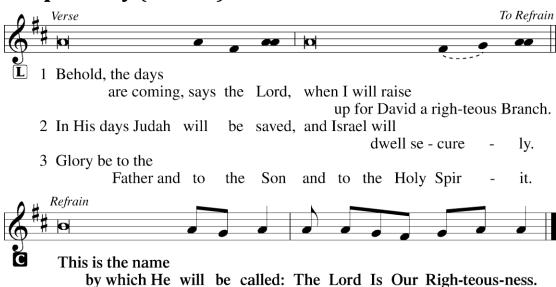
"Say to the daughter of Zion,

'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

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

Responsory (*Advent*)......page 222

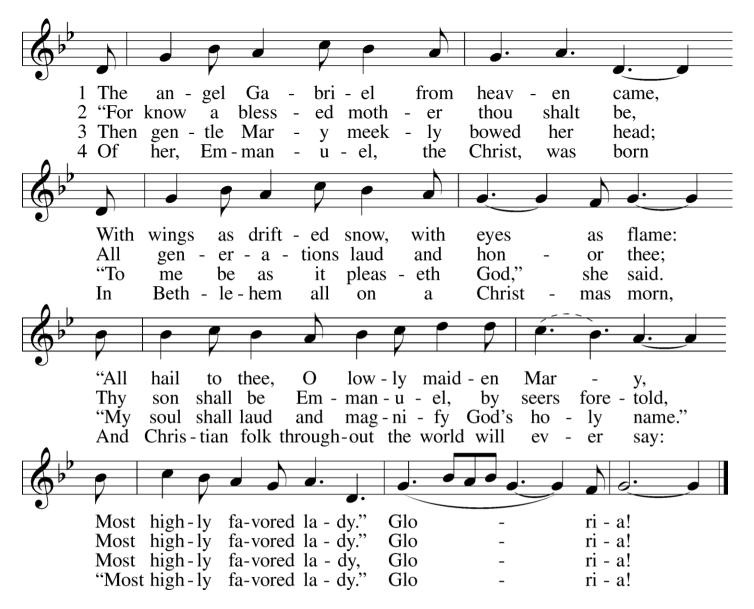


Please be seated.

Jesse Tree Symbol with the Children

Canticle

Canticle Hymn......" "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" #356



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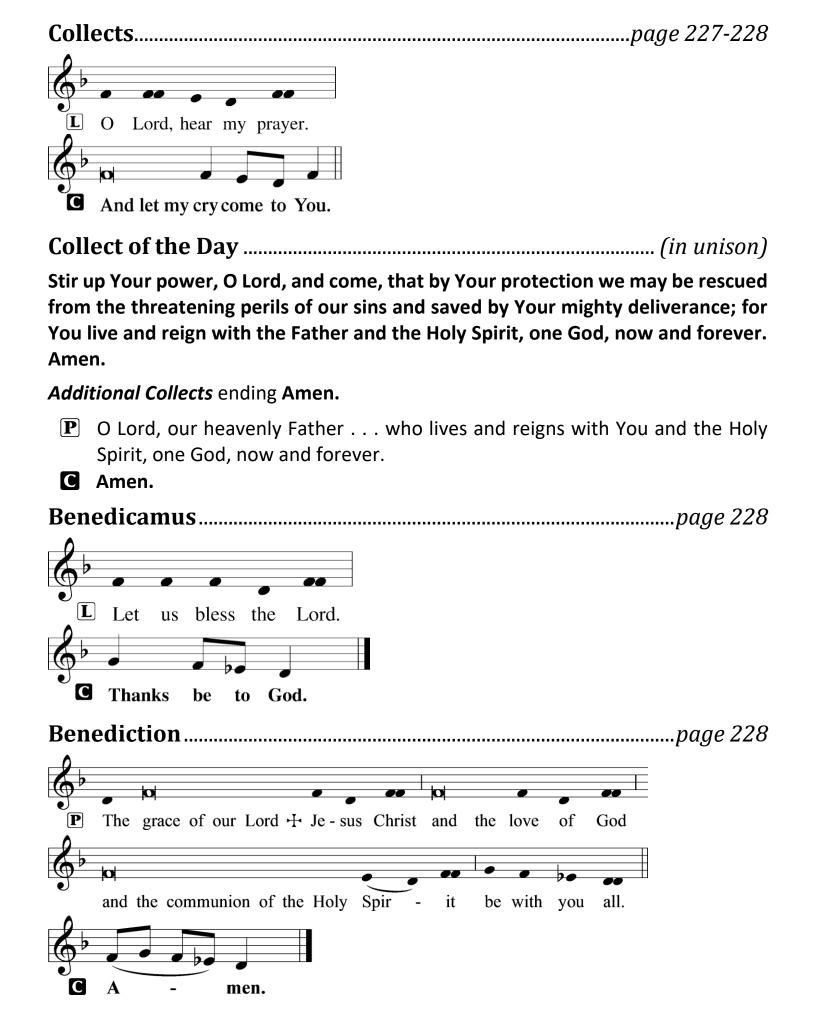
Offering

