

Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers

LUKE 10:2





+ The 4th Sunday After Pentecost +

July 5-6, 2025

Independence Day Weekend

AS WE GATHER

Today's Old Testament Reading should be read last, for it is a call to rejoicing, at least for people of faith in Christ. The guaranteed future includes "peace . . . like a river" (Isaiah 66:12), a powerful and restful image. The Epistle, however, is full of marching orders for daily living and the warning, "let us not grow weary of doing good" (Galatians 6:9). When the Seventy-Two (not just the Twelve) went out in the Gospel, we do not know how fearful they may have been, but they returned triumphant and were congratulated by our Lord. Because He has won the final battle for us, our worship today may certainly focus on the peace that awaits us. It is an opportunity to "shout for joy to God, all the earth" (Psalm 66:1).

REGARDING COMMUNION

*When we gather at the Lord's Table, the cup of blessing we receive is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We who are many are one bread and body in Christ (I Cor. 10:16-17). As a people baptized into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to us in this holy meal to renew us individually and together in our life of faith and following him. **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:

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 or fill out the bottom half of the colorful card in each hymnal rack and put it in the offering plate. A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway (which includes a bathroom), 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 an usher, elder, or the pastor. Our Lord's grace and peace to you in every way!*

Prelude

Pastoral Welcome

Please rise, as able.

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)

Gathering Hymn "Before You, Lord, We Bow", #966



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down
From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo-rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

Divine Service, Setting Two

Confession and Absolution

(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, but longer portions are sung.)

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

Confession and Absolution.....page 167

[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.

[C] 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.

[C] 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

Entrance Hymn *“Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”, #788*

1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
 2 Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
 3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
 4 Teach us, O Lord, true thank - ful - ness di - vine,
 For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
 For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
 For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;
 That gives as Christ gave, nev - er count - ing cost,
 For songs of praise for food and har - vest press,
 For Christ Your Son, and for each hu - man face
 For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways
 That knows no bar - ri - er of "yours" and "mine,"
 While of Your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware:
 That shows Your mes - sage ev - er new and near.
 Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs:
 As - sured that on - ly what's with - held is lost.

5 Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
 For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
 For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast
 And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:

6 Open our eyes to see Your love's intent,
 To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
 May thankfulness be days in service spent,
 Reflection of Christ's life and love and light.

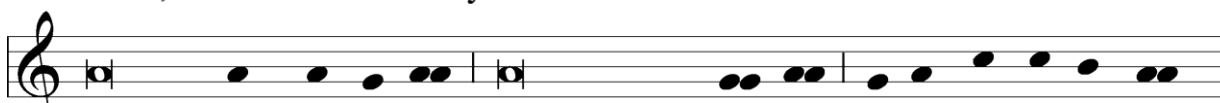
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A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



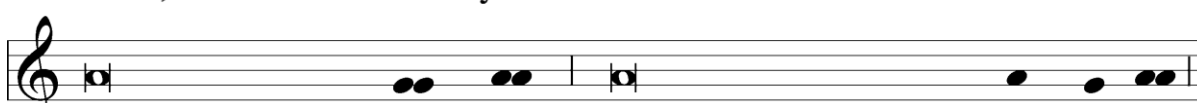
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



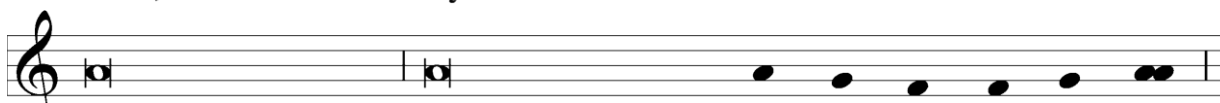
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



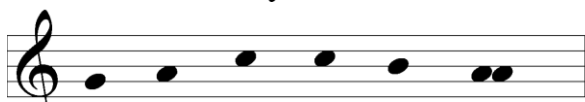
and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



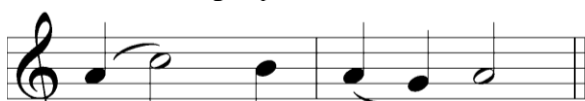
C Lord, have mer - cy.



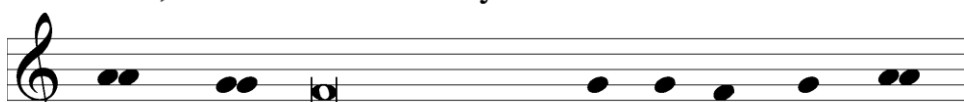
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast" page 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



Salutationpage 172



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; 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.

