JOHN 1:46

January 13-14, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Since the beginning of creation, God has spoken. He spoke into being our universe and our very selves as the crown of His creation; He spoke when seeking out Adam and Eve in a fallen world; He spoke many times and many ways through the prophets; and He spoke by the very words that came from the mouth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. From Him came words of instructing, healing, forgiving, and of invitation to follow Him as we hear today with Philip and Nathanael. The Lord still speaks to us today in His Word, as His Spirit spoke instruction and encouragement of the use of bodies through Paul in his letter to the church of Corinth. Through all He speaks, we are called to listen to that Word to guide and direct, and to hear His continued words of forgiveness, peace, hope, and joy as "in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son" (Hebrews 1:2).

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^{st} , 3^{rd} , and 5^{th} weekend (and major festivals).

Liturgical Color:

Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Pastoral Welcome

Please rise, as able.

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher during the hymn.)



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Service of Prayer and Preaching

Opening Versicles......page 260

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

- 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;
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Canticlepages 261-262







Please be seated.

Readings

Old Testament Reading......1 Samuel 3:1-20

The young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the young man. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him."

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-10.....(front of hymnal, spoken responsively)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down

and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me.

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 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy GospelJohn 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Res	ponsorypage 263
P	Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
C	Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
P	Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
C	Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
P	Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C	Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
Cate	echism (All)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.
Apo	stles' 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

Please be seated.

Children's Song"Father, I Adore You"

Children's Message

Sermon...... "Clouded Vision vs. Seeing Clearly"

Response Hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" #783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se-crat-ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im-pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with hold;



Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee. Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee. Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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Please be seated.

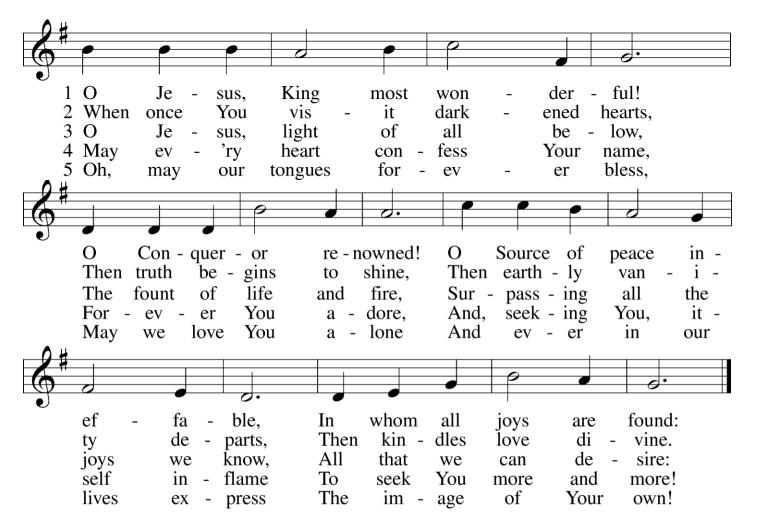
Offering

Prayers

Please rise.

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) Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; 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* 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. \mathbf{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. New Testament Canticle" "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful", #554



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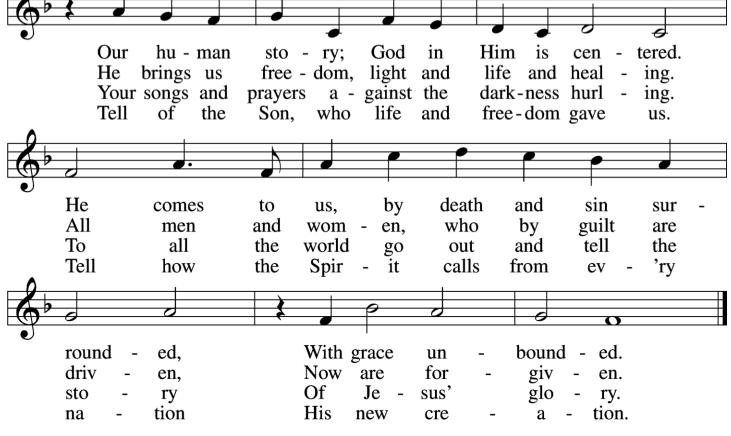
Blessing page 267

- **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......"Rise, Shine, You People" #825



- 1 Rise, shine, you peo ple! Christ the Lord has en tered
- 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e vil reel ing;
- 3 Come, cel e brate, your ban ners high un furl ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa ther sent His Son to save us.



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Dismissal

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

Postlude

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Next Week's Readings

OT: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-35; Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Attendance Last Saturday: 35
Total Offering: \$3,232.00
Home Use: \$3,002.00
Attendance Last Sunday: 50
Missions: \$100.00
Benevolences: \$130.00

Serving us today:

Elders	Jimmy Smithers (Sat), Willie Crespo (Sun).
Musicians	Rich Vanderburgh (Sat), Cody Clemons (Sun)
Altar Committee	Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,
	Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee	Penny Humphrey (Chair)

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Bethlehem Musicians' Concert in Cole Camp
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club/Arbors Care Center Services
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	11:00 p.m.	The Lunch Bunch
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	3:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation Class
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Ezekiel Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Ice-Skating Event

Altar Flowers

Rich and Lana Vanderburgh have provided the altar flowers for this weekend in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary on January 18th. May God bless you with many more!

