



Whoever
welcomes you
welcomes
me

MATTHEW 10:40



+ The 5th Sunday After Pentecost +

July 1-2, 2023

Independence Day Weekend

AS WE GATHER

Peace in our time would be a wonderful thing to experience, as countless things in life are anything but peaceful. From our stresses and circumstances to the sins that surround us and others, can peace ever be attained? It is not from lack of trying. Politicians attempt to create and even make promises of peace, relationships that were strained can become mended, and turmoil can be overcome at times. But does it last? We know in this world it doesn't, but there is a peace that does last. Jeremiah is inspired to speak of false peace among his people, but only the Lord can truly bring it. As the Paul writes about the anything-but-peaceful lives of sin, we are reminded of peace that only comes from God's forgiveness in Christ. Even as Jesus speaks of the sword He comes to bring, it doesn't bring "peace on earth." As we hear God's Word, may we be drawn today and always to a peace that is beyond our understanding come by and through Christ's victory for us as we await eternal joys in Him.

In the popular show *Dirty Jobs*, host Mike Rowe would involve himself for a time with a job that would be considered dirty and often downright messy. It was entertaining for the viewer to watch but also caused the audience to wonder if they could do a job like that. As people called, gathered, and enlightened by the Holy Spirit and made God's own, He has given us a job. It may not be considered dirty, but it is difficult. The job is to live as His people, to serve as His witnesses, to testify to His truth, and to follow Him where He leads. As hearers, we then wonder, "Can I do a job like that?" It would be tough for His disciples then, and remains tough for us today. But even in those jobs we are privileged to have as His people, we don't go it alone. Jesus has done the dirty work in this world for us through His perfect life and sacrificial death on the cross leading to His victorious resurrection. Because of that, He goes with us wherever He places us to do His work for the sake of others now and for the sake of His kingdom to come.

The one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church is found in various places throughout the whole world and in every nation. National flags have not traditionally been displayed in churches as they denote only earthly division among people whereas

Christians are one in their faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. There are therefore no Propers appointed for Independence Day in the United States of America or Canada Day in that commonwealth. This, of course, is not to deny a person's responsibilities as a citizen of a country. In fact our feelings of patriotism may rank quite high as citizens who owe allegiance to an earthly government.

As we gather as Christians in America before the altar of God, we acknowledge with joy and conviction our loyalty to our homeland. But we do so knowing that anything made by the hands of men is subject to the decay and demise and disfigurement of our sin. Therefore, Christians give the higher and final loyalty to God, our Creator and Redeemer.

REGARDING COMMUNION

*When we gather at the Lord's Table, the cup of blessing we receive is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We who are many are one bread and body in Christ (I Cor. 10:16-17). As a people baptized into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to us in this holy meal to renew us individually and together in our life of faith and following him. **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:

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

***Visitors:** We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit. **A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there's a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders or talk to the pastor.*

Prelude

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

Invocation Hymn "To God be the Glory"



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things He has done, So
2 To God be the glo - ry, great mer - cy He's shown: He
3 To God be the glo - ry, His Word is great truth, In -
4 To God be the glo - ry, His great - ness di - vine Now
5 To God be the glo - ry, great things He has done, Our



loved He the world that He gave us His Son. Who
saved us and cleansed us and made us His own; Re -
struct - ing and guid - ing since days of our youth: The
of - fers for - give - ness with bread and with wine, And
lives have been touched by the light of His Son— Called



yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for sin And
newed by the Spir - it, re - born from a - bove, That
Law to re - prove, to cor - rect, and to train; The
fed by His bod - y and blood in this place, We
out of the dark - ness of death and de - spair; Made



o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
we might be jus - ti - fied by His rich love!
Gos - pel to com - fort, to heal and sus - tain.
taste and we see the Lord's won - der - ful grace!
priests in His king - dom, His deeds to de - clare.

Refrain



1-4 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His
5 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His

voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re -
 voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re -
 joice! O come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the
 joice! Sing praise to the Fa - ther, sing praise to the
 Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He has done!
 Son, Sing praise to the Spir - it— our God, Three in One!