Old TestamentIsaiah 66:10-14

“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,

all you who love her;

rejoice with her in joy,

all you who mourn over her;

that you may nurse and be satisfied

from her consoling breast;

that you may drink deeply with delight

from her glorious abundance.”

For thus says the Lord:

“Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,

and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;

and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,

and bounced upon her knees.

As one whom his mother comforts,

so I will comfort you;

you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bones shall flourish like the grass;
and the hand of the Lord shall be known to his servants,
and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken in unison*)

**How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,
who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.**

**Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world. (*Romans 10:15b, 18b*)**

Epistle..... **Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18**

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. . . .

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

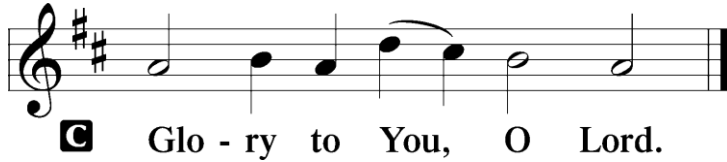
C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.



Holy Gospel Luke 10:1-20

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



After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning

from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day.....“When Peace, Like a River, #763



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

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Sermon.....“Living from a Basket’s Bounty”

Please rise, as able.

**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.**

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.

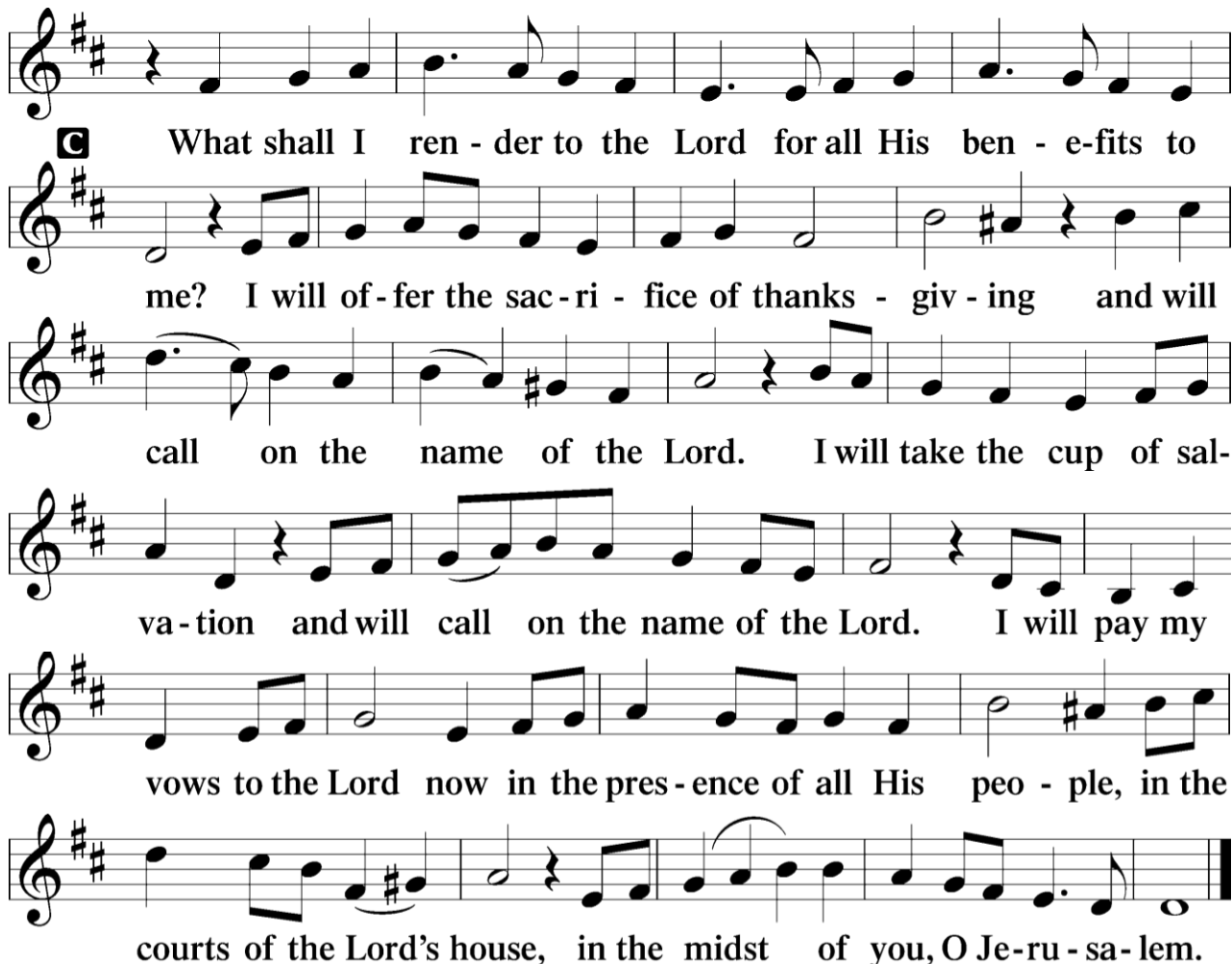
C Amen.

Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.

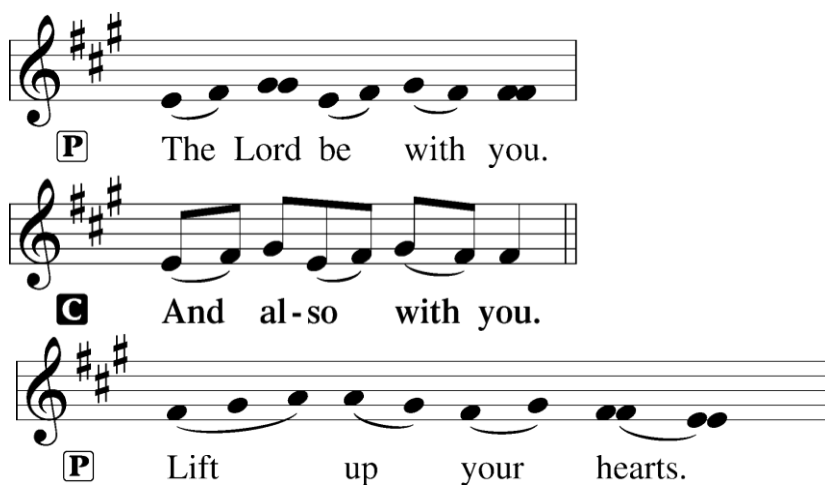
Offertory page 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 177-180



P The Lord be with you.
C And al-so 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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus.....page 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....page 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation

accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord.....page 178

Lord's Prayer.....page 179

Pax Dominipage 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei.....page 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

Instrumental/Silent Reflection

(Communion Hymns—Sunday Only)

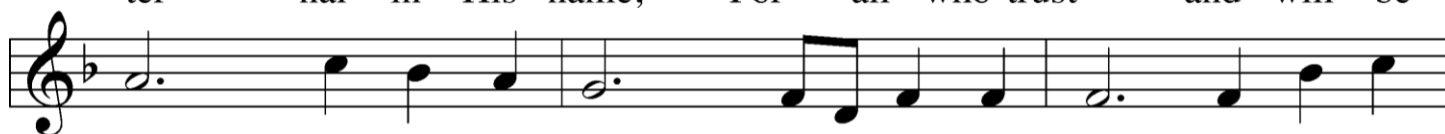
Communion Hymn "The Tree of Life", #561



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of
4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and
as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's
ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a
lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they
sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and
tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to

