The image features three sparrows perched on a vertical wooden post. The top sparrow is partially visible, the middle one is in profile facing right, and the bottom one is also in profile facing right. The background is a dark, textured green. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

You are
of more
value
than
many
sparrows

MATTHEW 10:31



+ The 4th Sunday After Pentecost +
June 25, 2023

AS WE GATHER

It is not easy to live in this world as a believer in the one true God. Faith is challenged, truth is questioned, and persecution is faced. Though hardships and challenges are there and will continue, we are reminded this is nothing new since the fall into sin. The Lord doesn't leave us though in midst of doubt and despair as we deal with division and even danger. He gives His presence and assures His lasting promises. In the Old Testament, the prophet Jeremiah and his people faced hardships, yet they modeled how our witness and testimony can be ones of boldness and confidence as we sing to and praise the Lord, for He "delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers" (Jeremiah 20:13). As Paul would face countless challenges in his Gospel proclamation to the ends of the earth, he reminds us that, even amid the battle of sin, we have received grace and that the "free gift of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23). Jesus also reminds us that as divisiveness and persecution can be expected even from those closest to us, because of His everlasting promises we are able to "fear not." The psalmist also assures that the Lord remains our refuge and our fortress. The world around us won't change until Christ returns, but the Lord doesn't change either. In and through Him, with faith and confidence we keep our trust.

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:

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

Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance. 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.)

Gathering Hymn..... "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing", #691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
 loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
 and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
 har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
 Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
 Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
 Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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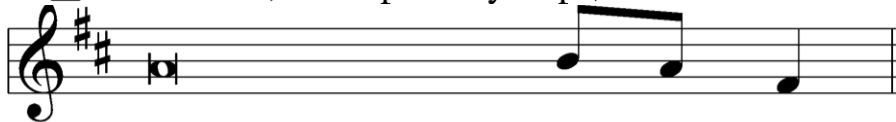
Please rise

Matins

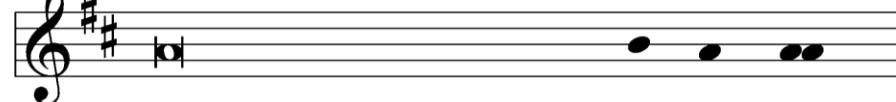
Opening Verses..... page 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



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



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon page 220

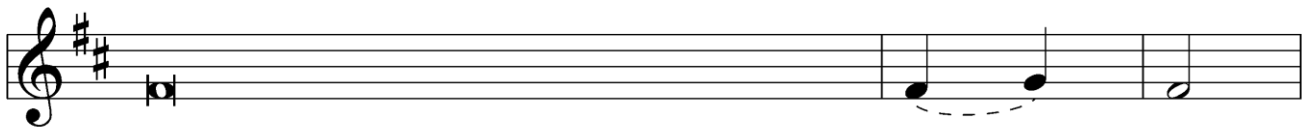


L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir - it.



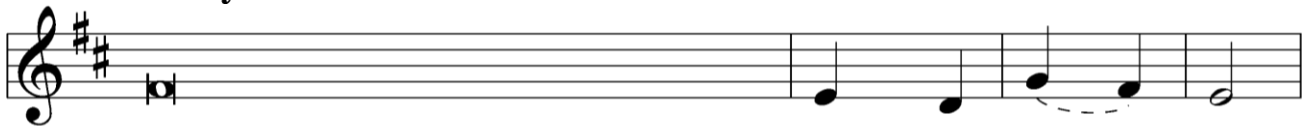
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite.....pages 220-221



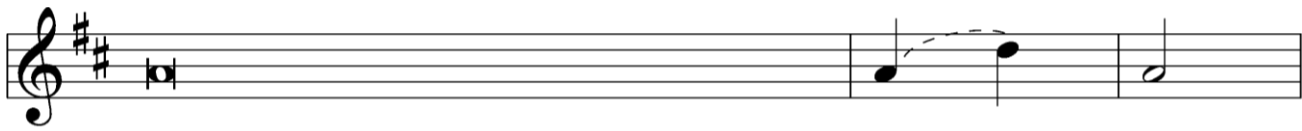
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

