

Give to God
the things
that are God's

MATTHEW 22:21



+ The 21st Sunday After Pentecost +

October 22, 2023

AS WE GATHER

One of the most famous sayings of Jesus appears to provide a neat and tidy divide between the worldly power of government and the spiritual power of the Church. Is that really what Christ is doing? Is He marking the divide or is He commending all things and the ultimate authority to the saving purpose of our heavenly Father? The things that belong to Caesar appear to be valuable in the moment but are temporary and temporal. The things of God are everything—all things in heaven and earth. They are eternal. In reality, there is nothing that does not belong to God, although the Lord assigns different people with the different responsibilities of church and state. In this question of who is in charge, God makes it clear that He is always in charge and always working for our salvation.

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 Jerrode Marsh

Pastoral Welcome

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

Gathering Hymn "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made", #903



1 This is the day the Lord has made; He calls the
 2 To - day He rose and left the dead, And Sa - tan's
 3 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, To Da - vid's
 4 Bless - ed is He who comes to us With mes - sag -
 5 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains The Church on



hours His own. Let heav'n re - joice, let
 em - pire fell; To - day the saints His
 ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -
 es of grace; He, in the Lord's name,
 earth can raise. The high - est heav'ns, in



earth be glad And praise sur - round the throne.
 tri - umphs spread And all His won - ders tell.
 scend and bring Sal - va - tion from Your throne.
 comes to us To save our fall - en race.
 which He reigns, Shall give Him no - bler praise.

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Please rise.

Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... page 235

P O Lord, open my lips.



C 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*

P 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.



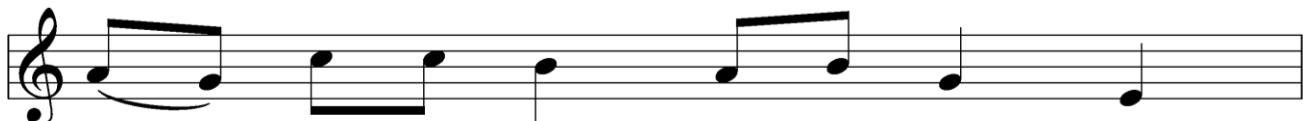
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



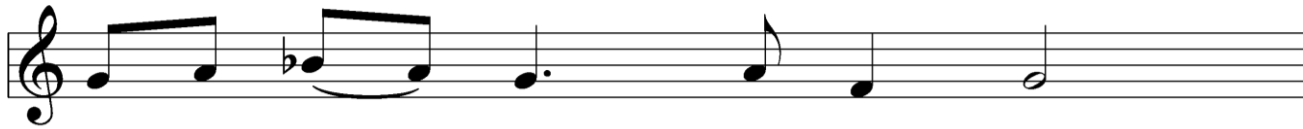
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



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.



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.

Antiphon.....page 237

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



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 96:1-9 *(front of hymnal, spoken in unison)*

**Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!
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..... *“Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters”, #598*



1 Once in the blest bap - tis - mal wa - ters I put on
2 His bod - y and His blood I've tak - en In His blest
3 And thus I live in God con - tent - ed And die with -



Christ and made Him mine; Now num - bered with God's sons and
Sup - per, feast di - vine; Now I shall nev - er be for -
out a thought of fear; My soul has to God's plans con -



daugh - ters, I share His peace and love di - vine.
 sak - en, For I am His, and He is mine.
 sent - ed, For through His Son my faith is clear.



O God, for Je-sus' sake I pray Your peace may bless my dy-ing day.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped,
 to subdue nations before him
 and to loose the belts of kings,
 to open doors before him
 that gates may not be closed:
 "I will go before you
 and level the exalted places,
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron,
 I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and the hoards in secret places,
 that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I name you, though you do not know me.
 I am the LORD, and there is no other,
 besides me there is no God;
 I equip you, though you do not know me,
 that people may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is none besides me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
 I form light and create darkness,

I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise.

Holy Gospel Matthew 22:15-22

P Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of

their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

- 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..... "Calls You By Your Name"

Hymn of Praise..... "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love", #900



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
 For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
 When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
 Under all the mighty heav'n
 Whereby those to sin enslaved
 Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Human name of God above;
 Pleading only this, we flee
 Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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Offering

Please rise.

