

Are you envious
because I am
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15



September 24, 2023

Fall Mission Festival Weekend

AS WE GATHER

A common focus for the month of September is education. In Great Britain, the school term for autumn traditionally begins on or near September 29, the day Christians traditionally celebrate St. Michael and All Angels. Our learning goes on throughout our lives. A Sunday School song by American hymnwriter Fanny J. Crosby, who lived from 1820 to 1915, begins, “Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me; once He died to save me, nailed upon the tree.” Learning the greatness of our God and growing in our understanding of the amazing plan for our salvation is our duty and delight in every season of our earthly life. And it does not stop then. The German hymnwriter Johann Mentzer, who lived in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, shares a special vision of heaven as he concludes the text of “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices” with a view of eternal education, expressing the faithful hope one day that he will “learn with choirs of heaven to sing eternal anthems to my King” (LSB 811:5). May our learning and our singing both be blessed!

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.

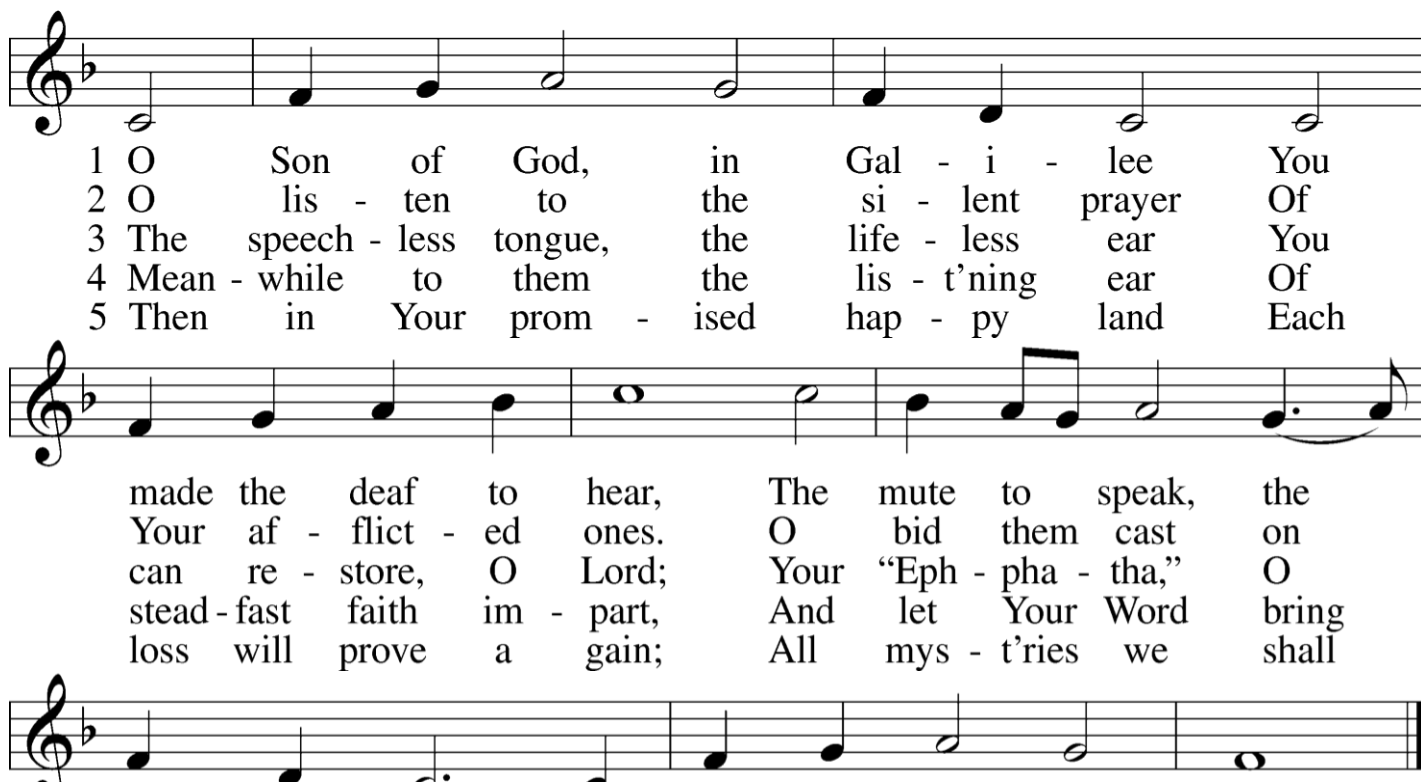
Visitors: *We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit. A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and 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 Cody Clemons

