



AS WE GATHER

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He "will tend His flock like a shepherd" (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

REGARDING COMMUNION

After his resurrection, the crucified but now-living Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas (who had his doubts that Jesus could really be alive again): 'Touch my pierced hands and feel my wounded side; stop doubting and believe.'

We come to the Lord's Table with our own doubts and worries, fears and sorrows, often lingering on uncertainty and the realities we think are beyond change. Our Lord points us to his unchanging yet life-changing reality—he has died, he has risen, he will come again. His Holy Supper is the place where we encounter his saving, risen, and healing Body and Blood ... as he said: 'Those who feed on my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.' 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.

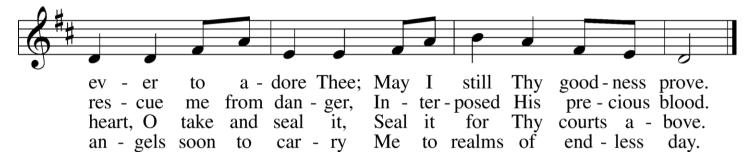
Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit. A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and 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.)





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Please rise, if able.

Divine Service, Setting One Confession and Absolution

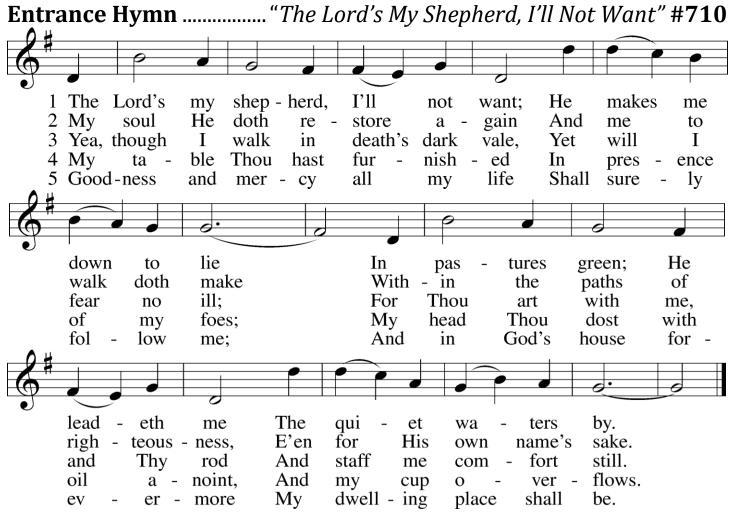
The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution.....page 151

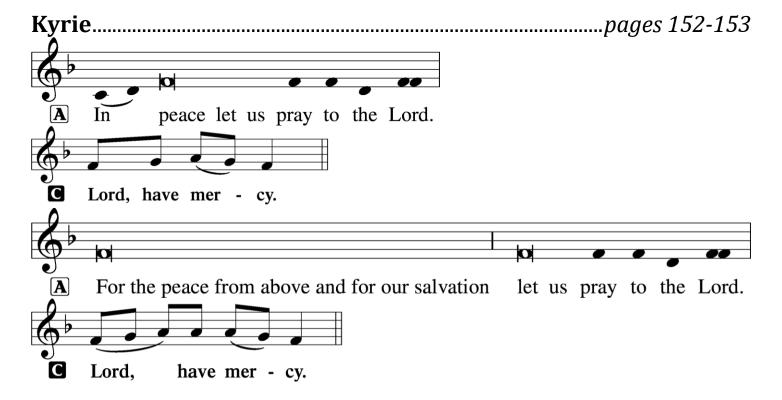
- **P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

