

*Jesus
showed them his
hands and
his feet*

LUKE 24:40



+ Third Sunday Of Easter +
April 14, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the LORD comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

“Amazing” is a commonly used word in the English that has a rich history. It came into common usage in the 14th century as a variant of the older root word “amasod,” which meant stupefied or confounded or overwhelmed with sudden surprise or wonder. The word “amazing” shows up several times in hymns that we sing—from describing the action of God in the birth of Jesus as “love amazing” (LSB 375:1) to bringing to our hearts and minds that in His suffering to pay the price of our sins, our Lord showed “amazing pity” (LSB 437:2). Two other hymns refer to the “amazing grace” of God (LSB 744:1; 558:2), and in another hymn, the author of the text rejoices that God “has done amazing things to me” (LSB 934:2). The season of Easter is a time for us to be truly amazed and filled with the praise of our amazing Lord!

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:

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church

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. 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..... "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing", #475



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry That love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to - day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 strew His way; Let all the world re - joice and say:
 can - not die, And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord The life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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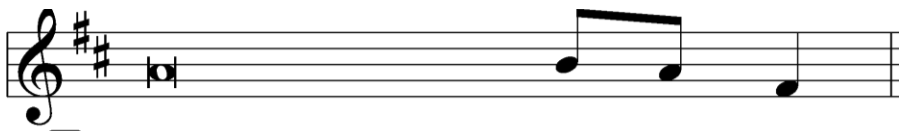
Please rise, as able

Matins

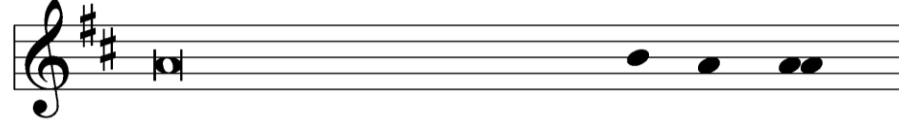
Opening Verses..... page 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon page 220

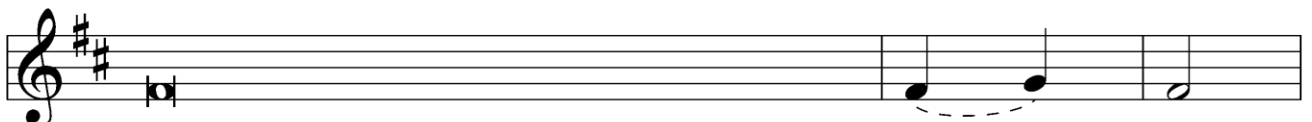


L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

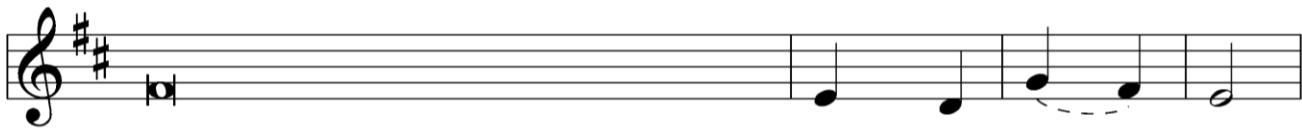


C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite..... pages 220-221

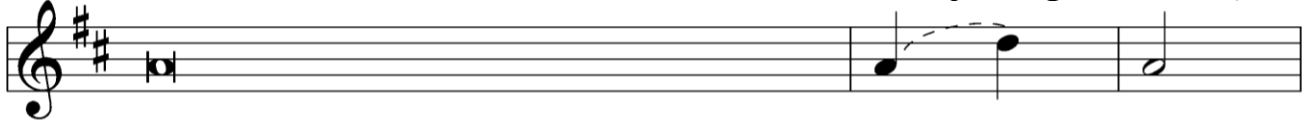


C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

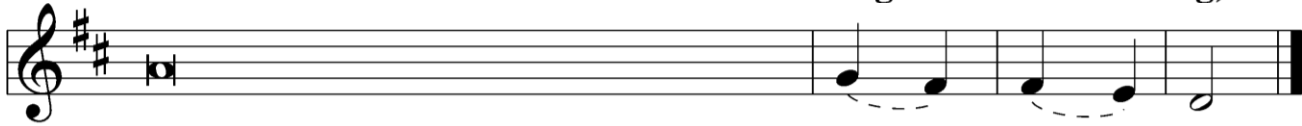


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry — land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow — down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His — al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep — of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon *page 221*



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 4 *(front of hymnal, chanted responsively)*

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
 You have given me relief when I was / in distress.

Be gracious to me and / hear my prayer!

