

AS WE GATHER

The Lord's words through the prophet Isaiah remind us of the purpose of the sacred space into which we have entered: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). Even from ancient times, the Lord God has invited all peoples—no matter who they are or where they have come from—to enter His presence and receive deliverance from their sin. In Christ Jesus, crucified and raised to life again for our salvation, we trust that the promises of God, offered to all, are also promises He makes personally to us. Jesus died for all, and Jesus died for you! Standing together as one, we, though many, form one family and belong to one everlasting kingdom. Together, we receive God's gifts. Together, we raise our united voice in prayers and praises. Together, we gather to experience the life God offers "for all peoples."

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.

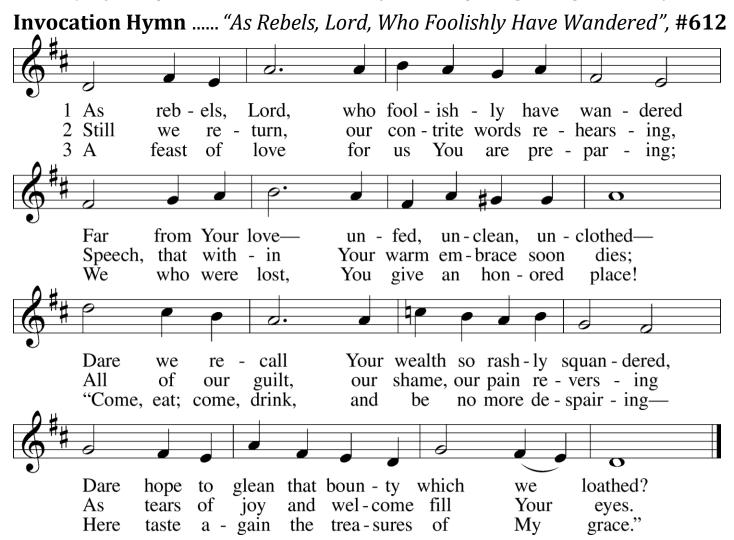
Liturgical Color:

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.)



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Please rise.

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,
- who made heaven and earth.
- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered . . . God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- 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





confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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..... Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. . . . "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered." **P** This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. Gradual.....(spoken in unison) Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. Amen. (Psalm 34:9) Epistle Reading......Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an

Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has

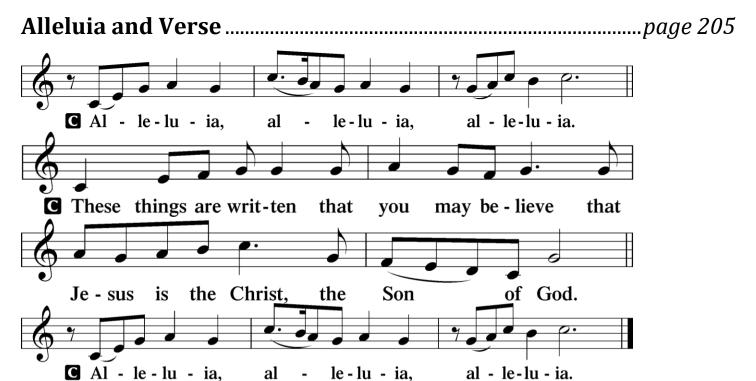
not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Please rise.



Holy GospelMatthew 15:21-28

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged

him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- 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,