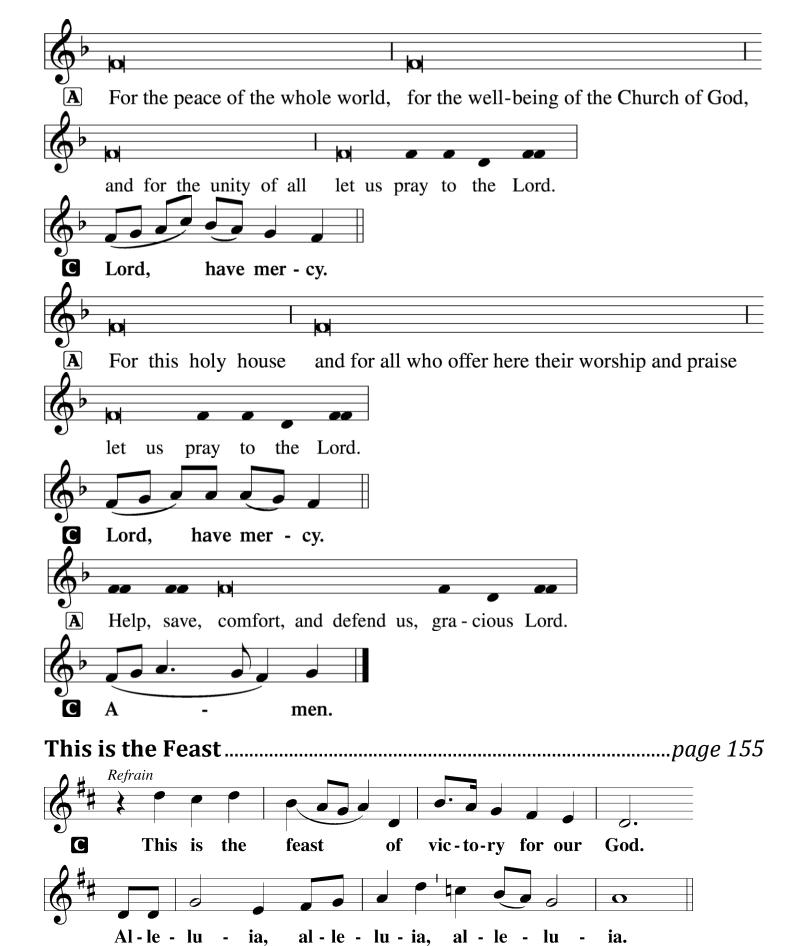
We take a few moments to greet those around us with a handshake or wave as a sign of the forgiveness and coming together in peace we are called to as followers of Jesus (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:14-21). Words to accompany those gestures can be Peace to you, Christ's peace to you, Peace (or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

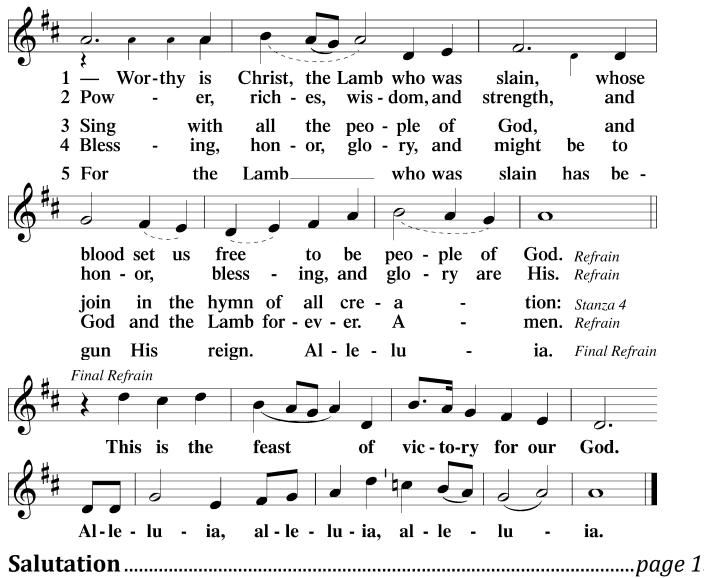
Service of the Word

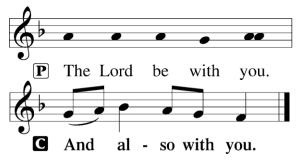


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 $[\mathbf{P}]$ Let us pray.

Collect of the Day(spoken in unison)

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Easter Faith-Sharing

First Reading...... Acts 4:1-12

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Gradual(spoken in unison)

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet. (Hebrews 2:7)

Epistle Reading1 John 3:16-24

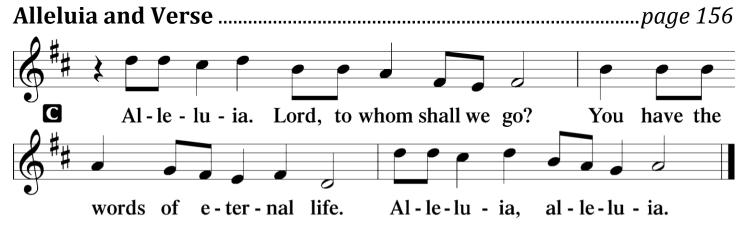
By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his

commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Please rise, if able.



