


Who  
do you say that  
I am?

MATTHEW 16:15



+ The 13th Sunday After Pentecost +

**August 27, 2023**

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### **AS WE GATHER**

Son of a pub owner and a cabinet maker by trade, Edward Mote was a nineteenth century Englishman who came to faith in Christ as an adult and then served the last two decades of his life as a parish pastor. Although Mote is said to have never lost his touch for building furniture, he discovered a new passion in his later years: writing hymns for Christians to sing. “My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness,” he wrote. “No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand” (LSB 575/576:1). The story is told that the first person with whom Mote shared these words was a friend who had fallen ill and was nearing the end of her life. Mote’s beautiful hymn, which Christ-followers like us continue to enjoy today, reminded God’s beloved that Christ Jesus alone is the solid foundation, the mighty fortress in whom she could trust. In life and in death, our hope is built on this rock, who offers for us nothing less than His own blood and righteousness.

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**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.)*

### **Pastoral Welcome**

*Please rise.*

## Gathering Hymn..... "God Himself Is Present", #907



1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him  
2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;  
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His  
See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
Trust - ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in  
ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and  
an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease - less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne  
an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:  
ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still

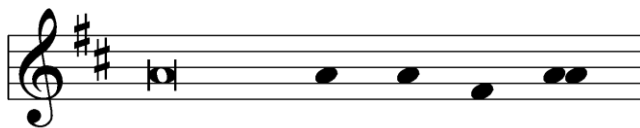


Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!  
Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.  
Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

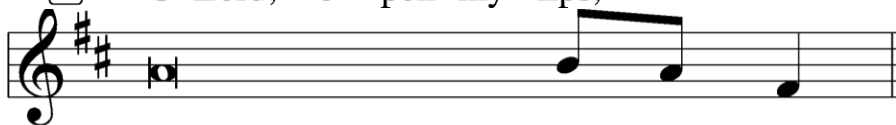
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## Matins

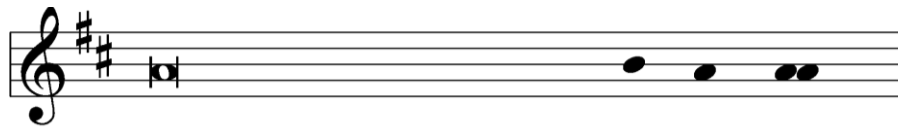
### Opening Verses..... page 219



**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*

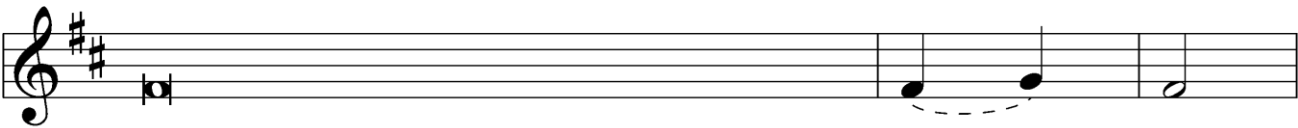


**L** Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



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

**Venite**..... *pages 220-221*

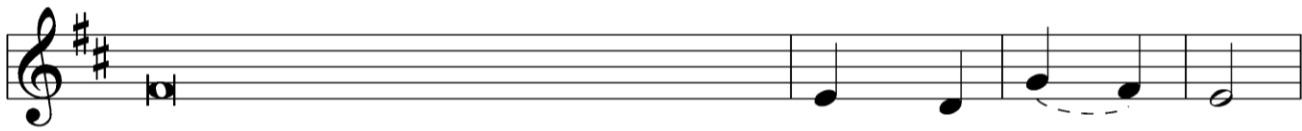


**C** 1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,

2 For the Lord is a . . . . . great God

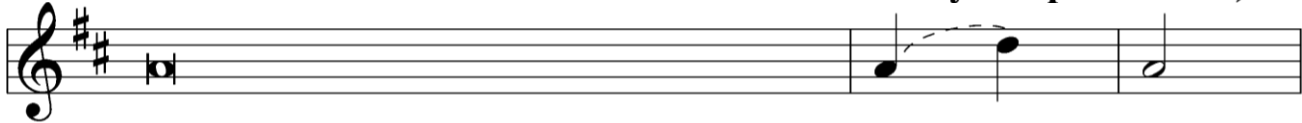
3 The sea is His, for He . . . . . made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and . . . . . to the Son