Pastoral Welcome

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

Gathering Hymn "O Son of God, in Galilee", #841



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You
2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of
3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You
4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of
5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each

made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the
Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on
can re - store, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O
stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring
loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall

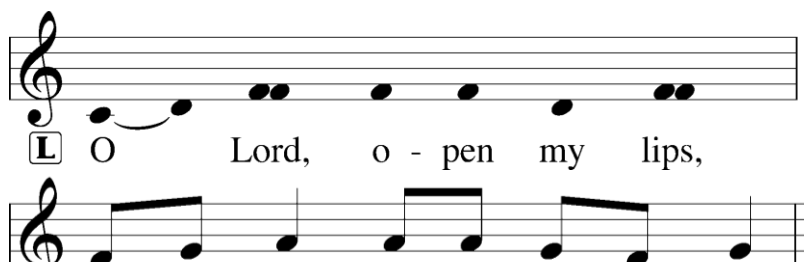
blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.
You their care; Your grace to them make known.
Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.
light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.
un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

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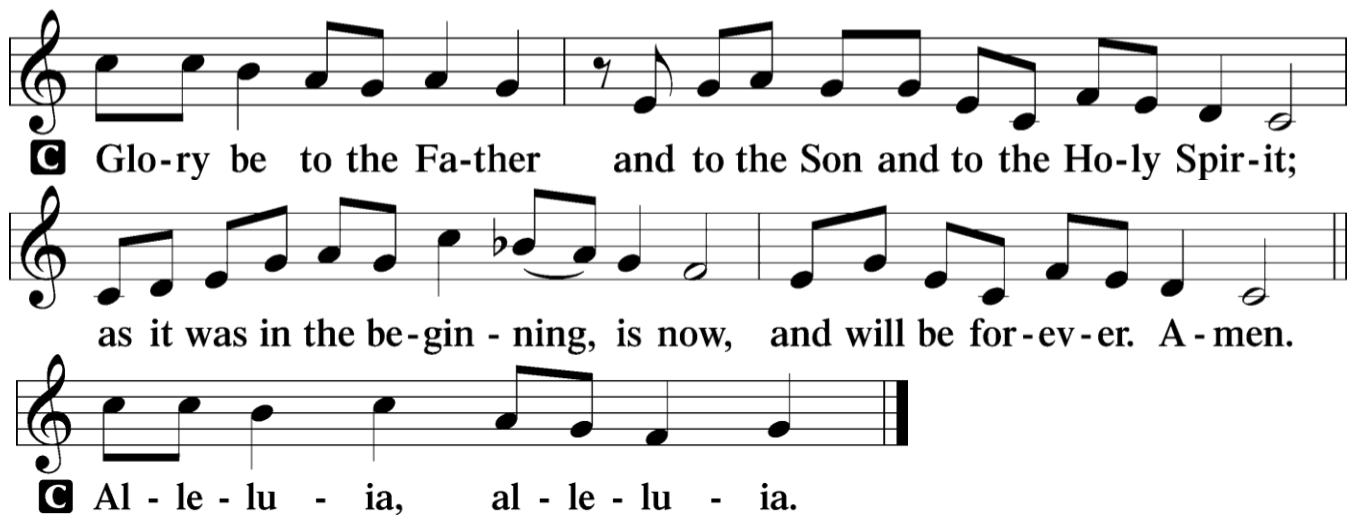
Please rise.

Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... page 235



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
G and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.
G Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

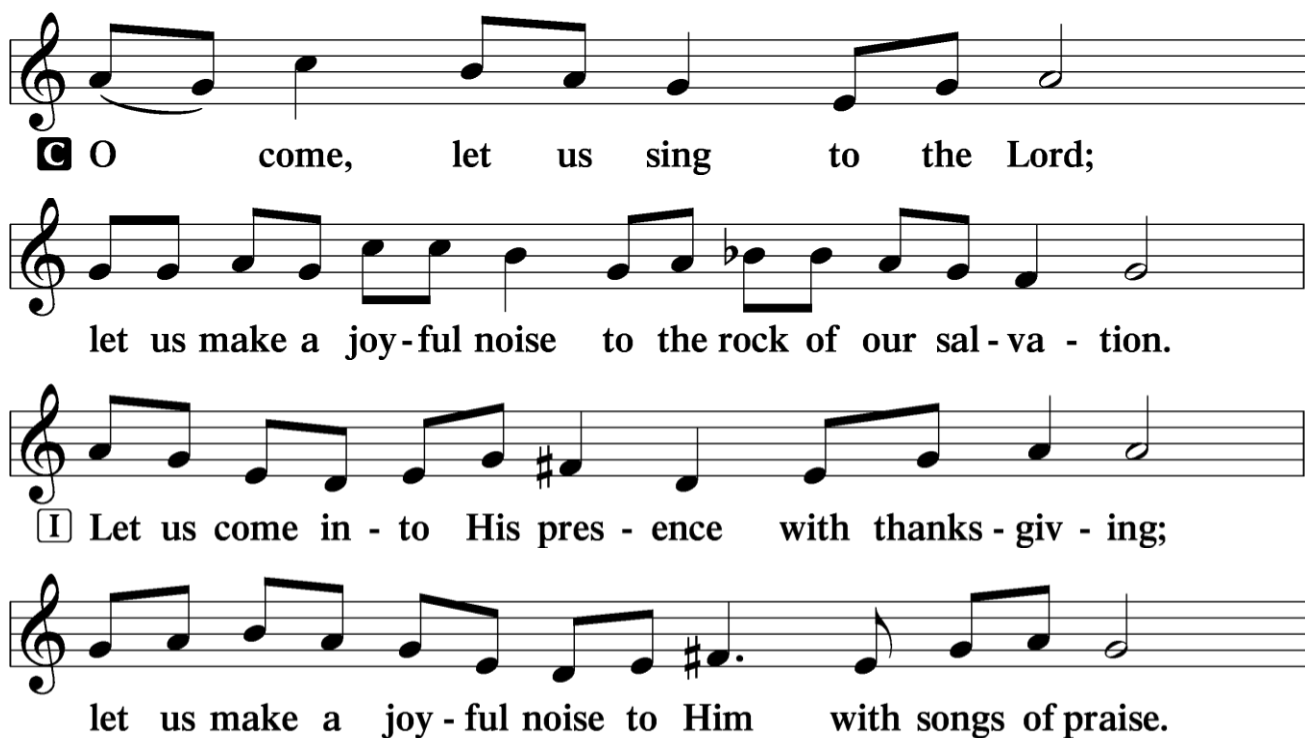
Psalmody

Antiphon..... *page 235*



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.
G O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite..... *page 236*



G O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joy-ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
I Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;
let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



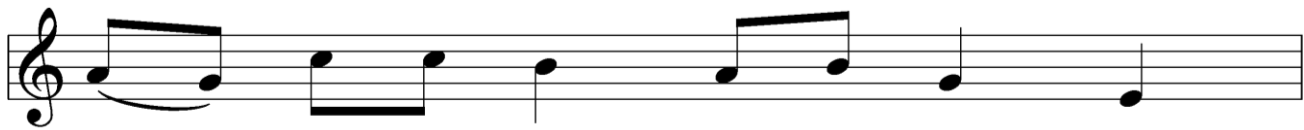
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a-bove all gods.



