

Lord, how often
should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21





+ The 16th Sunday After Pentecost +

September 16-17, 2023

AS WE GATHER

God's creation is filled with amazing creatures, some of which dedicate their lives to making peoples' lives fuller and better. Since 1942, the Guide Dogs for the Blind association has graduated more than 16,000 person and dog teams from its training programs. The canine guides assist their human teammates each day of their lives together. The guidance they give is expert and dependable. Good guidance in every stage of life is essential! Throughout Scripture, our Lord promises His presence and His divine guidance to sustain and direct His people. Paul summed up that blessed relationship very simply: "So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). Seeking the Lord's guidance and responding to His promptings brings blessing to our lives!

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.

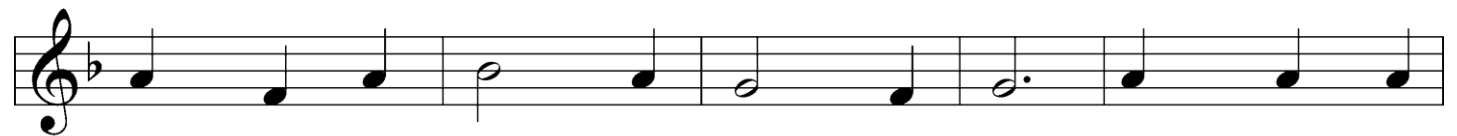
Prelude

Pastoral Welcome

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

Please rise.

Invocation Hymn..... "Baptismal Waters Cover Me" #616



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
 3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
 bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
 to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
 speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
 hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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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 "Christ Be My Leader" #861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
 shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
 sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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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.

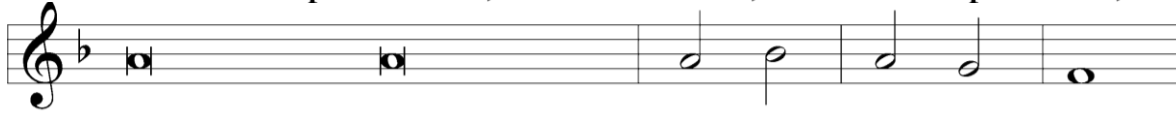
Gloria in Excelsis.....page 187



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



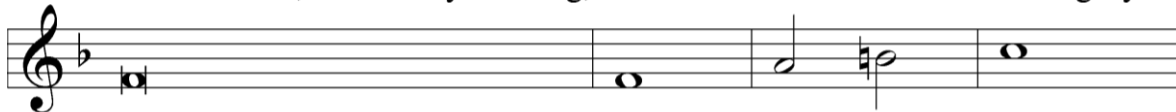
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



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



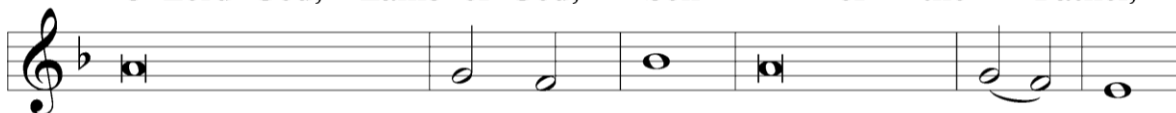
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



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



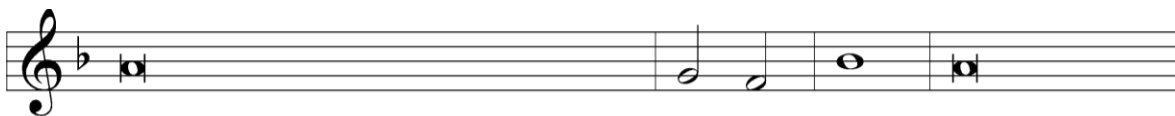
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



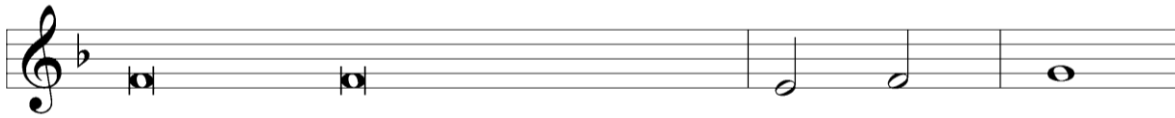
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



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.

