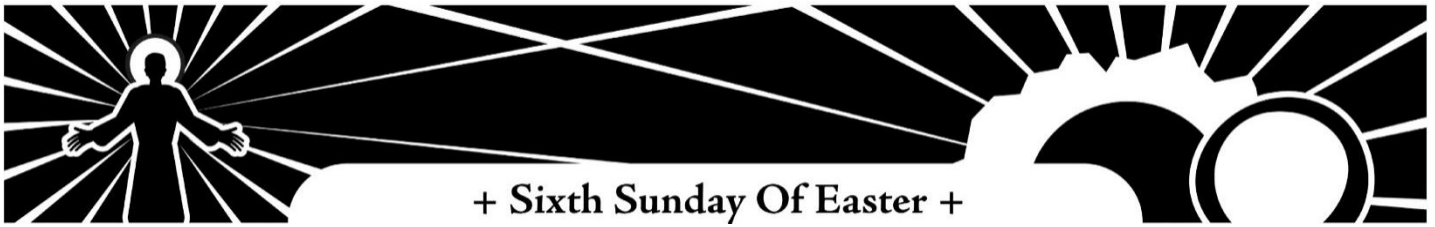


*Because  
I live,  
you also  
will live*

JOHN 14:19



+ Sixth Sunday Of Easter +

**May 14, 2023**

**Mother's Day**

**AS WE GATHER**

We live in a world where we increasingly hear strange ideas. The people we work, play, and live near increasingly consider the truths that our God created this world and redeemed us to be strange. Jesus, Peter, and Paul lived in a world that had some striking similarities to our own. As we live out our Baptism, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus and keep His commands. We are urged to always be “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). As we do so, it is easy to fall into the angry, divisive, argumentative patterns that we hear in the political realm. Yet, we are called to share our hope with gentleness and respect, so that we keep a clear conscience and suffer for doing good rather than evil.

**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 .....Rich Vanderburgh**

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

**Gathering Hymn ..... “Now Thank We All Our God”, #895**

***Please rise for the last verse—as indicated by the triangle.***



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,  
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,  
 △ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
 And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed  
 The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

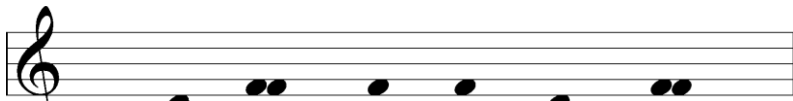


With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

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## Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... *page 235*



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



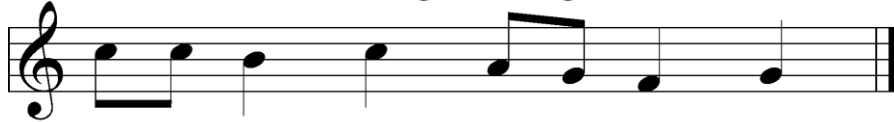
**C** and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.



**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.



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

## Proverbs 31:10-31 ..... *(spoken in unison)*

**An excellent wife who can find?**

**She is far more precious than jewels.**

**The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.**

**She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.**

**She seeks wool and flax,  
and works with willing hands.**

**She is like the ships of the merchant;  
she brings her food from afar.**

**She rises while it is yet night  
and provides food for her household  
and portions for her maidens.**

**She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.**

**She dresses herself with strength  
and makes her arms strong.**

**She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.**

**She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.**

**She opens her hand to the poor  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.**

**She is not afraid of snow for her household,  
for all her household are clothed in scarlet.**

**She makes bed coverings for herself;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.**

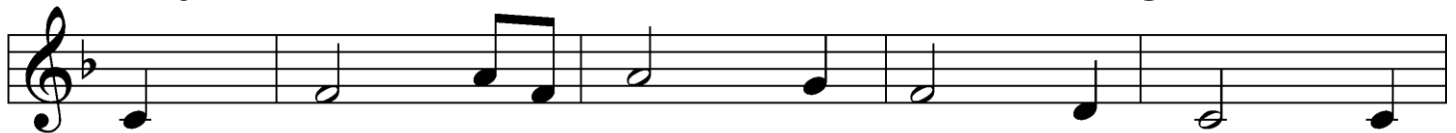
**Her husband is known in the gates  
when he sits among the elders of the land.**

**She makes linen garments and sells them;**

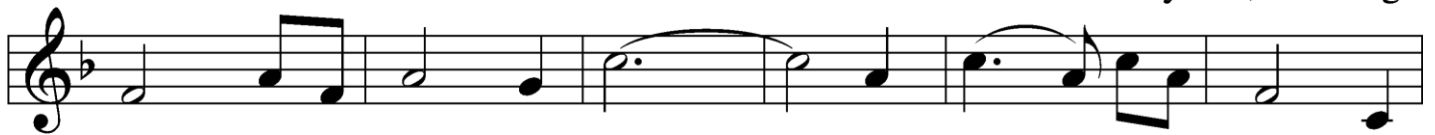
she delivers sashes to the merchant.  
 Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
 and she laughs at the time to come.  
 She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
 and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
 She looks well to the ways of her household  
 and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
 Her children rise up and call her blessed;  
 her husband also, and he praises her:  
 "Many women have done excellently,  
 but you surpass them all."  
 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
 but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
 Give her of the fruit of her hands,  
 and let her works praise her in the gates.  
 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....."Amazing Grace", #744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

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## Readings

### First Reading .....Acts 17:16-31

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;  
 as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we are indeed his offspring.’

