

Those
who lose
their life
for my
sake will
find it

MATTHEW 16:25



+ The 14th Sunday After Pentecost +

September 2-3, 2023

Labor Day Weekend

AS WE GATHER

“Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16). The prophet Jeremiah did not praise God with such words because his life was super easy. No, Jeremiah rejoiced in the Lord even as his life had plenty of problems. Why such delight in difficulty? Surrounded by evil in this world, like Jeremiah, we cling to the God who is good, learning to trust His Word as the means by which we receive His deliverance from our enemies of sin and death. The living, active, delightful voice of our Savior guarantees His ongoing presence in our life. Because of this, we rejoice! As we gather in the presence of Jesus this day, let us echo Jeremiah’s anthem of praise: “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart!”

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.)

Please rise.

Invocation Hymn "With the Lord Begin Your Task" #869



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.
3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - larm you;
4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's bless - ing,
5 Thus, Lord Je - sus, ev - 'ry task Be to You com - mend - ed;



For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.
In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.
Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.
May Your will be done, I ask, Un - til life is end - ed.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,
Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,
Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;
Je - sus, in Your name be - gun Be the day's en - deav - or;



In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.
Save you from the tempt - er's might, With His pres - ence cheer you.
Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise for - ev - er.

Divine Service, Setting Three

(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, while longer portions are sung ... plus, the Lord's Prayer is prayed in unison.)

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution.....pages 184-185

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Beloved in the Lord! . . . our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord.
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
P Almighty God, . . . Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your Grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
P Almighty God, . . . Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living" #706



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



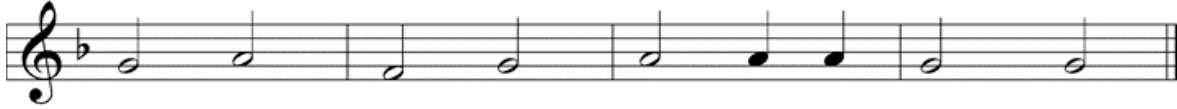
May His will in us be done.
 Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
 Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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Kyrie.....page 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

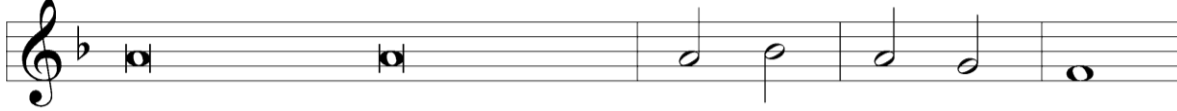
Gloria in Excelsis.....page 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



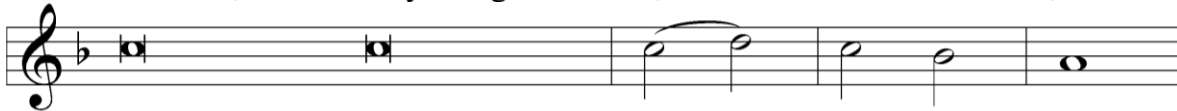
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



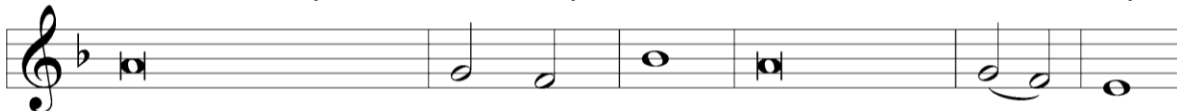
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



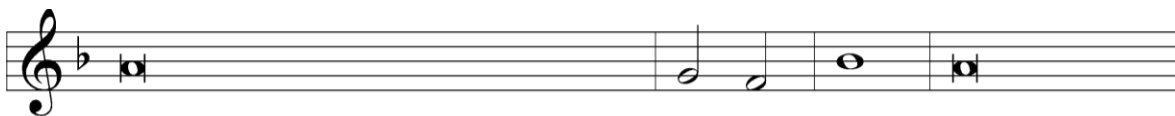
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



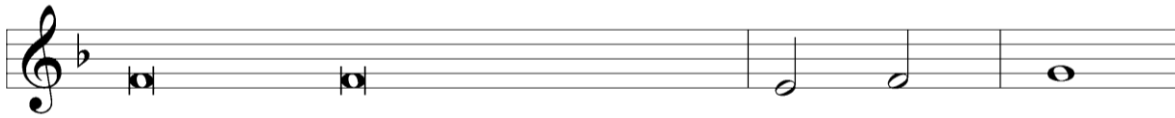
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir-it.



