




THIS IS MY SON,  
THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 17:5



+ The Transfiguration Of Our Lord +  
**February 18/19, 2023**

---

### AS WE GATHER

In one sense, the Transfiguration of Our Lord provides a sort of climax to the first part of the story of Jesus in the liturgical year. In the glorious vision, Moses and Elijah appear as if to prove that everything written in the Bible in the Law and the Prophets has come true in the advent and appearance of Jesus, “true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary” (explanation of the Second Article). Yet this climactic event is not yet the true and complete climax of the story, but a transition now into the season of Lent and the road to the true climax: the cross of Good Friday, the resurrection of Easter, His ascension into heaven, and the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. There is so much more to tell. This brief glimpse of glory and Peter’s eyewitness account is to give us the strength and encouragement now to bring the story to completion in us, that we become witnesses in possession of the glorious hope of eternal life through the forgiveness of our sins.

---

### REGARDING COMMUNION

*Epiphany* means “the manifesting” or “showing forth.” Jesus was *made known* as God in flesh by the descent of the Holy Spirit and voice of the Father when baptized, as well as through the miracles of healing he did for the ill and suffering. We come to our Lord’s Table as a people baptized into the name of the Holy Triune God ... as Christians who desire to continue in the faith and life of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus *makes himself known* to us still as we gather at the altar to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine for our forgiveness and healing and strength. Then we go forth to *make him known* to others in word and witness. ***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.*

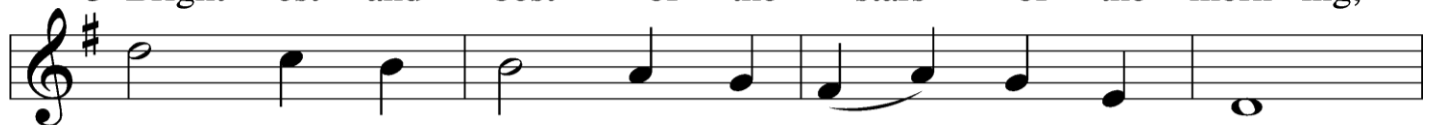
## Prelude

*Please rise, as able.*

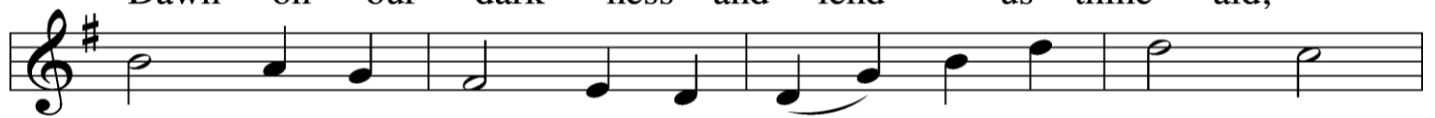
### Invocation Hymn ... "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning", #400



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Fra - grance of E - dom and of f'rings di - vine,  
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.  
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;  
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

# Divine Service, Setting Four

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Confession & Absolution .....page 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 ..... "O Bless the Lord, My Soul", #814



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie  
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;  
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!  
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.  
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;  
He gives the suff'ers rest.  
The Lord hath judgments for the proud  
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace  
By His beloved Son.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission. LSB Hymn License No. 11003555

**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 - shiped 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*)

**O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; 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*

**Old Testament Reading**..... **Exodus 24:8-18**

And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

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

**Praise the LORD, all nations!  
Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

**Epistle Reading ..... 2 Peter 1:16-21**

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**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 17:1-9**

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

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

After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

**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 a Song of Bethlehem”*

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.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,  
Of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still.  
For though like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,  
When faith has heard the Master’s work, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,  
Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.  
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,  
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

Hymnary.org

**Sermon** ..... *“A Transfiguring Moment in Time!”*

**Offering & Offertory**

*Please rise*

# Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in your mercy.

**C** Hear our prayer.

## 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!

### Agnus Dei .....page 210



**C** 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

*(Distribution Hymns—Sunday Only)*

## Communion Hymn ..... “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”, #417

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that  
2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -  
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while  
4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed

can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them  
lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,  
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions  
Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter

Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of  
All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -  
Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn  
With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -

God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.  
time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.  
ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

# Communion Hymn ... "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face", #631



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,  
3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;  
4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;  
Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;  
This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;  
An - oth - er arm but Thine to lean up - on.