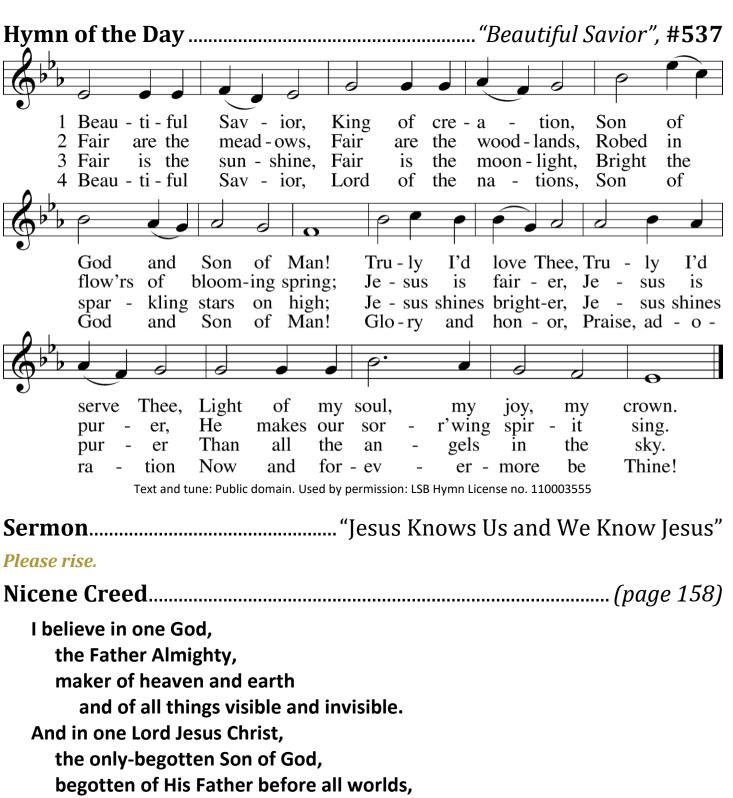
Holy GospelJohn 10:11-18

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.



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.

Prayer of the Church

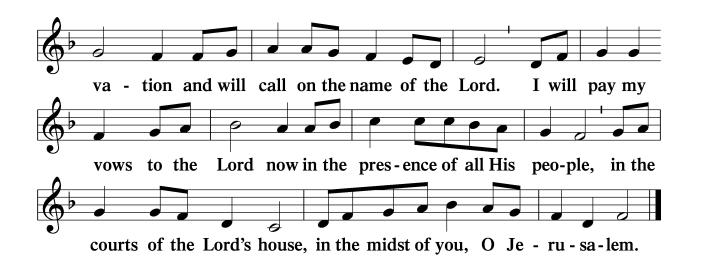
- **P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.





Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 160-163 The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you. P your hearts. Lift up We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. thanks is right to give Him and praise. It P It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and singing: **Sanctus**......page 161

