

**MY LORD
AND
MY GOD!**

JOHN 20:28



+ Second Sunday Of Easter +

April 15-16, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We gather today still in the glow of the most joyous and amazing celebration of Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, from the dead. The sights and sounds of that celebration linger in our memory, not as just a past event finished and forgotten, but as Peter calls it today, “a living hope,” as enduring and strong as the certainty of our living Lord and the promised future of our own resurrection. We return to continue the Easter celebration because in the afterglow of the days since Easter Sunday, many still do not know that hope. Like the absent apostle Thomas, we still face what seems to be a hopeless world. Today we remember that our only hope is built on a divine Savior whose crucifixion wounds were endured for us and for all. Indeed, we are to learn that every Sunday throughout the entire year is an Easter celebration as our living Lord draws us into His holy, life-giving wounds through His very same body and blood given us in Holy Communion. Thomas saw and believed. Peter rejoiced. Though we do not now see Him, “you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8), the only sure and living hope.

REGARDING COMMUNION

After his resurrection, the crucified but now-living Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas (who had his doubts that Jesus could really be alive again): ‘Touch my pierced hands and feel my wounded side; stop doubting and believe.’

*We come to the Lord’s Table with our own doubts and worries, fears and sorrows, often lingering on uncertainty and the realities we think are beyond change. Our Lord points us to his unchanging yet life-changing reality—he has died, he has risen, he will come again. His Holy Supper is the place where we encounter his saving, risen, and healing Body and Blood ... as he said: ‘Those who feed on my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.’ **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

**If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion,
please let Pastor or an Elder know.**

Liturgical Color:

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church

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

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)

Please rise for the last verse—as indicated by the triangle—in praise of the Trinity.

Invocation Hymn..... “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” #477



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Divine Service, Setting One

Confession and Absolution

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

Confession and Absolution.....page 151

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
P Almighty God . . .
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn "We Know That Christ Is Raised" #603

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.

Em - braced by death, He broke its fear - ful hold;
Re - born, we share with Him an Eas - ter life
The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the Church of God.

And our de - spair He turned to blaz - ing joy.
 As liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.

Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: © John B. Geyer. Tune: Public Domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Kyrie.....*pages 152-153*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

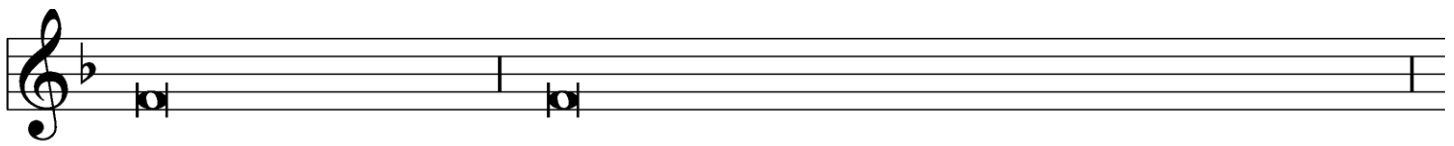
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

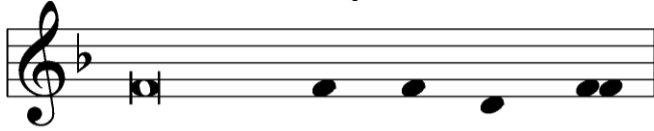
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



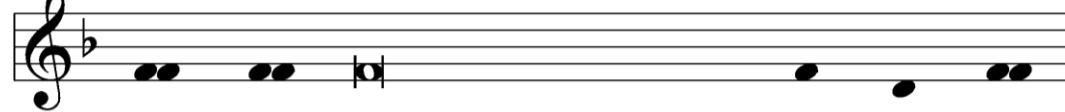
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This is the Feastpage 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutationpage 156

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading **Acts 5:29-42**

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell

you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken in unison*)

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle Reading **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Alleluia and Verse *page 156*



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day "These Things Did Thomas Count as Real #472

1 These things did Thom - as count as real: The
 2 The vi - sion of his skep - tic mind Was
 3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied That
 4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve And

warmth of blood, the chill of steel, The grain of wood, the
 keen e-nough to make him blind To an - y un - ex -
 one could live when one had died, Un - til his fin - gers
 thus the ris - en Christ re - ceive, Whose raw im - print - ed

heft of stone, The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.
 pect - ed act Too large for his small world of fact.
 read like braille The mark - ings of the spear and nail.
 palms reached out And beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

Tune: © 2003 Stephen R. Johnson. Text: © 1984 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Sermon.....“Set in Stone vs. a Living Hope”

Rite of Confirmation

Dan Lockhart

Romans 14:18-19

Peggy Forstad

1 Chronicles 16:23-24

Jimmy Smithers

1 Corinthians 1:9

Patricia Lockhart

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Sondra Privett

Colossians 2:6-7

Sonia Smithers

Ephesians 2:10

Please rise.