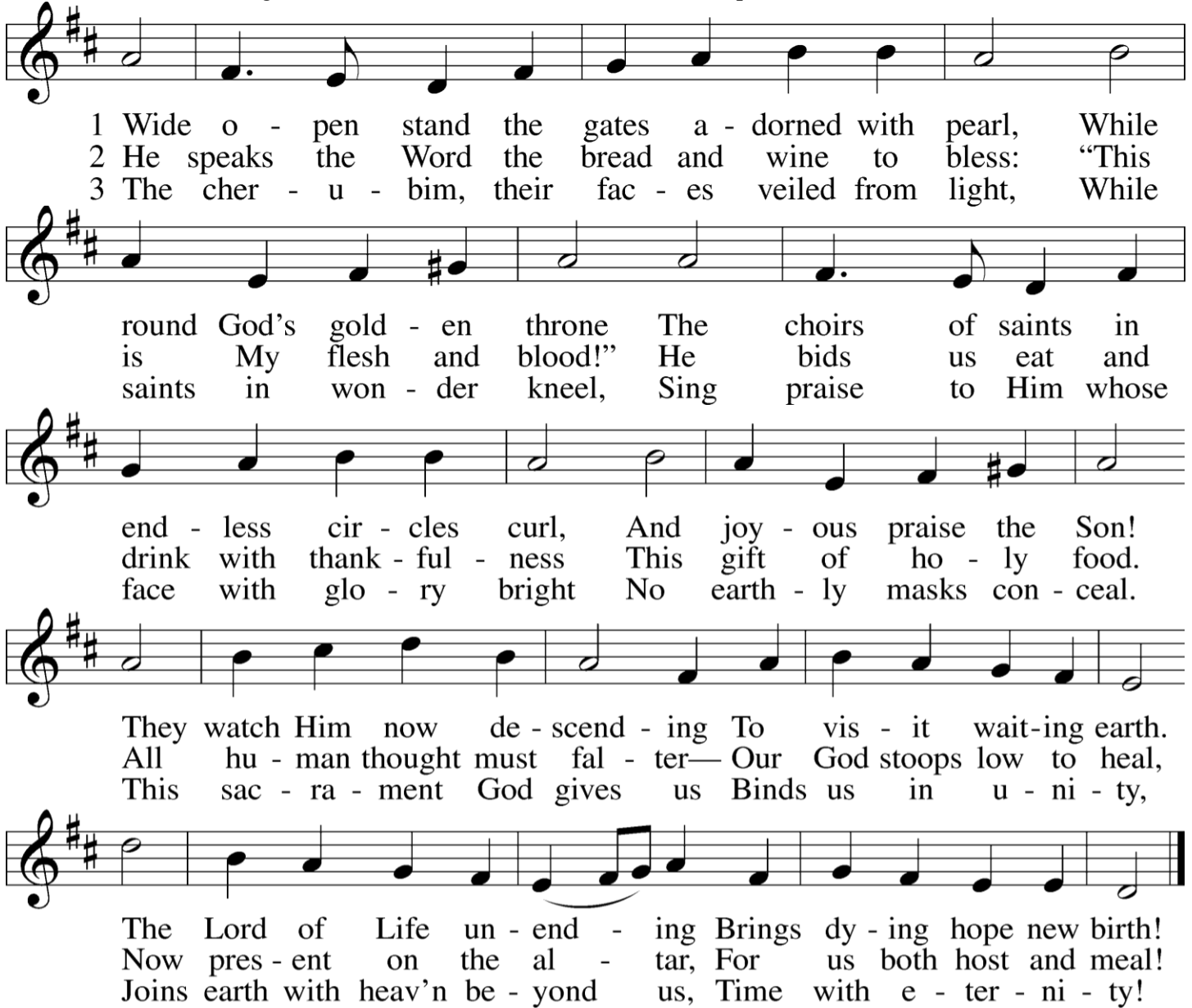


knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
played With - in the world so new - ly made.
dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Communion Hymn "Wide Open Stand the Gates", #639



1 Wide o - pen stand the gates a - dorned with pearl, While
2 He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless: "This
3 The cher - u - bim, their fac - es veiled from light, While
round God's gold - en throne The choirs of saints in
is My flesh and blood!" He bids us eat and
saints in won - der kneel, Sing praise to Him whose
end - less cir - cles curl, And joy - ous praise the Son!
drink with thank - ful - ness This gift of ho - ly food.
face with glo - ry bright No earth - ly masks con - ceal.
They watch Him now de - scend - ing To vis - it wait-ing earth.
All hu - man thought must fal - ter— Our God stoops low to heal,
This sac - ra - ment God gives us Binds us in u - ni - ty,
The Lord of Life un - end - ing Brings dy - ing hope new birth!
Now pres - ent on the al - tar, For us both host and meal!
Joins earth with heav'n be - yond us, Time with e - ter - ni - ty!