P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 15:15-21**

O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
Your words were found, and I ate them,

and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?
Therefore thus says the LORD:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **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. (Psalm 34:9)**

Epistle ReadingRomans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Alleluia.....page 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy GospelMatthew 16:21-28

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed.....page 191

**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.

Hymn of the Day *“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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Sermon..... “Losing & Finding Ourselves”

Please rise.

Offertorypages 192-193



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Please be seated.

Offering

Acknowledgement/Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Please rise.

Announcement of Prayers

Prayer of the Church (Sung) "Hear Our Prayer" (Bell & Howison)

After each verse, the congregation sings the refrain:

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

(It will conclude with a spoken line and the final **Amen.**)

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 194-197



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer.....page 196

The Words of Our Lord.....page 197

Pax Domini..... page 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



A - men.

Agnus Dei.....page 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).

Communion Distribution

Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness", #636



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

Verses 5-7



5 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, Tru - est
 6 Je - sus, sun of life, my splen - dor, Je - sus,
 7 Lord, by love and mer - cy driv - en, You once
 8 Je - sus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me



friend, and dear - est trea - sure, Peace be - yond all un - der -
 friend of friends, most ten - der, Je - sus, joy of my de -
 left Your throne in heav - en On the cross for me to
 glad - ly here o - bey You. By Your love I am in -



stand - ing, Joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:
 sir - ing, Fount of life, my soul in - spir - ing:
 lan - guish And to die in bit - ter an - guish,
 vit - ed, Be Your love with love re - quit - ed;



Hum - bly now, I bow be - fore You; Love in - car - nate,
 At Your feet I cry, my mak - er, Let me be a
 To fore - go all joy and glad - ness And to shed Your
 By this Sup - per let me mea - sure, Lord, how vast and



I a - dore You; Wor - thi - ly let me re -
 fit par - tak - er Of this bless - ed food from
 blood in sad - ness. By this blood re - deemed and
 deep love's trea - sure. Through the gift of grace You



ceive You And, so fa - vored, nev - er leave You.
 heav - en, For our good, Your glo - ry, giv - en.
 liv - ing, Lord, I praise You with thanks - giv - ing.
 give me As Your guest in heav'n re - ceive me.

Communion Hymn "O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee", #632



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -

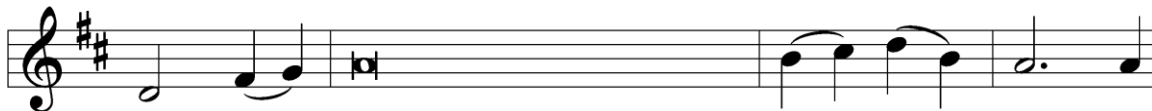


ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

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Please rise.

Nunc Dimittis..... pages 199-200



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

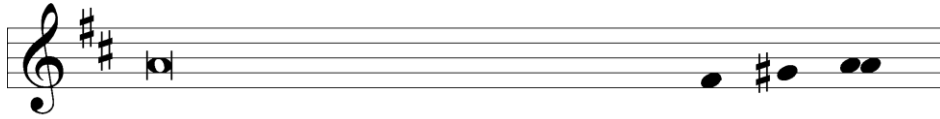


to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

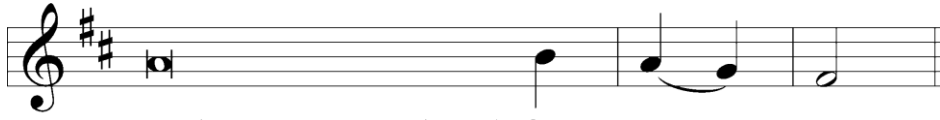


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving.....pages 200-201



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray. . . one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation.....page 201

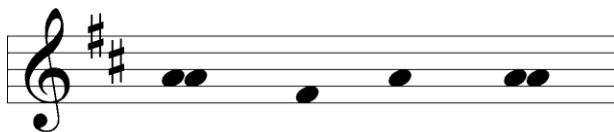


P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus.....page 202



A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction.....page 202

Sending Hymn..... "How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord" #853