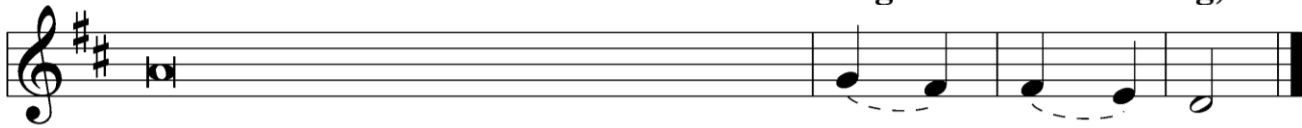


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.  
 2 and a great . . . . . king a - bove all gods.  
 3 and His hand . . . . . formed the dry — land.

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 138**..... (front of hymnal, spoken responsively)

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
**before the gods I sing your praise;**  
 I bow down toward your holy temple  
 and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,  
**for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.**  
 On the day I called, you answered me;  
**my strength of soul you increased.**

All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,

**for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,

**for great is the glory of the LORD.**

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,

**but the haughty he knows from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;

**you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,**

**and your right hand delivers me.**

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;

**your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.**

**Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**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.**

**Office Hymn** ..... *"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart", #806*



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the



Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_ Je - sus



Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give



thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_



Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am



strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of

what the Lord has done for us. And now let the  
 weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am  
 rich," Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.  
 Give thanks, give thanks.

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*Please be seated.*

## Readings

### Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 51:1-6

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,  
 you who seek the LORD:  
 look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
 and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
 Look to Abraham your father  
 and to Sarah who bore you;  
 for he was but one when I called him,  
 that I might bless him and multiply him.  
 For the LORD comforts Zion;  
 he comforts all her waste places  
 and makes her wilderness like Eden,  
 her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
 joy and gladness will be found in her,  
 thanksgiving and the voice of song.  
 "Give attention to me, my people,  
 and give ear to me, my nation;  
 for a law will go out from me,  
 and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

My righteousness draws near,  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will judge the peoples;  
the coastlands hope for me,  
and for my arm they wait.  
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Reading ..... Romans 11:33-12:8**

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?"

"Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.  
Amen.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.



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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

**Holy Gospel .....Matthew 16:13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

**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 Message**

**Sermon.....“Seeing the Rock Face of Christ”**

*Please rise.*

**Canticle Hymn..... “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”, #941**



1 We praise You and ac - knowl - edge You, O God, to be the Lord,  
2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;  
3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,  
4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right hand,



The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.  
The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death - less voic - es raise.  
Yet You, with bound - less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:  
Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.



To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,  
The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,  
You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,  
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,



The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:  
Sing with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this song:  
Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;  
So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;



“O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
“O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,  
Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve—  
May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,



Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!”  
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!”  
You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.  
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

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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*



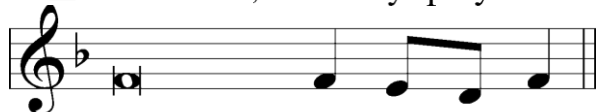
☐ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

**Lord's Prayer**

**Collects**.....*page 227-228*



☐ O Lord, hear my prayer.



☐ And let my cry come to You.