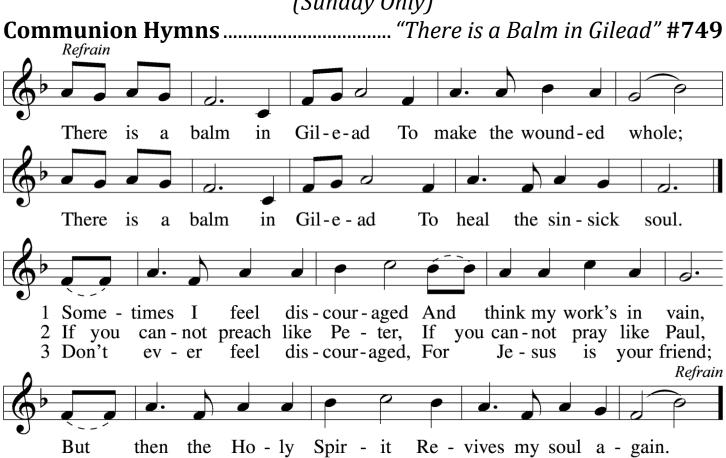


Communion Distribution

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

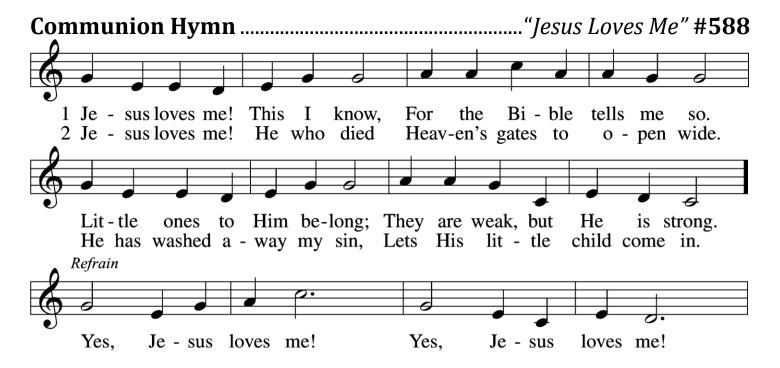
Silent Reflection/Instrumental Selection

(Sunday Only)



the love of Je - sus And say He died for You can tell all. And if you lack for knowl-edge, He'll ne'er re-fuse to

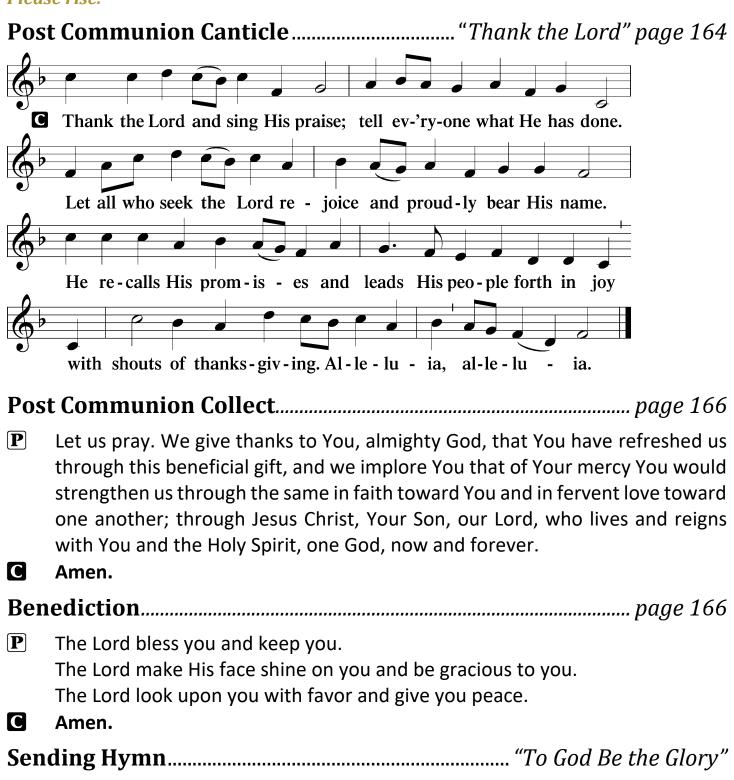
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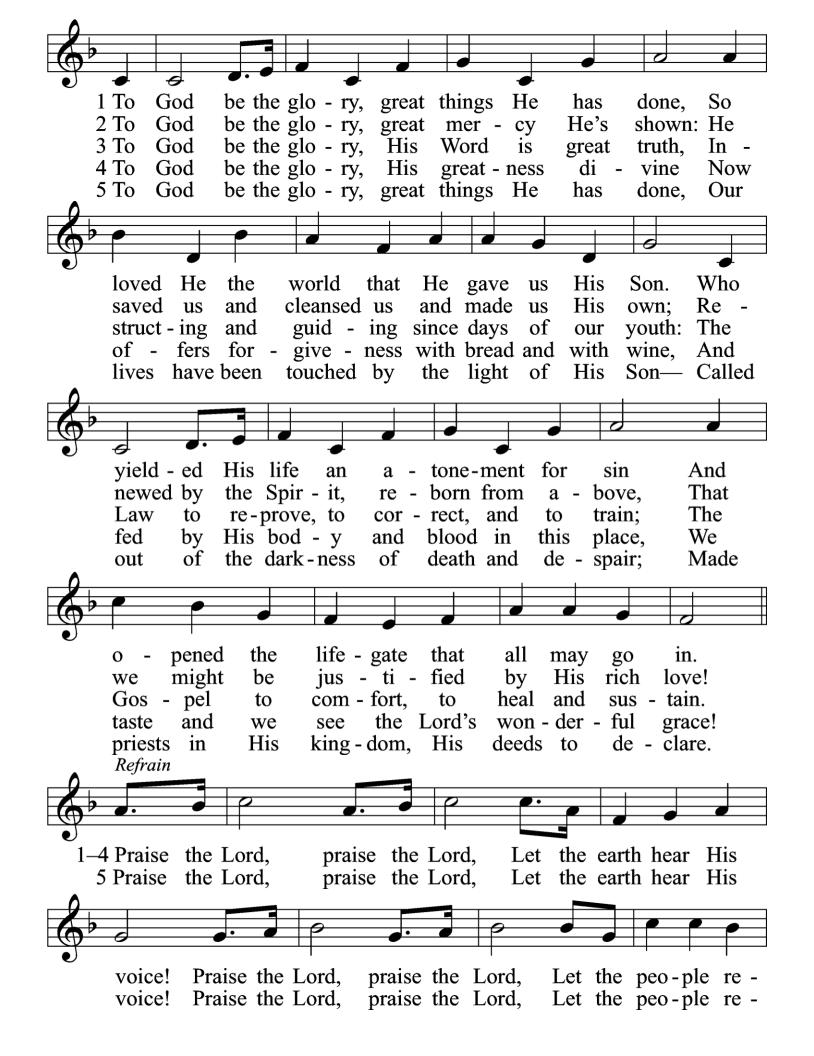




