

Jesus took bread, blessed and  
broke it, and gave it to them

LUKE 24:30



+ Third Sunday Of Easter +  
**April 23, 2023**

**AS WE GATHER**

Today we see Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus. They say afterward that their hearts burned within them as Jesus opened up to them the Scriptures. In the Reading from Acts, those gathered on Pentecost are cut to the heart by Peter’s words. And in the Epistle, Peter speaks of purified souls and hearts. It seems our hearts are being greatly affected by Christ. They are cut, burning, and purified by the Word of Christ.

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

**Liturgical Color:**

**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** ..... Cody Clemons

**Welcome**

**Gathering Hymn** ..... “Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow”, #476



1	Who are you	who walk in sor - row	Down Em - ma - us'
2	Who is this	who joins our jour - ney,	Walk - ing with us
3	Who are You?	Our hearts are o - pened	In the break - ing
4	Who are we	who trav - el with You	On our way through
5	“Al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le - lu - ia!”	Is the Eas - ter



bar - ren road, Hearts dis - traught and hope de - feat - ed,  
 stride by stride? Un - known Strang - er, can You fath - om  
 of the bread— Christ the vic - tim, now the vic - tor  
 life to death? Wom - en, men, the young, the ag - ing,  
 hymn we sing! Take our life, our joy, our wor - ship



Bent be - neath grief's crush - ing load? Name - less mourn - ers,  
 Depths of grief for one who died? Then the won - der!  
 Liv - ing, ris - en from the dead! Great com - pan - ion  
 Wak - ened by the Spir - it's breath! At the font You  
 As the gift of love we bring. You have formed us



we will join you, We who al - so mourn our dead;  
 When we told You How our dreams to dust have turned,  
 on our jour - ney, Still sur - prise us with Your grace!  
 claim and name us, Born of wa - ter and the Word;  
 all one peo - ple Called from ev - 'ry land and race.



We have stood by graves un - yield - ing,  
 Then You o - pened wide the Scrip - tures  
 Make each day a new Em - ma - us;  
 At the ta - ble still You feed us,  
 Make the Church Your ser - vant bod - y,

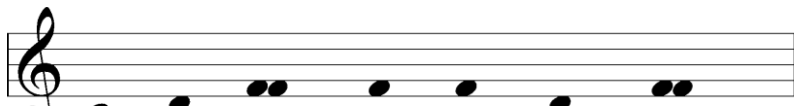


Eat - en death's bare, bit - ter bread.  
 Till our hearts with - in us burned.  
 On our hearts Your im - age trace!  
 Host us as our ris - en Lord!  
 Sent to share Your heal - ing grace!

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*Please rise.*

## Morning Prayer



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



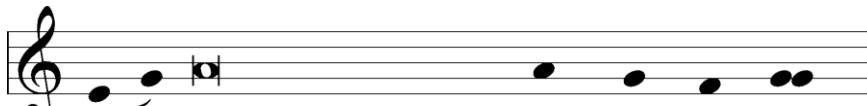
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



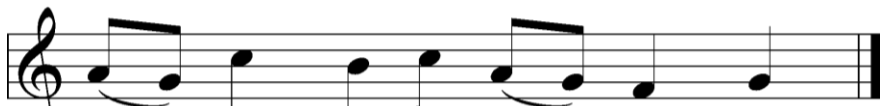
**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalmody

**Antiphon**..... *page 235*



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

**Venite**..... *page 236*



**C** O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy - ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.



I Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



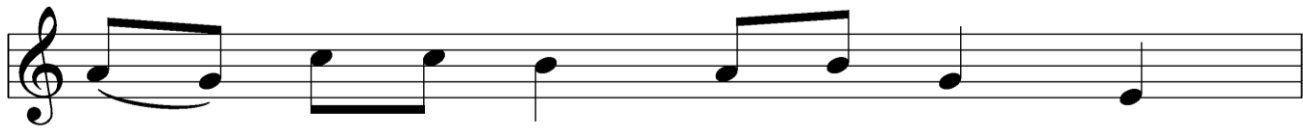
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