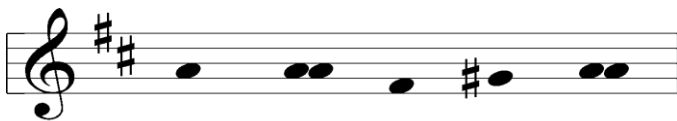


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



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

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir-it.



P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through 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..... **Genesis 50:15-21**

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your

servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

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 Reading **Romans 14:1-12**

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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 Gospel**Matthew 18:21-35**

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ 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 "Where Charity and Love Prevail" #845

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let

God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
 char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
 we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
 all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry

by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Sermon "Forged in Forgiving"

Please rise.

Offertory pages 192-193

C 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

Dedication of New Private Communion Case

(In Memory of Delores Christianson)

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.**)

Now we pray to You Father for peace in the world
For the right use of all You have given
A respect for creation in us be restored

And we pray for the poor of the world everywhere
And for all those who suffer from hunger and fear
For those who are homeless – for those who need care

Now we pray for those close to us, those who have needs
For the friends that we love and for all our families
For these loved ones we pray Jesus grant them Your peace

And we pray for ourselves for forgiveness of sins
For the evil around that is born from within
And we ask You oh God that You heal us again

Now in closing we ask You dear Father on our knees
Lord for mercy on all those we call our enemies
So that all might be one in Your love and Your peace

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 194-197



P The Lord be with you.



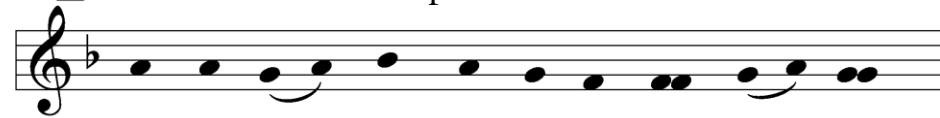
C And with thy spir - it.



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 Prayerpage 196

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

Pax Domini.....page 197

Agnus Deipage 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 "Come, Let Us Eat", #626

Leader

- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In His pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y Word,



Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 In His pres - ence now we meet and rest.
 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y Word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the King - dom,



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the King - dom.

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Communion Hymn "Jesus Comes Today with Healing", #620



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

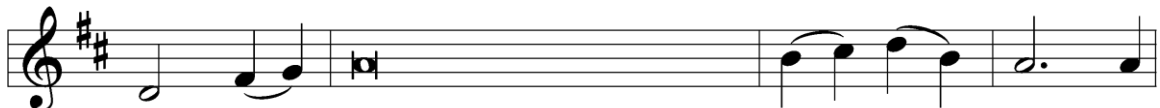
5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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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

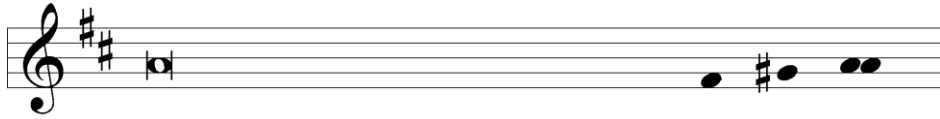


to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

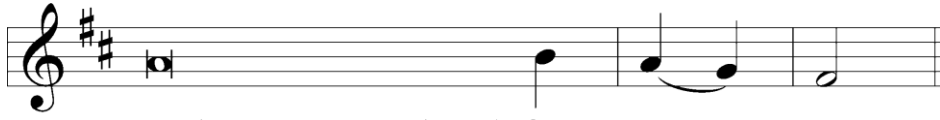


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

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



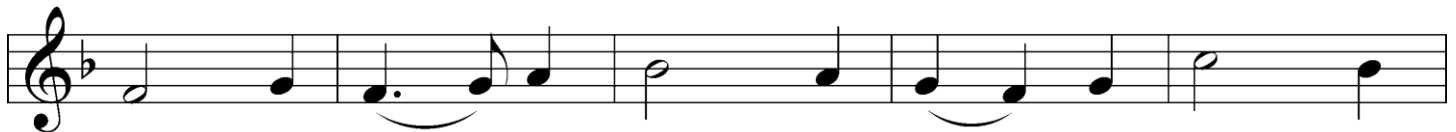
A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction.....page 202

