



JESUS
TAUGHT THEM
AS ONE HAVING
AUTHORITY

MARK 1:22



+ Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany +

January 27-28, 2024

AS WE GATHER

In a world where there is nothing new under the sun, we still run to anything that appears to be new. When Jesus taught in the synagogue, the hearers heard a man speak with the authority of the author of the Scriptures. They were surprised and even more surprised when His Word was not simply theoretical but silenced an unclean spirit and relieved the man of this demon. In their amazement, they could not help but tell the story to any who would listen. Yet even as Jesus' fame spread, so did opposition to His teaching and preaching.

All throughout the Epiphany season is the shadow of the question: Who is Jesus? We have heard Jesus called the Lamb of God and the light of the world. Now He is proclaimed our Brother who lays aside what is His right to become our servant even to death upon a cross. Within that context, we who are called His brothers claim not right or privilege but the path of service in Christ. Our freedom is not the liberty to do as we please but the responsibility of love for the sake of our weaker brother—just as Christ suffered as the innocent for the guilty. Instead of looking inside of us, we have something better to look at: Christ and our neighbor.

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 during the hymn.)

Gathering Hymn *"Praise Be to Christ", #538*



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the
2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -
3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and
a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our
God-head shares; And yet our hu - man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,
world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,
man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and
Re - demp - tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born
Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.
from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.
sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.

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Please rise, as able.

Service of Prayer and Preaching

Opening Versicles *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** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

- C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- C** Teach me Your paths.
- P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C** Your Word is truth.
- 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*

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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..... Deuteronomy 18:15-20

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111.....*(front of hymnal, chanted responsively)*

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD,

studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is his work,

and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;

he remembers his covenant forever.

He has shown his people the power of his works,

in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;

all his precepts are trustworthy;

they are established forever and ever,

to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a

good understanding.

His praise endures forever!

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 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please rise, as able.

Holy Gospel Mark 1:21-28

They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I

know who you are—the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory.....*page 263*

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

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

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

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

Ten Commandments

C 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

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.

Lord's Prayer.....page 264

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Sermon....."Prophet Motive"

Response Hymn "Away from Us!" the Demon Cried" #541



1 "A - way from us!" the de - mon cried
 2 But Je - sus spoke with God's own pow'r;
 3 O ris - en Christ, God's liv - ing Word,
 4 Drive out the doubt that cri - ples faith;
 5 Then help us, Lord, to greet each day



When Christ, the Lord, drew near. "Our dark, dis - or - dered
 "Come forth!" was His com - mand; For e - vil can - not
 To us, we pray, draw near. Come, speak the truth that
 Ex - pel our pride and greed That we, from pow'rs that
 With hearts and wills made new And, when You call us



world is lost When You, the Light, ap - pear!"
 bear the Light Nor sin the Truth with - stand.
 cleans - es sin With love that con - quers fear.
 threat - en us, May, by Your grace, be freed.
 forth to serve, To rise and fol - low You.

Offering

Prayers

Please rise.

Prayerspage 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*)

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

Hymn of Praise *"O Bless the Lord, My Soul", #814*



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

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Blessing *page 267*

Sending Hymn *"Son of God, Eternal Savior" #842*



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

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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 40:21–31; EP: Corinthians 9:16–27; Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

Attendance Last Saturday: 35

Attendance Last Sunday: 72

Total Offering: \$3857.12

Missions: \$32.00

Home Use: \$3254.12

Benevolences: \$571.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Sean Estanek (Sat), Alan Miller (Sun)
MusiciansJerrode Marsh
Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,
Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Wednesday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Galatians Bible Study
Friday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Creation School
	6:00 p.m.	Friday Family Fun Night (<i>cheese and chocolate fondue</i>)
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion/Adult Confirmation
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis

Pastor will be out of state three days this week for a personal pre-Lenten retreat. He will be back Friday night and here next weekend.