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Post Communion Canticle..... page 181



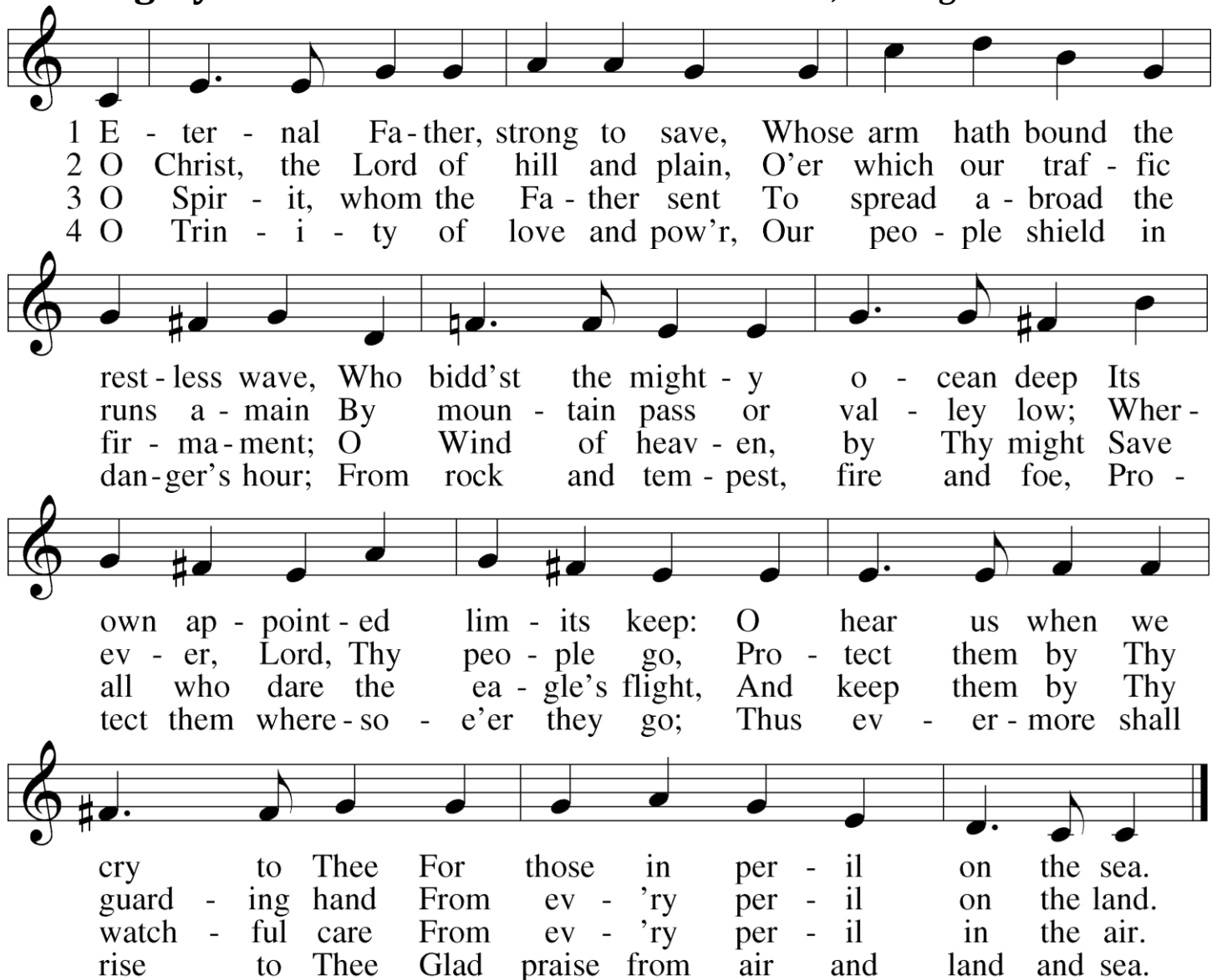
Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Benediction..... page 183

Sending Hymn..... *"Eternal Father, Strong to Save" #717*



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traf - fic
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent To spread a - broad the
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, Our peo - ple shield in
rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
runs a - main By moun - tain pass or val - ley low; Wher -
fir - ma - ment; O Wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save
dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -
own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
ev - er, Lord, Thy peo - ple go, Pro - tect them by Thy
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, And keep them by Thy
tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall
cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
guard - ing hand From ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
watch - ful care From ev - 'ry per - il in the air.
rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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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: Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:9-18; EP: Colossians 1:1-14; Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Attendance: Last Saturday: 36	Attendance Last Sunday: 53
Total Offering: \$5,417.91	Missions: \$32.00
Home Use: \$4,645.91	Benevolences: \$740.00

Serving us today:

Elders.....Jimmy Smithers (Sat), Willie Crespo, Evan Florida (Sun)
Musician..... Lorraine Miller, Roy Schache, Rich Vanderburgh
Altar Committee..... Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Sue Cottrill, Karon Harding
Lauryn Schumaker, Stephanie Schumaker
Flower CommitteePenny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland, Bonnie Rich