Sending Hymn..... "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" #851



1	Lord	of	glo - ry,	You	have	bought	us	With	Your
2	Grant	us	hearts, dear	Lord,	to	give	You	Glad - ly,	
3	Won - drous	hon - or	You	have	giv - en	To	our		
4	Lord	of	glo - ry,	You	have	bought	us	With	Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



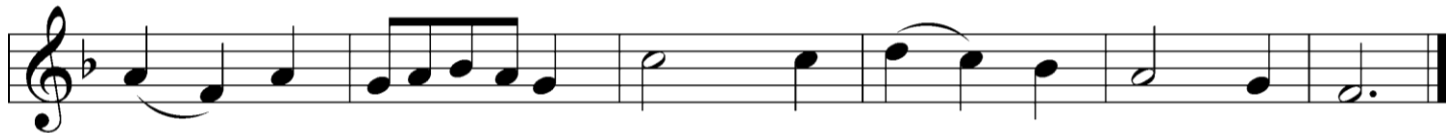
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

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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:

O.T. Isaiah 55:6-9; Ep.: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Attendance Last Saturday: 30

Total Offering: \$3,221.02

Home Use: \$3,125.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 65

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$96.02

Serving us today:

Elders..... Willie Crespo, Alan Miller

Musicians Cody Clemons (Sat), Jerrode Marsh (Sun)

Soloists Penny Humphrey (Sat), Rebecca Limback (Sun)

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

Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	12:00 p.m.	Acolyte Training
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get Together
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Gender & Sexuality Study/Choir Fellowship
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pr. Joel at WCS for Chapel
	11:00 a.m.	Lunch Bunch
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	4:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis— <i>Rooted in the Faith</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild Meeting
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Ezekial Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	3:00 p.m.	Crafternoon Time
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship—Fall Mission Festival
	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Coffee
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship—Fall Mission Festival
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Coffee

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, Wilma Gertz, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve’s parents), Karen Haase, Don Hillsman, Juanita Holcomb (Peggy Forstad’s mother), Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Jeannie Peterson, 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—Mary Frerking-16th, Rebecca Holland-16th, Caroline Schumaker-17th, Lori Bell-18th, Matt Rohner-19th, Ray Carstensen-20th, Evangline Smith-20th, Tiffany Frerking-21st, Jeff Florida-22nd. **Anniversaries**—Matt and Madison Rohner-18th, Dale and Darla Malcolm-22nd.

Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Services are live on Facebook, YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Sunday Proverbs Bible Study—*Oh, to love wisdom and live wisely!* How many times have you said and thought that? Join us for our 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 is drawing from David Coe’s *Provoking Proverbs*—a recent CPH book. **We start 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 each Sunday. 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're finishing 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.

Gender and Sexuality Study—In September and October, Rebecca (our Congregational Life Facilitator) is leading a study on gender and sexuality guided by four booklets in Concordia Publishing's *A Biblical Response to...* series on **Wednesdays at 6:30-7:30 pm 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. **Please download the "Band" app and email or text Rebecca to send you an invite.**

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

Youth Catechesis—7th & 8th graders are meeting from **1 to 3 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month (starting on the 17th)** in the conference room for this time of faith formation and growth in Christ's Baptized life. If you haven't been contacted, and have a child in this age range, contact Pr. Joel so that he can put you on the list.

Adult Catechesis/Rooted in the Faith—If you'd like to know more about the Christian faith through Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism—in preparation for Baptism or Confirmation or both (or simply to learn and grow in knowing for now)—please let Pr. Joel know. A new session has started on **Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. and meeting every Thursday at that time**. If this time or day doesn't work for you and you'd still like to proceed, talk to Pr. Joel.