Prayers

Prayers of Rejoicing for Our Adult Catechumens who will be confirmed next Sunday: Juanita Holcomb, Angila Steinmetz, Diana Steinmetz, Tom Sumpter and Teryn Vietor. May our Lord continue to strengthen them in their baptized faith and lead them forth in continued faith and life as followers of Christ!

Prayers for Roy and Judy Schache as they use their faith and talents to help many children and adults in need in Papua New Guinea.

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, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Galen Cobb, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Rev. Tom Fatka (Tommy Fatka's dad), Peggy Forstad, Ana

Fonseca (Willie Crespo's grandmother), Wilma Gertz, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve's parents), Karen Haase, Juanita Holcomb (Peggy Forstad's mother), Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Maryanna Savery, Rose Steitz, & 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!

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.

Faith Formation & Special Services

Faith Night—Join others in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, February 7, from 5:30-6:00 p.m.** for a simple meal (bring something simple you'd like to share) and conversation, followed by a discussion from 6:00 to 6:45. We will reflect on heading from Epiphany to Lent.

Lenten Midweek Worship Services—Gather with us in the sanctuary on Wednesdays this Lent at **7:00 p.m.** as we explore the theme *The Carpenter's Cross: Making, Building, Repairing*. We'll enter the Lenten season together with the Divine Service on Ash Wednesday (Valentine's Day) by dwelling on *Greenwood, Drywood, & Heartwood*. In the following weeks, we'll reflect together on *The Carpenter's Branch, A Carpenter's Yoke, A Carpenter's Plow, A Carpenter's Door, & A Carpenter's Stone*—all of those services being the evening prayer service of Compline. Plan to attend, and think of inviting others, too!

KinderLent will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays (starting Ash Wednesday) through the Lenten season. Rebecca would like to preview and extend an invitation to the Lenten devotion series she is planning, as a focus on children whose bedtimes line up with the 7:00 services. But all are welcome to join us! She will be using **Gayle Boss's book *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing***. Pastor used her Advent book several years ago. Her Lenten book is focused on animal species who are in trouble due to hunger, sickness, habitat loss, pollution, and hunting. Through focusing on these species' struggles, we will learn together how to make small sacrifices to protect Creation, increasing our focus on Christ's sacrifice for us.

Weekly Meals—To increase intergenerational fellowship, we plan to have a meal at **5:30 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent**, immediately following KinderLent. This is open to anyone that doesn't want to cook before the Lenten service. The menu will include soup, sandwiches, spaghetti, tacos, pizza & breakfast for dinner, along with some sides and desserts. Rebecca will be calling on different committees to help serve meals. We plan to cover the cost of meals with an Action Team and will take care of most of the preparation; we just need a few volunteer servers.

Offerings

PLEASE, PLEASE do not use your 2023 envelopes. The numbering of your 2024 envelopes is significantly different than last year's envelopes. Unless there is a name on the envelope it is very difficult to record the offering to the member's contribution statement. Thank you.

Children & Youth

Creation School—Join us on the first Friday of each month from **10-11 am** for our faith-focused version of the trendy forest school. We'll do our best to enjoy Creation in all weather, so be sure to dress appropriately. Please invite any families with young children that you know, as the hope is to welcome all in the community into our green space.

School and Christian Education

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!

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!

Wednesday Bible Study—There will be no bible study this week due to Pastor's absence.

Thursday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.—Pastor Bertels' new Bible study on the book of Galatians meets in the conference room and is open to all who have the interest and time available. Come and join us!

Lutheran Hour Ministries Gospel Adventures teaches children about animals, people and places of a different country each year. Kids are introduced to children living in that country who are just like them and who carry out their faith in their day-to-day life. Through the exciting lessons, children are introduced to a God whose love is big enough for the entire world. Share this with your family ministry team or Christian day school. Learn more at lhm.org/adventures.

