

MY BELOVED  
HAD A  
VINEYARD

ISAIAH 5:1



+ The 19th Sunday After Pentecost +

**October 8, 2023**  
**LWML Weekend**

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**AS WE GATHER**

Like a building, we have a foundation stone on which we rest, a cornerstone on which we build, a capstone that holds it all together. Christ is each of those stones—the foundation on which our faith is established, the cornerstone on which our faith is built, and the capstone that holds us up. He is also a stone of stumbling. Those who reject His foundation, His cornerstone, and His capstone are broken into pieces in the day of judgment. All of this is revealed in the surprise of a parable about a master who built a vineyard, planted the vines, and set it out for tenants to produce the wine. Instead, they conspired to keep the vineyard as their own, rejected those whom the master sent, and killed his son. This is the story of Jesus and of the people of God that He had chosen and created to be His vineyard. It is a story of warning, but it is also a story of grace.

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**The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).**

***Liturgical Color:***

***Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.***

***Visitors:*** *We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/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** .....Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller

**Pastoral Welcome**

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

# Gathering Hymn .... "The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns", #532



1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is  
 2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is  
 3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The  
 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With



crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -  
 His, is His by right, The King of kings and  
 Joy of all be - low To whom He man - i -  
 all its grace, is giv'n; Their name an ev - er -



dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.  
 Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;  
 fests His love And grants His name to know.  
 last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.

5 They suffer with their Lord below,  
 They reign with Him above,  
 Their profit and their joy to know  
 The myst'ry of His love.

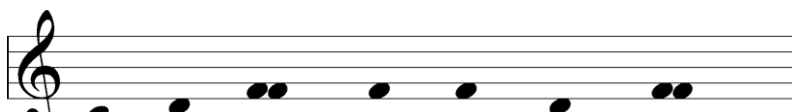
6 The cross He bore is life and health,  
 Though shame and death to Him:  
 His people's hope, His people's wealth,  
 Their everlasting theme.

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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.

**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.  
**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalmody

**Antiphon**..... *page 235*

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

**Venite**..... *page 236*

**C** 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.



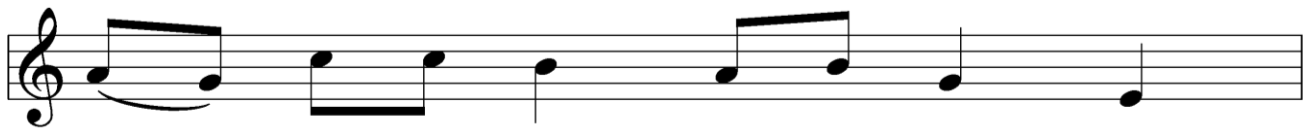
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a-bove all gods.



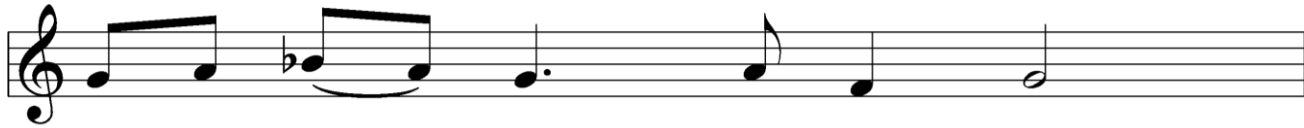
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



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.

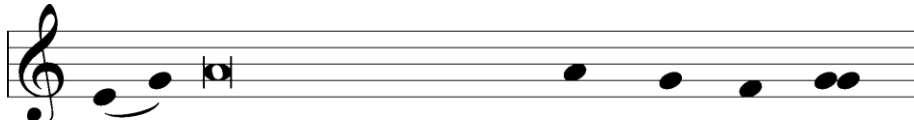


III Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



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

**Antiphon** .....page 237



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



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

**Psalm 80:7-19** .....(*front of hymnal, spoken responsively*)

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

**you drove out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it;

**it took deep root and filled the land.**

The mountains were covered with its shade,

**the mighty cedars with its branches.**

It sent out its branches to the sea

**and its shoots to the River.**

Why then have you broken down its walls,

**so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

The boar from the forest ravages it,

**and all that move in the field feed on it.**

Turn again, O God of hosts!

**Look down from heaven, and see;**

have regard for this vine,

**the stock that your right hand planted,**

**and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.**

They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;

**may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**

But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,

**the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**

Then we shall not turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call upon your name!

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!

Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

Office Hymn.....“One Thing’s Needful’, #536 (v. 1-2)



1 One thing’s need - ful; Lord, this trea - sure Teach me high - ly  
2 How were Mar - y’s thoughts de - vot - ed Her e - ter - nal



to re - gard. All else, though it first give plea - sure,  
joy to find As in - tent each word she not - ed,



Is a yoke that press - es hard! Be - neath it the  
At her Sav - ior’s feet re - clined! How kin - dled her



heart is still fret - ting and striv - ing, No true, last - ing hap - pi - ness  
heart, how de - vout was its feel - ing, While hear - ing the les - sons that



ev - er de - riv - ing. This one thing is need - ful; all oth - ers are  
Christ was re - veal - ing! All earth - ly con - cerns she for - got for her



vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may ob - tain!  
Lord And found her con - tent - ment in hear - ing His Word.

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## Readings

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?

When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briars and thorns shall grow up;

I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,

and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;

and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;

for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

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

**C** Thanks be to God.



## Epistle Reading ..... **Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise.*

## Holy Gospel ..... **Matthew 21:33-46**

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable

death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

**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 Song** ..... “*God is So Good*”

# Children's Message

Sermon..... "Stewarding Well the Master's Vineyard"

*Please rise.*

Hymn of Praise..... "For the Fruits of His Creation", #894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our  
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.  
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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LWML Pledge..... *(spoken in unison)*

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

Offering

*Please rise.*

# Prayer

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

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 Grace** ..... *page 241*

**P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, . . . 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** ..... *"Not Unto Us" #558*



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry,  
2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were  
3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less  
4 Not un - to us but to Your name be glo - ry,



Lord; Not un - to us but to Your name be praise;  
made; A - maz - ing grace— that sent Your Son to save;  
years; For - giv - ing love— that led us to Your truth;  
Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



Not un - to us but to Your name all hon - or be  
A - maz - ing grace— that robed us in Your righ - teous-  
Un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn— from  
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and



giv'n For match-less mer-cy, for - give - ness, and grace.  
 ness And taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.  
 You But sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.  
 done, And pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to You.

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**Dismissal** ..... (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

**Postlude** ..... Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller

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**Next week’s readings:**

**OT: Isaiah 25:6–9; Epistle: Philippians 4:4–13; Gospel: Matt. 22:1–14**

**Attendance Last Saturday: 31**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 70**

**Total Offering: \$5,223.71**

**Missions: \$32.00**

**Home Use: \$3,156.36**

**Benevolences: \$2,035.35**

**Serving us today:**

- Elders..... Alan Miller
- Musicians ..... Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller
- Altar Committee..... Teresa Hillsman-Chair Lisa Gulick, Beryl Lindley  
 Susie Mills, Cindy Schnell, Samantha Schnell
- Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair), Cindy Smith

**This Week’s Schedule**

- Sunday 12:00 p.m. Elders’ Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Country Club and Arbors Care Center Services
- 4:00 p.m. *Down by the Riverside* Concert—Waverly
- Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
- 2:00 p.m. Moms and Tots at the Park
- 7:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild Meeting
- Tuesday *Pastor at District Conference through Thurs. aft.*
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

	6:30 p.m.	Gender & Sexuality Study/Choir Fellowship
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Rebecca 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
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion

## 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, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Peggy Forstad, 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**—Janice Bertels-10<sup>th</sup>, Cody Clemons-10<sup>th</sup>, Cindy Schnell-10<sup>th</sup>, Bill Brasel-13<sup>th</sup>, **Anniversaries**—Byron and Erika Freeman-8<sup>th</sup>, Shawn and Beryl Lindley-9<sup>th</sup>, Mark and Felisa Brown-10<sup>th</sup>, Ron and Kathlee Rode-10<sup>th</sup>.

## 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](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Let’s join the LCMS Memory Verse Challenge!** The Sunday School children will be challenged to learn these verses every week, and you can too! To help make this easy to do and remember, each Sunday I will post the weekly verse on the BLC Facebook page, provide a coloring page with the verse printed on it to take home (find this at the mailboxes), and post the verse in the **Band** app. Download this free app and join the group **BLC Sunday School**. I created a Group Challenge (Rehearse the weekly memory verse), for which you can check-in daily. I’ll make a new challenge for each month. You can also visit [lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge](https://lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge) to find the weekly verse.

**Wednesday Bible Study** will not be held this week since Pr. Joel will be attending conference. **We’ll meet again on the 18<sup>th</sup>** to discuss which book of Scripture we want to study next—plus probably some topics of biblical interest—but **then won’t be meeting again until November 8**, since Pastor will be on vacation.