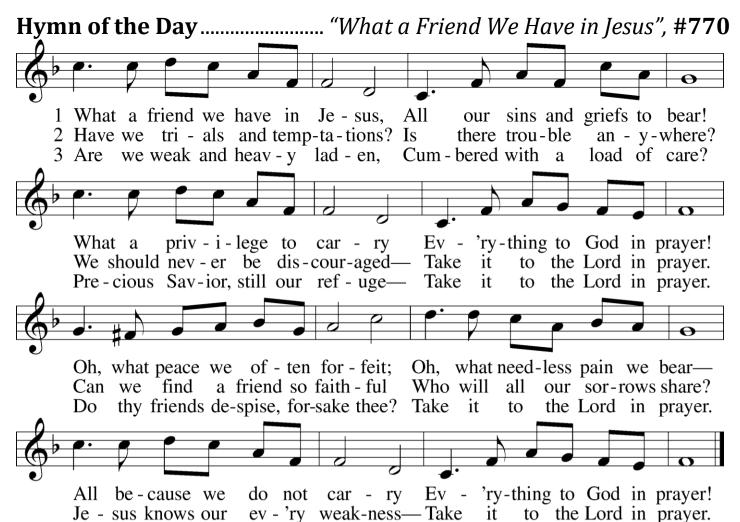
the Lord and giver of life,

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.

Please be seated.



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sol-ace there.

His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a

Sermon "Mercy Given & Received!"

Offering & Offertory

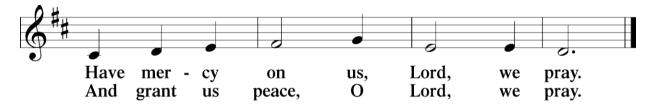
Please rise.

Prayer of the Church

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

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 208-210 \mathbf{P} The Lord be with you. And also with you. \mathbf{C} \mathbf{P} Lift up your hearts. \mathbf{C} We lift them to the Lord. \mathbf{P} Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. \mathbf{C} It is right to give Him thanks and praise. It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying: ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth Ho - lv, 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 Dei***page 210* 0. Christ, Lamb of God. sus true 2 O Je -Lamb God, sus Christ, of true You take the sin of the world way; You take the sin of the world way; O Christ, Lamb of God, Je sus true Have mer - cy on us, Je sus Christ,

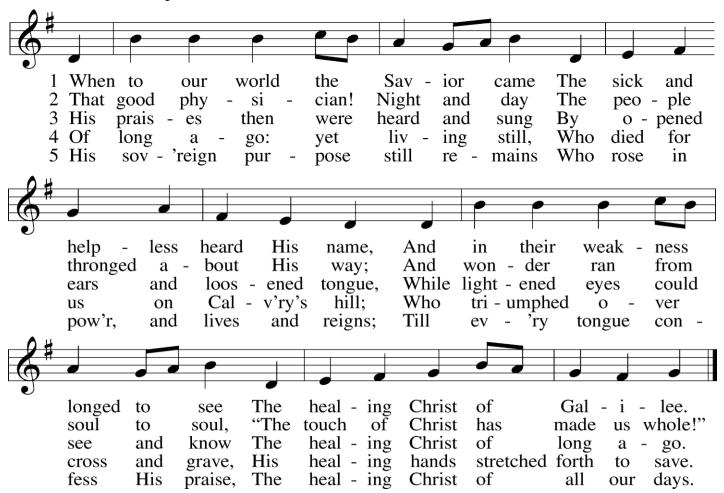


Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.

Instrumental

(Hymns on Sunday Only)

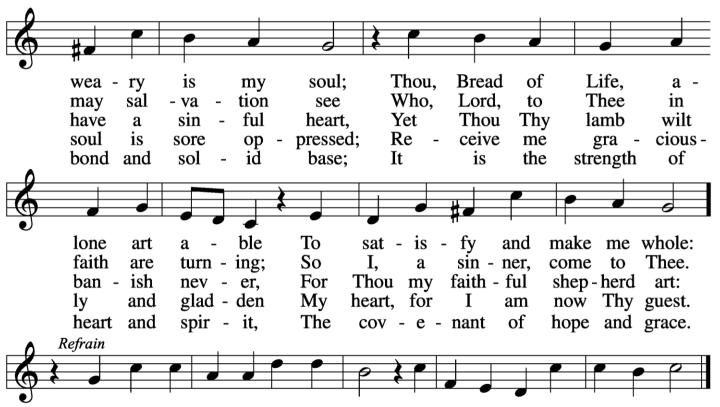
Communion Hymn "When to Our World the Savior Came", #551