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Divine Service, Setting Four

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Confession & Absolutionpage 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered . . . God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** Almighty God, . . . through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn “Before You, Lord, We Bow”, #966



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
 2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
 3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
 4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
 5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
 From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
 Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
 Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down
 From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo - rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
 bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
 'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
 your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
 less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

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Kyriepage 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis.....page 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation.....page 205

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading.....**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual..... (*spoken in unison*)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33, 36)

Epistle Reading **Romans 7:1-13**

Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

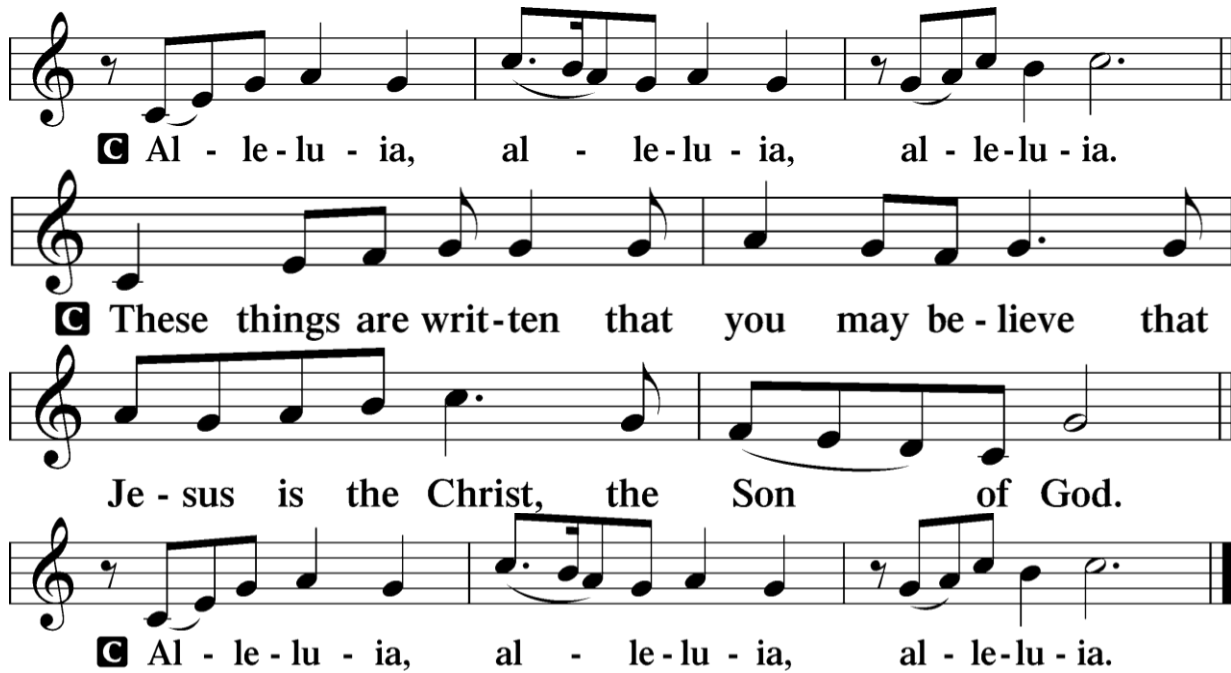
Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Alleluia and Versepage 205



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

C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

Holy Gospel**Matthew 10:34-42**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed page 206

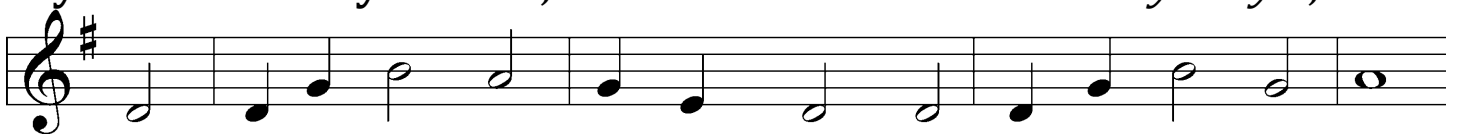
**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

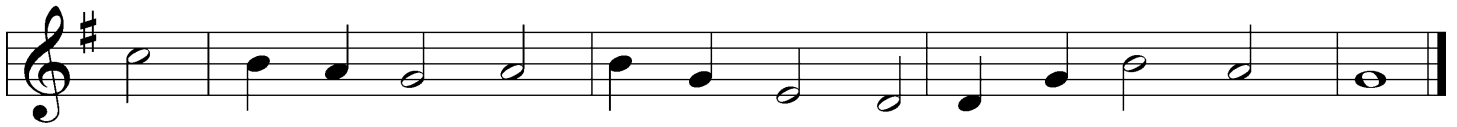
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
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.

Hymn of the Day *"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways", #707*



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re-store Thy wan-d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of-fend a-against my God.

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Please be seated.

Sermon “Where Do We Find Peace?”