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

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, 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**.....“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”, #575



1 My hope is built on nothing 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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**Dismissal** ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

**P** Grow in Christ,

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

**Postlude**

**Next week’s readings:**

**OT: Jeremiah 15:15–21; Epistle: Romans 12:9–21; Gospel: Matthew 16:21–28**

**Attendance Last Saturday: 33**

**Total Offering: \$2,947.00**

**Home Use: \$2,447.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 67**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Benevolences: \$500.00**

**Serving us today:**

Elders.....Willie Crespo

Musicians .....Jerrode Marsh

Altar Committee..... Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Mary Creswell,  
Stephanie Schumaker, Lauryn Schumaker

Flower Committee .....Penny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland

**This Week’s Schedule**

Sunday		Annual Picnic ( <i>immediately after service</i> )
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pr. Joel at WCS for Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	6:00 p.m.	Warrensburg Christian School Annual Carnival
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Creation School ( <i>ages 10 and under</i> )
	6:00 p.m.	First Friday Family Fun/Potluck ( <i>bring a dish to share</i> )
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion

**Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar this weekend are in celebration of **Ben and Cindy Smith’s** anniversary on which was on August 25<sup>th</sup> and **Pr. Ricky and Janice Bertels’** anniversary which is on August 29<sup>th</sup>. We pray that Christ’s love continues to abound in their life together, and that they know his every goodness and grace.

## 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.

**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**—Lynda Creech-27<sup>th</sup>, Cody Droege-28<sup>th</sup>, Larry Haase-29<sup>th</sup>, Zachary Brown-30<sup>th</sup>, Benjamin Smith-30<sup>th</sup>. **Anniversaries**—Rev. Ricky and Janice Bertels-29<sup>th</sup>, Marvin and Wanda Kreisel-31<sup>st</sup>.

## Worship Services

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

## Sunday School and Christian Education

**Sunday Bible Study Resumes**—*Oh, to love wisdom and live wisely!* How many times have you said and thought that? Join us for a new Sunday Bible study which explores the book of Proverbs through the lens of the Ten Commandments and Christ "the Wisdom of God" (I Cor. 1:24). There's room for all of us to grow in the way of wisdom! **The study will start on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.** (in the conference room) and run through the end of November." Pr. Joel will be drawing from David Coe's *Provoking Proverbs*—a recent book from Concordia Publishing.

**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** Our teachers for the fall are as follows: Rebecca Holland-preschool & kindergarten; Jack Easterwood-elementary; Rich Vanderburgh-junior & senior youth and Penny Humphrey-superintendent. The children will continue

working on songs with the goal of singing in the church service once per month. We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too) to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ!

**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.

**Faith Night Resumes**—You're invited **September 6<sup>th</sup>** (and every first Wednesday of the month) to share a simple potluck meal with others in our fellowship hall **at 5:30 p.m., followed by a faith discussion from 6:00 (or so) until 6:45**. We'll be focusing differently each time on "Keeping Every Moment Holy"—observing the passage of time as we head to the end of the calendar year and Church Year ... pausing to take special notice of the ordinary realities of everyday life that matter more than we might normally acknowledge! Consider coming and being part of this time together!

**Gender and Sexuality Study**—In September and October, Rebecca (our Congregational Life Facilitator) will lead a study on gender and sexuality guided by four booklets in Concordia Publishing's *A Biblical Response to...* series on **Wednesday's at 7pm in the fellowship hall**. We will work through the booklets and referenced Scripture in detail, as well as related passages and explanations in the Small Catechism. The goal is to equip all with knowledge for responding faithfully to these issues with firm grounding and compassion. The pamphlets and a study schedule will be available on the table by the mailboxes.

**Thursday Bible Study** is on hold right now until Pr. Ricky recovers from his recent surgeries.

### **Opportunities to Serve**

**Hello, Bethlehem Lutheran folks!** I think we all know September is right around the corner.... therefore, so is the BLC Choir startup!! I'm so excited about this coming worship season and I want you to know if you can carry a reasonable tune, I want YOU to come join us!! **We have a half-hour of fellowship at 6:30 p.m.** I typically bake something yummy and try to accommodate allergies and dietary needs. **Rehearsal begins at 7-8 p.m. every Wednesday, beginning September 6th**, upstairs in the Conference Room. That's a critically important meeting, because we spend time getting to know each other, and doing a quick run-through of the anthems we will share between September and November. Got questions? Call me at 913-568-6921. See you choir practice!!! Peggy Forstad.