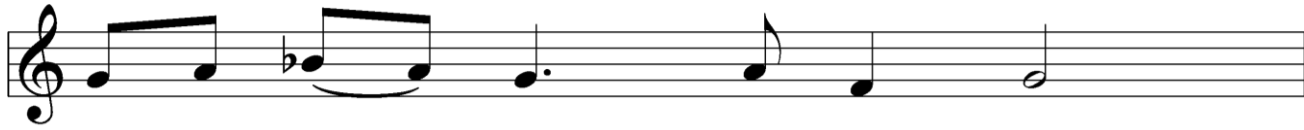
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

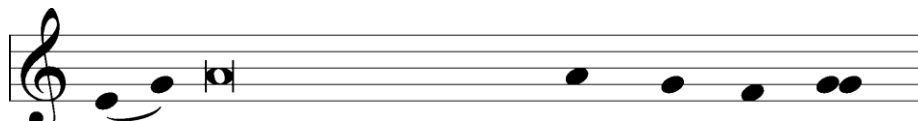


C Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

Antiphonpage 237



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.



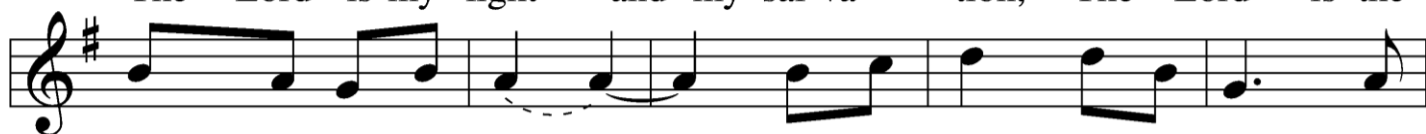
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Please be seated.

Psalm 27 Hymn "The Lord is My Light", #723



The Lord is my light and my sal-va - tion, The Lord is the



strong-hold of my life. Since the Lord is my life, my

To Stanzas



strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?



1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in His



house for - ev - er, To gaze on the beau-ty of the

Refrain



Lord All the days of my life.

2 Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev - 'ry day I will
 seek Your face. Though my fa - ther and moth - er may *for -*
sake me, The Lord will re - ceive me.
 3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths; Guide me, Lord, a -
 long a lev - el way. I will gaze on the good - ness of the
 Lord In the land of all the liv - ing. *Refrain*

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Readings

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 55:6-9

“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
 let the wicked forsake his way,
 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
 let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Holy Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

P Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he

said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

P In many and various ways, God Spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles' Creed.....(*back cover of hymnal*)

C 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.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Sermon..... Pr. John Reinke, Mark 7:32

Hymn of Dedication.. "How Shall They Hear, 'Who Have Not Heard'", #831



1 "How shall they hear," who have not heard
2 "To all the world," to ev - 'ry place,
3 "Whom shall I send?" Who hears the call,
4 "Lord, here am I:" Your fire im - part
5 Spir - it of love, with - in us move:



News of a Lord who loved and came;
Neigh - bors and friends who and far - off lands,
Con - stant in prayer, through toil - and pain,
To this poor cold self - cen - tered soul;
Spir - it of truth, in pow'r come down!



Nor known His rec - on - cil - ing word,
Preach the good news of sav - ing grace;
Tell - ing of One who died for all,
Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart,
So shall they hear and find and prove



Nor learned to trust a Sav - ior's name?
Go while the great com - mis - sion stands.
To bring a lost world home a - gain?
And make a world for Christ my goal.
Christ is their life, their joy, their crown.

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Mission Focus

Offering

Please rise.

Prayer

Collect of the Day (spoken in unison)

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

Collect for Gracepage 241

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer.....page 241

Benedicamus and Benediction..... page 241-242

Sending Hymn..... *"There Is a Balm in Gilead" #749*

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;



There is a balm in Gil-e - ad To heal the sin - sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And think my work's in vain,




2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you can - not pray like Paul,



3 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain



But then the Ho - ly Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.