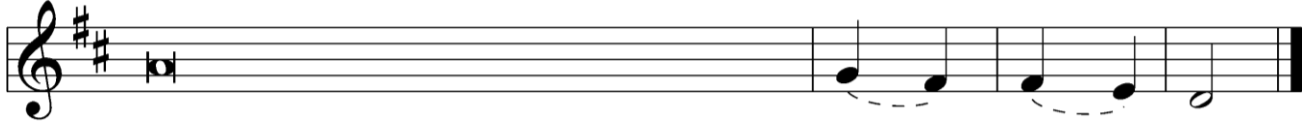


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow — down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His — al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep — of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon *page 221*



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 91/Office Hymn..... *"On Eagles' Wings", #727*



1 You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, Who a -
 2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And
 3 You need not fear the — ter - ror of the night, Nor the
 4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
 fam - ine will bring you no fear;
 ar - row that flies — by day; Though
 guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My _____ ref - uge, My _____
 Un - der His wings your _____ ref - uge, His _____
 thou - sands _____ fall a - bout you,
 on their _____ hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock _____ in whom _____ I _____ trust!"
 faith - ful - ness _____ your _____ shield.
 Near you it shall _____ not _____ come.
 dash _____ your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

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Please be seated

Readings

Old Testament Reading.....Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have deceived me,
 and I was deceived;
 you are stronger than I,
 and you have prevailed.
 I have become a laughingstock all the day;
 everyone mocks me.
 For whenever I speak, I cry out,
 I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
 For the word of the Lord has become for me
 a reproach and derision all day long.

If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

For I hear many whispering.

Terror is on every side!

"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

say all my close friends,
watching for my fall.

"Perhaps he will be deceived;

then we can overcome him
and take our revenge on him."

But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble;
they will not overcome me.

They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous,
who sees the heart and the mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you have I committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of evildoers.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Romans 6:12-23

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise

Holy GospelMatthew 10:5a, 21-33

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .

“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all

numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory.....page 221



- L** 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
 2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep— it.
 3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

Please be seated

Children’s Songs “Covered in Jesus’ Grace”, “Living Water”

VBS Presentation

Sermon..... “Looking Out For & Looking After!”

Hymn of Dedication..... “Consider How the Birds Above”, #736



- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1 Con - sid - er | how the birds | a - bove | Feed day by |
| 2 The lil - ies | grow, they do | not toil; | How fair is |
| 3 Set not your | heart on food | or drink, | Nor be weighed |
| 4 Be on your | guard a - gainst | all greed, | For life is |



day with care - free ease—	Does God not keep them
their fra - gil - i - ty—	If God clothes these, which
down by world - ly care;	A - bout such things the
more than what we own.	Our Fa - ther knows our



in His love? Are we not worth much more than these?
quick - ly spoil, Will He not clothe both you and me?
god - less think, Yet nev - er thank the Lord in prayer.
ev - 'ry need Be - fore our needs to us are known.

5 Be not afraid to suffer loss
Of all the things for which you pray,
For He who faced for you the cross
Will give you strength to live each day.

6 Seek first God's reign, His boundless grace,
His holy name in all you do:
Christ first and last in ev'ry place;
All else will then be given you.

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Offering & Offertory

Please rise

Apostles Creed.....*back cover of hymnal*

**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.**

Announcement of Prayers

Prayer

Kyrie.....page 227



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

Collects.....page 227-228



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day *(in unison)*

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 ending Amen.

Benedicamus.....page 228

Benediction.....page 228

Sending Hymn..... *"God Loves Me Dearly", #392*



1	God	loves	me	dear	-	ly,	Grants	me	sal -
2	I	was	in	slav	-	'ry,	Sin,	death,	and
3	He	sent	forth	Je	-	sus,	My	dear	Re -
4	Je -	sus,	my	Sav	-	ior,	Him -	self	did
5	Now	I	will	praise		You,	O	Love	E -

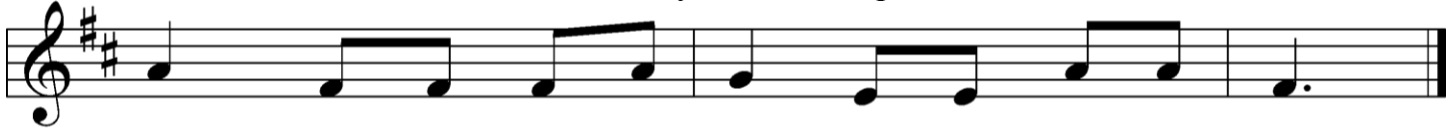


va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude

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This year's youth confirmands are holding a bake sale as their Confirmation Project. Items will be available after Sunday service during the VBS potluck. Donations collected will be given to the Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch to assist with the animal rehabilitation programs they have for the youth they serve in healing from the traumas they have experienced. (www.dakotaranch.org)