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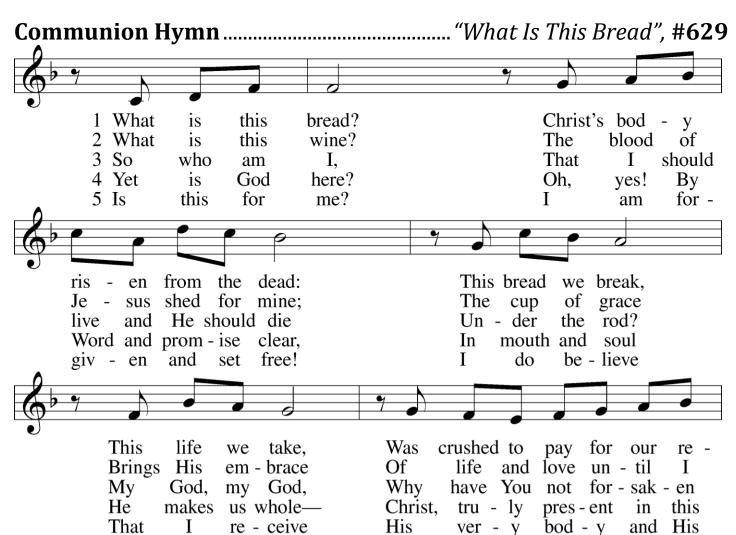
Communion Hymn "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table", #618

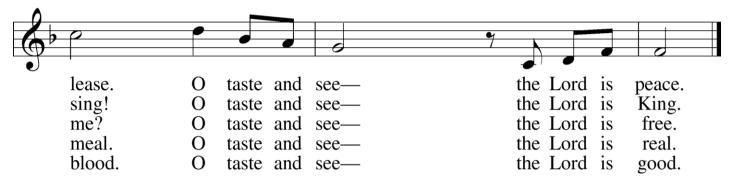




Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

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Please rise.

Post Communion Canticle......" "Nunc Dimittis" page 211





- 1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race But 2 How long the love of Christ! Its pa tience will not cease Un -
- 3 How high the love of Christ! Be youd all thought it soars, And
- 4 How deep the love of Christ, De-scend-ing to a cross! He
- 5 All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height, Whose



holds one hu - man - i - ty With - in its broad em-brace. our this bro - ken world is bound ev - er - last - ing peace. til In Un - mea-sured mer - cy pours. up - on our pass - ing lives vet hu - man pain and loss. bears with - in His wound-ed hands length and breadth fill time and space With end - less life and light!

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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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Next week's readings:

OT: Isaiah 51:1-6; Epistle: Romans 11:33-12:8; Gospel: Matthew. 16:13-20

Attendance Last Saturday: 47
Total Offering: \$4,732.00
Home Use: \$4,464.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 70
Missions: \$0.00
Benevolences: \$268.00

Serving us:

This Week's Schedule

Sunday 3:00 p.m. Youth Get-Together for Sand Volleyball Here

Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

2:00 p.m. Moms and Tots at the Park

Tuesday	5:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Ezekiel Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education (K-Adult)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Prayers

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, Pr. Ricky Bertels, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Peggy Forstad, Wilma Gertz, George Goldsmith (Steve's dad), Karen Haase, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Jeannie Peterson, Judy Pierce, Jennifer Pint, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, and & 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.

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—Judy Florida-19th, Holli Burge-20th, Darla Malcolm-22nd, Maryanna Savery-25th, **Anniversaries**—Benjamin and Cindy Smith-25th.

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 block block of block of block of the webpage at block block of block of the webpage at block and

Sunday School and Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study—We've started exploring the last book of the Old

Testament—the book of the Hebrew prophet Malachi. Join us in the conference room **from 10:30 'til noon** to see how this is the perfect lead-in to the New Testament fulfillment in Christ Jesus.

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 will continue happening thru September 3rd! We have 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.

Youth Activity

Third Sunday @ 3—Junior and Senior high school youth will be getting together then—**August 20**—to spend some time playing sand volleyball, talking about summer, and enjoying each other's company as brothers and sisters in Christ. Plan to be here!

