A photograph of a waterfall cascading down mossy rocks in a lush green forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls, surrounded by dense green foliage and moss. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated angle, showing the water's path as it descends.

*A spring of water  
gushing up to  
eternal  
life*

JOHN 4:14



+ Third Sunday In Lent +

**March 11/12, 2023**

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## **AS WE GATHER**

“Jesus Met the Woman at the Well” is the title of a traditional Gospel song first recorded in 1947 and made famous in 1964 through the recordings done by Ian and Sylvia, a Canadian folk duo, and Peter, Paul and Mary, an American folk trio. The words of the song recount the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman. The woman was amazed that Jesus knew all about her complex and complicated life and still was willing to spend time with her. Jesus knows all about each of us and the road we are on—and yet He still remains with us and calls us His own. In worship, we spend a special time with Him. How blessed we are!

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***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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

***Please rise.***

# Gathering Hymn ..... "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" #901

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so  
 3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be  
 en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
 un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,  
 du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
 gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;  
 done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee  
 Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
 There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O  
 Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing  
 While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the  
 is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
 en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!  
 hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.  
 foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

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## 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** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
- C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.
- P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

- C** let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
- C** He was bruised for our iniquities.
- 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.

*Please be seated.*

# Readings

## Old Testament Reading.....Exodus 17:1-7

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 95 .....*(front of hymnal, spoken responsively)*

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the LORD is a great God,

**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,

**and his hands formed the dry land.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

For he is our God,

**and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.**

Today, if you hear his voice,  
**do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

when your fathers put me to the test

**and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.**

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart,

**and they have not known my ways.”**

Therefore I swore in my wrath,

**“They shall not enter my rest.”**

**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.**

## **Epistle Reading .....Romans 5:1-8**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### *Stand*

## **Holy Gospel ..... John 4:5-30, 39-42**

[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If

you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the town and were coming to him. . . .

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

**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.

**Catechism** .....page 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*

Sunday School Children's Song (*Sunday only*)

Children's Message

Sermon..... "Thirsty People, Well Met"

Hymn..... "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" #699



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light.



Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up - on My breast."  
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live."  
Look un - to Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, So wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;



I found in Him a rest - ing place, And He has made me glad.  
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in Him.  
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

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Offering and Offertory

## Prayers

*Stand*

Prayers .....page 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 God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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 Word** ..... *page 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** ..... *"Jesus Refuge of the Weary", #423*

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent  
 whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
 pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your  
 love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -  
 from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us  
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er  
 Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your  
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our  
 cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

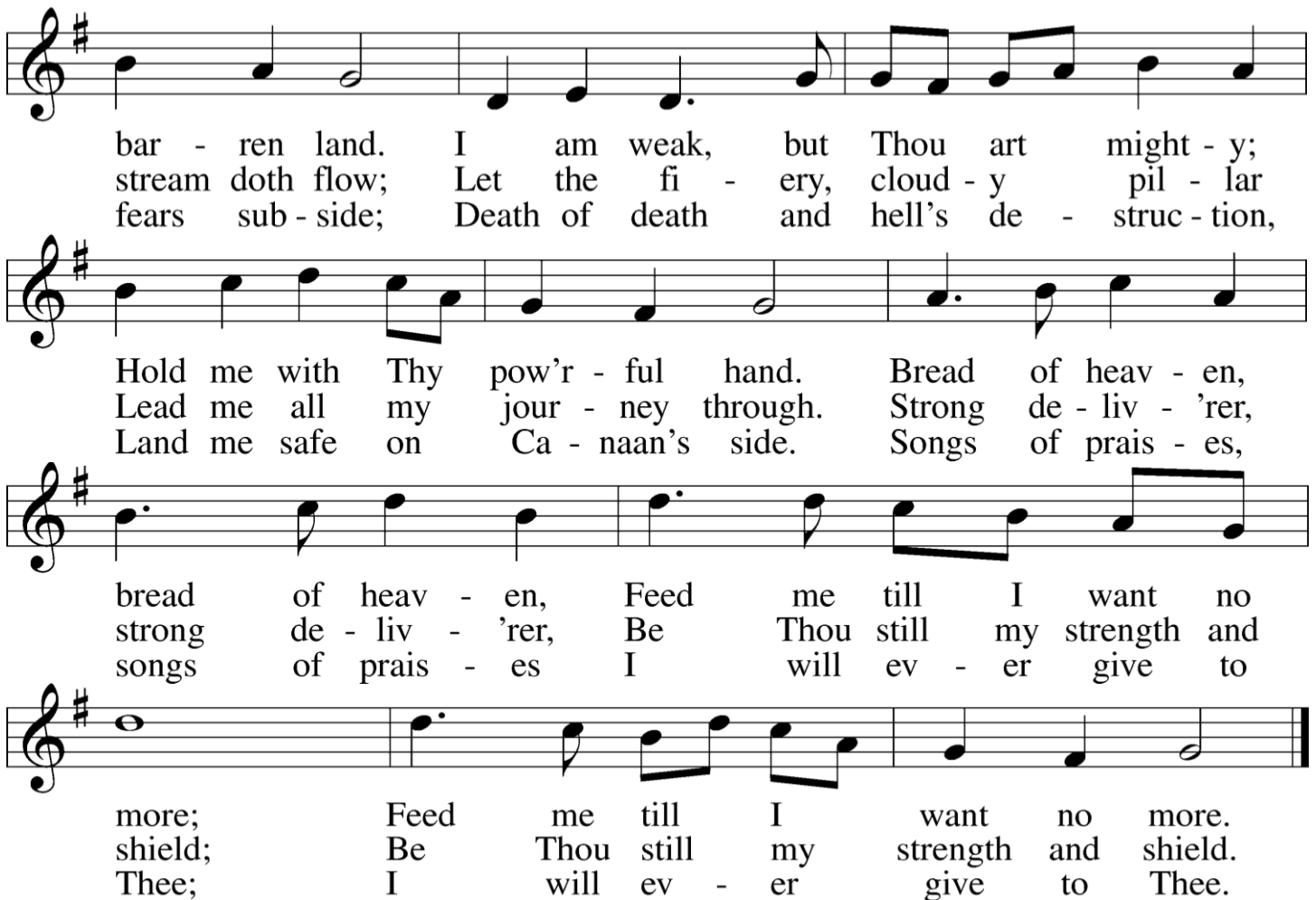
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**Blessing**.....*page 267*