Next week's readings:

OT: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Epistle: Romans 7:1-13; Gospel: Matthew 10:34-42

Attendance Last Saturday: 35
Total Offering: \$2,973.00
Home Use: \$2,893.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 52
Missions: \$0.00
Benevolences: \$80.00

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 CommitteeLana Vanderburgh (Chair), Penny Humphrey

This Week's Schedule

Today	12:00 p.m.	VBS Potluck and Celebration
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday	5:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Volleyball
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Ezekiel Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
		<i>Pr. Joel's Sabbatical (July 1-July 31)</i>
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Prayers

For Don & Jean McBride as they moved to Idaho to be close to their family. May the Lord bless their life together as it unfolds out there!

For Roy & Judy Schache as they are back in Papua New Guinea working with the brothers and sisters of the Gutnius Lutheran Church until August.

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Charlie Becker, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Mark Brown, Carrie Brunkhorst, Holli Burge, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Becca Estanek, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Karon Harding, Abby Humphrey, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Danielle Meloy, Jeannie Peterson, Judy Pierce, Brayden Rohner, 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 and Ty Carter.

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—Karen Haase-24th, Shawn Lindley-24th, Addison Bell-25st, Bryon Freeman-28th, Philip Freeman-28th, Elias Murrell-30th, **Anniversary**—Lynn and Caren Miller-29th.

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.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study—This weekly study will be taking a hiatus for July as Pr. Joel is on sabbatical! Plan on joining us when we resume in August and start working our way through a different book of the Bible.

Thursday Bible Study—Pastor Ricky is holding a Bible Study on the Old Testament book of Ezekiel on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend & learn about the word of the Lord that Ezekiel prophesied long ago and its meaning for us still.

Combined Summer Sunday School & Bible Study/Faith Formation—From June 4th thru September 3rd, we will be having family-style Sunday School **each Sunday morning at 9:15** in the church basement/fellowship hall. Whether you are part of a large family, small family, or are single, we hope you can join us for this opportunity to learn about God's love and grace in an intergenerational setting. *We're currently gearing up for and exploring the VBS theme—God's Living Water!*

Book Study: *The Spiritually Vibrant Home*—Jeremy VanWey and Rebecca Holland will be hosting a book study on **the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 4-7 p.m.** at their home in Warrensburg **starting in July.** Resources from Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Households of Faith" kit will be used for the study. *Each evening will include a potluck meal.* Children are welcome and the chaos that shall ensue is just an average day around our house. Please RSVP to Rebecca (660-441-1271) if

you are interested in attending any or all meetings so that she can order an appropriate number of books.

Vacation Bible School

This Sunday, June 25th will conclude our Vacation Bible School program, *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*, and we want your help in celebrating! Join us for fun activities and a potluck meal after the church service tomorrow. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side dish, if you plan to attend.

Opportunities to Serve

How Do Our Gardens Grow? Well, but better with your help—especially with weeding! Let Pr. Joel know if you'd like to help him with his ambition of getting them under control for now before his sabbatical starts. Peppers are popping out well, and it looks like there'll be a good blackberry harvest—with pickers needed! **Workdays will be the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of July from 9:00 a.m. until noon or so.**

Fellowship

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.

This & That

Medical & Dental Care/Housing Assistance—Katy Trail Community Health continues to be in Warrensburg each Tuesday from **9am to 3pm**—in the basement fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church (located beyond The Food Center's back 137 E. Culton lot, where the mobile clinic unit is). A free lunch is served **from 11:30am-1pm**, plus case managers from Journey Home are present to help with housing and employment needs. All are welcome, and financial assistance for medical & dental treatment is available! **As of June 1st, the mobile dental clinic (a partnership of Compass & Katy Trail) is present every Thursday from 9am to 3pm as well, and lunch is served as well. 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.

Looking Ahead/Pastor's Sabbatical

In recognition of his 15 years at Bethlehem and 25 years of ordained ministry last year, Bethlehem graciously gave Pr. Joel a sabbatical month. He'll be taking that month off this July and will be traveling & working on writing projects. If you need to connect with him before he leaves, please do so sooner rather than later. Pr. Ricky Bertels and Pr. Jeffery Kuddes (formerly a pastor at Trinity—Cole Camp) will be covering services during his absences.

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

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

Congregation Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm–5pm

Thursday: 1pm–5pm

clf@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.