



## July 13, 2025

#### AS WE GATHER

Today's Old Testament Reading is full of what God demands that someone should or should not do; it sounds almost scary. But it is only His putting us in our place and telling us how He wants to work through us and share His love, already poured out on us: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). But we try to limit the definition of "neighbor." We don't have to! Today we thank God for giving us, for Jesus' sake, "the inheritance of the saints in light," as Paul writes in the Epistle (Colossians 1:12). It is time to set aside our daily activities to let God put us in our place as His friends, followers, and family.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

#### Liturgical Color:

#### Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Visitors:** We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance 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.)



- Dwells Christ, His only Son; As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.
- For love excludes no race or clan
  That names the Savior's name;
  His family embraces all
  Whose Father is the same.

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## **Morning Prayer**





## **Psalmody**





0.	Ο	•••	• ••			
<b>L</b> Give	glory to God, ou	r light and our	r life.			
	•					
6.						
	come, let us	s wor - ship	Him.			
Psalm 4	1		(front of hymnal, spoken in unison)			
Blessèd is	the one who co	nsiders the poo	or!			
In th	e day of trouble	the LORD delive	vers him;			
the Lord p	protects him and	keeps him aliv	ve;			
he is	called blessèd i	n the land;				
you	do not give him	up to the will o	of his enemies.			
The Lord	sustains him on	his sickbed;				
in hi	s illness you rest	ore him to full	health.			
As for me	, I said, "O Lord,	be gracious to	me;			
heal	me, for I have s	inned against y	/ou!"			
My enemi	es say of me in	nalice,				
"Wh	en will he die ar	ıd his name per	rish?"			
And when	one comes to s	ee me, he utter	rs empty words,			
whil	e his heart gathe	ers iniquity;				
whe	n he goes out, h	e tells it abroad	d.			
All who ha	ate me whisper t	together about	t me;			
they	imagine the wo	rst for me.				
They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;						
he will not rise again from where he lies."						
Even my close friend in whom I trusted,						
who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.						
But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,						
and raise me up, that I may repay them!						
By this I know that you delight in me:						
my e	my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.					
But you ha	But you have upheld me because of my integrity,					
and	and set me in your presence forever.					
Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel,						
from	everlasting to e	everlasting!				
	Amen and	d Amen.				

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Please be seated.



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# Readings

#### Old Testament Reading..... Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:9-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the Lord your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord....

.. "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

"You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

...... "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

... "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

..... "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## 

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and

understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Please rise, as able.

### Holy Gospel .....Luke 10:25-37

Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

**P** In many and various ways, God Spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**G** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

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.

Please be seated.

#### **Children's Message**

Sermon.....""Be Right: With God"

#### From Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together—on the service of helpfulness:

Nobody is too good for the humblest service. One who worries about the loss of time that such petty, outward acts of helpfulness entail is usually taking the importance of his career too solemnly.... We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing out paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with needs and requests. We may pass them by, preoccupied with our more important tasks, as the priest passed by the man who had fallen among thieves, perhaps—reading the Bible. When we do that we pass by the visible sign of the Cross raised in our path to show us that, not our way, but God's way must be done. It is a strange fact that Christians and even ministers frequently consider their work so important and urgent that they will allow nothing to disturb them. They think they are doing God a service in this, but actually they are disdaining God's "crooked yet straight path" (Gottfried Arnold). They do not want a life that is crossed and balked. But it is part of the discipline of humility that we must not spare our hand where it can perform a service and that we do not assume that our schedule is our own to manage, but allow it to be arranged by God.... Only where hands are not too good for deeds of love and mercy in everyday helpfulness can the mouth joyfully and convincingly proclaim the message of God's love and mercy.

Hymn of Dedication...... Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing, #691

<b>6</b> ##	•		•		7	•	•		- #0	
2 3	Fruit - Lad - Root - Fruit -	en br ed d	anch - e eep i	es free n Christ	- ly our	sow - ing, bear - ing Mas - ter, tend - ing,	Gifts Christ	our	rip - Giv - pat - grow	en er tern till
	loves to	o 1 ur	rease, pless; goal, cease;		Fruit Here Teach Till				by sha fly fas	ur - ing, st - er,
	Rich Pa - Good - Heav -		love , kinc faith love	d - ness, a, and	joy gen sel joy	n - f -	and tle con and	-	peace. ness. trol. peace.	

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#### Offering

### **Prayer of Blessing for Youth Gathering Attendees**

Please rise, as able.

# Prayer

**Collect of the Day** ...... (spoken in unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### (Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God. You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may

be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### **C** Amen.