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,  
Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,  
Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long  
It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.  
Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.  
The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.  
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;  
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;  
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:  
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;  
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;  
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;  
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

*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 ..... "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory", #416



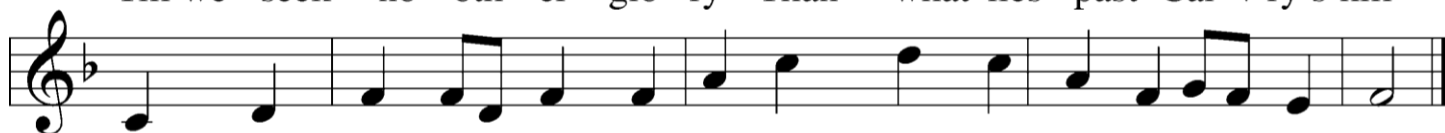
1 Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo-ry, Heav-en's voice, the daz-zling light;  
2 Glimpsed and gone the rev - e - la-tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,  
3 Lord, trans - fig - ure our per-ception With the pur - est light that shines,



Mo-ses and E - li - jah van - ish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!  
Not by build-ing on the moun-tain An - y shrine or sa - cred booth,  
And re-cast our life's in - ten - tions To the shape of Your de - signs,



Pe - ter, James, and John fall si - lent, Turn - ing from the sum-mit's rise  
But by fol - low - ing the Sav - ior Through the val - ley to the cross  
Till we seek no oth - er glo - ry Than what lies past Cal - v'ry's hill



Down-ward toward the shad-owed val - ley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.  
And by test - ing faith's re - sil - ience Through be - tray - al, pain, and loss.  
And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your will.

Text: 1994 Oxford University Press. Tune: 2000 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

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

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

## Postlude

**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 © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

### Next week's readings:

**OT: Genesis 3:1-21; EP: Romans 5:12-19; G: Matt. 4:1-11**

---

**Attendance Last Saturday: 47**

**Total Offering: \$7,993.00**

**Home Use: \$6,178.00**

---

**Attendance Last Sunday: 75**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Benevolences: \$1,815.00**

---

## Serving us today:

Elders ..... Willie Crespo (Sat), Ricky Bertels, Jack Easterwood, Alan Miller (Sun)  
Musicians ..... Rich Vanderburgh (Sat), Cody Clemons (Sun)  
Altar Committee ..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Julie Crespo,  
..... Karon Harding, Georgia Luker, Amy Martin  
Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

## This Week's Schedule

Sunday	5:00 p.m.	Youth Lock-in at Lutheran Student Center (until 10)
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
		<i>No Bible Study until April 12</i>
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Warm-up
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
	8:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
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
	10:30 a.m.	Pastor at SPLHS in Concordia for Chapel
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 <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
	3:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis

## 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: Charlie Becker, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Tommy Fatka, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Bret & Valerie

Hartwig, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Neala Ann (Cody Droege's niece), 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!

### Special Days for Members This Week

**Birthdays**—Janet Mudd-19<sup>th</sup>, Kilian Pederson-19<sup>th</sup>, **Anniversaries**—Brian and Robin Poese-19<sup>th</sup>, Bob and Barbara Compton-21<sup>st</sup>.

### 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).

### Sunday School and Christian Education

**Wednesday Bible Study**—We will be taking a break from Wednesday Bible Study during the Lenten season. We will resume on **April 12 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday Bible Study (9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room)**—We're using Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion* as an inroad to Scripture, the Christian faith, and life. Join us for this discussion and exploration of who Christ is and what believing and living in Him really means!

**Grazing Grace, Lenten Midweek Theme for 2023**—Beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 22, we'll gather in our sanctuary at 7 p.m.** for a service of Holy Communion and dwell on the theme "The Lord's Mercy is Great!" Since this is the 250th anniversary of the hymn text *Amazing Grace*, we'll be exploring the tumultuous life of John Newton (who wrote it), along with the passages of Scripture from which it emerged in his life of transformation. For each of the following five weeks before Holy Week, we'll focus on the meaning of *grace* (& *graze*) by exploring a different verse of *Amazing Grace* and an accompanying passage from Scripture. Beginning on March 1 and continuing through March 29, weekly themes will be: 1) *A Saved Wretch!*, 2) *My Shield & Protector!*, 3) *Rescued!*, 4) *Prevailing Grace!*, & 5) *No Less Days!*



**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too!) to come and be a part of this time set aside for growing together in Christ.

**District Youth Gathering** will be held on **March 24-26** at Cross Pointe Retreat Center in Rocky Mount, Missouri. Cost is \$115 per person and housing is \$30. The church has funds to pay for registration and housing. Registration deadline is **March 13**. If you would like to go please let Pr. Joel or Penny Humphrey know.

**Vacation Bible School**—Mark your calendars for **June 23-25!** Vacation Bible School will give children a chance to dive into *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*. Watch for more details as the date get closer.

**Family Discipleship Conference**—The Missouri District, as part of its goal to assist congregations in encouraging and equipping faith formation at home, will be hosting a “Tell the Next Generation” family conference called **The Christ-Centered Home on Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lutheran High School of St. Charles.** Families’ identities are reflected in what they own, what they talk about, what they do, and where they go—thereby showing who they are and what they love. This conference aims to support families as they create Christ-centered homes and live out of their central identity. To see a list of the presenters and the wide range of topics covered that day, go to [www.mo.lcms.org/events](http://www.mo.lcms.org/events). We hope to have at least a few attend from here and bring back what they learned with the congregation. **Let Pr. Joel know by the end of the month if you plan to attend.** Registration is simply the cost of lunch and can be covered by funds Bethlehem has available.