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

Lord's Prayer



we gath - er And wor - ship trust - ing - ly, Ad-vent hope 2 Our Ad-vent-hope ho - san - nas Ex - pec - tant - ly 3 With Ad-vent hope our prais-es Re-ech - o joy - ful - ly Ad-vent hope-filled peo-ple, We res - o - lute - ly As-sured that Christ is com-ing To set His peo-ple free. Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior Who comes from Par - a - dise. To greet our Lord's ar - riv - al In His hu - mil - i - tv. "A-men, O longed-for Sav-ior! Come, Lord, with us to Text: 2002 CPH. Tune: Public domain. Used by permission. LSB Hymn License No. 110003555 **Advent Calendar Invitation Dismissal** (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

PostludeJerrode Marsh

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Next week's readings:

OT: Isaiah 11:1-10; Epistle: Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Attendance Last Saturday: 31

Total Offering: \$2,773.96

Home Use: \$2,441.16

Attendance Last Sunday: 62

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$332.80

Serving us today:

Elders	Caleb Thomas
Musician	Jerrode Marsh
Altar Committee	Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Mary Creswell, Lisa Gulick
	Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills
Flower Committee	Funice Cobb (Chair), Penny Humphrey

This Week's Schedule

This Week 3 Schedule		
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	Hanging of the Greens
Tuesday		Pastor's Vacation
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday		Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Card Group
Friday		Exercise Class
	5:00 p.m.	Jesse Jenkins/Stacey Sellers wedding
	6:00 p.m.	Holiday Parade
	7:00 p.m.	4-H Get Together Here
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Baptism & 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.	Confirmation & Holy Communion

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this weekend are in celebration of Denniss and Pat Spanton's 65th wedding anniversary on November 29. The Lord continue to bless and fill their life together!

Prayers

Of Rejoicing on the Baptism today of Ezra Murrell (infant daughter of Colleen & Jeremiah) and on Saturday, December 3 of Jenna Jenkins (young daughter of Jesse & Stacy). Every goodness to them as they grow in the grace, mercy, and love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Also, the Lord's fullest blessing in faith and life to Jeremiah & Colleen Murrell and Tristen McLain as they prepare to be confirmed and received as communicant members here on Sunday, December 4. And much joy to Jesse & Stacy Jenkins who will have a small family wedding ceremony here on Friday, December 2.

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 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, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Joanne Humphrey (Scott's mom), Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Betty Landers (Darlene Laubenstein's sister), Johnny Nichol, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Cindy Smith, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

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 blchurch.com.

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! Our first service will focus on *A Time for Everything*.

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 (9:15-10:15 in the conference room)—We will start a new study on the first Sunday of Advent (Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion*). Many people identify as *Christian* but what does that really mean? Non-Christians can look at Christianity through layers of misinformation, and even Christians can get lost in a fog of opinions mixed with faith, confused about who they are and what they believe. Join us in this discussion and exploration of who Christ is and what believing in Him means.

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

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!

Opportunities to Help & Serve

Mary Martha Guild—Remember that our December meeting will be the observance of Hanging of the Greens on November 28 at 6:30pm! All Guild members (as well as all in the congregation) are urged to come and help decorate the sanctuary. Thanks! Darlene Laubenstein-President.

Kindness Closet-now that the weather is getting colder the Kindness Closet is in need of winter coats. These can be new or gently used.

Poinsettias—Due to unforeseen circumstances the High School was unable to provide us with Poinsettias. However, we will be purchasing them from other establishments. There will be a difference in the cost. If you would like to purchase a plant, please fill out the form at either entrance of the church building with a "donation" for the cost of a plant. **Please make checks to Mary Martha Guild.**

The Annual Holiday Parade will be on Friday, December 2nd, starting at 6:00 p.m., and Bethlehem will be participating once again. If you would like to help decorate the float, please contact the church office asap. Everything has to be lit, even walkers. We need children, adults, and even animals can participate!

Crazy Christmas Dinner—The Fellowship Board will be hosting a Crazy Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. This will be a mystery dinner. Prepare yourself for a unique dining experience full of extraordinary fun and fellowship. Wear your favorite Christmas outfit. Crazy prizes given. Adults only. RSVP by December 4 to the church office.

Thrivent will be preparing the Christmas sacks for the children after service on **December 11th**. These will be distributed on the 18th following the service.

2022 Christmas Store—The Christmas Store is in the 49th year of helping those who struggle with food insecurity a meal for the Christmas season. They rely on financial contributions rather than food donations. Vouchers will be distributed for families to purchase food for a Christmas meal. **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 <u>Donate</u> then Christmas Store.

Fellowship

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.

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.

This & That

The 3rd Annual Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt is less than 1 month away! Join us on Friday, December 9th from 4-8pm and Saturday, December 10th from 11am-7pm for this festive, family-friendly, outdoor event on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. Enjoy traditional German Christmas Market food like Brátwurst, Kartoffelpuffers (potato pancakes), Pommes Frites (french fries), Crepes, Mutzen (fried donuts), and more! Plus, traditional drinks including Kinderpunsch (kid's punch), Heiße Schokolade (hot chocolate), Kaffee (coffee), Glühwein (mulled wine), Bier (beer), and more! Shop amongst the vendors offering their handmade goods and wares, listen to the entertainment on the main stage,

take a carriage ride around campus, plus activities for children including a coloring contest, scavenger hunt, story time with the Christkind, and a visit from St. Nikolaus.

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, 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

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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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.