**Gender and Sexuality Study**—Through the end of 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.**

## Mary Martha Guild

**LWML**—this weekend we are celebrating the work of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League and, more specifically, our Mary-Martha Guild. We invite all the ladies to come to our next meeting on **Monday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m.** If you would like to be a member of any of the committees that are listed at the end of the bulletin, please let us know. You can participate in a committee without being a member of MMG.

## Youth

**Youth Group**—the Jr. and Sr. youth will be gathering next **Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m.** to take a leaf walk on the nature trail and have some fellowship and game time.

## 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 the *Down by the Riverside* concert this weekend on **Sunday, October 8 at 4:00 p.m.** Admission is free and there will be a reception with fall treats following. 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 4<sup>th</sup> annual outdoor concert, the setting and sounds are glorious ... and if you have, you know that already!

## Opportunities to Serve

**Our next Family Fun Night on November 3** will have a Veteran's Day theme. Veterans, please email or bring in copies of your boot camp picture, or some young-service-member-you picture. We will dedicate one of the wooden display cases near the kitchen to our member veterans and post these pictures there.

**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. 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

**UCM Homecoming Parade is Saturday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m.** Please contact Rebecca Holland-VanWey or the church office if you would like to help with the float or ride/walk in the parade. We are also taking donations of candy to hand out. You can put those in the box next to Pastor's office.

**Sing Boldly** is a group of junior high students from St. John Lutheran School in Seward, Nebraska - and they'll be presenting a hymn festival at **Grace Lutheran Church in Lexington, on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.** A hymn festival is a combination of a hymn sing and choral concert - so while the choir and handbells will present their own music, it's done in a way that also invites the gathered congregation to join in. For a sample of what the choir will present, visit

[SingBoldly.org/tour](http://SingBoldly.org/tour). You will also get to hear Grace's newly rebuilt and expanded pipe organ. We hope to see you there!

**A Circuit Reformation Service** for the Concordia North and Concordia South Circuits will be held on **Saturday, October 28, at 4:00 pm** at Grace Lutheran Church, 806 S Business Hwy 13, Lexington. We will sing hymns related to the Reformation, hear of events related to the Reformation, and hear God's saving Word. All are invited.

**Medical Care & Housing Assistance**—Katy Trail Community Health's mobile unit is in Warrensburg for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, so the next clinic day will be on **October 10** 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.**

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support in shining the light of Christ! If you'd ever like to hear some of the stories of how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

### **2023 Elders**

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, [crespo6fam@gmail.com](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

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

**Alan Miller** (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.com)



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ. Lutheran Women in Mission are women of faith, empowered for active service in Jesus' name and bold support of missions through Mite Box offerings. As Christians, we have been given the kingdom of God to bear its fruit.

Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with, and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! (Psalm 24:7–10)*

## **CURRENT PROJECTS FOR MARY MARTHA GUILD**

**Altar Committee** – This committee prepares the Lord's Supper and hangs the beautiful banners in the church sanctuary.

**Flower Committee** – The altar flowers and the special seasonal flowers (Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias) are displayed by this committee. There is a sign-up sheet (located on the wall across from the conference room) If you would like to donate altar flowers for some specific time. Information will be available prior to the Easter and Christmas times for you to donate for these flowers if you wish.

**Aluminum Can Collection** – The money received from recycling these cans is designated for Mission Projects, such as Lutheran World Relief. If you collect the cans, please place the bag by the door of the shed so it can be placed inside.

**Rummage Sale** – Although the Mary Martha Guild sponsors this event, we could never do it by ourselves. It takes each of you to donate items – as well as working with the set-up and tear-down. Thank you!

**Mites** – At each of our meetings we collect Mite offerings. There are Mite Boxes available to anyone (members or not) who would like to use them to put in any loose change and then donate them to our Guild. These Mite Offerings are then sent to our Zone to be used to award grants.

**Stamp Collection** – Please save your used stamps and put them in the stamp collection box (plastic box located in one of the mailboxes). This money received by selling them to vendors (over \$18,000 during the past several years) is given to Mites to be used for grants.

**Quilting** – 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. Please come join us—you do not need to know how to quilt or sew! Bring your own lunch or go out and grab something. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

**YOU can be a member of any of the committees – whether you are a member of the Mary Martha Guild or not. Our meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall (except for July and August when we take a break).**

## Contact Information

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

### **Our Mission**

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

### **Our Vision**

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



#### **Rev. Joel R. Kurz**

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

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: [jkurz@blchurch.com](mailto:jkurz@blchurch.com)

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

#### **Office Manager**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

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

#### **Congregation Life Facilitator**

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

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

#### **Bookkeeper**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

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

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.