

Unless
a grain of
wheat falls
into the earth
and dies, it
remains just a
single grain

JOHN 12:24



+ Fifth Sunday In Lent +

March 17, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Today's Epistle speaks of Jesus, our High Priest. High priests are called to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people as well as themselves. Jesus is a different sort of high priest who offers Himself as sacrifice, once for all, that we might be forgiven and granted eternal salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims that He came not to be served, but to serve. He came to offer His life as a ransom for us. As we follow Jesus, we are called to reflect His actions and attitude of service and sacrifice. May we likewise go to serve and sacrifice for others.

REGARDING COMMUNION

*Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the forty days of Lent mark off our journey to Easter. When we were baptized into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sign of the cross was made upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as people redeemed by the cross of the Christ. We rose to newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus and began a life of pilgrimage in faith. The cross of ash made on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repentance (or change from wrongs done) ... a life of constant returning to our Lord's Table to be forgiven and renewed, for here we have the bread of Christ's Body and the wine of his Blood as strength for the journey. **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

***If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion,
please let Pastor or an Elder know.***

Liturgical Color:

Purple is the color of humility and repentance.

Each week as we head toward Good Friday, a candle is extinguished on the Lenten wreath since darkness comes before the bright dawn of Easter morning.

Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but will be removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!

Prayers for your use before and during today's service can be found at the very front of the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Let us gather and endeavor prayerfully!

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.)

Invocation Hymn "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus", #685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;

Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence

 hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,

 Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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Please rise, as able.

Divine Service, Setting Four **Confession and Absolution**

Invocation and Confession & Absolutionpage 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered . . . God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** Almighty God, . . . of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

We take a few moments to greet those around us with a handshake or wave as a sign of the forgiveness and coming together in peace we are called to as followers of Jesus (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:14-21). Words to accompany those gestures can be Peace to you, Christ's peace to you, Peace (or something similar).

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn "I Bind unto Myself Today", #604 (1-3)



1 I bind un - to my - self to - day The
 2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, By
 3 I bind un - to my - self to - day The



strong name of the Trin - i - ty By
 pow'r of of faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, His
 pow'r of God to hold and lead, His



in - vo - ca - tion of the same, The
 Bap - tism in the Jor - dan Riv - er, His
 eye to watch, His might to stay, His

Repeat after st. 1 only.



Three in One and One in Three.
 cross of death for my sal - va - tion,
 ear to hear - ken to my need,




(2) His burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, His
 (3) The wis - dom of my God to teach, His



rid - ing to up guide, the heav'n - ly way, His
 hand to guide, His shield to ward, The



com - ing of at God the day give of me doom, speech,



I bind un - to my - self to - day.
His heav'n - ly host to be my guard.

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Kyriepage 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation.....page 205

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Hymn/Prayer of St. Patrick.....Peggy Forstad

Choir Anthem.....“A Celtic Prayer”

Old Testament Reading.....**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual..... *(spoken in unison)*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith.

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. *(Hebrews 12:2)*

Epistle Reading..... **Hebrews 5:1-10**

Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Verse..... *page 205*



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Holy Gospel **Mark 10:32-45**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed page 206


**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day *“Lord Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”, #857*



1	Lord,	help	us	walk	Your	ser - vant	way	Wher -
2	You	came	to	earth,	O	Christ,	as	Lord,
3	No	gold	- en	scep -	ter	but	a	towel
4	You	bid	us	bend	our	hu - man	pride	Nor
5	Lord,	help	us	walk	Your	ser - vant	way	Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
 fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

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Sermon“With & Against the Grain”

Offering/Offertory

Please rise.

Prayer of the Church

- P** For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgy*pages 208-210*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus*page 208*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....page 209

P Blessed are You, . . . Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord.....page 209

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . in remembrance of Me.

