Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him

MATTHEW 25:6



AS WE GATHER

I

It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Amos in the Old Testament proclaiming the day of the Lord, to Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of His faithfulness, His continued care and providence, and His assurance that when that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

Ш

What do you do when you wait? What do others do? Whether sitting in the lobby of a doctor's office, or stuck behind a mile of cars in traffic, or counting down the days until an exciting event—what is done while waiting? Some seek distraction through technology to pass the time, others watch the time slowly pass, and still others wait impatiently, made known through verbal and nonverbal ways. How about when it comes to Jesus? What do we do while we wait for Him? Rather than seeking distractions to pass the time or feverishly looking at a clock while growing impatient, we are instead called to wait for Him in faith. We do not know the day nor the hour, but we wait in faith with more than oil in our lamps—faith in our hearts and on our lips until we meet the Bridegroom at the marriage feast.

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

Pastoral Welcome

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

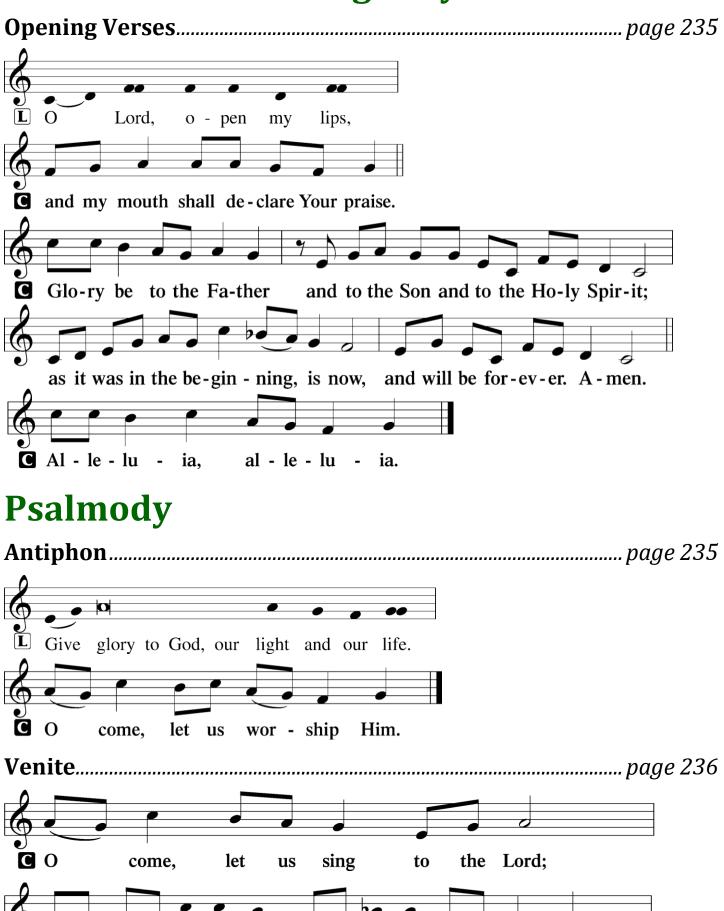
Gathering Hymn "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us", #514



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Please rise.

Morning Prayer



let us make a joy-ful noise to the rock of our sal-va - tion.

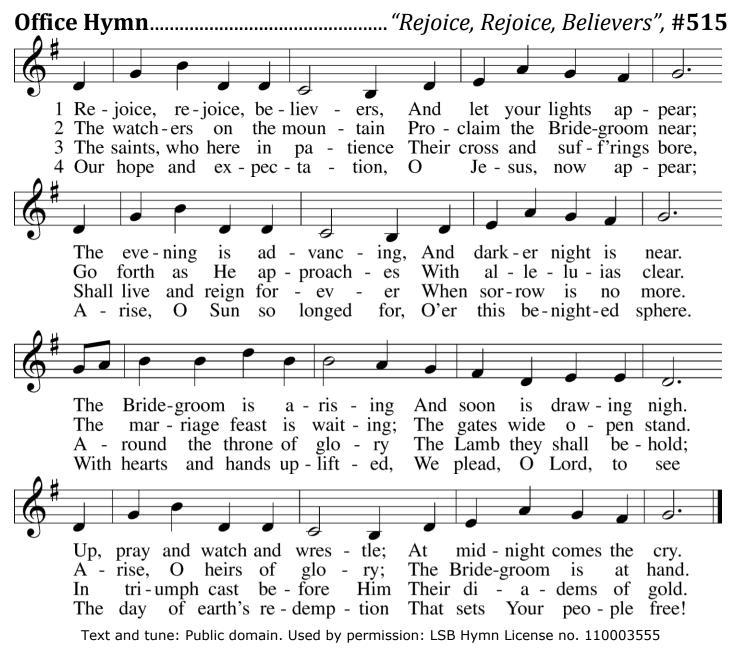




Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Please be seated.



Readings

Old Testament Reading...... Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion,

and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
"I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."
P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem	"Bow the Knee"
Epistle Reading1 Th	hessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Holy Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

P Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

- **G** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.
- Apostles' Creed......(back cover of hymnal)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, C 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.