This Week’s Schedule

Sunday	5:00 p.m.	Ordination and Installation of Brett Arrasmith (<i>Our Redeemer, Marshall, MO</i>)
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Neighborhood Night (‘til 8:30)— <i>Sand volleyball & such</i>
Thursday	12:05 p.m.	Praying the Psalms
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	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
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club/Arbors Service

Prayer

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: Holli Burge, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Mike Chasar, Eunice Cobb, Bob & Barbara Compton, Wilma Gertz, George Goldsmith (Steve's dad), Jo Greife, Karen Haase, Mary Johnson, Esther Keseman, Betty Landers (Darlene's sister), Myrna Landkamer, Marty Lehn, Hazel Lonon (Lynda Creech's mother), Lloyd McCarter, Ronnie Moody (Sheree's mother), Erin Niemeyer (Ron's daughter), Lois Peek (Ed's mother), Pr. Walt Snyder, Jan Trahan (Kaye Fair's mother), 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!

Gratitude

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.

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.

Christian Education & Faith Formation

Sunday School—Our children's Sunday School is taking a break during the months of **June and July**. Look for more information towards a start-up date in August.

Pastor's Sunday Study is continuing an exploration of the early Christian document called *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* (or *The Didache* in Greek). This short document from the 2nd century enables us to delve further into Christ's way of faith, life, and worship as it gets lived out. **Join us in the conference room at 9:15 a.m.** All are welcome!

Wednesday Bible Study—Join us on Wednesdays at **10:30 a.m.** in the conference room. We've resumed our look at the book of the prophet Jeremiah, and all are welcome and invited to attend!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Psalms: The Prayerbook of the Bible*—We will aim to finish on **Thursday, July 10 (starting at 12:05)**, then take a summer break until possibly starting something prayer-related again in the fall.

Thursday Bible Class is from **7:00-8:30 p.m.** in the conference room. Pr. Ricky Bertels is teaching on the Book of Isaiah. All are welcome to attend!

Book Reflection at *Lutheran Witness Online*—Pr. Joel's review essay on the classic novel *Silas Marner* (which ties-in with the current issue's theme of "Christian Endurance") should be available to read soon at witness.lcms.org.

Fellowship

Join the Exercise Group in the Fellowship Hall for this free, low impact exercise class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at **9:30 a.m.**

Neighborhood Night on July 9! Help us interact with our neighbors who live adjacent to our church grounds by making a place of intentional interaction that evening from **6:30 to 8:00 (or so)**. We'll aim to gather for sand volleyball and other outdoor games, and cold drinks will be on hand. You're welcome to visit and just watch, too!

Bethlehem Woods Nature Trail—At the far back of our east-facing backyard, you'll see a portal in the tree line to our own bit of forest. If you're good on your feet, consider taking a stroll to explore the woods and enjoy the cooling canopy of summer leaves!

Ways to Help

Mobility Cart! Thanks to some of Bethlehem's children & youth and Rebecca (our CLF) for their Dick Luehrman—inspired painted mobility cart (which was purchased with Dick's memorial funds and will be going to someone elsewhere in the world without the use of legs. The cart will be on display with many others from throughout the state on **Sunday, July 13th (from noon to 4:00)** at the *Hearts for Carts* festival in Columbia. To learn more, go to giftofmobility.org. A total of 483 carts were collected throughout last year—chipping away at the millions of people in need of such a life-changer!

The Sewing Machine Project Collection—Based in Columbia under the umbrella of Mobility Worldwide, this effort gets non-electric treadle, and electric sewing machines and supplies to people elsewhere in the world whose lives are improved

dramatically by what those supplies make happen. You can see refurbished machines and what people make with them at the *Hearts for Carts* festival on **July 13th**. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to Bethlehem **before July 11th**. What's needed? Sewing machines, cotton foldable fabrics (at least ½ yard) , thread, spools, and other sewing notions and patterns. *All sewing machines in need of fixing are repaired!* Leave your donations in the north entry bin under the bulletin board. Thanks!

Summer Gardening—Fresh Fruit & Vegetables—Blackberries and plums have been ripening bountifully, so have a look at our bushes and trees for picking and sharing! A couple currently without housing put in a couple of hours weeding recently, and the garden is looking much better. Tomatoes are ripening, while kale and squash keep producing, and potatoes should soon be ready to dig! Also, check out the beautifully flowering Star of Bethlehem herb garden at the front of the building and take some of the oregano, sage, or thyme for your kitchen use, plus lemon balm mint for your iced tea. The next garden workday is on **July 12th from 10-noon**, but feel free to go back at any time to weed, pick, and enjoy; help watering is appreciated, especially when rain hasn't come for a while!