O men, how long shall my honor be turned / into shame?

How long will you love vain words and seek / after lies?

But know that the LORD has set apart the godly / for himself;
the LORD hears when I / call to him.

Be angry, and / do not sin;

ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be / silent.

Offer right sacri- / fices,

and put your trust / in the LORD.

There are many who say, "Who will show / us some good?"

Lift up the light of your face upon us, / O LORD!"

You have put more joy / in my heart

than they have when their grain and / wine abound.

In peace I will both lie / down and sleep;

for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in / safety.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit;

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Please be seated

Office Hymn *"Children of the Heavenly Father", #725*



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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Easter Faith-Sharing

Readings

First ReadingActs 3:11-21

While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading1 John 3:1-7

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Please be seated

Children's Message

Sermon.....“Ignorance, Astonishment, & Righteousness”

Please rise, as able

Apostles' Creed.....*back cover of hymnal*

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.

Hymn of Praise“All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine”, #815



1 All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King di - vine,
2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought;
3 Let this mind be in us which was in Thee,
4 Where-fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, Thou
5 Let ev - 'ry tongue con - fess with one ac - cord,



Didst yield the glo - ry that of right was Thine,
By Thee the out - cast and the poor were sought;
Who wast a ser - vant that we might be free,
Art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now,
In heav'n and earth, that Je - sus Christ is Lord,



That in our dark - ened hearts Thy grace might shine.
 And by Thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought.
 Hum - bling Thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry.
 And giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow.
 And God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.



Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

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Please be seated.

Offering & Offertory

Please rise, as able

Announcement of Prayers

Prayer

Kyrie.....*page 227*



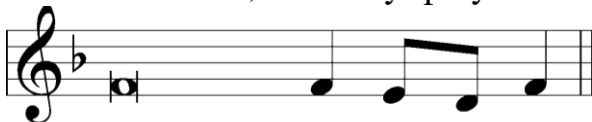
C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

Collects.....*page 227-228*



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day (in unison)

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Additional Collects ending Amen.

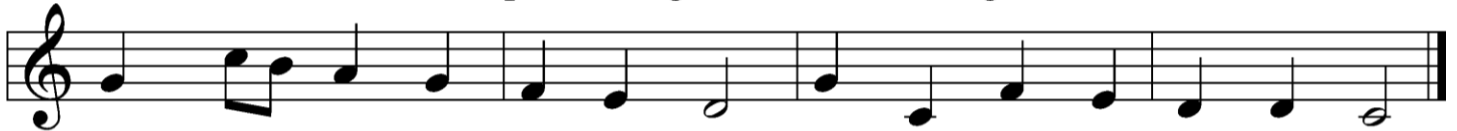
Benedicamuspage 228

Benedictionpage 228

Sending Hymn..... “Spread the Reign of God the Lord”, #830



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude

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Next week's readings:

OT: Acts 4:1-12; Epistle: 1 John 3-16-24; Gospel: John 10-11-18

Attendance Saturday: 40	Attendance Sunday: 49
Total Offering: \$4,212.00	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$3,802.00	Benevolences: \$410.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Evan Florida
Musicians Rich Vanderburgh
Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Peggy Hoyer
Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith
Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lana Vanderburgh

This Week's Schedule

Sunday 2:30 p.m. Country Club and Arbors Care Center Services
Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
Tuesday
3:00 p.m. Mission Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting
Wednesday
9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
10:30 a.m. Bible Study
Thursday 11:00 a.m. The Lunch Bunch
1:00 p.m. Games and Cards Group
5:30 p.m. Fellowship Meeting
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Friday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
Saturday
Pastor's Vacation (through the 29th)
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

Absence/Presence

Cindy will be on vacation from the 17th through the 22nd. Pr. Joel will be on vacation from the 20th through the 29th. Pr. Ricky Bertels will be covering services next weekend and the last weekend of the month will be an elder-led service. If you need anything while Pr. Joel is away, please contact your elder or head elder Willie

Crespo. Easter season is the time for going away and returning!

Prayers

For Those Who Grieve, especially Felisa, Samantha, and Zach Brown after the loss of their husband and father, Mark. As we all miss his earthly presence profoundly, we rejoice that he is in the Lord's heavenly presence as we await the resurrection yet to come. Because Christ is risen, our grieving is not without hope, and we encourage one another with these words (I Thessalonians 4:13-14,18)!

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: Dorothy Anderson, Charlie Becker, Mel Bockelman, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Lynda Creech, 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), Kenny (Judy Smith's brother), Duane Limback, Mary Johnson, Lloyd McCarter, Ronnie Moody (Sheree's mother), Jay Rudy, Maryanna Savery, Roy Schache, Carolyn Sheets (Lynda Creech's sister), Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

For a Safe Pregnancy for Paige Hart as she, Colin, and Henry anticipate the birth of the little one she's carrying.