Offering & Offertory

Please rise.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in your mercy.
- C** Hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgy *pages 208-210*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also 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 beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Agnus Deipage 210



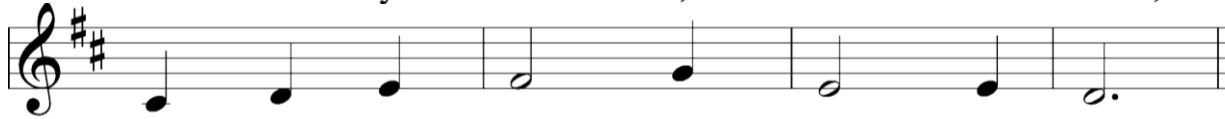
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.

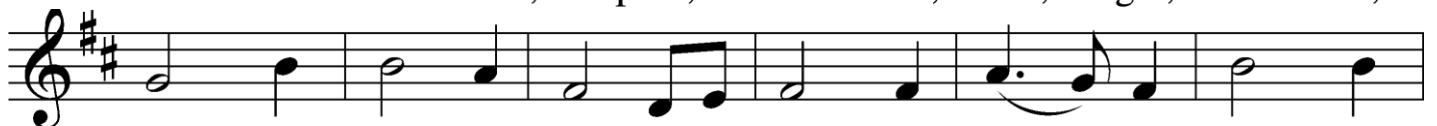
Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn *"Just as I Am, without One Plea", #570*



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Communion Hymn *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less", #575*



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

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Please rise.

Post Communion Canticle..... *“Nunc Dimittis” page 211*

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect..... *page 212*

Benedicamus and Benediction..... *page 212*

Sending Hymn *“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”, #685*

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude

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Next week's readings:

OT: Zech. 9:9-12, Epistle: Rom. 7:14-25a, Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Attendance Last Saturday: 31
Total Offering: \$17,834.53
Home Use: \$5,944.08

Attendance Last Sunday: 75
Missions: \$0.00
Benevolences: \$11,890.45

Serving us today:

EldersJack Easterwood, Willie Crespo, Alan Miller
MusiciansJerrode Marsh
Altar Committee Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Mary Creswell
Stephanie Schumaker, Lauren Schumaker
Flower CommitteePenny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland

This Week's Schedule

Monday		<i>Office Closed</i>
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
Tuesday		<i>Office Closed-4th of July</i>
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Ezekiel Bible Study
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Garden & Greenspace Outdoor Workday
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education (K-Adult)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Absence/Presence

While Pr. Joel is on sabbatical this month, Pr. Ricky Bertels and Pr. Jeffrey Kuddes will be leading worship and preaching for the weekend services. If a need arises, please contact your elder or the head elder, Willie Crespo. The Lord blesses us and keeps us, upholding us by His grace!

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this weekend are in celebration of **Scott and Penny Humphrey's** 20th anniversary on July 3rd! We pray that Christ's love continues to abound in their life together, and that they know his every goodness and grace.

Prayers

For Pastor-Elect Jonathan & Deaconess Bridgette Sharp as he will be ordained and installed as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Springfield, Illinois, on

Sunday, July 9th, at 3 p.m. May their lives in service to our Lord and His people flourish 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, Jeannie Peterson, Judy Pierce, Jennifer Pint, 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!

Transfers of Membership

Martha Friedmeyer has transferred her membership to Trinity—Clinton (where she lives) but is being kept as an associate member here at Bethlehem. Also, Pastor-Elect Jonathan Sharp and his wife Deaconess Bridgette Sharp have been granted transfers to Trinity—Springfield, IL (upon being called to serve there this past April). We rejoice in the baptismal bond which keeps us connected in Christ's faith and grace!

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Rose Steitz-1st, Ruth Sykes-1st, SueAnn Carter-2nd, Noah Pederson-4th, Bambi Burden-5th, Azriel Hartwig-5th, Isabella McCluskey-5th, Sue Cottrill-5th, Jennifer Pint-7th, **Anniversaries**—Don and Teresa Hillsman-3rd, Scott and Penny Humphrey-3rd.

Thank You

Shawn Lindley would like to thank all the VBS helpers, children and members of the congregation for their cards, gifts, and delicious birthday cake. Blessings to you all for such a memorable day!

The Youth Thanks everyone who purchased baked goods this past weekend. There was around \$230 collected and the funds will be going to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in North Dakota.

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.

