

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

MARK 1:3



Second Sunday in Advent December 9-10, 2023



AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

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:

Blue is the color of water and sky, thus hope, for the baptized who know that Christ came down from heaven to earth and is coming again.

*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

Seminary Recruitment Invitation (Sunday)

Jesse Tree Ornament

Please rise, as able.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P** You, O Lord, are our lamp:
- C** You turn our darkness into light. (Ps. 18:28)

P With You, O Lord, is the well of life:

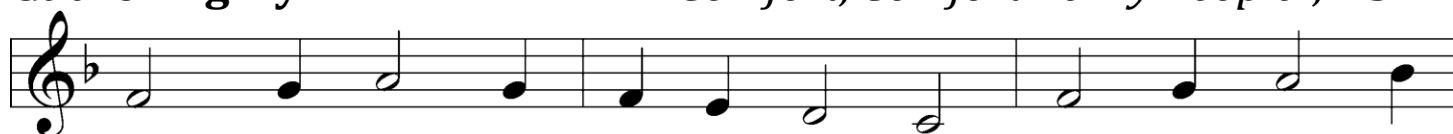
C In Your light shall we see light. (Ps. 36:9)

The second candle is lit at this time.

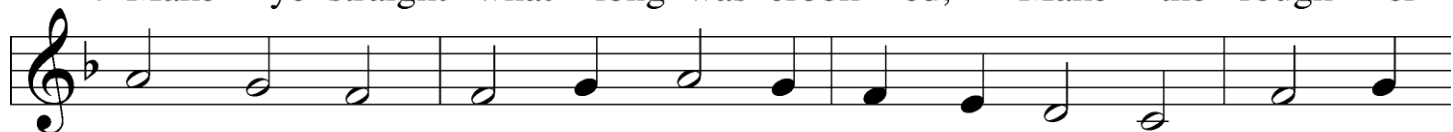
All: O Lord, Creator of the universe, in this season of Advent, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night, You renew Your promise to reveal among us the splendor of Your glory, made visible to us in Jesus Christ Your Son—the Word made flesh who came among us in earthly life—full of grace and truth. Enable us anew to cling to Him in faith, hope, and love by the work of Your Holy Spirit among us, we pray—Amen.

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher during the hymn.)

Gathering Hymn "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People", #347



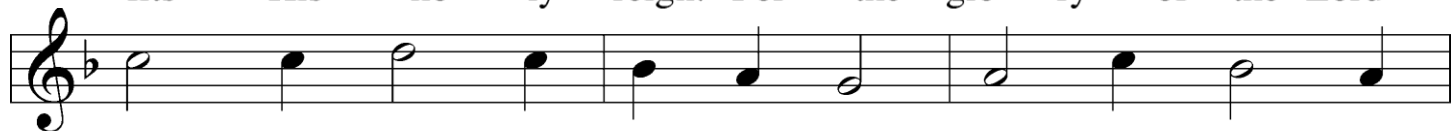
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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Please rise.

Service of Prayer and Preaching

Opening Versicles (*Advent*)..... page 260

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- C** Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.
- P** Prepare the way of the Lord.
- C** Make His paths straight.
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
- C** Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C** 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.

Old Testament Canticle pages 261-262



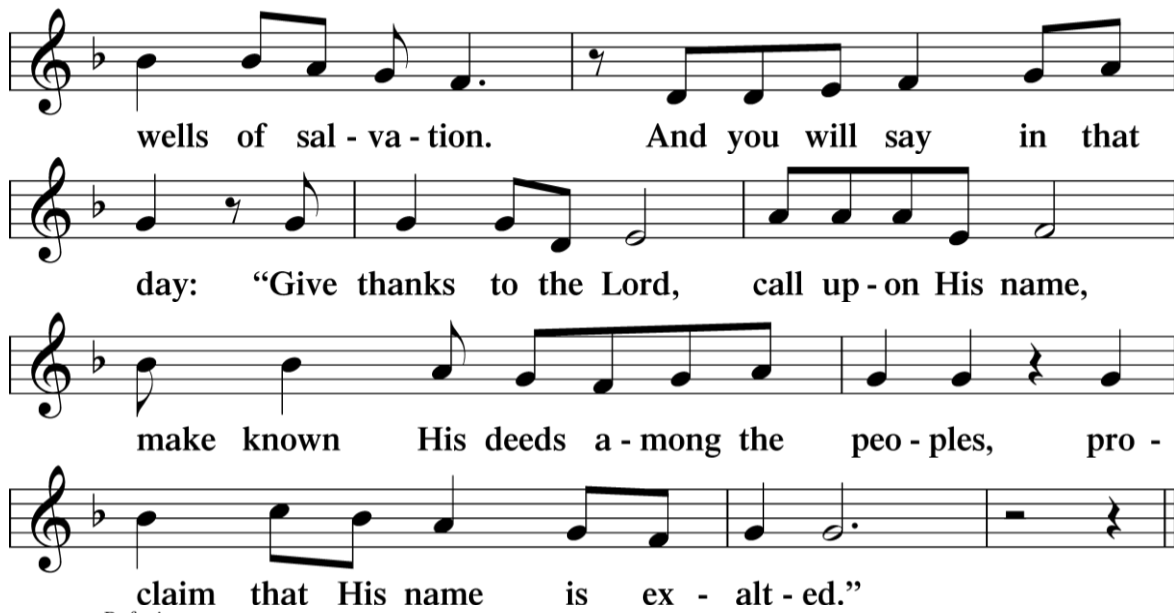
C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the

