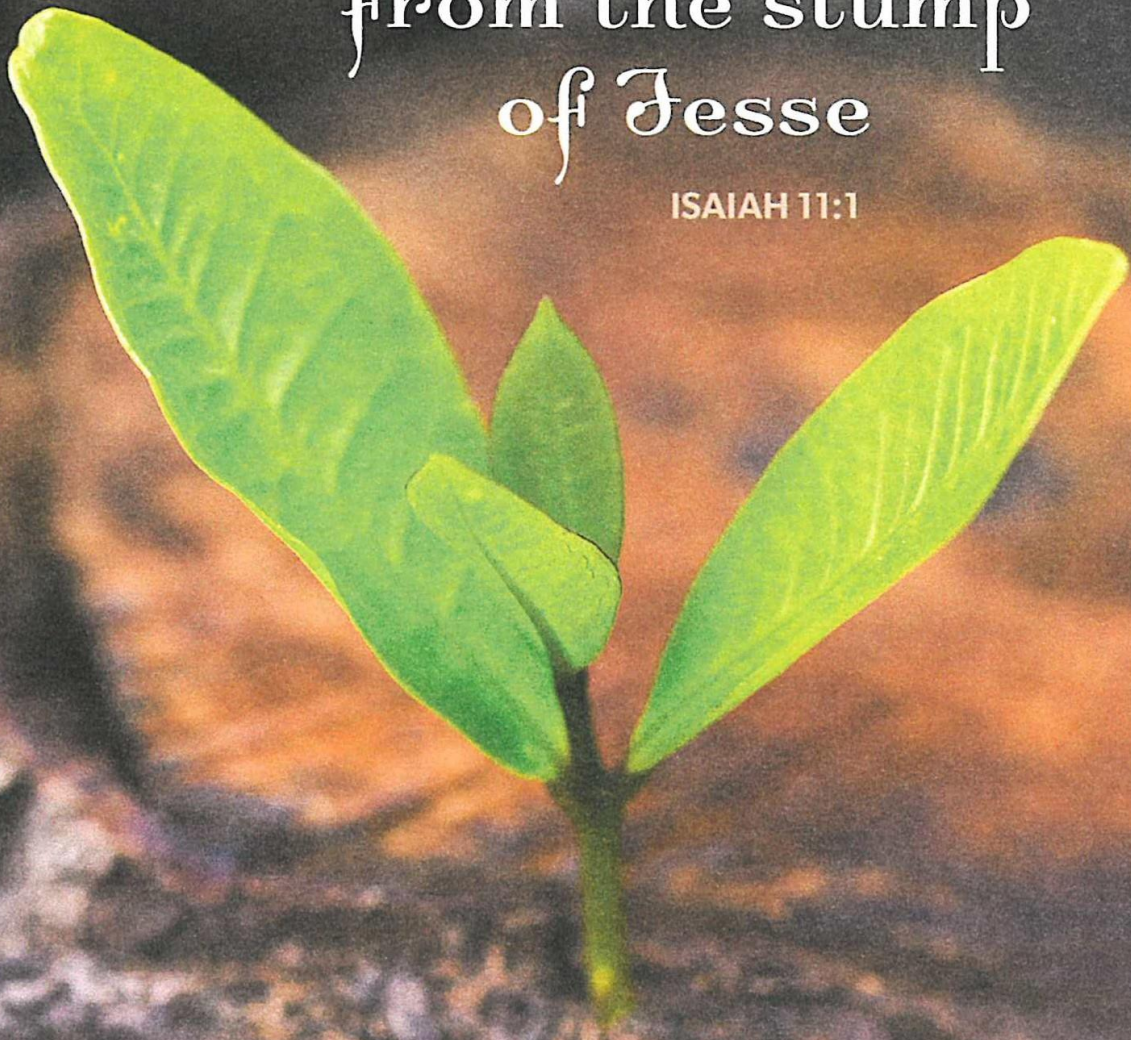


A shoot  
shall come out  
from the stump  
of Jesse

ISAIAH 11:1





# Second Sunday in Advent December 4, 2022



## AS WE GATHER

For many Christian people, reading the Word of our Lord from a “red letter” edition of the Bible is a special blessing. Seeing the words of Christ highlighted in a special color may make them more immediate and noticeable. The last sentence with red words in those Bible editions is Revelation 22:20, in which the Lord promises: “Surely I am coming soon.” John, the writer of Revelation, follows with these inspired words: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” Those words became part of the worship life for many in the Early Church as they expectantly awaited the return of the Lord to the earth and the completion of His promised eternal kingdom. In the season of Advent, we echo that ancient yearning cry: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

## REGARDING COMMUNION

*Advent calls our attention to Jesus—the Word made flesh who came among us, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)—who comes to us still in the bread of His Body and wine of His Blood in Holy Communion and will come again on the last day. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we celebrate and receive Christ’s Holy Supper for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us so that we might show forth his death and resurrection until He comes. **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.***

***If you are in need of a gluten free wafer for communion,  
please let Pastor or an Elder know.***

### **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. **A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there's a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders, or talk to the pastor.