Special Services

The Fall Mission Festival will be next weekend—**September 23 & 24th!** Rev. Dr. Charles Reinke—of Lutheran Deaf Outreach—will be our guest preacher and presenter. Over 98% of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals do not know Jesus or attend any Christian church—due to various factors. LDO exists to change this, arming deaf people with the Gospel. LDO 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 the important

Gospel witness of this international agency. For more information regarding LDO, please go to their webpage, www.lutherandeafoutreach.org.

Fellowship Coffee

The Mission Board will be sponsoring a Fellowship Coffee after service on **Saturday and Sunday, the 23rd & 24th** in the fellowship hall. This is an opportunity to talk with Rev. Reinke and ask questions about Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

Acolyte Training

There will be an acolyte training session held by Abby Humphrey on **Sunday, September 17**, right after service. Anyone in grades 4-12 can come to this and learn the details about assisting in this way during our worship services.

Youth Sand Volleyball

Third Sunday @ 3—Junior and Senior high school youth and St. Paul High School students 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.

College Students

The Lutheran Student Center has an evening meal and Bible study on **Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.** at 215 S. Holden. You're welcome to attend and be a part of this time for growth and fellowship together! Also, there's an evening worship service there on the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.** Check out our Facebook page for more information about how to plug in with this group!

Opportunities to Serve

The Thrivent Group and Mission Board is again 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 arrived 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 have a container at the northeast entrance 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.!**

Choir!—Rebecca Holland, our Congregational Life Facilitator, has a very important study on Gender and Sexuality from a Biblical Perspective that also meets Wednesday evenings, so we put our heads together and both modified our schedules. **Choir refreshments will be in the basement at 6:30 when her class meets from 6:30-7:30. I typically bake something yummy and try to accommodate allergies and dietary needs. Choir attendees will leave at 7:25** to rehearse from 7:30-8:30. It seemed the best compromise for the weeks this important study is happening. Rebecca has done her homework and I encourage you to attend! If you have any questions about the choir, please contact Peggy Forstad at 913-568-6921.

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 Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, September 21 at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided—soups, rolls and desserts. 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.

Mary Martha Guild September meeting is Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. Carol Cook, known as the "Stamp Lady" for the Concordia LWML Zone will be the speaker. 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. Please join us.

Crafternoons—On the fourth Fridays (September 22) from 3-5 p.m., 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 are needed. Bring your own lunch or go out and grab something. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

This & That

Annual Smorgasbord—Zion Lutheran Church in Corder will hold their Annual Smorgasbord on **Sunday, September 24** from **11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$12.00 for adults, \$5.00 children 6-12 and under 6 are free.

Saint Paul Servants of Saints (in Concordia) will have the annual Fall Rummage Sale starting **September 27**. For more details on dates, time, and location, please pick up a flyer at each entrance of the church.

Concordia Zone LLL Board Meeting is on **September 28 at 7:00 p.m.** at the St. Paul's Conference Center in Concordia.

Medical Care & Housing Assistance—Katy Trail Community Health's mobile unit is in Warrensburg for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, so the next clinic day will be on **September 26th** 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 is 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.**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit is holding a "Reconciling Relationships" seminar on **Saturday September 30 starting at 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Breakfast will be provided.** This interactive presentation led by Rev. Marty Hasz of the Missouri District can help us think about conflicts in family, business, church, friends, etc. We'll learn how relationships are damaged and restored, and how you can be a positive Christian influence. Please let the church office know if you are interested in going.

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.

With God's Little Ones is coming to an end after nearly twenty years of helping the most vulnerable people around the world! As a longtime board member, Pr. Joel was in attendance at the last annual meeting in Kirkwood this past July. WGLO will not be able to receive donations beyond **September 30**, so if you would like to help ongoing work in Madagascar, Cambodia, and Germany (for Ukrainian refugees), WGLO needs to have those funds in hand by that date. If you'd like to make a final donation, survey the work that has been done over the decades, or simply see a recap video, go to www.wgl.org.

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

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

Jack Easterwood (last name begins L-O) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com

Contact Information

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

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

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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.