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, Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Galen Cobb, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Rev. Tom Fatka (Tommy Fatka's dad), Peggy Forstad, Ana Fonseca (Willie Crespo's grandmother), Wilma Gertz, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve's parents), Karen Haase, Ken Hoemann, Juanita Holcomb (Peggy Forstad's mother), Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Jeannie Peterson, Maryanna Savery, Rose Steitz, and & Joe Zeman.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families.

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain, feel free to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Services are live on Facebook, YouTube and the webpage at *blchurch.com*.

Children & Youth

Maybe add a plug about the Crafternoon for now, if that's not too far off, plus a separate item about the youth going ice-skating on the third Sunday at 3.

School and Christian Education

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th **grade.** We start out with a combined opening with the adults to kick off each Sunday. The children continue working on songs with the goal of singing in the church service once per month. We invite all children to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ!

Sunday *Proverbs* Bible Study—Oh, to love wisdom and live wisely! How many times have you said and thought that? Join us for our Sunday Bible study—Living (& Loving) Wisdom—which explores the book of Proverbs through the lens of the Ten Commandments and Christ "the Wisdom of God" (I Cor. 1:24. Pr. Joel is drawing from David Coe's *Provoking Proverbs*. We start at 9:15 a.m. (in the conference room) and still have a lot of ground to cover!

Wednesday Bible Study—Join us **at 10:30 a.m.** in the conference room. We're looking at the Apocrypha, from the time between the two Testaments. Come and find out what it's about!

Thursday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.—Pastor Bertels' study on the book of Ezekiel meets in the conference room and is open to all who have the interest and time available. Come and join us!

Music

The Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship time and rehearsal from 7:00-8:00p.m. We are always looking for new members! Please contact Peggy Forstad with any questions about joining the choir.

PM. Trinity School of Music is proud to announce a musical performance of Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann & Brahms. Featuring the musical gifts of **Lorriane Miller** (flute), Gary Moege (horn), and Jerrode Marsh (piano). The concert will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cole Camp, MO (104 E. Butterfield Trail) at 3:00 PM. There is no charge to attend the concert; a free-will offering will be taken in support of the school of music's effort to provide virtual music lessons. A reception will follow.

Opportunities to Serve

Food Drive for Show-Me Christian Youth Home—If you'd like to begin 2024 by helping our younger friends, consider donating a pantry good (or a few) to Show-Me Christian Youth Home in La Monte. As part of a Thrivent grant, we are collecting canned and non-perishable foods for the group that helps youth in crisis by providing them a safe and loving home. Look for the collection bin at the north entrance during the month of January. If you'd like a Thrivent T-shirt, please see the church office. Any pantry item that parents could use at home would be welcomed there, too. Call or text Kaye at 660-441-7672 for more information. Learn more about the organization at *showmehelpingkids.com*.

Bulletin Board—A section of the bulletin board at the North entrance has been dedicated to our congregation members who are home-bound and in nursing homes. Please check it out to see how you can reach out to those who can no longer come to services regularly. Send a card or leave one in the pocket on the board to be delivered during a visit. If you have a picture of a loved one you can share, please send it to Rebecca to have it posted!

Winter Trail Work and Garden Planning & Preparation—Keep your eyes open for opportunities in the near future on our Bethlehem Woods nature trail and in our backyard community gardens. Winter is the best time to think spring!

Fellowship

Crafternoon-On the fourth Friday from 3-5 pm, let's get together to craft! A project and supplies will be waiting for you in the fellowship hall. We'll make seasonal crafts and cards that can be shared with others and conspire to deliver them with good cheer and a visit.

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at 11:00 a.m. here at Bethlehem on January 18th. 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.

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Everyone is welcome to come to this fellowship time.

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 or go out and grab something. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

This and That

Sermon Sketch Collage in the Luehrman Gallery—While most of the paintings and sketches by Dick Luehrman in the downstairs hallway gallery are unchanging, that's not the case for those grouped together on the east wall below the window—they rotate according to the seasons of the Church Year and were just switched out this past week. So, as we're in the short season of Epiphany and setting our sights toward Transfiguration Sunday and Ash Wednesday next month, spend some time with those black and white sketches and reflect on what they individually and collectively show about Jesus the Christ—God's Son made known to us in light and life, mercy and grace. Thanks to the Rich family for making this splendid rotation of sketches a reality!

The Johnson County Resource Center happens every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the basement of First Presbyterian Church (206 N. College)—providing breakfast, a hot lunch, and a place to hang out. Housing assistance and case management are provided, as well as Medicaid signup. Due to mechanical difficulties, Katy Trail's Mobile Medical Unit will not be able to resume its services until April 4.

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! If you'd ever like to hear some of the stories of how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-B) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com
Evan Florida (last name begins C-E) 660-238-4919, evan.keyrealty@gmail.com
Rich Vanderburgh (last name begins F-H) 660-864-3762, rvburgh@gmail.com
Jimmy Smithers (last name begins I-L) 660-864-5370, jimmyds1980@gmail.com
Sean Estanek (last name begins M-R) 440-396-6439, organvoicer@gmail.com
Alan Miller (last name begins S-Z) 660-909-1764, alorrmiller@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

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Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey Wednesday: 1pm-5pm Thursday: 1pm-5pm rholland@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman
Tuesday: 9am-11am
Thursday: 9am-11am
thillsman@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.