You can tell the love of Je - sus And say He died for all.
And if you lack for knowl-edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude Cody Clemons

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Next week’s readings:
OT: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32; Epistle: Philippians 2:1–18;
Gospel: Matthew 21:23–32

Attendance Last Saturday: 43	Attendance Last Sunday: 56
Total Offering: \$2,689.09	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$2,689.09	Benevolences: \$0.00

Serving us today:

- Elders..... Alan Miller
- Musicians Cody Clemons, Delaney Clemons
- Altar Committee..... Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Mary Creswell,
Stephanie Schumaker, Lauryn Schumaker
- Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland

This Week’s Schedule

Sunday	11:30 a.m.	Mission Board Fellowship Coffee
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:00 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday		<i>Pastor’s Vacation Day</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	5:15 p.m.	Education 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
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	3:30 p.m.	Adult Catechesis— <i>Rooted in the Faith</i>
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class

Welcome to Pr. John Reinke of Lutheran Deaf Outreach for being our special guest this Fall Mission Festival! See his bio and background further on in this bulletin.

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—Jordan Martin-26th, Kiersten Hillsman-27th, Lynn Lowe-27th, Silas Pederson-27th, Julie Crespo-28th, Nicole Schnell-28th, Cathy Welsh-29th.

Anniversaries—Mike and Jo Greife-26th.

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. Pr. Reinke will be our special guest this Sunday, so regular study and discussion will be on hold.*

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. We start out with a combined opening with the adults to kick off each Sunday. The children 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 are 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 will be taking a break until the first week in November to let Pr. Ricky fully recover.

Youth Catechesis—7th & 8th graders are meeting from **1 to 3 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month** 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 3:30 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.

Fellowship

The Mission Board will be sponsoring a **Fellowship Coffee after both services this weekend.** This is an opportunity to talk with Rev. Reinke and ask questions about Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

First Friday Family Fun—On **October 6, at 6:00 p.m.,** Rebecca will host an outside get-together with a bonfire, s’mores, hot dogs, pumpkin painting and more. A sign-

up sheet for foods that are needed is located by the mailboxes. Bring your family and friends and lawn chairs. Everything else will be provided.

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!

Special Musical Event

Saint Paul High School Singing Saints will present their "Down by the Riverside" concert on **Sunday, October 8 at 4:00 p.m.** Admission is free and there will be a reception to follow. This year's performance will include the *world premiere* of "Christ, the Constant River" (words written by Pr. Joel and music composed by Nebraska professor David von Kampen). If you've never attended this 4th annual outdoor concert, the setting and sounds are glorious ... and if you have, you know that already!

Opportunities to Serve

The Thrivent Group and Mission Board is collecting food items during September for the Migrant Farm Workers Project. Please bring your items to the church by **Monday, October 2nd, at noon.** Items we are collecting small bags of dry pinto beans and canned vegetables (corn, carrots, green beans or peas).

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

Crafternoons—On the fourth Fridays (October 27) 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

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 Relationship* 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. Goto otto@gracefaithlove.org to register.

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

Bethlehem's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for November 12, right after service. We will be looking for multiple people to fill open positions for the coming year. Please prayerfully consider serving on one or more of the following boards: Elders, Stewardship, Evangelism, Missions, Education, Fellowship, Recording Secretary, Trustees and Long Range Planning. If you have questions about any of these positions, please contact Jeremy VanWey or Willie Crespo.



Rev. Dr. John Reinke
Lutheran Deaf Outreach
www.DeafOutreach.org
RevReinke@gmail.com



Professional Summary:

During the past 35 years, Rev. Dr. John Reinke has worked across the U.S. and around the world training people for Deaf Outreach. Pastor Reinke's passion is helping people share their faith in Jesus with other people in a unique way – using American Sign Language. Having a hearing loss himself, Rev. Dr. Reinke is aware of the needs of those struggling to live in a hearing world.

Rev Reinke has developed and continue to expand several online training curriculums for both Deaf and hearing people (ABCD's, ASL Jesus Signs, Jesus BLAST, etc.) He also provides Jesus Signs Training workshops and online training to share Jesus with everyone (especially with deaf people). 2021 project is developing a full online ASL and Jesus Signs curriculum – currently using materials in several congregations and teaching ASL Jesus Signs at Lutheran High School.