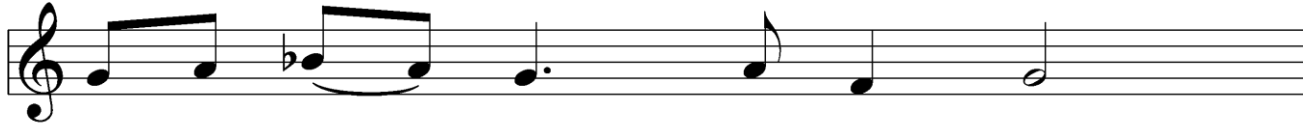
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

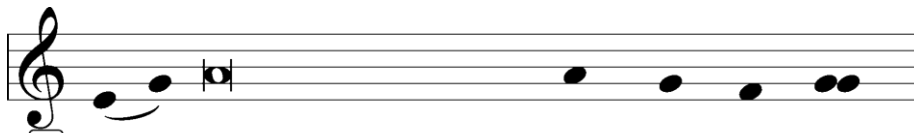


**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

**Antiphon**.....page 237



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

**Psalm 116**.....(*front of hymnal, spoken responsively*)

I love the LORD, because he has heard  
**my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Because he inclined his ear to me,  
**therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
**"O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"**

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;  
**our God is merciful.**

The LORD preserves the simple;  
**when I was brought low, he saved me.**

Return, O my soul, to your rest;  
**for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.**

For you have delivered my soul from death,  
**my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;**

I will walk before the LORD

**in the land of the living.**  
 I believed, even when I spoke,  
**“I am greatly afflicted”;**  
 I said in my alarm,  
**“All mankind are liars.”**  
 What shall I render to the LORD  
**for all his benefits to me?**  
 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
**and call on the name of the LORD,**  
 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
**in the presence of all his people.**  
 Precious in the sight of the LORD  
**is the death of his saints.**

O LORD, I am your servant;  
**I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.**  
 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
**and call on the name of the LORD.**  
 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
**in the presence of all his people,**  
 in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
**in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**  
**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.**

*Please be seated*

**Office Hymn..... “The Lamb”, #547**

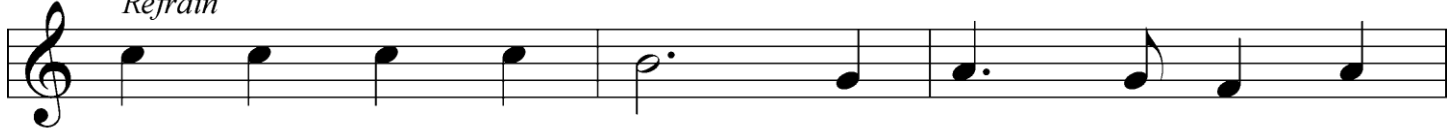


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.  
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.  
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.  
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

*Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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## Readings

### First Reading ..... Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . . Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading ..... 1 Peter 1:17-25

If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not



with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

**Holy Gospel ..... Luke 24:13-35**

**P** Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they

had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

- P** In many and various ways, God Spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

### **Apostles’ Creed**..... *(back cover of hymnal)*

- 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.

*Please be seated.*

## Children's Message

Sermon.....“Companions on the Way & of the Heart”

Songs for Reflection..... “Two or More” and “Strange Joy” (Bob Bennett)

*Please rise.*

Canticle Hymn.....“Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship” #949



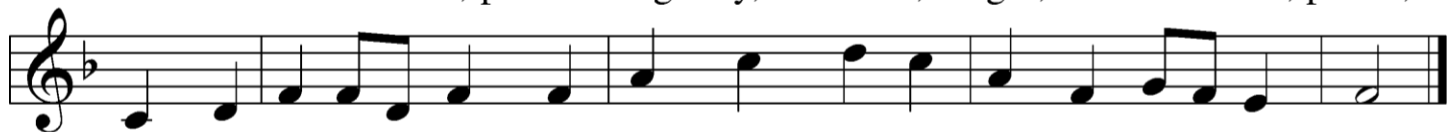
1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship “Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly” cry;  
2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



“He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High.”  
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon-or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a-lone!  
Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do-min-ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash-ioned, Fall be-fore the Fa-ther's throne.  
Now be His from all His crea-tures And to ev-er-last-ing days!

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## Offering

# Prayer

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.

