A painting of a man in a white robe walking through a rocky, hilly landscape under a dark sky. The man is seen from behind, walking away from the viewer on a path of large, reddish-brown rocks. He is wearing a white robe and a white head covering with a red band. The landscape is rugged with rolling hills and sparse vegetation. The sky is dark and moody. The overall style is that of a religious painting.

**Jesus was
led up by
the Spirit
into the
wilderness**

MATTHEW 4:1



+ First Sunday In Lent +

February 25 & 26, 2023

AS WE GATHER

“X marks the spot” is a reminder that a cross, whether on a treasure map or on a police investigation site outline, has a special meaning. It indicates what is at the center and is of greatest importance. In the Small Catechism, Dr. Martin Luther directs Christian people to make the sign of the cross to begin their day, as he writes, “In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross” (*LSB*, p. 327). He commends the same sacred action at the close of the day, writing, “In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross” (*LSB*, p. 327). The purpose of making the sign of the cross, whether at home or in conjunction with our worship, is to indicate that all our lives are marked by the redeeming action of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for us and for our salvation. It is a most blessed sign!

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord’s sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

Liturgical Color:

Purple is the color of humility and repentance.

Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!

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. 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

Stand

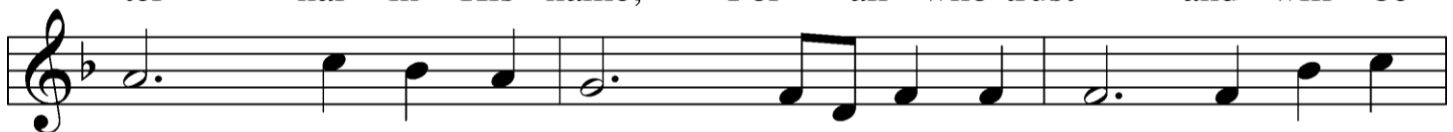
Gathering Hymn "The Tree of Life" #561



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



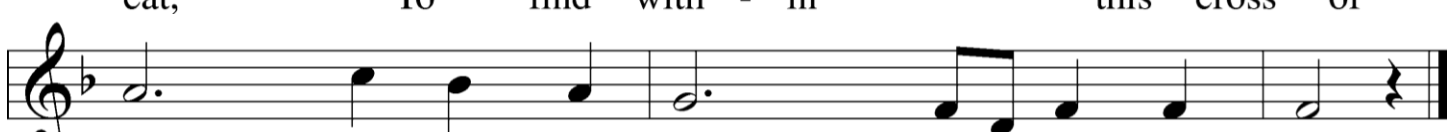
sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and
 tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
 eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