Nicene Creed.....*page 158*

**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.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.

Offertorypages 159-160



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to

me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 160-163

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

Sanctus.....*page 161*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....*page 161*

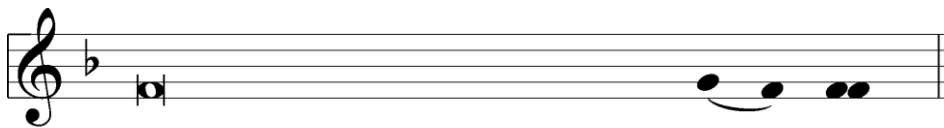
P Blessed are You . . . one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini.....*page 163*

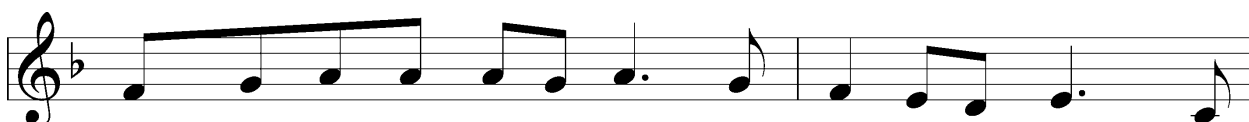


P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei.....*page 163*



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the

Communion Distribution

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

Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymns "What Is This Bread" #629

1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -

ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	He should	Un -	der	the	rod?
Word	and	prom - ise	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set free!	I	do	be -	lieve

This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His

lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Communion Hymn "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" #633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Please rise.

Post Communion Canticle "Thank the Lord" page 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.
 He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
 with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Collect..... *page 166*

- P** Let us pray.
- C** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this beneficial gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

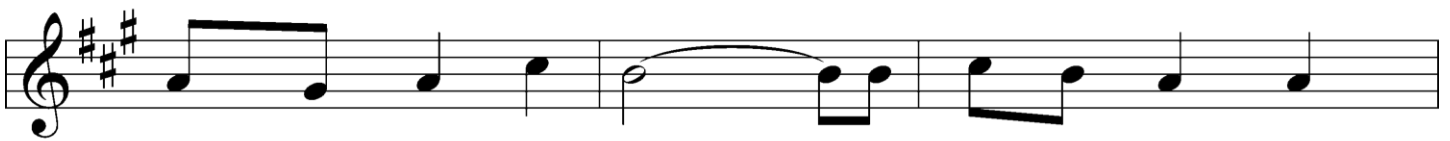
Benediction..... *page 166*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

- C** A - men.

Sending Hymn..... *"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" #720*

1	We	walk	by	faith	and	not	by	sight,	No
2	We	may	not	touch	His	hands	and	side,	Nor
3	Help	then,	O	Lord,	our	un -	be -	lief;	And
4	For	You,	O	res -	ur -	rect -	ed	Lord,	Are
5	Lord,	when	our	life	of	faith	is	done,	In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
 fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound To call on You when
 found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
 we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"
 You are near And seek where You are found.
 and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude

Acknowledgements Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Next week's readings:

First: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-25; Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Attendance Maundy Thursday: 77

Attendance Saturday Vigil: 56

Total Offering: \$4,745.00

Home Use: \$3,827.00

Attendance Good Friday: 104

Attendance Easter Sunday: 76/138

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$918.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Ricky Bertels (Sat), Willie Crespo, Alan Miller (Sun)

Musicians Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller

Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Erika Freeman, Mary Creswell

Peggy Hoyer, Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith

Flower CommitteeLana Vanderburgh (Chair), Penny Humphrey

This Week's Schedule

Sunday 12:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting
 3:00 p.m. Circuit Youth Volleyball Tournament

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board 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
	10:30 a.m.	Lunch Bunch (at 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	7:00 a.m.	Leave for LWML Spring Rally
	10:00 a.m.	Earth Day Celebration—Garden Work & Giveaway
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	2:00 p.m.	Bob Bennett Concert in Sanctuary

Did you know that we have a nature trail—Bethlehem Woods? The trailhead is at far end of our back yard (behind and to the right of the garden). If you're looking for a place to have a spring walk today or this week to see the spring wildflowers and reflect on Jesus' resurrection, this is a good place to consider. There is some uneven and hilly terrain, and, as always, consider the weather.