*(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)*

**Collect for Grace** .....page 241

**P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Lord's Prayer** .....page 241

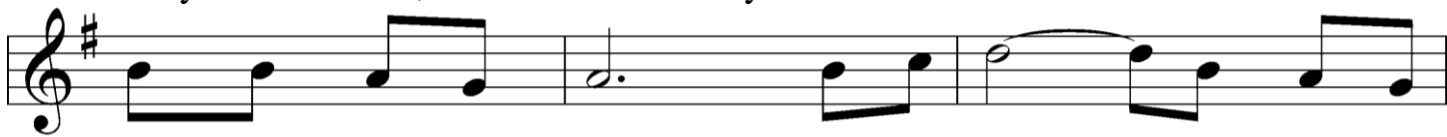
**Benedicamus** .....page 241

**Benediction** ..... page 242

**Sending Hymn**..... *"Stay with Us", #879*



1 Stay with us, till night has come: Our praise to  
2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: Hear when our  
3 Walk with us, the road will bend: Make all our  
4 Talk with us, till we be - hold A joy - ful  
5 Stay with us, till day is done: No tears nor



You this day be sung. Bless our bread, O - pen our  
wea - ry spir - its cry, Feel a - gain Our loss, our  
weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, For - give our  
life You will un - fold: Heal our eyes To see the  
dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, Your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.  
pain: Je - sus, take us to Your side.  
fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.  
prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.  
part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

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**Dismissal** ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

**P** Grow in Christ,

**C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

# Postlude ..... Cody Clemons

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## Next week's readings:

**OT: Acts 2:42-27; Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25; Gospel: John 10:1-10**

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**Attendance Last Saturday: 23**

**Total Offering: \$5,203.00**

**Home Use: \$4,788.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 71**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Benevolences: \$415.00**

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## Serving us today:

Elders.....Willie Crespo

Musicians ..... Cody Clemons

Altar Committee.....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Erika Freeman, Mary Creswell  
Peggy Hoyer, Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith

Flower Committee .....Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Penny Humphrey

## This Week's Schedule

Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Bob Bennett in Concert Here!
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	4-H
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	5:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Fellowship and Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
Friday		<i>Pastor's Vacation (April 28-May 15)</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at <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.	Holy Communion

**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.

### Presence

**A glad Easter welcome** to Bob Bennett as he's back in our midst again—all the way from California! You can read more about him in the back of the bulletin.

### Prayers

**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, Karon Harding, 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**—Mary Creswell-23<sup>rd</sup>, Tristen McLain-23<sup>rd</sup>, Amy Fair-28<sup>th</sup>, Georgia Luker-28<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**—After this week's **10:30 to noon session**—still looking at Zechariah—there'll be a hiatus until May 17<sup>th</sup> (after Pr. Joel returns).

**Sunday Bible Study (normally 9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room)** will still be happening while Pr. Joel is gone, but instead of the regular study, Pr. Ricky will be leading a discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts. Please come for this time of growth in the faith!

## Youth

**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.

**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.

## Music

**Choir Practice is on Wednesdays 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 **tomorrow—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 is food items for donation to the Food Center. Invite others and plan on being here yourselves for music that grounds us all more deeply in life and the joyous grace of the Risen Christ!

## Fellowship and Opportunities to Serve

**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**

**We are looking to hire a Congregational Life Facilitator.** If you are interest, please see more information at the end of the bulletin.

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](http://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](mailto: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](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)



You're invited to come hear

### ***Bob Bennett in Concert***

**on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2 p.m.**

at Bethlehem Lutheran Church,  
607 N. Maguire St. Warrensburg, Missouri

*The goal of this California singer-songwriter/acoustic guitarist's music is to communicate truthfully the messiness and joy of human existence in light of the sacred.*

*His website is [www.bobbennett.com](http://www.bobbennett.com).*

***Please bring shelf-stable food items  
for The Food Center as admission.***

## Bob Bennett

Bob's ability to write songs about other than typical "spiritual" topics has always made him stand out. He sees spiritual themes everywhere, even in the least holy of circumstances. Our lives are intricately woven with the sacred and the human, and honest communication of that is ultimately most effective.