- 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**.....*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" #918*

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,  
 Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,  
 bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to  
 more; shield; Thee; Feed me till I want no more.  
 Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to Thee.

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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: Isaiah 42:14–21; EP: Ephesians 5:8–14; Gospel: John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39**

**Attendance Last Saturday: 43**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 72**

**Lent Attendance: 49**

**Total Offering: \$20,711.68**

**Missions: \$32.00**

**Home Use: \$4,658.00**

**Benevolences: \$16,021.68**

## Serving us today:

Elders..... Jack Easterwood (Sat), Ken Pederson (Sun)  
Musicians .....Jerrode Marsh  
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	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center Service
	7:00 p.m.	Singing Saints Home Concert—St. Paul's, Concordia
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	7:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild Meeting
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	7:00 p.m.	Lent Service
	8:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	11:00 a.m.	Lunch Bunch at Wsbg Community Center
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	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
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Rock Climbing @ UCM Rec & Wellness

## 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, 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**—Penny Humphrey-11<sup>th</sup>, Galen Cobb-13<sup>th</sup>, Marion Droege-14<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: 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.

**Our Spring Mission Festival** will be held on the weekend of **March 25-26**. We'll be welcoming Pola Ann Farve, the director of Lutheran Indian Ministries' campus outreach—Haskell LIGHT—at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Haskell LIGHT turned 50 last year and continues to promote healing, growth and support for the students who come from 145 tribes. *Pola will only be here on Sunday*, but Pr. Joel will share in her stead on Saturday, plus, there will be special music at both services. **There will be a fellowship time after each service**, and there will be a chance to visit with Pola on Sunday in addition to a Q & A time as well.

**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!

**Bob Bennett in concert at Bethlehem again!** Six years to the date after he was last here, Bob will be here for a community-wide concert on **Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.** This will be our Shine! (Matthew 5:16) event for this year, especially fitting since that verse is what Bob has signed with his name for decades. Admission will be food items to donate to the Food Center. Start spreading the word! And if you're not familiar with this superb California guitarist/singer-songwriter, look up his website ([www.bobbennett.com](http://www.bobbennett.com)) and give a view/listen (through YouTube or such), especially to "Hand of Kindness," "Man of the Tombs," and "I Know that My Redeemer Lives." He'll also be singing some in our weekend services!

## Mary Martha Guild

**Mary Martha Guild** will be meeting upstairs in the sanctuary on **Monday at 7:00 p.m.** Pr. Joel will present a program on the altar and Holy Communion. We will also have a sign-up sheet to help with the fellowship time following the church services on March 25-26.

**Easter Lilies**—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.**

### Fellowship

**Spring Chili and Soup Day**—Spring is just around the corner and so is the Men's Club Chili and Soup Day. 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!

**SOS (Servants of the Saints) Spring Rummage Sale** at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO is coming up! **The sale begins Wednesday, March 29th from 6:00-8:00pm for a \$5 preview sale fee.** Shop Thursday, March 30th from 7:00am-6:00pm and Friday, March 31st from 8:00am-6:00pm. The final day is Saturday, April 1st from 8:00am-12:00pm for \$5 bag day, anything you can fit in a bag for \$5! The sale will take place in the annex; please park behind the gym and use the north door.

**The Katy Trail medical mobile unit** will continue to 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** at that time (with others, such as us, donating the ingredients). **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](http://Thrivent.com/Thrivent Choice), 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.

**Garden & Greenspace**—Thanks to all who helped cutting back last year's herb garden, as well as with vegetable garden preparations and trail repair again this past week! Keep your eyes and ears open for more opportunities coming up as we head toward spring, but generally, you'll find someone out and about in our churchyard on the **second and fourth Saturday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon**.

**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)

## 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.