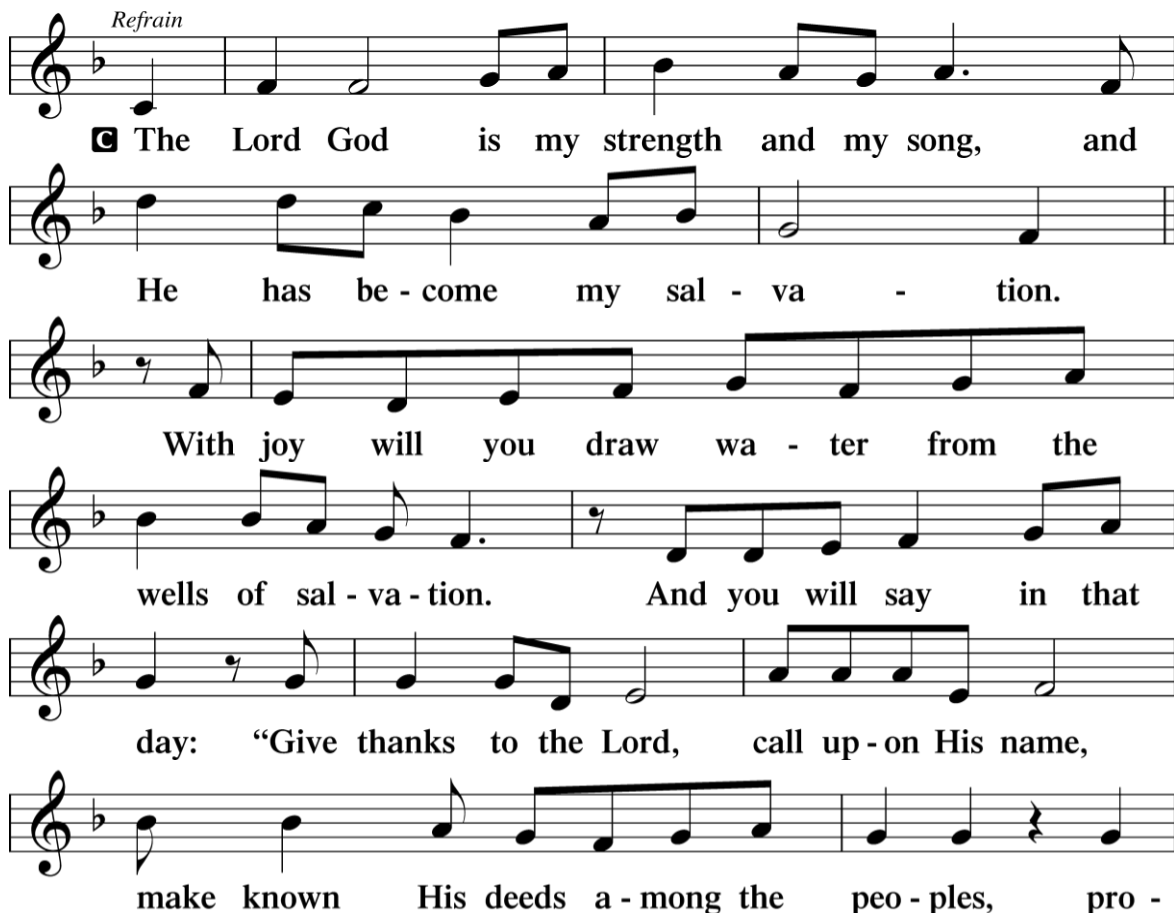
Service of Prayer and Preaching

Opening Versicles (*Common*)..... page 260

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.
- P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth.
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticle.....pages 261-262

Refrain



C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed.”

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -



hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son



and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sit

Readings

Old Testament Reading.....Genesis 3:1-21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock

and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed

was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,"

and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Lent).....page 263

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Catechismpage 264

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant,
his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer.....page 264

Sit

Children's Message

Sermon..... "The Garden, the Desert, & Life"

Hymn..... "In Adam We Have All Been One" #569



1 In Ad - am we have all been one, One huge re - bel - lious man;
2 We fled Thee, and in los - ing Thee We lost our broth - er too;
3 But Thy strong love, it sought us still And sent Thine on - ly Son
4 O Thou who, when we loved Thee not, Didst love and save us all,



We all have fled that eve - ning voice That sought us as we ran.
Each sin - gly sought and claimed his own; Each man his broth - er slew.
That we might hear His Shep - herd's voice And, hear - ing Him, be one.
Thou great Good Shep - herd of man - kind, O hear us when we call.

5 Send us Thy Spirit, teach us truth;
Thou Son, O set us free
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways,
To make us one in Thee.

6 Then shall our song united rise
To Thine eternal throne,
Where with the Father evermore
And Spirit Thou art one.

Offering and Offertory

Prayers

Stand

Prayerspage 265

P Let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy

...

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Wordpage 265

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Evening Prayer (*Saturday*)page 266

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Morning Prayer (*Sunday*)page 266

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Canticle for Lent "Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved", #945

Cantor

1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer-cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, Redeemer of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer-cy up - on us.

Congregation

Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save From sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid The fee - ble

e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; Up - on Your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; Your scars be - fore the
 child Your grace has made. Now make us grow and

sak - en Son Our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move His heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; Bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

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Blessingpage 267

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

Sending Hymn..... "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" #418

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
 fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
 skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
 ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude

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Next Week's Readings

OT: Genesis 12:1-9; Epistle: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17; Gospel: John 3:1-17

Attendance Last Saturday: 40	Attendance Last Sunday: 63
Ash Wednesday Attendance: 90	
Total Offering: \$6,923.08	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$6,818.08	Benevolences: \$105.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Ricky Bertels (Sat), Alan Miller (Sun)
 Musicians Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller
 Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Julie Crespo,
 Karon Harding, Georgia Luker, Amy Martin
 Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
 2:00 p.m. Moms and Tots at the Park

	6:00 p.m.	4-H
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
		<i>No Bible Study until April 12</i>
	5:30 p.m.	Faith Night Dinner/Discussion
	7:00 p.m.	Lent 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
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	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, Ben Smith, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter and Chance Hillsman.

For Jonathan and Bridgette Sharp as they finish their time at Concordia Seminary and prepare for upcoming pastoral and deaconess calls this April!

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—Peyton Stewart-25th, Chase Hagle-26th, Gen Miller-27th, James Schumaker-29th. **Anniversaries**—James and Stephanie Schumaker-29th.

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

Faith Night—Join others in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, March 1, 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 reflect on "Living Lent".

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—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!* **Join us in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., and invite others!**

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th 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.

The Missouri District Youth Gathering will be held on **March 24-26** at Cross Pointe Retreat Center in Rocky Mount, Missouri. The cost is \$115 per person and housing is \$30. The congregation has funds to pay for registration and housing. Registration deadline is **March 13**. To learn more about what's planned for the time, go to www.mo.lcms.org. If you would like to go, please let Pr. Joel or Penny Humphrey know ASAP.

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. 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.

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

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—Thanks to all who helped with our Repair & Prepare workday this weekend! Keep your eyes and ears open for more opportunities coming up as we head toward spring!

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!

SOS (Servants of the Saints) will serve their annual Sausage Dinner on **Sunday, March 12th from 11am-1pm**. Dine in and Drive-thru options are available. Drive thru enters at the main entrance and pick up in front of Krueger Dining Hall. Menu includes: sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes and gravy, green beans, applesauce and cheesecake. Free-will offering.

Singing Saints on Tour—Please keep the Singing Saints in your prayers as they travel through Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas for their choir tour. Their home concert will be **Sunday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia, MO. Everyone is invited to attend. The concert will be live-streamed through St. Paul's website if you are unable to make it.

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

Grazing Grace--Lent 2023

All Midweek Lenten Services begin at 7:00 pm.

Lent 1	March 1	A Saved Wretch!
Lent 2	March 8	My Shield & Portion!
Lent 3	March 15	Rescued!
Lent 4	March 22	Prevailing Grace!
Lent 5	March 29	No Less Days!

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

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.