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Reading ..... 1 Peter 3:13-22**

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

**Holy Gospel ..... John 14:15-21**

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

**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 Song** ..... *“O Be Careful Little Eyes”*

**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**..... *“Speak Up; Be Ready to Witness”*

*Please rise.*



**Canticle Hymn.....“Oh, Blest the House”, #862**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Oh, blest that house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol - ly  
 hope and love a - bound; They trust their God and serve Him  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care or  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives is  
 prom - ise make and say: Though all the world for - sake His



His— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 still And do in all His ho - ly will!  
 cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 shown How rich - ly God can bless His own.  
 Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

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*Please be seated.*

**Offering**

*Please rise.*

**Prayer**

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

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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**..... *"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" #660*



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;  
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.  
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.  
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.  
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.  
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead  
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.  
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.  
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.  
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

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

**P** Grow in Christ,

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

# Postlude .....Rich Vanderburgh

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## Next week's readings:

**First: Acts 1:12-26; Epistle: 1 Pet. 4:12-19; 5:6-11; Gospel: John 17:1-11**

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**Attendance Last Saturday: 31**

**Total Offering: \$56,936.13**

**Home Use: \$3,199.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 75**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Benevolences/Non-Offering: \$53,737.13**

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## Serving us today:

Elders..... Alan Miller

Musicians ..... Rich Vanderburgh

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

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	11:00 a.m.	Lunch Bunch (at Senior Center)
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	1:30 p.m.	Saint Paul Graduation ( <i>Emma Frerking</i> )
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
	7:30 p.m.	Warrensburg Graduation ( <i>Luke Fatka</i> )
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
	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis

## Absence/Presence

Pr. Joel return to the office on Tuesday, May 16. We are thankful that Pr. Ricky has been able to fill in for the weekend services and Bible studies! If an emergency arises during Pastor's absence, please contact your elder or the head elder (as listed at 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.

**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**—Eunice Cobb-15<sup>th</sup>, Martha Toellner-16<sup>th</sup>, Pat Spanton-18<sup>th</sup>, Will Brasel-19<sup>th</sup>. **Anniversaries**-Jeremy & Corrine Allison-17<sup>th</sup>, Jimmy & Sonia Smithers-17<sup>th</sup>, Willie and Julie Crespo-18<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).

**Ascension Day Service**—Join with others in our sanctuary on **Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** as we mark the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter Sunday and reflect on the meaning of Christ's Ascension for our lives.

## Sunday School and Christian Education

**Wednesday Bible Study** will return on **May 17** when Pr. Joel gets back from vacation.

**Thursday Bible Study**-Pastor Ricky will begin an Adult Bible Study on the Old Testament book of Ezekiel on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend and learn about Ezekiel. On the first night we will focus our attention on the history of the prophet Ezekiel. I encourage everyone to read through chapters 34—36 of the book of 2 Chronicles. This will enlighten us on what's happening in Jerusalem and Babylon during the prophet Ezekiel's ministry.

**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*.

## 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** will continue through the month of May. Join us on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** for fellowship time and **7:00 p.m.** for practice. We will be preparing a hymn to sing on June 4.

## Opportunities to Serve

**Food Center Help**—Bethlehem's month to staff the Food Center is June. We are responsible for **Tuesday and Thursday afternoons**. Please sign up to help so we can help impact food insecurity in Johnson County. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.

## Fellowship

**Powell Gardens**—The Mary Martha Guild is inviting anyone from the congregation to come on a trip to Powell Gardens on **Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and carpool. You can bring your lunch or buy a boxed lunch there. We plan on being back sometime after 1:00 p.m. Please contact Darlene Laubenstein if you would like to go.

**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.

### **This & That**

**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.**

**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)



## **A Reflection for Mother's Day**

*(Martin Luther praised Mary, the mother of Jesus, as the first Christian and the model of a life of faith for us all. This reflection, written by Dr. Raymond Chapman, enables us to meditate on key aspects of her life with Jesus her Son and Savior.)*

May the faith of Mary, told by the angel that she would bear the Son of God,  
be my example.

May the family love of Mary, visiting her cousin Elisabeth also with child,  
be my example.

May the humility of Mary, giving birth in the squalor of a stable,  
be my example.

May the patience of Mary, driven into a strange land to save her child,  
be my example.

May the perseverance of Mary, seeking long for her son and finding him in the  
Temple, be my example.

May the maternal love of Mary, through years of growth and learning,  
be my example.

May the constancy of Mary, close to her Son in his death,  
be my example.

May the fellowship of Mary, in company with the Apostles as the Church was  
be my example.

## 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.