Opportunities to Serve

Bulletin Board—A section of the bulletin board at the North entrance has been dedicated to our congregation members who are home-bound and in nursing homes. Please check it out to see how you can reach out to those who can no longer come to services regularly. Send a card or leave one in the pocket on the board to be delivered during a visit. If you have a picture of a loved one you can share, please send it to Rebecca to have it posted!

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 August—the next being the 26th—from 9:00 a.m. until noon or so and enjoy the stewardship and harvest of the Lord's bounty here.

Fellowship

Mary Martha Guild—this year's rummage sale is now in the books. This sale could not have happened without the help and support of the entire congregation. The Mary Martha Guild would like to thank everyone who brought in donations. Thank you to the youth and men who came down and helped set up the racks and tables. Thank you to all those who helped with the unboxing, organizing, and running the actual sale. Thank you to those who came in and purchased items. Finally, thank

you to those who helped clean-up and take down the racks. There is no way we could list all the names of everyone who helped without missing someone. So, from the Mary Martha Guild, Thank You.

The Annual Church Picnic will take place on Sunday, August 27, immediately after service. Meat will be provided by the Men's Club, drinks and utensils will be provided by the Fellowship Board. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share with everyone. After the meal we will have games and volleyball outdoors. Come join the fun!

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.

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Everyone is welcome to come to this fellowship time.

This & That

Concordia Fall Festival 5k—Ready, set, let's go! **The annual Concordia Fall Festival 5K returns on September 9, 2023**. With each step in this race, you empower Lutheran Bible Translators to take major strides in its mission. How? All proceeds go to fuel Bible printing and distribution. 3,552 language communities still don't have access to the complete Bible. It's time to change that. **Register today for \$25** at https://lbt.org/5k. **Sign up before August 21 to guarantee a race-day shirt!**

The Concordia Music Conservatory is now accepting enrollment applications for fall semester private music lessons in keyboard, winds, brass and voice. Private lessons are available for all levels and age groups. New fall course offerings are several ensembles: beginning guitar (grades 5-12th/9 weeks); handbell exploration (grades 3-8th/9 weeks); Concordia Community Kinderchor (grades 4-8th/15 weeks); Concordia Community Kleinkinderchor (K-3rd/15 weeks). All ensembles and lessons are held on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia and are led by highly qualified music instructors. For more information or to get enrollment forms you may email info@cmc-music.org, or call 660-624-7950. You can also visit the Concordia Music Conservatory Facebook page and share this information as well.

Medical Care & Housing Assistance—Katy Trail Community Health's mobile unit will only be in Warrensburg every other Tuesday now, so the next clinic day will be on August 29th from 9am to 3pm. Someone from the Katy Trail clinic should still be present for making appointments, plus other related assistance, and folks from the Johnson County Resource Center will be present for housing, employment, and other assistance on off Tuesdays and on every Thursday yet too (even though the

dental clinic is done for the summer). A free lunch will still be served from 11:30am-1pm. All are welcome, and financial assistance is available! Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment, and make sure to refer others too.

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, alorrmiller@aol.com



Sunday, August 27, after church



Meat and Drinks provided

Bring a side dish, salad or dessert

Games for adults and children

Outdoor water fun, games, volleyball

Contact Information

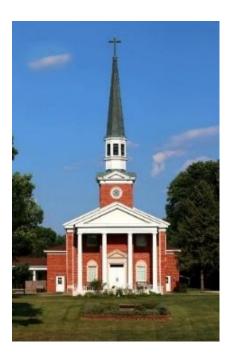
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

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: jkurz@blchurch.com

Website: <u>www.blchurch.com</u> Facebook: <u>blcwarrensburg</u>

Office Manager

Cindy Smith
Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm
660-747-6742
csmith@blchurch.com

Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey Wednesday: 1pm-5pm Thursday: 1pm-5pm rholland@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman
Tuesday: 9am-11am
Thursday: 9am-11am
thillsman@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.