<b>^</b> #	Ke	ejrain
feet, race; love; feet:	Mas - ter who pours out Him - selffor them.Neigh-bors are near - by and fara - way.All these are neigh-bors to usand You.This is the way we will livewith You.	
Text and tune: ©	69, revised 1997 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 1100035	555
Dismissal		lission)
<b>P</b> Grow in Chr	t,	

**C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

#### Postlude

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#### Next week's readings: OT: Genesis. 18:1–14; EP: Colossians 1:21–29; Gospel: Luke 10:38–42

Attendance Last Saturday: 24	Attendance Last Sunday: 61
Total Offering: \$2,347.00	Missions: \$2.50
Home Use: \$2,217.00	Benevolences: \$127.50

#### Serving us today:

Elder		Alan Miller
Musician		Jerrode Marsh
Altar Committ		Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Sue Cottrill, Karon Harding
		Lauryn Schumaker, Stephanie Schumaker
Flower Comm	ittee	Penny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland, Bonnie Rich
This Week's S	chedule	
Monday		Rebecca's Vacation (through July 19)
	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		Cindy Out in the morning
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday		Cindy's Vacation Day
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class

Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
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.	Holy Communion

**Absence**—Pr. Joel is at Immanuel (Sweet Springs) this morning, leading their weekly worship service. Following that, he and his mom will be taking the mobility cart from here (in memory of Dick Luehrman) and all of the donated sewing equipment and supplies to Mobility Worldwide's "Hearts for Carts" event happening this afternoon from noon 'til 4 in Columbia. Many lives elsewhere in the world will benefit from the kind generosity!

#### <u>Prayer</u>

**For Those Attending the National Youth Gathering** of the LCMS, especially Aedan Pederson as a participant and Abby Humphrey as a Young Adult Volunteer. Multiple thousands of LCMS youth from around the country will be in New Orleans from July 19-23 for encouragement and service in the faith under the theme ENDURE (Hebrews 12:1-3). If you'd like to know more, pick up the current issue of *The Lutheran Witness* or look up <u>www.lcmsgathering.com</u>.

**For All Who Mourn**, especially the family and friends of Myrna Landkamer—whose earthly life ended this past Monday night. We give thanks for the gift of knowing this beloved sister in Christ! May the Lord's comfort uphold all who grieve and cling in assurance to the resurrection yet to come!

**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), 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!

#### <u>Gratitude</u>

**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 <u>blchurch.com</u>.

#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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're continuing our reading and discussion of the book of the prophet Jeremiah. All are welcome and invited to attend!

**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 links with the current issue's theme of "Christian Endurance") should be available to read soon at witness.lcms.org.

#### **Fellowship**

Mary Martha Guild Rummage Sale will take place on August 8 (4-7pm) and August 9 (8am-1pm). You may drop off items in the preschool room starting July 28. Please wait until August 4 to bring big items. The last day to bring items is Wednesday,

**August 6.** Please make sure all items are clean and in working condition. **No Clothes or Shoes will be accepted.** A sign-up sheet to help with the sale will be on the bulletin board by the mailboxes shortly. Please contact Diana Holland or Cindy Smith for more information.

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.

**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!

Mid-Missouri Artists Summer Exhibition hosted by UCM Gallery of Art and Design 217 E. Clark Street, July 9 to August 6. Opening reception Wednesday, July 16, from 5-7 p.m. Music by members of the New Century Dulcimer Ensemble. Admission is free.

#### Ways to Help

**Summer Gardening—Fresh Fruit & Vegetables**—Blackberries are bountiful again this year, so have a look at our bushes and trees for picking and sharing! Tomatoes are ripening, while kale and squash keep producing ... and potatoes should soon be ready to dig! Also, check out the 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 26<sup>th</sup> from 10noon**, 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 ... and there are always weeds to pull!

**Texas Flood Relief Efforts**—the damage has affected several counties in central Texas—a region with high levels of poverty and above average numbers of elderly adults and people with disabilities. If you would like to donate funds to help you can do this through **Lutheran World Relief** (lwr.org) or **Thrivent** (*thrivent.com*) who will also match \$1 for every \$2 donation that is sent in.

#### 2025 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>

#### **Our Congregation and Beyond**

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 (<u>www.lcms.org</u>) 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 (both of which are currently in the calling process).* 

#### **Contact Information**

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

#### **Our Mission**

 $\cdot$  Grow in Christ  $\ \cdot$  Live in Love  $\ \cdot$  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: <u>www.blchurch.com</u> Facebook: <u>blcwarrensburg</u>						
Office Manager	Congregation Life Facilitator	Bookkeeper				
Cindy Smith	Rebecca Holland-VanWey	Teresa Hillsman				
Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm	Tuesday: 1pm-5pm	Tuesday: 9am-11am				
660-747-6742	Thursday: 1pm-5pm	Thursday: 9am-11am				
csmith@blchurch.com	rholland@blchurch.com	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.