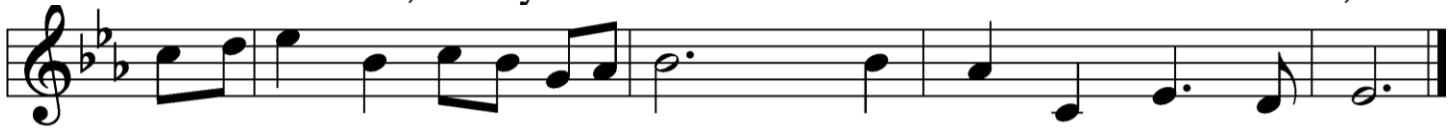
1	How	clear	is	our	vo	-	ca	-	tion,	Lord,
2	But	if,	for	-	get	-	ful,	we	should	find
3	We	mar	-	vel	how	Your	saints	be	-	come
4	In	what	-	You	give	us,	Lord,	to	do,	



When once we heed Your call: To live ac - cord - ing
 Your yoke is hard to bear; If world - ly pres - sures
 In hin - dranc - es more sure; Whose joy - ful vir - tues
 To - geth - er or a - lone, In old rou - tines or



to Your Word And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 fray the mind, And love it - self can - not un - wind
 put to shame The cas - ual way we wear Your name
 ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You,



That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.
 Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.
 And by our faults ob - scure Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.

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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:

O.T. Ezekiel 33:7-9; Epistle: Romans 13:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

Attendance Last Saturday: 33

Total Offering: \$3,401.51

Home Use: \$3,207.51

Attendance Last Sunday: 64

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$194.00

Serving us today:

Elders.....Jack Easterwood, Willie Crespo

MusiciansJerrode Marsh

Altar Committee.....Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Mary Creswell,

Stephanie Schumaker, Lauryn Schumaker

Flower CommitteePenny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland

Monday		Labor Day—Office Closed
Tuesday		Pastor's Holiday
	11:30 a.m.	Braille in Concordia
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Faith Night Potluck/Discussion
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Gender & Sexuality Study
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pr. Joel at WCS for Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	UCM Get the Red Out
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	12:00p.m.	Thrivent Meeting

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—Audrey Bowland-8th, Ryan Carter-8th, Julie Schlueter-8th.

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

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—*Living (& Loving) Wisdom*—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 wisdom through this study until the end of November. Pr. Joel will be drawing from David Coe's *Provoking Proverbs*—a recent CPH book.

We will start on September 10th at 9:20 a.m. (in the conference room) ... *following a combined devotional opening with the children and youth downstairs from 9:15 to 9:20.*

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. We will start out with a combined opening with the adults to kick off the new Sunday School year. Our teachers for the fall are 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 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 6th** (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.

The Fall Mission Festival will be the weekend of **September 23-24** with the emphasis being Lutheran Deaf Outreach. They are based in St. Charles, and it seems like Rev. Charles Reinke will be our guest speaker. Over 98% of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals do not know Jesus or attend any Christian Church. Various factors, e.g., sentence structure, passive voice, render Biblical materials inaccessible. We are changing this! We arm Deaf people with the Gospel. Through His grace, freely given, to allow the Deaf to become mature and growing Christians. World Lutheran Deaf Outreach provides resources and training specifically designed for deaf people so they may learn more about the love of Jesus and share it with others. Please plan on attending to learn more about this very important program. For more information go to their webpage, www.lutherandeafoutreach.org.

Junior High & Senior High Youth Get-Together

Third Sunday @ 3—Junior and Senior high school youth will be getting together then—**September 17**—to spend some time playing sand volleyball and enjoying each other's company as brothers and sisters in Christ. Plan to be here!

College Students

The Lutheran Student Center has an evening meal and bible study on **Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.** *Those who would like to sponsor a Thursday evening meal* prior to their weekly Bible study can donate \$40 for that (checks may be sent to the Lutheran Student Center, 215 S. Holden, Warrensburg), or bring a meal to cook and serve, then stay and mingle with the students.

Opportunities to Serve

UCM Get the Red Out—Bethlehem will be participating in "Get the Red Out" on **Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** If you are interested in helping hand out information about our church and other items, please let Pr. Joel or Rebecca Holland know.

Join the Mission Board on Saturday, September 16 as we go to Concordia to help sort items which will later be distributed to those in need. Many donations are received, and they desperately need assistance in sorting and boxing these things. We will meet at the church at **9:00 am and return at 12 noon.** Please contact Darlene Laubenstein or the church office if you plan to help or if you have questions.