Core Qualifications:

- Over 35 years in Deaf Outreach
- Leading Jesus Signs workshop across the U.S.A.
- Developed many training resources for Outreach
- Led Mission Teams to Africa, India, Australia, and Europe
- Fluent in ASL
- Certified Professional Coach Training
- Dr. Dissertation – adapting advanced Deaf Materials
- ASL High School and University Classes – ASL Jesus Signs
- Partners with: ASL teachers, Pastors, and many other Deaf workers
- Deaf Outreach Pastor in LCMS

Work History:

World Lutheran Deaf Outreach 2008 to Present

- Missionary through Texas District
- Expanding Deaf Outreach Training Nationally and Internationally.
- Developed and implemented training in Africa, India, Australia, Europe, and Brazil
- Traveled Nationally and Internationally Training leaders for Deaf Outreach

Education:

2015 Doctor of Ministry Degree
Concordia Seminary
Saint Louis, Missouri

Our Passion:

We want to equip people to reach the 98% of deaf people do not know/believe that Jesus loves them and died to forgive their sins. Example: In America we have over 1 million Deaf people, in India alone there is estimated to be over 30 million Deaf people.

On-Going Development of Training and Resource materials:

We continue to partner with many people to:

Develop Resources printed and online

Online live equipping videos

Online live Worship and studies

Provide Training Workshops in person and online

Mentoring and Training Deaf Deaconesses and Pastors

Mark732.org - Deaf Outreach Training:

Developing a fully online American Sign Language - Jesus Signs Curriculum. We are teaching ASL in a way people will learn to fluently communicate with Deaf people and be able to share Jesus' love and forgiveness with Deaf people.

Mentoring:

Mentoring Deaf and hearing people on a variety of levels for Deaf Outreach: Seminary Students through the EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology) Program; Deaf colloquy students; Deaf pre-seminary students; plus many students through the ABCD (A Bible Curriculum Deaf) training materials. These materials are designed for and by Deaf people to share God's Word with more Deaf people.

Internationally:

While COVID has limited our physical travel, we continue to train online with Deaf Leaders around the world! We continue to share resources and training in: Canada, India, Europe, Brazil, Australia, and many countries in Africa.

Technology:

We want to train people how to use the latest technology to share the Gospel with Deaf people. Live Transcribe, Audio Fetch, Restream, and many other technology advancements can be used to include Deaf and Hard of Hearing people into our “hearing” world. (Leading workshops at LWML National and District Conferences, Best Practices Conference, District Conferences, plus many Circuit and congregational training events.)

Deaf Outreach

Becoming Disciple Makers!

Studying God's Word in a visual, 3-dimensional way. Equipping you to teach and share God's Word in a new way.

Why DeafOutreach.org?

- 98% of Deaf people do not know Jesus.
- One of the Biggest challenges is communication.
- Over 100 million Deaf people around the world.
- DeafOutreach.org trains and equips disciples to spread His Kingdom among Deaf people and their families.

ASL Jesus Signs Online Sign Language curriculum:

- You can learn how to sign and share your faith in Sign Language through our online classes ASLJS classes

ABCD – A Bible Curriculum Deaf materials

- Our materials are developed by and adapted for Deaf people to study and learn God's Word.
- These materials are also designed for Deaf people to then begin teaching and sharing the Gospel with others.

Jesus Signs Workshops

- Deaf Outreach provides hands-on-training and give the resources to prepare people to share the Gospel.
- We equip both hearing and Deaf people to share Jesus.

Across the U.S. and around the world!

- God is opening the doors for us to train and equip disciples to share His Word with Deaf people in a variety of areas, cultures and languages.
- From New York to California, from Washington to Florida, people are using the resources you are helping to develop.
- Internationally these Deaf Materials are being used in Australia, India, Europe, South America, and many countries in Africa!

Why Deaf Materials?

- Vocabulary – easy read/sign
- Short Sentences
- No Passive Voice
- No idioms
- Visuals included – pictures, graphics, etc....

How can you help us?

- Pray for us and all people in Deaf Outreach!
- Financial support – we need raise all our funds
- Come join us!
- Sharing about Deaf Outreach

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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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.