**Prelude** .....Cody Clemons

**Invocation Hymn** ..... "When All the World Was Cursed" #346



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,  
 2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,  
 3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,  
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.  
 Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.  
 Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.  
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,  
 By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,  
 Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,  
 That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.  
 He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:  
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.  
 Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

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## ***Divine Service, Setting Four*** **Confession and Absolution**

*Please rise*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered . . .God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, . . . through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Entrance Hymn ..... "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt" #369



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;  
Sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:  
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

**Kyrie** .....page 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**Gloria In Excelsis**

Gloria In Excelsis is not sung during Advent but we look forward to singing it again for the celebration of Christ’s birth among us.

**Salutation**.....page 205

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day** ..... (*spoken in unison*)

**Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**The Jesse Tree Symbol**

**Old Testament Reading**.....**Isaiah 11:1-10**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of  
him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

**Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.**

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

**Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

**Epistle Reading** ..... **Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that  
through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might  
have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in  
such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you  
may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore  
welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's  
truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in  
order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”

And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise*

**Alleluia and Verse** .....page 205



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel** ..... **Matthew 3:1-12**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>1</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Nicene Creed** ..... page 206

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**



He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day ..... *“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied” #342*



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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## Sermon ..... *“A Shoot from the Old Stump & the Power of the Child”*

# Rite of Confirmation

Tristen Tyler McLain

*John 16:33*

Jeremiah Duncan Murrell

Colleen Elizabeth Murrell

*Psalm 46:10-11*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

*Please rise*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** With hope we pray:

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

# Service of the Sacrament

**Communion Liturgy** .....pages 208-210

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.*

**Instrumental**

**Communion Hymn** ..... "Come Down, O Love Divine", #501

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
 2 O let it free - ly burn, Till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,  
 And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;  
 O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,  
 And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
 True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,  
 No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

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## Communion Hymns..... "O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing", #635



1 O gra - cious Lord, I firm - ly am be - liev - ing  
 2 Lord, I have sinned, a thou - sand times of - fend - ing;  
 3 You see my sin yet seat me at Your ta - ble;  
 4 O Lamb of God, my faith - ful, lov - ing Sav - ior,  
 5 Heav - en - ly Bread, my life and ben - e - dic - tion,



Your bound - less love will bless each faith - ful soul,  
 My thank - less thoughts and words and deeds e - raise,  
 Lord, as a guest, I sure - ly am the least:  
 You I em - brace in faith and ho - ly love;  
 This cup You give can take a - way each ill.



As from this al - tar we are here re - ceiv - ing  
 To me Your hand of mer - cy now ex - tend - ing,  
 Un - clean, un - fit, of wor - thy deeds un - a - ble—  
 Grant me the strength to show by my be - hav - ior  
 Come and re - lieve my soul from all af - flic - tion;



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole,  
 O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace,  
 My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast,  
 A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove,  
 Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still,



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole.  
 O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace.  
 My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast.  
 A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove.  
 Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still.

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*Please rise*

**Post Communion Canticle.....** *“Nunc Dimittis” page 211*



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**Post-Communion Collect.....** *page 212*

**Benedicamus and Benediction.....** *page 212*

# Sending Hymn ..... "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
 way for God with - in, And let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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## Dismissal ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

## Postlude ..... Cody Clemons

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### Next week's readings:

**OT: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Epistle: Hebrews 3:1-6; Gospel: Luke 9:28-36**

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<b>Attendance Last Saturday: 15</b>	<b>Attendance Last Sunday: 65</b>
<b>Attendance Midweek: 34</b>	
<b>Total Offering: \$3,264.95</b>	<b>Non-Offering: \$38.95</b>
<b>Home Use: \$2,076.00</b>	<b>Benevolences: \$1,150.00</b>

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## Serving us today:

Elders ..... Alan Miller, Willie Crespo  
Musicians ..... Cody Clemons  
Altar Committee ..... Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Mary Creswell,  
Lisa Gulick, Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills  
Flower Committee ..... Eunice Cobb (Chair), Penny Humphrey

## This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
		<i>Cindy's Vacation Day</i>
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Faith Night/Discussion— <i>Finishing the Lord's Prayer</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	4:00 p.m.	<i>Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt (see attached schedule)</i>
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	<i>Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt (see attached schedule)</i>
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
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 <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service
	3:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	5:00 p.m.	Crazy Christmas Dinner

## Prayers

**Of Rejoicing** to Jesse & Stacy Jenkins (who had a small family wedding ceremony here last night), and every grace and mercy in Christ to them and their daughter Jenna Rae Jenkins (who is being baptized in this evening's service). Also, the Lord's fullest blessing in faith and life to Jeremiah & Colleen Murrell and Tristen McLain as

they are confirmed tomorrow; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless and direct your life of faith with us!

**For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers)**, especially Paige & Colin Hart as their December due date gets closer! The Lord's good provision to all who await the birth of a child (as we remember pregnant Mary this Advent).

**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, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Johnny Nichol, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, 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](http://blchurch.com).