Pax Domini.....page 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Deipage 210

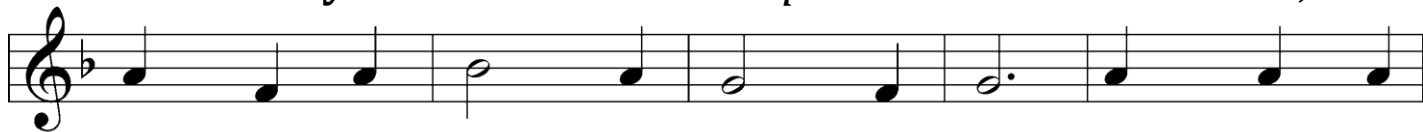
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.

Silent Reflection/Instrumental

(Sunday Hymns Only)

Communion Hymn "Baptismal Waters Cover Me", #616



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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Communion Hymn "The King of Love My Shepherd Is", #709



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
 And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

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Communion Hymn *"Give Me Jesus"*



1 In the morn - ing when I rise, In the morn - ing when I rise,
 2 Dark mid - night was my cry, Dark mid - night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, Just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, when I come to die, Oh, when I come to die,
 5 And when I want to sing, And when I want to sing,



In the morn - ing when I rise, Give me Je - sus.
 Dark mid - night was my cry, Give me Je - sus.
 Just a - bout the break of day, Give me Je - sus.
 Oh, when I come to die, Give me Je - sus.
 And when I want to sing, Give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, Give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, Give me Je - sus.

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Please rise

Post Communion Canticle *"Nunc Dimittis" page 211*

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect..... *page 212*

P Let us pray. . . . Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction..... *page 212*

Sending Hymn *"Lord of All Hopefulness", #738*

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude

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Next week’s readings:

OT: Zechariah 9:9–12; Epistle: Philippians 2:5–11; Gospel: John 12:20-43

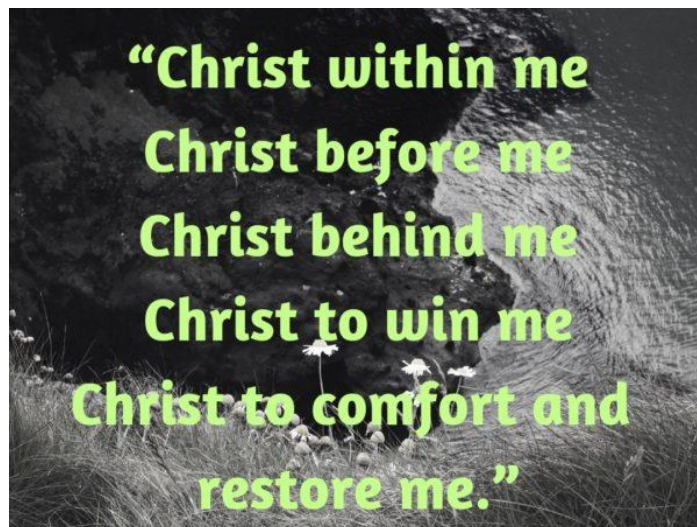
Attendance Last Saturday: 39	Attendance Last Sunday: 63
Attendance Lenten Midweek: 41	
Total Offering: \$15,560.45	Missions: \$340.00
Home Use: \$14,015.45	Benevolences: \$1,205.00

Serving us today:

- Elders Evan Florida, Alan Miller
 Musicians Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller
 Altar Committee Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,
 Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker
 Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get Together
	7:00 p.m.	Singing Saints Home Concert (<i>Concordia</i>)
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	4:00 p.m.	KinderLent
	5:30 p.m.	Lenten Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Midweek Service
	8:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	11:00 a.m.	Lunch Bunch
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Galatians Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	3:00 p.m.	Crafternoons
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Palm Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship



HOLY WEEK AT BETHLEHEM



MAUNDAY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

(Service will also be livestreamed)

March 28-7:00 p.m.



GOOD FRIDAY NOONDAY PRAYER

March 29-12:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

(Service will be livestreamed)

March 29-7:00 p.m.



SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL

(Begins out front)

March 30-7:00 p.m.



GREET THE RISING "SUN/SON"

(Begins out front)

March 31-6:30 a.m.

EASTER SUNRISE COMMUNION SERVICE

March 31-7:00 a.m.

EASTER CELEBRATION COMMUNION SERVICE

(Service will also be livestreamed)

March 31-10:30 a.m.

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: pastor@blchurch.com

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

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregation Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

clf@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

financial@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.