Altar Flowers

The beautiful floral arrangements on the altar are in celebration of Rohn Luker's 80th birthday on Monday, April 17! Much joy and ongoing goodness in Christ!

Thanks

Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, well wishes and visits for my birthday! I (and my family) have truly enjoyed them all! It means so very much! **(Wanda Kreisel).**

Thank you for all the birthday wishes you sent to Mom. We have all enjoyed hearing from each of you! This has been good medicine for all of us! We cherish each and every one of your cards and messages. Thank you for taking time to brighten our days! **(Marvin, DeeDee, Paula, Lyle, Marla and our families).**

Prayers

Prayers of Rejoicing for Our Adult Confirmands received as communicant members of Bethlehem this Sunday: Peggy Forstad, Dan and Patricia Lockhart, Sondra Privett, and Jimmy and Sonia Smithers! We give thanks for each of these six and pray the Lord's blessing on them and the rest of us as we grow together in Jesus' way and life.

Prayers of Rejoicing for Our Youth Catechumens who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday next month: Anna Florida, Morgan Holmberg, Aedan Pederson, and Neil Tebbenkamp. May our Lord continue to strengthen them in their baptized faith and lead them forth in continued faith and service this Easter season!

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, Mary Johnson, Miriam Kurz, Wanda Kreisel, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

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

For Jonathan and Bridgette Sharp as they finish their time at Concordia Seminary and prepare for upcoming pastoral and deaconess calls this April 26! The service will be livestreamed via the seminary's website.

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—Rohn Luker-17th, Nathan Stewert-17th, Pr. Ricky Bertels-19th, Caren Miller-19th, Jeremy VanWey-19th, 21st-Diana Hoemann.

Worship Services and Faith Discussion

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

Sunday School and Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study—We meet at **10:30 a.m.** and are studying the book of Zechariah.

Sunday Bible Study (normally 9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room) will not be held on Easter Sunday but will resume the following. Join us as we continue our study and discussion of *Clearly Christian: Following Christ in This Age of Confusion*.

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

Vacation Bible School—Mark your calendars for **June 23-25!** Those wanting to help with reading, crafts, music, games, snacks, etc., please get in touch with Ellen Pederson.

Youth

The First Ever Circuit Youth Sand Volleyball Tournament to be hosted at Bethlehem happens this Sunday, **April 16th from 3 to 5 p.m.!** All junior and senior high youth are invited to join with youth from as far as Marshall and as close as Emma, plus wherever else! Come be a part of it, and let's hope the weather allows.

Music

Choir Practice will resume on **Wednesday, April 19, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** in the conference room. The first half-hour is dedicated to fellowship, then a full one-hour rehearsal. All previous and **prospective** choir members are invited to attend. Please give this opportunity prayerful consideration to strengthen our church and the unified Body of Christ through songs of faith.

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) 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! ***Let Pr. Joel if you'd like to help welcoming, ushering, and collecting the donations that day, and he'll make sure you get your own special blue Shine! shirt.***

Fellowship and Opportunities to Serve

The Lunch Bunch will meet again at the Community Center on **Thursday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.** Please be here early so we can discuss a few things before lunch.

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.

Earth Day Garden Workday & Giveaway—Everyone is welcome to meet and help others with whatever needs to be done on our Bethlehem Community Vegetable Garden and surrounding greenspace on **Earth Day—Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.** As our thanks for coming out, we'll have garden and yard giveaway items to encourage your planting, growing, and cultivating wherever you happen to live.

This & That

Saint Paul Lutheran High School is offering a variety of camps over the summer for students entering Kindergarten through 8th grade (depending upon the camp). Camps include athletic training, volleyball, basketball, soccer, football, Spanish, and Hispanic cooking. More information and access to the Google registration form can be found at splhs.org/events.

The Katy Trail medical mobile unit continues 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.**

Fuller Center for Housing of Johnson County is looking for volunteers to help with many aspects of building houses. Needs are for skilled and unskilled construction laborers, public relations, tool organizers, hospitality, etc. If you would like to

volunteer please call 660-429-2763 or email: fullercenterjocom@fullercenter.org. The organization is named after Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, and adheres to a local vision in keeping with the original intention.

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

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

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

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com

APRIL 22, 2023
10 AM-12 PM



EARTH DAY
CELEBRATION

Join us as we work in the Bethlehem Community Vegetable Garden and the surrounding greenspaces.

Come and go
as you can!



Free
Stuff!

Garden and yard items will be given away for
your planting, growing, and sharing.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
607 N. MAGUIRE, WARRENSBURG

Look for us in the back yard, behind our building.

Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

financial@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.