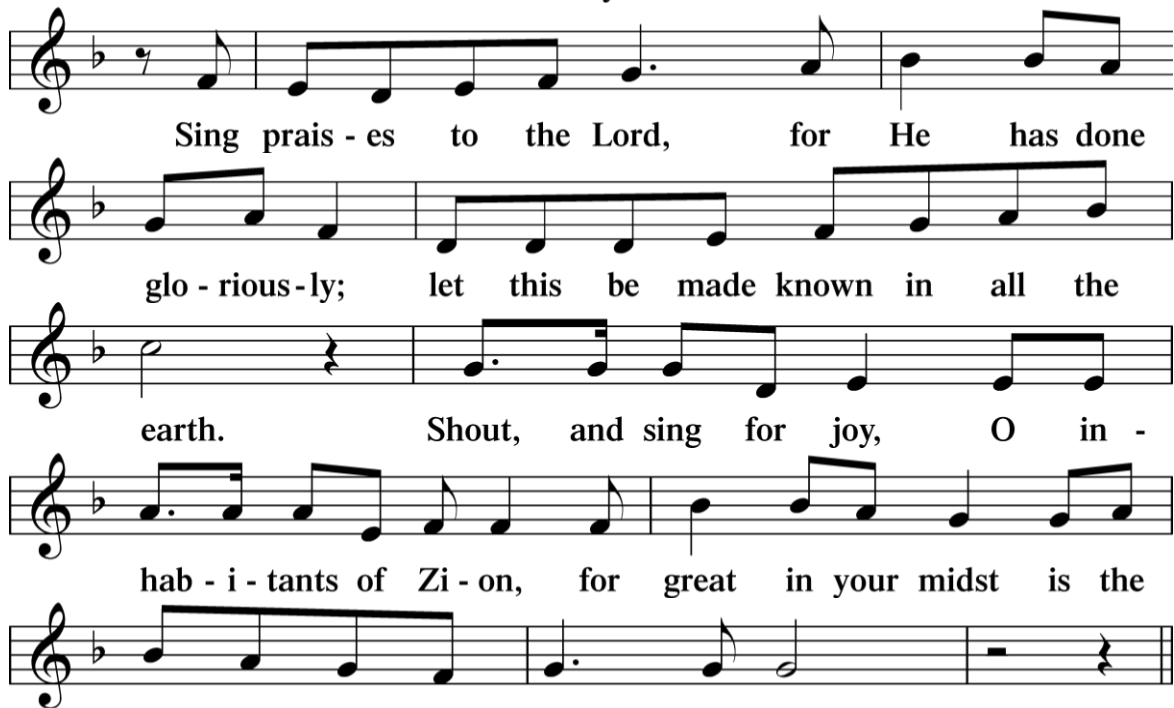


wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

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.
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Please be seated.

Readings

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85 *(front of hymnal, spoken in unison)*

LORD, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;

you covered all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath;

you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

and put away your indignation toward us!

Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Will you not revive us again,

that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him

and make his footsteps a way.

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.

Epistle Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem (*Sunday*)..... *“We Are Not Alone”, (Pepper Choplin)*

Stand

Holy Gospel **Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (*Advent*).....*page 263*

P Behold, the days are coming; say the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Catechism (**All**).....*page 264*

Ten Commandments

- ☐ You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

- ☐ 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.

Lord's Prayer.....page 264

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Sermon....."Bringing the Path to Life"

(Please rise for the last stanza in praise of the Trinity.)

Response Hymn "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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Please be seated.

Offering

Prayers

Please rise.

Prayers *page 265*

P Let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy

...