### **Youth Opportunities**

**The Jr. and Sr. Youth** will have their 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday event on February 19<sup>th</sup>, but not at 3. This time it will be a “lock-in” at the Lutheran Campus Center from **5 p.m. to 10 p.m.** We will be having food, games, and fellowship. All Jr/Sr Youth are invited to attend and to bring a friend along to join in the fun.

### **Music**

**Choir Practice** is held on **Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** in the conference room. **(During Lent practice will start at 8:00 p.m.)** The first half-hour is dedicated to fellowship, then a full one-hour rehearsal. All previous and **prospective** choir members are invited to attend. Please give this opportunity prayerful consideration to strengthen our church and the unified Body of Christ through songs of faith.

## Mary Martha Guild

**Altar Flowers**—The Mary-Martha Guild invites you to *donate flowers* to honor a birthday, anniversary or other occasion, or honor the memory of a loved one who has passed away. To do so, there is a poster across from the mailboxes and you can sign up for the specific date you would like. You can also contact Penny Humphrey.

**Recycling**—Please consider bringing all of your *aluminum cans* to Bethlehem to be recycled! You can place your bags by the shed in the parking lot. Proceeds go to the Lutheran World Relief through the Guild.

## 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

**Mark Your Calendars for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner here on February 21 from 5-7 p.m.!** Known to many as Fat Tuesday (or Mardi Gras in French), this day before Ash Wednesday became associated with pancakes because the last of the eggs and fats had to be used up before the Lenten fast from them (until they could be eaten again on Easter Sunday). This will be an open-to-the-community event, with all free-will donations collected going to the Food Center. *You will also learn how this more than 500 year-old tradition began in the same English town where “Amazing Grace” was written 250 years ago this year!* **Spread the word, and if you’d like to help, use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the conference room!**

**The Katy Trail medical mobile unit** will be in Warrensburg each **Tuesday from 9am-3pm**. If you know someone who has medical needs and would benefit from *affordable or free healthcare* (thanks to a generous Bethlehem donor), *along with prescription help as well*, please pass on this information! The unit is located behind the food pantry at **137 E. Culton Street Warrensburg**. First Presbyterian Church is

currently hosting a **free lunch** on Tuesdays to coincide with the mobile unit. **The lunch is served from 11:30am-1pm.** All are welcome. Most insurances are accepted. **Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment.**

**2023 Food Shelf Challenge**—Bethlehem is working toward collecting **150 food items** (boxes, bags or cans) so that our local Food Center will receive **\$150.00**. Bring your donations and place in the Food Center shopping cart before **March 31**. The Kansas & Missouri Thrivent Member Network has put this challenge out in order to help many food centers around the Kansas and Missouri regions. If we get 150 items they will make the monetary donation.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**—Members with 2022 choice dollars available need to designate these funds **before March 31** or they will expire. You may direct your choice dollars to Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at [Thrivent.com/Thrivent Choice](https://www.thrivent.com/ThriventChoice), or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used choice dollars to assist with the annual Warrensburg Angel Tree Project and food and supplies for Bethlehem's Vacation Bible School. We also funded several other mission type projects with either Choice Dollars or many Action Team Project Grants from various Thrivent members of Bethlehem. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions or seek information on how you can be involved with our activities or projects.

**Nursery/Cradle Roll**—We have an opening for anyone who would like to volunteer to send out Christian growth materials to our new infants and parents! Diana Hoemann has been doing this for quite some time but would like to pass it on to someone else. Please contact the office if you are interested.

**Garden & Greenspace Repair & Prepare Opportunity**—Join together with others on **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until whenever** as we repair raised bed planters and help prepare our Community Vegetable Garden and grounds for a new growing season! Help us steward this treasure together and grow in gratitude for the Lord's good earth together. *Those who want to start earlier might find some others here early too.* Come and go as works for your schedule!

**Offering Envelopes**—You will find your envelopes in your mailbox. There will be envelopes for each Sunday of the year as well as 4-Designated offering envelopes and 2-Mission envelopes. The envelopes for other special services (i.e. Ash Wednesday) will be located in the pews and at each entrance of the church closer to that date. If you did not get envelopes and would like a box, please email contact the office. **Please do not use last year's envelopes—all envelopes have been renumbered.**

**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 in shining the light of Christ!

### 2023 Elders

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, [crespo6fam@gmail.com](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

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

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

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

# SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

**Tuesday, February 21  
5-7 p.m.**



You will also learn how this more than 500 year-old tradition began in the English town of Olney where *Amazing Grace* was written 250 years ago this year. . . and have a chance to sing it & another Olney hymn or two.

*Free-will donations will be accepted for the Food Center*

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg**

## 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.