Diaper Drive—The American Heritage Girls Troop MO2415, in which the VanWeys and Murrells are involved in, is collecting supplies for New Beginnings Women's Center. Specific requests include diapers (especially sizes 4-6), pull-ups, wipes, and self-care items for mothers. A blue crate for donated items is located at the North door. If you prefer to donate money to New Beginnings, there are baby bottle banks at the front and North entrances. We will deliver donations to New Beginnings on September 16, AHG's National Day of Service, **so please have them to the church by Friday the 15th.**

The Thrivent Group and Mission Board will again be collecting food items during September for the Migrant Farm Workers project which will be taken to Lexington on Monday afternoon on October 2nd. These families come to that area each year to harvest the delicious apples from the orchards. The Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund was established to work with these Farmworkers when they first arrive at the orchards in late summer. That includes assistance with medical and dental needs as well as completion of school enrollment for their children. The MSAF continues to work with them for their critical needs until they migrate elsewhere. Some of those critical needs are food and clothing. We, at Bethlehem, have contributed to these needs for many years, as have other churches in the area, and we plan to do so again this year. **We will have a container at the northeast entrance to the church to collect small bags of dry pinto beans and canned vegetables (corn, carrots, green beans or peas).** Please consider helping, as you can, by placing your contributions there by **Noon on Monday, October 2nd.** Thank you for your consideration.

Festival of Sharing are opportunities in which they share resource packs, hygiene kits, school kits and much more around Missouri and around the world. At the regional events they collect supplies, share resources, and raise awareness. This year's regional events are from 9:30am-3:00pm on September 23 at Red Bridge UCM in Kansas City and on October 14 at Tipton UMC. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Pr. Joel or Penny Humphrey.

Choir Resumes this Wednesday, September 6! 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** 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!

Lutherans in Maui assist with fire response—Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School in Kahului, Maui, was not directly impacted by the fire (one or two families from the school were minimally affected), but that Emmanuel members are serving “as God’s hands and feet to the people of Maui. They are Christ’s ambassadors and bear the presence of the Savior. Pray for their strength and care as they walk beside many in great need. Anyone wishing to donate to the LCMS disaster relief can mail a check to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 and put in the memo “Wildfire Relief” or “Disaster Response” or electronically by visiting lcmo.org/givenow/wildfires.

Fellowship

The **Thrivent group** will have a Fall Planning meeting on **September 10** following the Sunday service in the upstairs conference room.

The Lunch Bunch will meet on September 21 at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided—soups, sandwiches and dessert. We will be painting rocks hosted by Rebecca Holland. Rock painting is fun to do, and the fun continues when you place your rocks outside for others to find! Some cheerful colors, a happy word or saying, a cute animal and more are ways to decorate your rocks to bring some fun and joy to someone’s day. There is a Facebook group called Warrensburg Rocks that people use to give clues about where they hide painted rocks around town, and finders post pictures when they find the rock, and then either keep it or re-hide it. Painted rocks are also a fun way to dress up potted plants by placing them on the dirt around the stem.

Mary Martha Guild Meeting date change—our **September meeting is changed to Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.** This is the only date that our guest speaker, Carol Cook, could attend. She is known as the “Stamp Lady” for the Concordia LWML Zone. She sorts and then sells the stamps to stamp vendors that you put in our stamp collection box. This money (over \$18,000) is given to the mites collection which supports the mission projects of LWML.

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.

The Quilting Group meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

This & That

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 **September 12th** from **9am to 3pm**. Someone from the Katy Trail clinic should still be present for making appointments and assisting on non-clinic Tuesdays, and folks from the Johnson County Resource Center will be present for housing, employment, and other assistance as well. 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, alormiller@aol.com



Heit's Point Lutheran Family and Alumni Outdoor Festival/FUNdraiser Sat, September 16, 2023



Please join us as we CELEBRATE
another wonderful year of
ministry at Heit's Point Lutheran!!
God is so good!

Come for SOME or ALL:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10:00 am | Outdoor games and
BOUNCE HOUSE! |
| 11:00 am | Church Service |
| NOON | TLC Smokehouse LUNCH |
| 1:00 pm | End of Summer
Presentation and AUCTION |
| 3:00 pm | Lake Time – canoeing and
swimming – or Hiking!
Fellowship and Fun!! |



Please RSVP to: www.heitspoint.com or call 660-668-2363
28345 Heit's Point Ave., Lincoln MO

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: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

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.