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!

Thank You

We would like to thank Renata (Pat Spanton's daughter) for her extensive contributions of time, labor, and money to rejuvenate our community garden and children's garden. You will see many before and after pictures as well as pictures from the SHINE event in May's newsletter. One way you can thank her is to remember her dad Denniss when you appreciate the improvements.

Weekly Weekend Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Services are live on Facebook, YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

Sunday School and Christian Education

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, then we split up at **9:20 or so**. We invite all children to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study will join the youth on Sunday morning the 21st. The following week Rebecca will be teaching a Bible Study lesson.

Wednesday Bible Study—Join us at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room. We're starting the book of Jeremiah this week, so come and share in this time of biblical knowledge and growth in faith together!

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

Music

Music Camps at Concordia Music Conservatory—Choir Camp will be held **June 3-7**, for children ages kindergarten to 8th grade, and Orchestra Camp will be **June 10-14**, for children ages 4th-12th grade. Enroll online at cmc-music.org. Register before **March 31** for the early bird discount! Early enrollment is \$135 per child. Regular enrollment, April 1-May 15 is \$160 per child and late enrollment, after May 15, is \$225 per child. Camps are 9am to 4pm daily on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. Lunch and snacks are provided. The Friday of each camp there will be a closing concert at 2pm. If you have any questions, please contact CMC at 660-624-7950 or info@cmc-music.org.

Opportunities to Serve

Shine! Thanks to all who helped with and came to this Saturday's *Planting Together & Growing Community* outreach event in our garden! You'll be hearing how it went. People to help with the needs of the vegetable garden are needed on a regular basis, so talk to Rebecca or Pr. Joel about how to get plugged in with what you like to do and can handle on a routine basis. Many thanks!

Want to be on the Bethlehem Woods Trail Crew? Yes, we have our own nature trail at the back end of our property! Two of the bridges are in need of some major attention, so if you'd like to help with that and some of the other occasional maintenance back there, please contact Ron Rode (660.238.1557) and he'll let you know when the work is ready to start. Thanks!

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!

2024 Missouri District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, Independence, MO. The early registration rate for the Missouri District LWML convention **ends April 30**. Don't delay! —register today! Online registration can be found at missourilwml.org.

Fellowship

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the church on Thursday, April 18 at 11:00 p.m. Bring your lunch this time and dessert will be provided. There will also be some time to hear about our Community Garden from Renata (Pat Spanton's daughter).

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.

This and That

Are you in need of Large Print Materials? Lutheran Braille Workers offers free large-print materials such as Bibles, The Lutheran Witness, devotionals, Lutheran Service Book and Portals of Prayer among others. Visit lbwloveworks.org if you would like to order any of the large-print materials.

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 be resuming service soon!**

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

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

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

District Youth Gathering



“Now” cross



Throughout the weekend our speakers had sessions with the entire group. During each of the sessions one of the speakers spoke about topics of internal struggles teens (and even adults) go through. To go along with the discussion, she had a wooden cross at the front of the room that was used with an activity.

During the 1st session she handed out papers that listed about 10 different struggles (loneliness, anxiety, depression etc). The group was instructed to circle yes or no for each struggle then without putting a name on the paper crumple it up into a ball. We then had a “snowball” fight. After a few tosses around the room, each person was to open a paper in their hand, and she went through each struggle having those with “yes” stand up to show the room that we are not alone with these struggles. She then had everyone bring the “snowballs” to the foot of the cross.

2nd session discussed covering up things we didn’t want others to know about us (self-doubt, anger, regrets, self-harm, etc). We don’t always want others to see or know what we are struggling with so we cover it up to hide the thoughts and feelings. She handed out Band-Aids and asked everyone to write something they are hiding on the Band-Aid and then asked us to bring our Band-Aid and stick it on the cross.

3rd session discussed how we sometimes don’t want to let things go. We hold on to thoughts and feelings instead of letting others help us. She handed out string and had everyone tie it around our wrist signifying that we can be tied down to and by our hurts. At the end of the session, she asked everyone to cut the string from our wrist and tie everyone’s string within our church group into one string and together bring those “ties” holding us back, to the cross.

4th session discussed how Jesus dying on the cross brought us a gift of healing and salvation. Everyone was handed a sticker gift tag and was asked to write a blessing or gift you had been given by God. We then placed the gift tag on the cross.

Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

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Office Manager

Cindy Smith

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.