(The congregation may join in with the children)

Thank you for giving me the morning. Thank you for ev'ry day that's new. Thank you that I can know my worries Can be cast on you. Thank you for all my friends & brothers. Thank you for all the men that live. Thank you for even greatest enemies I can forgive.

Thank you, I see your Word has meaning. Thank you, I know your Spirit here. Thank you because you love all people, Those both far and near.

Sermon...... "What Will We Do?"

Please rise.

Hymn of Praise "O God, My Faithful God"", #696 God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er 10 flow ing, 2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will ing That lat - er need re - call 3 Keep me from say - ing words ing; 4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac tions, With - out whom noth - ing per-fect gifts be-stow is, All ing: call-ing here ful - fill My What - ev - er You com-mand, ing: i - dle speech May from my lips be Guard me lest fall ing; And let find good friends For coun-sel and cor-rec me tion. Give me a health - y frame, And Ι have with - in may While trust - ing That Ι do what Ι should You to bless But when with - in my place Ι must and ought to speak, small Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and

The out - come for my g Then to my words give g	ame, A soul un - stained by sin. ood, For You must give suc - cess. race Lest I of - fend the weak. night To live in peace with all.
5 Let me depart this life	6 And on that final day
Confiding in my Savior;	When all the dead are waking,
By grace receive my soul	Stretch out Your mighty hand,
That it may live forever;	My deathly slumber breaking.
And let my body have	Then let me hear Your voice,
A quiet resting place	Redeem this earthly frame,
Within a Christian grave;	And bid me to rejoice
And let it sleep in peace.	With those who love Your name.

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Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.

Prayer

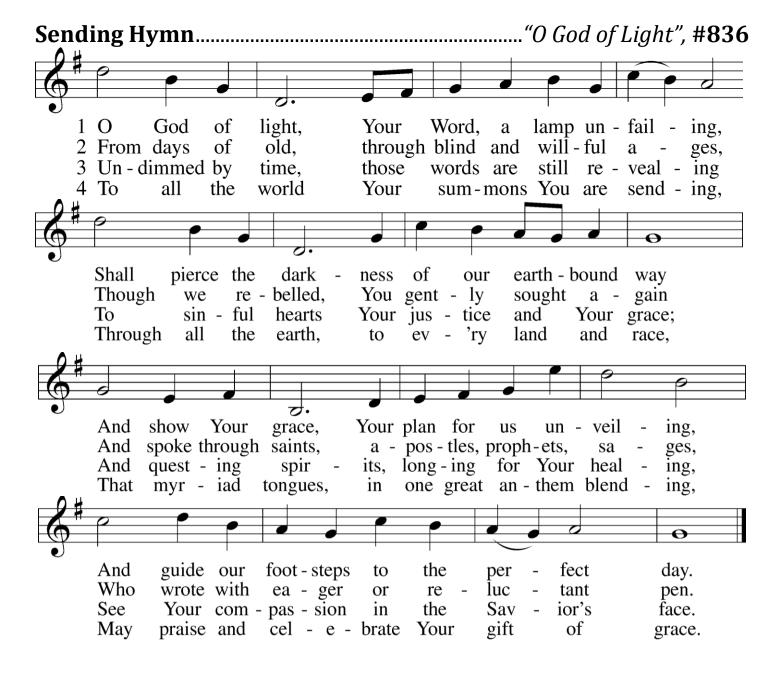
Collect of the Day (spoken in unison)

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

Coll	ect for Gracepage 241
P	O Lord, our heavenly Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
	Spirit, one God, now and forever.
С	Amen.

Lord's Prayer	page 241
Benedicamus and Benediction	page 241-242



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Dismissal.

...... (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from ESV Bible (*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*) copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Next week's readings: OT: Zeph. 1:7–16; Epistle: 1 Thess. 5:1–11; Gospel: Matt. 25:14–30

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Serving us today:

Elder	Willie Crespo
Musician	Jerrode Marsh, Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege
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.	Fellowship Lunch & Annual Meeting
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Care Center & Arbors Services
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's Vacation Day
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
	7:05 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday		Pastor's Vacation Day
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Fellowship and Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	11:00 a.m.	Lunch Bunch
	1:00 p.m.	Cards and Games Group
	3:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation Class
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Ezekiel Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get-Together

Veterans' Day

Military/First Responders—Please take time to stop by the north doors and/or the glass case in the basement to look at all those from our congregation who serve or have served our country and communities in these roles. Play the "Guess Who?" game with the pictures at the north doors and see if you can identify them all.

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, 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!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Bethlehem's 2022 Annual Meeting will take place this **Sunday, November 12** after service. Lunch will be served by the Fellowship Committee, and the meeting will follow. All members age 18 and above are encouraged to attend and participate in the cooperation it takes to function and flourish as a congregation of people in faith and life!

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Katy Freeman-11th, Haley Clemons-12th, Diana Holland-16th, Karon Harding-17th.

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 <u>blchurch.com</u>.