2025 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

Our Congregation and Beyond

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshall invites all to attend the ordination and installation of seminarian graduate **Brett Arrasmith** on **Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** A reception will be held immediately following the service. Our Redeemer is in the Concordia North Circuit.

Bethlehem belongs to the Concordia South Circuit (Circuit Visitor—Pr. Joel Kurz) with 6 other congregations in our area and meets jointly with the Concordia North Circuit's (Circuit Visitor—Pr. Mark Junkin) 9 congregations ... to the Missouri District (District President—Dr. Lee Hagan) with 300 other congregations throughout the state ... to the Central Region with congregations in 7 other states ... and with over 5,800 congregations to our national church body, the LCMS (Synod President—Rev. Matthew Harrison), which is also in partnership with over 40 other international Lutheran church bodies throughout the world. Let us give thanks for the gift of life

and faith in Christ that is ours to live alongside each other! Make sure to check out Synod's website (www.lcms.org) for all of the great resources available there! Also, remember in prayer the more than 30 congregations in our Missouri District currently without a pastor ... in our circuit, Holy Cross—Emma and Immanuel—Sweet Springs.

(from 26th U.S. President—Theodore Roosevelt—on the meaning and importance of church attendance and involvement; while he was Dutch Reformed/Presbyterian instead of Lutheran, he still made some good general observations in these few excerpts from his article “Shall We Do Away with the Church?”—Ladies Home Journal, October 1917)

The household in which Sunday is treated merely as a day for easy self-indulgence does not on that day offer an attractive spectacle.... The case is not bettered if the heads of the family possess more energy but use it merely for their own selfish enjoyment, for instance, if they habitually spend the entire day in the motor, or take part in some form of dress parade, or visit brightly lighted restaurants.... I doubt whether the frank pursuit of nothing but amusement has really brought much happiness as if it had been alloyed with and supplemented by some minimum meeting of obligation toward others....

*Therefore, on Sunday go to church. Yes—I know all the excuses. I know that one can worship the Creator and dedicate oneself to good living in a grove of trees, or by a running brook, or in one's own house, just as well as in church. But I also know that as a matter of cold fact the average man does **not** thus worship or thus dedicate himself. If he stays away from church he does not spend his time in good works or in lofty meditation. He looks over the colored supplement of the newspaper; he yawns; and he finally seeks relief from the mental vacuity of isolation by going where the combined mental vacuity of many partially relieves the mental vacuity of each particular individual....*

He may not hear a “good sermon” at church. But unless he is very unfortunate he will hear a sermon by a good man who ... is engaged all the week long in a series of wearing and humdrum and important tasks for making hard lives a little easier.... Surely the average man ought to sympathize with the work done ... and he can't help them unless he is a reasonably regular church attendant....

Besides, even if he doesn't hear a “good sermon,” the probabilities are that he will listen to and take part in reading some beautiful passages from the Bible. And if he is not familiar with the Bible he has suffered a loss which he had better make all possible haste to correct. Moreover, he will probably take part in singing some

good hymns. He will meet and nod to, or speak to, good quiet neighbors.

If he does not think about himself too much he will benefit himself very much, especially as he begins to think chiefly of others. And he will come away feeling a little more charitably toward all the world—even toward those excessively foolish young men who regard churchgoing as rather a soft performance, and feel superior and cynical....

Micah's insistence upon loving mercy and doing justice and walking humbly with the Lord will suffice if lived up to; and Amos and Isaiah and the Psalms, and the Gospels and Paul and James will furnish sufficient instruction for both the men who are simple enough and the men who are wise enough....

Unless it is the poor man's church it is not a Christian church at all in any real sense. The rich man needs it, heaven knows, and is needed by it. But unless in the church he can work with all his toiling brothers for a common end, for their mutual benefit and for the benefit of those without its walls, the church has come short of its mission and possibilities.... In that place arrogance and envy are equally out of place....

The man who does not in some way, active or not, connect himself with some active, working church misses many opportunities for helping his neighbors, and therefore, incidentally, for helping himself.

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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Rebecca Holland-VanWey

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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.