Opportunities to Serve

The Food Center—thank you to all who helped with Bethlehem's month serving the Food Center. Dorothy Anderson, Bambi Burden, Becca Evans, Bret & Val

Hartwig, Peggy Hoyer, Abby Humphrey, Darlene Laubenstein, Duane & Becky Limback, Beryl Lindley, Georgia Luker, Alan Miller, Mary Creswell Russo & Melvin Theroff. Thank you also to Pr. Joel for his support & the fresh herbs. Special thanks to Larry & Karen Haase who both secured Thrivent Grants for the Food Center. Karen's grant benefited the Mini Mart for the unhoused & Larry's to the pantry. We could not do this important part of God's work without everyone. **Sue Cottrill.**

How Do Our Gardens Grow? Well, but better with your help! **Come help with our gardens and greenspaces on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of July from 9:00 a.m. until noon or so** and enjoy the stewardship and harvest of the Lord's bounty here. Keep an eye for those soon-to-be ripe plums and blackberries out back that will be perfect for picking, eating, and sharing!

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. **NO EXERCISE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY.**

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.

Lunch Bunch—The Lunch Bunch will be taking a break during July and August and will get back together on the third Thursday in September.

This & That

Immanuel Lutheran Church-Higginville will be holding a **Ladies Guild Summer Retreat on Saturday, July 8 at 9:00 a.m.** Enjoy food, fellowship, and Bible study. Pastor Brandon will be leading a study on Jeremiah 1:8.

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! **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 of 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

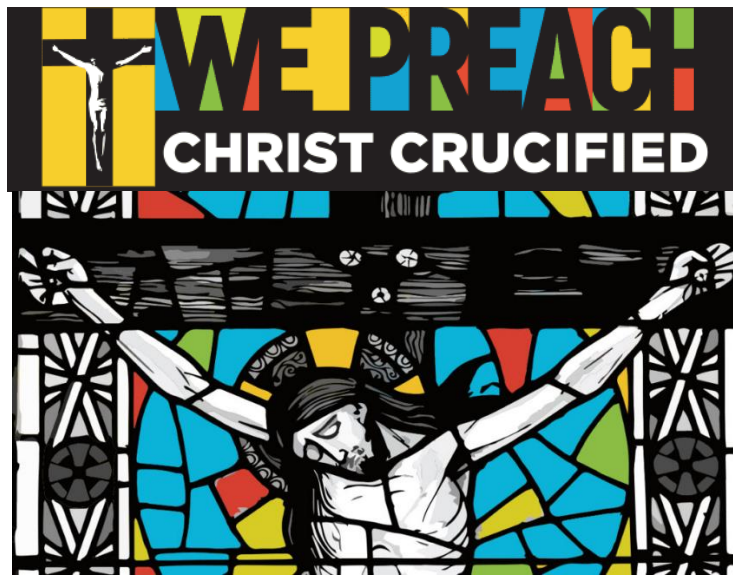
Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

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



VBS THANK YOU		
A big thank you goes out to the Ellen Pederson for coordinating Vacation Bible School again this year. Thanks also goes out to the following leaders & helpers.		
Pr. Joel	Cody Clemons	Mary Creswell
Bryon Freeman	Diana Holland	Rebecca Holland
Penny Humphrey	Darlene Laubenstein	Shawn Lindley
Beryl Lindley	Pat Lockhart	Amy Martin
Colleen Murrell	Aedan Pederson	Ellen Pederson
Cindy Smith	Neil Tebbenkamp	Jeremy VanWey
Children		
Delaney & Haley Clemons, Phil & Katy Freeman, Adeline & Anita Murrell, Noah, Kilian & Silas Pederson, Bryce, LauraBeth & Delia VanWey		



**LCMS NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 29-AUGUST 3, 2023
Milwaukee, WI**

Please keep Willie Crespo (circuit lay delegate) and Pr. Jacob Mueller (circuit pastoral delegate) in your prayers as they will both be attending the conference on behalf of the Concordia Circuit.

Prayers: Always “in order”

The convention is the member congregations’ opportunity to keep their Synod faithful and, as much as in us lies, to make plans and select laborers from which and whom they can expect—the Lord granting the growth—fruitfulness. The theme for the upcoming convention, “We Preach Christ Crucified” (1 Cor. 1:18–25), evokes the power and wisdom of God, ultimately revealed in the Christ crucified, prevailing mightily in the midst of a world that counts it as but foolishness and nothingness.

Knowing this Christ—that He is ours and we are His, that He is crucified for us, risen, ascended to the right hand of God’s power, interceding and ruling for His church, however she may now appear—should give us great confidence to approach the throne of grace for the petitions and the people drawing nigh to convention. The Good Lord grant by the power of His cross, despite our weaknesses and divisions and those of the world, that His wisdom and power may carry the day and bless our Synod in Milwaukee. That prayer is certainly always “in order.”

-The Rev. Dr. John W. Sias (secretary@lcms.org) is secretary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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

Congregational 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.