

**BORN**  
**OF WATER**  
**AND SPIRIT**

JOHN 3:5



+ Second Sunday In Lent +  
**March 4/5, 2023**

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## **AS WE GATHER**

The pages of the Bible are filled with some very human people. In the appointed Readings of the Sundays in Lent, we encounter several. In today's Old Testament Reading, we hear of Abraham, who followed the guidance of God faithfully to the land of promise. Yet in Genesis, we also read that when in a challenging situation in Egypt, he misrepresented his wife as his sister and profited from the deception. Nicodemus, to whom Jesus explained the Gospel in great detail, kept his association with the Lord a secret. Even at the time of the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion, Nicodemus labors with Joseph of Arimathea "secretly for fear of the Jews" (John 19:38). It is well that we are reminded as we confess in the Nicene Creed that "for us men and for our salvation" our Lord "was made man." As imperfect and very human people, we are assured by the Spirit that we are loved by God, who knows us as we are, and that we truly are "precious in the sight of the LORD" in life and in death (Psalm 116:15).

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## **REGARDING COMMUNION**

*Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the forty days of Lent mark off our journey to Easter. When we were baptized into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sign of the cross was made upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as people redeemed by the cross of the Christ. We rose to newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus and began a life of pilgrimage in faith. The cross of ash made on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repentance (or change from wrongs done) ... a life of constant returning to our Lord's Table to be forgiven and renewed, for here we have the bread of Christ's Body and the wine of his Blood as strength for the journey. **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:

*Purple is the color of humility and repentance.*

*Each week as we head toward Good Friday, a candle is extinguished on the Lenten wreath since darkness comes before the bright dawn of Easter morning.*

*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

## Welcome

*Please rise.*

## Invocation Hymn ..... "O Day of Rest and Gladness" #906



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
2 This day at earth's cre - a - tion The light first had its birth;  
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, His Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;  
4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, We walk the pil - grim way,



O balm of care and sad - ness, Most beau - ti - ful, most bright;  
This day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;  
His liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, Through bread and wine made near.  
At length our rest at - tain - ing, Our end - less Sab - bath day.



This day the high and low - ly, Through a - ges joined to bless,  
 This day our Lord vic - to - rious The Spir - it sent from heav'n,  
 We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, Re - newed with heav'n - ly might,  
 We sing to Thee our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," The tri - une God con - fess.  
 And thus this day most glo - rious A three - fold light was giv'n.  
 From grace more grace re - ceiv - ing, On this blest day of light.  
 The Church her voice up - rais - es To Thee, blest Three in One.

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## Divine Service, Setting Three

# Confession and Absolution

*(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, but longer portions are sung.)*

*The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Confession and Absolution.....pages 184-185

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Beloved in the Lord! . . . our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Almighty God, . . . Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your Grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, . . . Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- C** **Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Entrance Hymn .... "God Loved the World So That He Gave" #571 (1-4)



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



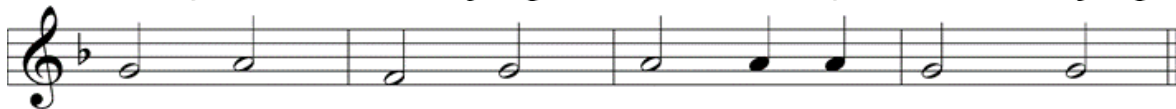
Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

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## Kyrie.....page 186



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

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

**O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Old Testament Reading**.....**Genesis 12:1-9**

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the  
shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)**

## Epistle Reading ..... Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;  
blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

## Holy Gospel ..... John 3:1-17

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and

be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed.....page 191

**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** ..... *“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” #594*



1 God’s own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized  
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized  
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized  
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized  
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,  
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:  
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,  
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness  
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth’s  
 Je - sus’ cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y  
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the  
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in  
 E - ven there I’ll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth  
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism  
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has  
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance  
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -  
 did re - lease me In a dear for -  
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your  
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the  
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?  
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.  
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

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**Sermon**..... “Blessed in Our Journey of Forgiveness”

*Please rise.*

**Offertory** .....*pages 192-193*



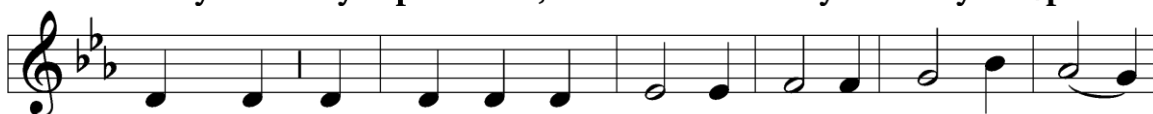
**☐** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Please be seated.*

**Offering** (*Saturday*) ..... “Amazing Love”  
(Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller)

**Offering** (*Sunday*) ..... “There Will Be Peace in the Valley”  
(Holli Burge, Gary Moege)

*Please rise.*

### Prayer of the Church

- P** O Lord,
- C** hear us for Your mercy’s sake.
- ...
- C** Amen.

*Please be seated for the Choir Anthem.*

**Choir Anthem** (*Sunday Only*)..... “In Remembrance of Me”

*Please rise.*

## Service of the Sacrament

**Communion Liturgy** .....pages 194-197



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:



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



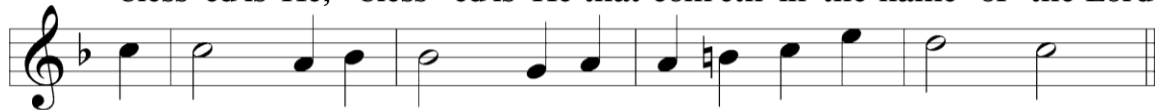
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer**.....page 196

**The Words of Our Lord**.....page 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Pax Domini**..... page 197



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - - - men.

