

A vibrant stained glass artwork depicting the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. Mary is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue mantle over a red gown, with a serene expression. The Christ Child is seated in her arms, wearing a red tunic and a blue cloak. The background is filled with various colored glass pieces in shades of blue, red, and gold, creating a rich, textured effect. The title 'THE CHILD WAS CALLED JESUS' is overlaid in large, white, serif capital letters.

THE CHILD WAS CALLED JESUS

LUKE 2:21



+ First Sunday After Christmas + **New Year's Eve/New Year's Day** **December 31, 2022/January 1, 2023**

AS WE GATHER

A new year begins! Yet, often so little changes. For most, a new year means little difference regarding life, vocation, house, and home. Outside of annually changing one number on our calendar, much of life remains the same, including the daily battles we face against Satan, sin, and our own flesh. With that, we rejoice today not just in the year's changing, but a daily changing we recognize every day as we live in this world through the blameless One born for us. Christ was under and has fulfilled God's Law perfectly for us, even as an infant child brought to the temple for circumcision under Mosaic Law. It would mark both the promise of redemption and the burden of the Law—and with Jesus marking the sacrifice that would set us free. Try as we might with new year's resolutions to become better people, we still find ourselves falling short of God's moral law that remains today. Rejoice in the newness that has come! More than a new year, we are given a new life, for Christ has fulfilled all and set us free! As we are marked in Baptism and bear Christ's name, we become inheritors of His promise. It is a newness to celebrate each day of every year!

REGARDING COMMUNION

Jesus was born in a town called "house of bread" (Bethlehem) and laid in a feeding trough (a manger) where the livestock normally found their grain. Little surprise then that Jesus spoke of himself as "the bread who came down from heaven" (John 6:41) and as "a grain of wheat falling into the earth" (John 12:24)! Christmas is the celebration of the Eternal Son Jesus, God of God and Light of Light, taking on flesh and dwelling among us so that we behold in him the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Our word "Christmas" simply means *Christ's Mass* and reminds us that Jesus is still present among us in body and blood through the sacred gifts of bread and wine. In this vein, Luther once said: "Word and Sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes into which it has pleased Christ to lay himself." May we come to Christ's manger (the Altar) humbled in repentance for all that is wrong in our lives so that we may receive his gracious meal for forgiveness and renewal. ***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:

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church such as Christmas Eve

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 Lorraine Miller, Rich Vanderburgh
Invocation Hymn “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” (v. 1-2)

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus’ birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.

O Sing a song of Nazareth, Of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers’ breath, And of the sinless Boy.
For now the flow’rs of Nazareth in ev’ry heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of His dear name On all the winds that blow.

Divine Service, Setting Four

Confession and Absolution

Please rise

Invocation and Confession & Absolutionpage 203

- 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“A Great and Mighty Wonder”, #383 (v. 1-3)



- 1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Kyrie.....page 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis.....page 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

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)

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide

among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading.....Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn.....“The Ancient Law Departs”, #898



1 The an - cient Law de - parts, And all its fears re - move,
2 The Light of Light di - vine, True bright - ness un - de - filed,
3 His in - fant bod - y now Be - gins the cross to feel;
4 To - day the name is Thine At which we bend the knee.
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, For Thy re - deem - ing love,



For Je - sus makes with faith - ful hearts A cov - e - nant of love.
He bears for us the pain of sin, A ho - ly, spot-less child.
Those pre-cious drops of blood that flow For death the vic-tim seal.
They call Thee Je - sus, child di-vine; Our Je - sus deign to be.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one In glo-rious might a - bove.

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Epistle ReadingGalatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is

neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise

Alleluia and Versepage 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 Luke 2:21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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.

Please be seated


Hymn of the Day "O Sing of Christ", #362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,

The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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Sermon..... “Living the Name”

Please rise

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

Offering & Offertory

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 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.

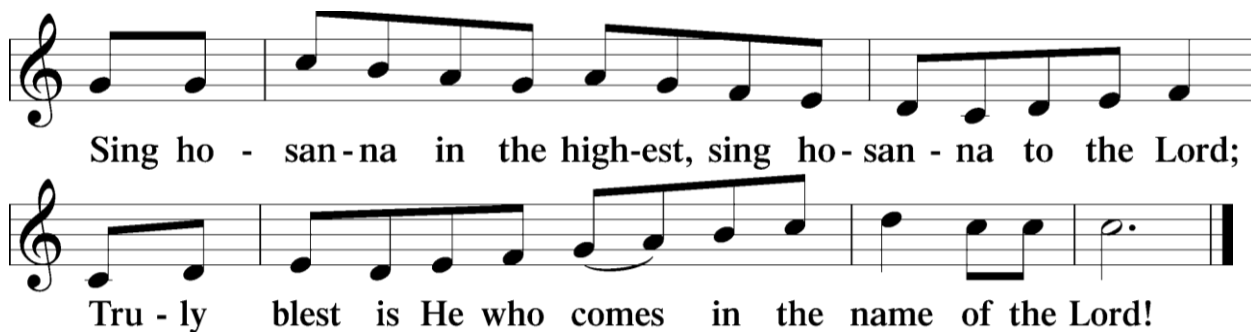
P It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:



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

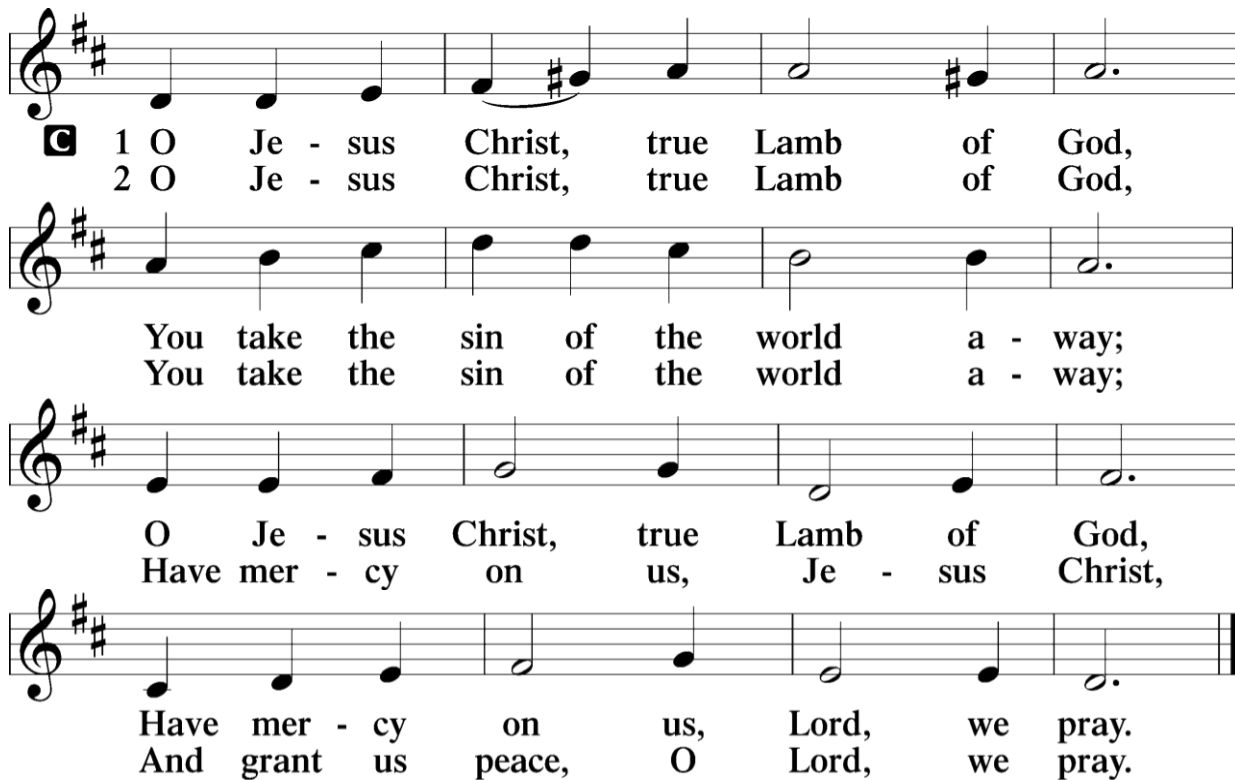


Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



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!

Agnus Dei.....page 210




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..... "Mary, Did You Know?"
(Communion Hymns-Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn ... "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light", #378



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And
 2 O dear - est Child, whom I a - dore, Whose
 3 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord



ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not
 grace sur - pass - es mea - sure, My Broth - er, whom I
 Je - sus Christ, be giv - en: Thou hast my Broth - er

with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This
 cher - ish more Than earth with all its trea - sure: Haste
 deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heav - en. Help

Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -
 from Thy man - ger to de - part, O come and
 me through - out this day of grace To praise Thy

dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan
 dwell with - in my heart; With joy will I re -
 love and seek Thy face; And when I stand be -

break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.
 ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.
 fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

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Communion Hymn "God Loves Me Dearly", #392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

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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 -



Post-Communion Collect..... page 212

Benedicamus and Benediction..... page 212

Sending Hymn..... *"Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year", #896*

1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With
2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God And
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The
joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - jice! Re-joyce! With
how He shed His in - fant blood. Re - jice! Re-joyce! With
Name of names for us He bore. Re - jice! Re-joyce! With
vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - jice! Re-joyce! With
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.

5 With Him as Lord to lead our way
In want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space
In this new year of grace!

6 "All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline Your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this new year of grace.

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

P Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Lorraine Miller, Rich Vanderburgh

Acknowledgements Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Next week's readings:

OT: Isaiah 60:1-6; Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12; Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Attendance Christmas Eve: 130/40

Attendance Christmas Day: 35

Attendance: Advent Midweek: 44

Total Offering: \$3,366.00

Missions: \$0.00

Home Use: \$1,055.00

Benevolences: \$2,311.00

Serving us today:

Elders Ricky Bertels (Sat), Alan Miller, Willie Crespo (Sun)

Musicians Lorraine Miller, 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

Monday

Office Closed for New Year's Holiday

Tuesday

Pastor's Vacation Day

12:00 p.m.

Braille in Concordia

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.

Exercise Class

10:30 a.m.

Bible Study

5:30 p.m.

Faith Night/Discussion

Thursday

9:30 a.m.

Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School

1:00 p.m.

Games and Cards Group

Friday

9:30 a.m.

Exercise Class

Saturday

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
www.blchurch.com, 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 Class

Prayers

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, Don Hillsman, Jr., Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, 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.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study—We are reading and discussing 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!

Faith Night—Join others in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, January 4, 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. We will focus on Epiphany Surprises.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School will resume next weekend at **9:15 a.m.**

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. **Exercise will not meet until Jan 4.**

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. **Cards will not meet until January 5.**

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 be meeting again until January 10, 2023.**

This & That

2023 Church Council—Installation of the 2023 Church Council will take place during next Sunday's service, January 8, 2023.

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!

2023 Elders

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

Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

Jack Easterwood (last name begins L-O) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com



Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

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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Email: pastor@blchurch.com

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

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.