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Please rise.







Son, And give Him the glo-ry, great things He has done! Son, Sing praise to the Spir-it—our God, Three in One!

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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 8:26-40; Epistle: 1 John 4:1-21; Gospel: John 15:1-8

Attendance Saturday: 37

Total Offering: \$8,575.00

Home Use: \$7,458.00

Attendance Sunday: 62

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$1,117.00

Serving us today:

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

This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	5:30 p.m.	Evangelism Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class

	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday		Cindy's Vacation Day
	7:30 a.m.	Chamber of Commerce Breakfast (at Bethlehem)
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship
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
	12:00 p.m.	Thrivent Meeting

Absence/Presence

Cindy will be off on Friday the 26th along with Pr. Bertels as Pr. Bertels will be in Iowa to officiate the weeding of his grandson. Pr. Joel will be on vacation from the 20th through the 29th. Next weekend's services 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 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, 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!

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 be lead by Rebecca who will be teaching a Bible Study lesson out of our Lutheran Witness.

Wednesday Bible Study—Join us at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room on May 1-when Pr. Joel is back. 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 1st Peter. 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

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 *missourlwml.org*.

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.

This and That

Are you in need of Large Print Materials? Lutheran Braille Workers offers free largeprint materials such as Bibles, The Lutheran Witness, devotionals, Lutheran Service Book and Portals of Prayer among others. Visit Ibwloveworks.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, <u>evan.keyrealty@gmail.com</u>
Jimmy Smithers (last name begins C-E) 660-864-5370, <u>jimmyds1980@gmail.com</u>
Rich Vanderburgh (last name begins F-H) 660-864-3762, <u>rvburgh@gmail.com</u>
Willie Crespo (last name begins J-R) 660-679-8121, <u>crespo6fam@gmail.com</u>
Alan Miller (last name begins S-Z) 660-909-1764, <u>alorrmiller@aol.com</u>

Contact Information

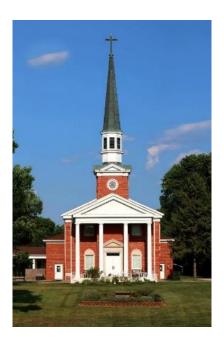
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

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

Otherwise by appointment Office: 660-747-6742 Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: jkurz@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: 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.