Gospel Adventures Show—Lutheran Hour Ministries and Group Publishing have teamed up for an exciting new Gospel Adventure for kids! The Gospel Adventures Show is a weekly audio program that takes young listeners on a Bible journey with hosts Ben and Noah to learn valuable biblical lessons from some of the most-loved Bible characters. Each 30-minute episode has a theme, Bible verse, Bible story, an interactive activity, and a story from a kid. This is a great program to share with your church, school, and your own family. Learn more at gospeladventures.org/show.

Music

Greetings Everyone! My name is Lorraine Miller and I am the newly appointed Music Director of our church. If we haven't had the opportunity to meet formally, you may know me as the flutist that plays for some of our services. I am very excited and honored to get to serve our Lord and each of you in this new position. We are very blessed in our church to have many talented musicians who share a wide variety of music. We all as musicians want to continue to do and give our very best as we continue to serve the Lord and all of you in worship. I welcome all comments and suggestions from you. If you really like something we do, please let me know—and likewise, if there is something that we can improve, I want to know that as well. One of the aspects of this position that I am enjoying getting to do is making hymn suggestions to Pastor. I know a few of you have shared with me some of your favorite hymns and I will include those with my suggestions. I would really like to hear from more of you with hymn requests and I will pass them along to Pastor. Of course, he has the final say about the hymns, but we will certainly try to include your favorites if possible. Also, we are always looking for more musicians and participation and I want to encourage anyone who would like to share your music talents to contact me and we will put you to work! Thank you again for this honor and privilege to serve and look forward to working with you and for you.

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

Opportunities to Serve

Food Drive for Show-Me Christian Youth Home—If you'd like to begin 2024 by helping our younger friends, consider donating a pantry good (or a few) to Show-Me Christian Youth Home in La Monte. As part of a Thrivent grant, we are collecting canned and non-perishable foods for the group that helps youth in crisis by providing them a safe and loving home. Look for the collection bin at the north entrance during the month of January. If you'd like a Thrivent T-shirt, please see the church office. Any pantry item that parents could use at home would be welcomed there, too. Call or text Kaye at 660-441-7672 for more information. Learn more about the organization at showmehelpingkids.com.

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!

Winter Trail Work and Garden Planning & Preparation—Keep your eyes open for opportunities in the near future on our Bethlehem Woods nature trail and in our backyard community gardens. Winter is the best time to think spring!

Fellowship

Friday Family Fun Night will take place on **February 2 at 6:00 p.m.** Cheese and Chocolate Fondue—who can resist that?! Sign-up sheet for individual items is on the board near the mailboxes. (It's the 40th day after Christmas Day—the Presentation of Our Lord—the holy baby brought to the temple with two turtledoves!) We will also be making Valentine cards for the children to hand out at the nursing homes and the children will share their homeschool activities.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Since this was such a hit last year, we will be having the Pancake Supper again on Tuesday, **February 13 starting at 5:30 p.m.** The Men's Club will be cooking and flipping pancakes that you will be able to enjoy with all different kinds of toppings. (This is a tradition that goes back to the medieval era for the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.)

Crafternoon—On the fourth Friday from 3-5 pm, 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.

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

Sermon Sketch Collage in the Luehrman Gallery—While most of the paintings & sketches by Dick Luehrman in the downstairs hallway gallery are unchanging, that's not the case for those grouped together on the east wall below the window—they rotate according to the seasons of the Church Year and were just switched out this past week. So, as we're in the short season of Epiphany and setting our sights toward Transfiguration Sunday and Ash Wednesday next month, spend some time with those black and white sketches and reflect on what they individually and collectively show about Jesus the Christ—God's Son made known to us in light and life, mercy and grace. Thanks to the Rich family for making this splendid rotation a reality!

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 not be able to resume its services until April 4.**

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.

2024 Elders

Evan Florida (last name begins A-B) 660-238-4919, evan.keyrealty@gmail.com

Jimmy Smithers (last name begins C-E) 660-864-5370, jimmyds1980@gmail.com

Rich Vanderburgh (last name begins F-H) 660-864-3762, rvburgh@gmail.com

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

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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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Cindy Smith

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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.