Prayer

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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*

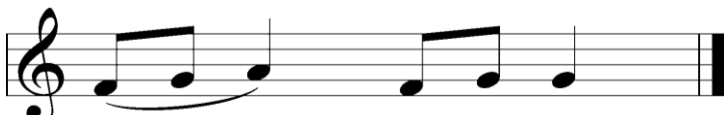
P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, 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*

P Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.



C A - men.

Sending Hymn..... *"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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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Jerrode Marsh

Next week's readings:

OT: Revelation 14:6-7; Epistle: Romans 3:19-28; G: Matt. 11:12-19

Attendance Last Saturday: 45

Total Offering: \$4,088.00

Home Use: \$4,008.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 54

Total Offering: \$0.00

Home Use: \$0.00

Serving us today:

Elders.....Willie Crespo

MusiciansJerrode Marsh

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------|---|
| Monday | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Moms and Tots at the Park |
| | 6:30 p.m. | 4-H Meeting |
| Tuesday | 9:30 a.m. | Quilting |
| | 5:15 p.m. | Education Board 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 |
| Friday | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| | 3:00 p.m. | Crafternoon |
| Saturday | 5:30 p.m. | Holy Communion |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Fall Fellowship |
| Sunday | 9:15 a.m. | Christian Education |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | 11:30 p.m. | Fall Fellowship |

Absence/Presence

While Pr. Joel is on vacation, Pr. Ricky Bertels will be leading worship and preaching for the weekend services. If a need arises, please contact your elder or the head elder, Willie Crespo. (Pr. Joel and Carol will be enjoying a family gathering in the Carolinas.)

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, 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—Seth Hartwig-21st, Lloyd McCarter-21st, Sierra Burden-25th, Stella Allison-26th, Patricia Lockhart-27th, Judy Schache-27th. **Anniversary**—Matt and Sondra Privett-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

Adult Bible Class will be joining with the Jr. and Sr. Sunday School classes on **October 21 & 28** during Pastor's absence. All will be downstairs in the fellowship hall, with the opening devotion happening at **9:15 a.m.** in front of the wooden altar. The **Adult Proverbs Bible Study** will resume on **November 5** in the conference room.

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!

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 to find the weekly verse.

Wednesday Bible Study 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.**

Faith Night happens on the first Wednesday of every month with a simple shared potluck meal from **5:30 to 6:00** (or so), followed by a faith discussion **until 6:45**. Through the end of the year, we're focusing on *Keeping Every Moment HOLY* by reflecting on liturgies and prayers from this great new resource in book or app form (www.everymomentholy.com). **Since November 1 is All Saints' Day**, Rebecca will be leading and sharing attentive ways to pray through grief and give thanks for the lives of those no longer with us. Plan on coming for this beneficial time together!

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

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.

It's Operation Christmas Child time! LauraBeth VanWey and Adeline Murrell, together with their American Heritage Girls troop, are collecting items to pack in boxes, completed boxes, and monetary donations toward shipping (\$10/box) for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse mission to bring joy and the gospel to children around the world. Brochures about the project can be found at the front and back entrances, along with crates for collecting items. Items especially needed: Wal-Mart has 10-packs of shoe-box sized Sterlite containers perfect for packing boxes for \$10.98; and inflatable soccer balls with pumps can be ordered from Amazon. You can visit samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child for more information and guidelines, as well as printable labels you can purchase for the \$10 shipping fee, which will allow you to track your box to its destination. We will collect donations for this project until November 5. Contact Rebecca at 660-441-1271 with any questions and to donate shipping funds (Cindy can also take \$\$ donations). Thank you!

Choir will rehearse from 7:30-8:30 pm through the month of October. Holli Burge will be directing in the absence of Peggy.

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

Men's Club will meet on **Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m.** at Traditions Restaurant. Any men of the congregation are welcome to join them for some food, fellowship and planning time.

It's Fall Fellowship Time! —Join us after service on **Saturday, October 28 and Sunday October 29** (Reformation weekend) for some fall treats and good time visiting with each other.

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.

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.

The Johnson County Resource Center happens every **Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in the basement of First Presbyterian Church (206 N. College)—providing breakfast, a hot lunch, and a place to hang out. Housing assistance and case management are provided, as well as Medicaid signup. **Katy Trail's Mobile Medical Unit provides health care on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.** Everything is free, so that is the place to be for those struggling with the basics!

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

2023 Elders

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

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

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

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

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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Office Manager

Cindy Smith

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csmith@blchurch.com

Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

rholland@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

thillsman@blchurch.com

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