Thanksgiving Eve Service—Gather together with others in our sanctuary on

Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. to ground ourselves anew in a life of gratitude and grateful living. *This service will also be livestreamed.* Please join us!

Looking toward Advent!—Our theme for the three Wednesday midweek Advent services this year—**December 6, 13, & 20**—will be *Light in the Darkness.* Keep your eyes open for more details to come!

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. **We start at 9:15 a.m.** (in the conference room).

Sunday School Christmas Preparation—Beginning November 12th—December 17th, Sunday School will start at 9:00 am to give us time to practice for this year's Christmas program. The joint Sunday school opening with the adults will be on hiatus during this time.

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 will not be meeting this week and next due to Pr. Joel's absence and Thanksgiving. Join us as we start anew on November 29th at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room—just in time for Advent and the new Church Year!

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 (<u>www.everymomentholy.com</u>). Plan on coming for this beneficial time together!

Thursday Bible Study starts at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Bertels will continue his study on the book of Ezekiel, beginning with Chapter 20. This meets in the conference room

and is open to all who have the interest and time available.

<u>Music</u>

Choir will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30p.m. for fellowship time and rehearse from 7:00-8:00p.m. We are always looking for new members! Please contact Peggy Forstad with any questions about joining the choir.

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

Thrivent will hold their annual blanket drive during the month of November. The blankets will be distributed locally to families (sometimes to families whose home has burned) and to others in need. We are looking for new blankets or for gently <u>used ones.</u> There will be plastic totes located at both doors for you to use. Hopeful that you will be able to help!

Children's Art Supplies for Survival—Mid-Missouri Artists is collection donations of children's art supplies to be donated to Survival prior to Christmas. **Look for the decorated box at the north entrance**. New or gently used items that can be used to create art are welcome—things to paint or draw on or with—scissors, glues, glitters, market, coloring books, kits. Art supplies are so useful there for art therapy, activities, school supplies, and even Christmas gifts. Cash donations are also accepted so that Survival can purchase needed materials. Questions—contact Rebecca Limback at <u>rlimback@qmail.com</u>.

The 50th year of Christmas Store has officially begun with Bethlehem being the host church. We have already started signing people up! We have also begun our quest for donations by sending out letters to 393 previous donors. You can donate in several ways: Pay Pal Charities has us in their list of charities, Mail a check to the Food Center or donate at The Food Center.org and click the donate button on the Christmas Store area. We will also be needing help handing out the vouchers on December 13, 14, 15, 16. If you can help, please let me know! Sue Cottrill.

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

Lunch Bunch will meet at the church on Thursday, November 16 at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided, and Rebecca will be helping us do some candle making. Join us as you can!

On November 18 from 1-4pm, Bethlehem will host a **Christmas Kindness Fair** at which children can make crafts to give as gifts. In the fellowship hall, several tables will be set up as craft stations. Each station will need a leader to help children make the craft. Crafts could include painted picture frames, beaded bracelets, felt coasters, and more. This will be an event open to the community. We will ask for a free-will admission offering for The Christmas Store. I need your help! Do you have a craft project that you could help kids make? Can you help at the fair by leading a craft or greeting visitors? Could you prepare craft materials in advance? Would you help me market the event in your network? Let Rebecca know!

<u>Youth</u>

Youth Group—the Jr. and Sr. youth will be gathering on Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 p.m. to try out the new Alley Cats bowling alley.

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 and That

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, <u>crespo6fam@gmail.com</u> Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, <u>rick1janice2@gmail.com</u> Jack Easterwood (last name begins L-O) 660-678-2045, <u>easter.egg2380@gmail.com</u> Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, <u>alorrmiller@aol.com</u>

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS FAIR

COMMUNITY EVENT November 18-1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire







Kids can make crafts at several craft stations to have gifts to give for Christmas!







Free-will admission will benefit the Christmas Store, a community and church group voucher program to provide a Christmas meal to the food insecure.

HONORING OUR MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDERS



Randy Alewel Charlie Becker Chuck Becker Melvin Bockelman Bill Brasel Robert Compton Charles Fair Jerry Harding Colin Hart Peggy Hoyer Rookie Hoyer Penny Humphrey Scott Humphrey Bob Johansen Richard Luehrman Rohn Luker Amy Martin Lloyd McCarter Alan Miller Gary Moege Ken Pederson Ronald Rode Tim Schnell James Schumaker Benjamin Smith Larry Smith Jimmy Smithers Melvin Theroff Rich Vanderburgh Jeremy VanWey

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<u>@blchurch.com</u>

Website: <u>www.blchurch.com</u> Facebook: <u>blcwarrensburg</u>

Office Manager Cindy Smith Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm 660-747-6742 <u>csmith@blchurch.com</u>

Congregation Life Facilitator Rebecca Holland-VanWey Wednesday: 1pm-5pm Thursday: 1pm-5pm <u>rholland@blchurch.com</u> Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman Tuesday: 9am-11am Thursday: 9am-11am <u>thillsman@blchurch.com</u>

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.