**Midweek Advent Services** are being held for the remaining Advent Wednesdays—**December 7, 14 and 21—at 7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. As in past years, we're 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! This week's theme is "A Long Time Coming!"

### **Sunday School and Christian Education**

**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 (9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room)**—From Advent through Epiphany, we're working through some of Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion*). Join us for this discussion and exploration of who Christ is and what believing and living in Him really means.

### **Faith Discussion and Bible Study**

**Faith Night**—Join others in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, December 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 will be finishing our study on *The Lord's Prayer, Line by Line* by exploring the "Deliver us from evil").

**Wednesday Bible Study**—We are just starting to read and discuss our way through the writings of the prophet Zechariah. **Join us in the conference room from 10:30 a.m. to noon** for this biblical journey 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**

**Coat Need**—With the cold weather onset, our supply of winter coats to give to those in need who come to our door has been nearly depleted! If you have any gently used or new adult coats for our Kindness Closet (the wooden cabinet in the north entryway), simply give them to Pr. Joel. Many thanks!

**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.**

**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.

**National Children's Memorial Day**—You are invited to attend Johnson County's annual celebration in remembrance of those children and adults who have died before their time. It will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Nancy Andersson Park/Children's Memorial Gardens (Colbern and N. Main Streets). The ceremony is open to all families and friend of families who have lost a child at any age from any cause.

**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](http://foodcenterjoco.com) and click Donate then Christmas Store.

**BLANKET THE COUNTY WITH LOVE**—Thank you from Thrivent to everyone who donated blankets for the November blanket drive. There were about 25-30 blankets PLUS eight quilts from Bethlehem's Quilting Ladies! Some blankets went to the Kindness Closet, some to shelters, and some to the Clothes Closet. The quilts all went to Survival House. There was much appreciation from each agency for you remembering them! Thank you!

### **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

**Offering Envelopes**—New offering envelopes for 2023 will be distributed before Christmas. If you currently have offering envelopes and don't want them, please let Teresa Hillsman know by December 13<sup>th</sup>. If you don't have offering envelopes and want some, please let Teresa Hillsman know by December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please do not use 2022 envelopes after December 31, 2022. You may not have the same envelope number next year. Thank you.

**The 3rd Annual Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt** will be held on **Friday, December 9th from 4-8pm and Saturday, December 10th from 11am-7pm**. Join us for this festive, family-friendly, outdoor event on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO.

The Singing Saints Concert Choir and the Saint Paul Orchestra of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO will be performing their annual **Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia. Admission is free but a free-will offering will be taken to support the choir. If you cannot attend, the event will be live-streamed through the church at [stpaulsconcordia.org](http://stpaulsconcordia.org).

**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](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Alan Miller** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.com)

**Caleb Thomas** (last name begins S-Z) 660-441-2010, [calebthomas50@gmail.com](mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com)

# Crazy Christmas Dinner

**Wear your favorite Christmas Outfit.  
Crazy Prizes and Giveaways!**



**Sunday, December 11-5:00 p.m.  
Adults Only  
RSVP by December 4**



## 2022 Market Schedule of Events and Entertainment

### **Fri, 9 Dec Event**

- 4:00 Market opens (Campus)
- 6:00 **Opening Processional and Ceremony (Krueger Hall entrance and market stage)**
  - Concordia Christkind Welcome and Prologue
  - Welcome by City mayor and Saint Paul Headmaster
- 6:30 CHS Mixed Ensemble (Stage)
- 7:00 Rankin Family Singers (Stage)
- 8:00 Market closes

### **Sat, 10 Dec Event**

- 11:00 Market opens (Campus)
  - Concordia Christkind at market
  - Scavenger Hunt passport books available (INFO booth)
  - Coloring Contest drop-off (INFO booth)
- 11:30 Gibbs Brass Trio (Stage)
- 12:00 Storytime with Concordia Christkind (Story center)
- 12:30 SPLS Band (Stage)
- 2:00 Storytime with Concordia Christkind (Story center)
  - World Carolers (Stage)
- 2:30 Community Brass Choir (Stage)
- 3:00 Coloring Contest entrance deadline (INFO booth)
- 4:00 SHAPES Dance Studio (Stage)
- 4:30 Storytime with Concordia Christkind (Story center)
  - Rankin Pianists (Stage)
- 5:00 Saint Paul Alumni Choir (Stage)
- 5:30 Announcement of the Coloring Contest winners (Stage)
  - Chamber of Commerce Drawing (Stage)
  - St. Nikolaus arrives (Children's Center)
- 6:00 Singing Saints (Stage)
- 6:30 Scavenger Hunt Passport books due (INFO booth)
- 7:00 St. Nikolaus leaves market
  - Market closes/Vendor Breakdown

### **Sun, 11 Dec Event**

- 9:00 Vendor breakdown
- 3:00 Closing Concert and Ceremony at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (401 S. Main St.)
  - Scavenger Hunt Drawing at concert

## 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](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

Website: [www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com)      Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

[officemanager@blchurch.com](mailto:officemanager@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto: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.