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Wordpage 265

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Evening Prayer (Saturday)page 266

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Morning Prayer (Sunday)page 266

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Advent Hymn..... "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*", #338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thyne all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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Blessing.....page 267

- 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 us.
- C** **Amen.**

Sending Hymn....."Arise, O Christian People" #354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heads God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

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Dismissal

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

Postlude

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Next Week's Readings

OT: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Epistle: 1 Thess. 5:16–24; Gospel: John 1:6–8, 19–28

Attendance Last Saturday: 31

Attendance Last Sunday: 71

Advent Attendance: 47

Total Offering: \$5,004.00

Missions: \$340.00

Home Use: \$4,639.00

Benevolences: \$25.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Ricky Bertels (Sat), Alan Miller (Sun)
 MusiciansRich Vanderburgh (Sat), Cody Clemons, Delaney Clemons (Sun)
 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	2:30 p.m.	Country Club/Arbors Care Center Services
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	5:00 p.m.	Trail Life
Tuesday		<i>Pastor at Monthly Circuit Meeting</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study

	1:00 p.m.	Christmas Store Distribution <i>Here</i>
	3:30 p.m.	Children's Advent Devotions
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek Service
	8:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Christmas Store Distribution <i>Here</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	3:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation Class
	7:00 p.m.	Ezekiel Bible Study
Friday		<i>Cindy's Vacation Day</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	1:00 p.m.	Christmas Store Distribution <i>Here</i>
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Christmas Store Distribution <i>Here</i>
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Children's Presentation/Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Children's Party
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get-Together

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, Galen Cobb, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Rev. Tom Fatka (Tommy Fatka's dad), Peggy Forstad, Wilma Gertz, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve's parents), Karen Haase, Ken Hoemann, 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—Melvin Bockelman-9th, Seth Florida-10th, Mike Greife-10th, Dick Luehrman-10th, Samantha Schnell-10th, Myrna Landkamer-11th, Chris Carter-12th, Josh Hagle-13th, Jerrode Marsh-13th, Sean Estaneck-14th. **Anniversaries**—Bill and Pat Brasel-12th.

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.

Looking toward Advent!—Our overarching theme for the three Wednesday midweek Advent services this year is *Light in the Darkness*. Our weekly themes still ahead are: **December 13**-*Living & Dying in Darkness and Light* and **December 20**-*Christ the Light Comes in the Dark*. Once again, we'll be using the beautiful and contemplative Holden Evening Prayer. Join us in our sanctuary on **Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.**

Sunday School and Christian Education

Children's Advent Devotions—Rebecca Holland is holding Advent time here at Bethlehem for children (up to age 8) on **Wednesday's from 3:30-4:30 p.m.** Come learn with us many ways the Old Testament pointed to God sending His son Jesus for our salvation. We will have a story, coloring, snack and crafts. Parents should stay to learn alongside the children. Come and be a part of this Advent get-together!

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. Pr. Joel is drawing from David Coe's *Provoking Proverbs*. **We start at 9:15 a.m.** (in the conference room) and still have a lot of ground to cover!

The Sunday School Christmas Presentation will be held next **Sunday (December 17)** during the morning service. The theme is *“Peace Came to Earth”*. Seeking peace by our own efforts is an endless pursuit, but God instructs us with a peace that surpasses understanding. He gives us peace in five separate ways that meet our needs, perhaps before we even know them. This peace comes through the birth of Jesus. Using a five-point Christmas star as a metaphor, see the five ways Jesus brings us peace from God as the Prince of Peace. Plan on being here and inviting others, too!

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—Join us at **10:30 a.m.** in the conference room. We're looking at the Apocrypha and the time between the two Testaments.

Thursday Bible Study—Pastor Bertels' study on the book of Ezekiel meets in the conference room and is open to all who have the interest and time available. **It starts at 7 p.m.**

Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty- Today is the Freedom Run with the Rev! You are invited to pray for and support this first ever endeavor in our nation's capital. See <https://runwiththerev.weebly.com/> for more information.

Music

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

Opportunities to Serve

The Christmas Store will be handing out vouchers on December 13, 14 and 15 starting at 1:00 p.m. and December 16 at 8:00 a.m. **There will be no parking in the back due to the traffic that will be coming in and going out.** This is an annual community fundraising event designed to help provide a Christmas holiday meal for those struggling with food insecurity in Johnson County, Missouri. The meal is provided through vouchers redeemable at Hy Vee in Warrensburg during a specific window of time.

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

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

Sacred Music for the Advent Season can be heard from now through December 23rd at www.lutheranpublicradio.org, so give that a listen and keep the time of Advent with those great hymns and carols. Sacred Music for the Christmas Season will begin playing December 24—just in time for the twelve days of Christmas!

The December Lutheran Witness reflects on “The Blessing of Children”—how Christ’s birth hallows all life, how we should become like children, how parents can bless their own children, and more.

Advent Booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Society of St. Andrew, in addition to a miscellaneous variety of devotionals and *Every Moment HOLY 2023* Advent Journal, are available at the entrance by the mailboxes and the west/front entrance of the church building.

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 will resume its services in January.** Everything is free, so that is the place to be for 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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Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

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.