**Agnus Dei**.....page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).*

## Communion Distribution

### Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

## Communion Hymn ..... "Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters", #598

1 Once in the blest bap - tis - mal wa - ters I put on  
 2 His bod - y and His blood I've tak - en In His blest  
 3 And thus I live in God con - tent - ed And die with -  
 Christ and made Him mine; Now num - bered with God's sons and  
 Sup - per, feast di - vine; Now I shall nev - er be for -  
 out a thought of fear; My soul has to God's plans con -  
 daugh - ters, I share His peace and love di - vine.  
 sak - en, For I am His, and He is mine.  
 sent - ed, For through His Son my faith is clear.

*Refrain*

O God, for Je-sus' sake I pray Your peace may bless my dy-ing day.

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**Communion Hymn** ..... *"Jesus, Priceless Treasure", #743*

1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me  
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;  
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,

Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
 Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,  
 Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me  
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!

Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
 Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.  
 Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.  
 Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.

Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
 Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and  
 God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its  
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my

naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
 depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.  
 Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;  
 Thou canst not deceive me,  
 Thine appeal is vain.

Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour,  
O pride and pow'r;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

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*Please rise.*

**Nunc Dimittis**..... *pages 199-200*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and







Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
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
	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service
	7:00 p.m.	Singing Saints Home Concert-Concordia

## 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, Ron McComas, 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**—Cheryl Brown-1<sup>st</sup>, Ron Niemeyer-3<sup>rd</sup>, Jerry Harding-5<sup>th</sup>, Jesse Jenkins-9<sup>th</sup>, Stacy Jenkins-10<sup>th</sup>. **Anniversaries**—Bryan & Melissa Tebbenkamp-4<sup>th</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 are currently taking a break from Wednesday Bible Study during the Lenten season—join us for midweek worship in the evening! 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! At the present, we're discussing aspects of the word *spiritual*.

**Grazing Grace, Lenten Midweek Theme for 2023**—Since this is the 250th anniversary of the hymn text *Amazing Grace*, we're 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're focusing on the meaning of *grace* (& *graze*) by exploring a different verse of *Amazing Grace* and an accompanying passage from Scripture. Continuing through March 29, weekly themes yet are: 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 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.

**Spring Mission Festival** will be held on the weekend of **March 25-26**. We welcome Pola Ann Farve from the Haskell LIGHT in Lawrence, KS. Pola runs the "Haskell LIGHT" (aka Sacred Ground) Campus Student Center at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Students can come study, play games, watch movies, make music, cook, make art, sew, fellowship in Bible study and create lasting memories together. **On Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a fellowship time after church** sponsored by the Mission Board and Mary Martha Guild. During this time, you can also visit with Pola about the Haskell Light and their program.

**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](http://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.

## Music

**Choir Practice during Lent is starting at 8:00 p.m., following the midweek service, but choir fellowship is still happening in the conference room from 6:30 to 7:00 beforehand.** All previous and *prospective* choir members are invited to attend and participate in this collaborative way of building up those who gather through songs of faith!

**Singing Saints on Tour & at Home**—Please keep the Singing Saints (the choir of St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia) in your prayers as they travel through Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas on their choir tour and that return back home safe and sound. Their home concert will be on **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.

**Concordia Music Conservatory**—will be taking applications for the Concordia Community Kinderchor for grades 4-8. (Tuesdays from 4:15-5:00, March 14-May 10). Dr. Jerrode Marsh will be leading this choir. Cost is \$50. If you are interested, please contact the office for application forms. Deadline is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Mary Martha Guild

**Easter Lilies**—the Easter season is among us and that means the Flower Committee is taking orders for Easter Lilies. If you wish to purchase a lily, fill out a form (near each entrance) and return it with your money to Penny Humphrey. You can also leave the form and money in her mailbox. **Please make a donation for your lily as the flower shops do not have an estimated cost yet. All checks need to be made out to 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

**Spring Chili and Soup Supper**—Spring is just around the corner and so is the Men's Club Chili and Soup Supper. Join us on **March 25th**, beginning at **11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** for Chili or Vegetable Beef Soup, relishes, pies, cakes and drinks. **Adult tickets are \$6 and child tickets (ages 5-12) are \$4.** Tickets can be purchased at the door or from club members. Also look for a sign-up sheet near the mailboxes for volunteers to help.

**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

**Warrensburg Christian School** is holding its Annual Gala on **March 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the UCM Ballroom. The theme for the evening is **Western Attire**. There will be entertainment, games, silent auction, appetizers and a cash bar. Tickets are \$30.00. If you would like tickets, see Liz Fatka or Felisa Brown or stop by the Warrensburg Christian School and purchase one. Looks like a fun evening!

**2023 Food Shelf Challenge**—Thanks to all who donated to this endeavor and enabled us to meet and exceed the 150-item goal ... which then allows the Kansas & Missouri Thrivent Member Network to donate \$150 to the Food Center! The youth catechesis class nicely arranged everything downstairs in front of the rock wall and blue cross, so give that a look!

**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.**

**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 past weekend! Keep your eyes and ears open for more opportunities coming up as we head toward spring, plus drop by some **Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and noon** and you'll probably find some working away who'd be glad to have you join in! Also, if you'd like to help cut back last year's dead growth in the herb garden out front and **look for signs of new green growth a week before St. Patrick's Day (if the weather's good), join Pr. Joel and whomever else at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9. If the weather is not good, we will postpone to March 16—the following Thursday.**

**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.

## 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)

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## 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: 9-11 am

Thursday: 9-11 am

[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.