**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!

### Fellowship

**The Annual Church Picnic will take place this 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!

**Creation School**—Join us on the first Friday of each month from 10-11 am for our faith-focused version of the trendy forest school movement: **Creation School!** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). In the beginning of life, children learn about God through His vast and wonderful creation. Join us as we use our expansive green space to teach children ages 10 and under about God's creation and their place in it. We will learn what the Bible says about creation, play games, make crafts, and enjoy each other's company in the outdoors. Our nature trail, vegetable garden, herb garden, fruit trees, and lawn make a perfect creation playground for learning about the natural world. We'll do our best to enjoy creation in all weather, so be sure to dress appropriately. Please invite any families with young children that you know, as the hope is to welcome all in the community into our green space.

**First Friday Family Fun!**—Starting Friday, September 1 at 6:00 p.m., we'll have our first Family Fun potluck night. In keeping with a back-to-school theme, we'll have a Bible quiz game. Get your buzzer hand warmed up! In October we'll plan an outdoor gathering with a fire, hot dogs, s'mores, and pumpkin painting. In anticipation of November's Veteran's Day theme, bring in those boot camp pictures for a bulletin board display. **Sign up near the mailboxes to bring a dish to share (main dish, side dish or dessert).** Invite a friend or two as well for a night of fun and fellowship.

**Crafternoons**—On the fourth Fridays from 3-5 pm let's get together to craft! A project and supplies will be waiting for you in the fellowship hall. We'll make seasonal crafts and cards that can be shared with others and conspire to deliver them with good cheer and a visit. Cards, door decorations, and suncatchers are some examples of projects we can do together. Children are welcome to craft



alongside us or to play nearby.

**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**

**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](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> 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](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)

# FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN

September 1 at 6:00 p.m.  
Back to School Bible Quiz



Get your buzzer hand warmed up!

October 6 at 6:00 p.m.  
Outdoor Gathering



S'mores, Hot dogs and Pumpkin painting

Bring a potluck dish to share and a friend or two as well for a night of fun and fellowship.

# GENDER & SEXUALITY

## BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**  
**September and October**

- Rebecca Holland will lead a study on gender and sexuality in the fellowship hall.
- We will review 4 CPH pamphlets and referenced scripture in detail, as well as related passages from explanations in the Small Catechism.
- The goal is to equip all with knowledge about the LCMS's response to these issues, familiarity with related scripture, and the capability to deal with individuals and institutions from a place of firm faith and compassion.



**The pamphlets and a study schedule will be available on the table by the mailboxes.**

# CREATION SCHOOL

**First Friday of each month (10-11am)**

**Ages 10 and under**



- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). In the beginning of life, children learn about God through His vast and wonderful creation.
- Join us as we use our expansive green space to teach children about God's creation and their place in it. We will learn what the Bible says about creation, play games, make crafts, and enjoy each other's company in the outdoors.

Our nature trail, vegetable garden, herb garden, fruit trees, and lawn make a perfect creation playground for learning about the natural world.

We'll do our best to enjoy creation in all weather, so dress appropriately.

Please invite any families with young children that you know, as the hope is to welcome all in the community into our green space.

# CRAFTERNOON

**Fourth Friday of each month (3-5 pm)**

**Let's get together to craft!**



**Project and supplies will be provided**

**Seasonal crafts, cards, door decorations, suncatchers and more**

**Crafts will be hand delivered to bring cheer to others**



**Children are welcome to craft alongside us or to play nearby**

## 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](mailto:jkurz@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

[csmith@blchurch.com](mailto:csmith@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregation Life Facilitator**

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

[rholland@blchurch.com](mailto:rholland@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[thillsman@blchurch.com](mailto: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.