If you tell Bob Bennett his songs don't sound much like religious music, you're likely to evoke a smile. After all, he has always lurked outside the fringes of Contemporary Christian Music, crafting songs that detail not only his joys and victories, but also his disappointments, struggles and failures.

Bob's acoustic folk-style recordings have honestly confronted the messy side of human existence over the years. But those who have discovered his depth, wit, honesty and musicianship consider him to be one of Christian music's foremost songwriters. His classic tunes "Matters of the Heart," "Come and See," "A Song About Baseball," and many others reveal a songwriting proficiency unmatched among his peers.

Bob was born in Downey, California, in 1955. He picked up his first guitar at age nine and formed a rock 'n' roll band in high school. In the late seventies he converted to Christianity and his songwriting began to reflect his newfound faith. His career was launched with the release of his 1979 folk-style debut recording *First Things First*. Three years later came *Matters of the Heart*, a recording Contemporary Christian Music Magazine voted 1982's "Album of the Year," ranking it among the top 20 Contemporary Christian Albums of all time.

Soon after the release of his next recording, *Non-Fiction*, he served as opening act on Amy Grant's *Unguarded* Tour. *Lord of the Past: A Compilation* followed, with its title song reaching number one on the Christian radio charts in early 1990, followed by his second number one song, "Yours Alone." Later that year Bob joined Michael Card on his *Way of Wisdom* tour, performing in front of sold-out audiences across the country. *Songs from Bright Avenue* was released in 1991, a collection of songs he wrote while struggling with the dissolution of his marriage. The years that followed were a time of emotional healing, regrouping and moving forward with his life. 1997's *Small Graces* reflected some of that progress.

Albums since then have been *The View from Here* (2002), *Christmastide* (2009), *Jesus Music Again* (2011), *Joy Deep as Sorrow* (2012), and *Live at Judson University* (2016). In March of 2020, Bob began a weekly livestream of "songs, stories, requests, some goofing around, and a little prayer at the end." You can find out more about what he's up to via his website: [www.bobbennett.com](http://www.bobbennett.com).

## **Job Description: Congregational Life Facilitator (part time)**

**Scope:** Working with the Pastor and the Elders, The Congregational Life Facilitator will coordinate ministry programs designed to meet the spiritual growth of our members of all ages. They will display a commitment to serving Jesus Christ through serving His people at Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Warrensburg, MO.

### **Responsibilities and Duties:**

- Provide leadership, plan and implement age-appropriate activities for Seniors, Adults, Jr. and High School and Elementary age youth that promote spiritual growth and community through faith development, fellowship, and enjoyment of God's gifts. Such activities might include: weekly activities, small group Bible study, retreats and service projects.
- Work with the Education, Mission, Evangelism, and Fellowship boards to help coordinate efforts among them, connect their activities, and encourage congregational and community participation in all of these areas.
- Attend monthly Education Committee meetings.
- Maintain regular communication with youth, parents, the pastor, church office and the surrounding community using appropriate technology and social media.
- Assist the Sunday School superintendent in the recruitment and training of adult volunteers to serve as Sunday School teachers and youth group leaders.
- Periodically meet with the various fellowship and volunteer groups at Bethlehem: Mary Martha, Men's club, Merry Widows, Singles, etc.
- Focus on one to three of these Bethlehem groups where guidance and direction is most needed for cohesion and strength.
- Meet with community groups that interface with Bethlehem (4H, Boys and Girls Scouts, etc.) at least once annually.
- Assist with preparation of Vacation Bible School if the need arises.

**Requirements:** The candidate should have experience working with youth and children in a faith community setting. This position shall be an example of dynamic leadership for a team of volunteers who can relate to persons of all ages and support Sunday school and other spiritual formation activities. The person in this position shall work closely with the pastor to develop and execute a program that includes Christian education advancement for participants of all ages and maintains high visibility with educational and social groups within our congregation. An organized and creative self-starter who is a team player with a positive attitude. High School or equivalent diploma required.

**Hours:** Part time schedule (20 hours / week). Able to work flexible hours; including weekends, evenings, and holidays

**Supervisory Responsibility:** This position will help supervise adult volunteers and student leaders.

Please submit resume and names of references to the church office manager via mail or email (officemanager@blchurch.com) or mail: Office Manager, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maquire Street, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

## 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.