

*Martha
welcomed
Jesus
into her
home*

LUKE 10:38





+ The 6th Sunday After Pentecost +

July 19-20, 2025

AS WE GATHER

We try to exercise our freedom and planning, but God's way is always better. It was better for Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament Reading and gets Mary's attention in the Gospel. It was still taking some time for the new believers of Colossae to fathom that God had done so much for them in Christ. And when their friends found the treasure of the Gospel, they, too, must have laughed that God had such gracious plans for them, plans that are always better than they imagined.

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 (1 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 "Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord", #771

1 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord, For
 2 You need not mul - ti - ply your words Nor
 3 Wait, then, in qui - et con - fi - dence, Your
 4 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord; On

God is al - ways near. Be - fore your mind is
 pray with prac - ticed art. Be - yond all speech, God
 anx - ious thoughts at rest. God knows your needs be -
 God in pa - tience wait. God's love, un - seen, sur -

moved to pray, God lis - tens and will hear.
 un - der - stands The hun - ger of your heart.
 fore you ask And works for what is best.
 rounds your life; God's help will not be late.

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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 "One Thing's Needful", #536 (1-2)

1 One thing's need - ful; Lord, this trea - sure Teach me high - ly
 2 How were Mar - y's thoughts de - vot - ed Her e - ter - nal

to re - gard. All else, though it first give plea - sure,
 joy to find As in - tent each word she not - ed,

Is a yoke that press - es hard! Be - neath it the
 At her Sav - ior's feet re - clined! How kin - dled her



heart is still fret-ting and striv-ing, No true, last-ing hap - pi - ness
heart, how de - vout was its feel-ing, While hear-ing the les - sons that



ev - er de - riv - ing. This one thing is need-ful; all oth - ers are
Christ was re - veal-ing! All earth - ly con-cerns she for - got for her



vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may ob - tain!
Lord And found her con - tent - ment in hear - ing His Word.

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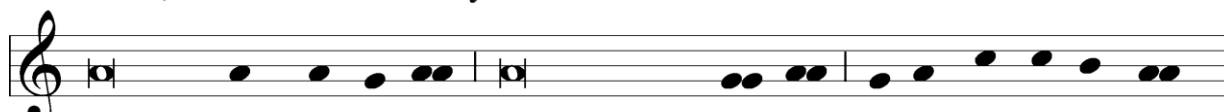
Kyrie.....*pages 168-169*



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.

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

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.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutationpage 172

P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; 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 Testament **Genesis 18:1-14**

The Lord appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent

door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

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.....**Colossians 1:21-29**

You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages

and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Alleluia and Versepage 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Luke 10:38-42

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day.....“Word of God, Come Down on Earth, #545



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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Sermon.....“Living Welcome & Contentment”

On attending to the Word like Mary did—from Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945). When he taught at the German underground seminary, he required his students to spend half an hour each morning in silent meditation on a text from Scripture but found they didn't know what to do in that time: some slept and some daydreamed, while others worked on sermons. Here, he stresses the importance:

Why do I meditate? Because I am a Christian. Therefore, every day in which I do not penetrate more deeply into the knowledge of God's Word in Holy Scripture is a day lost for me. I can only move forward with certainty upon the firm ground of the Word of God. And, as a Christian, I learn to know the Holy Scripture in no other way than by hearing the Word preached and by prayerful meditation.

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 Let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, 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.

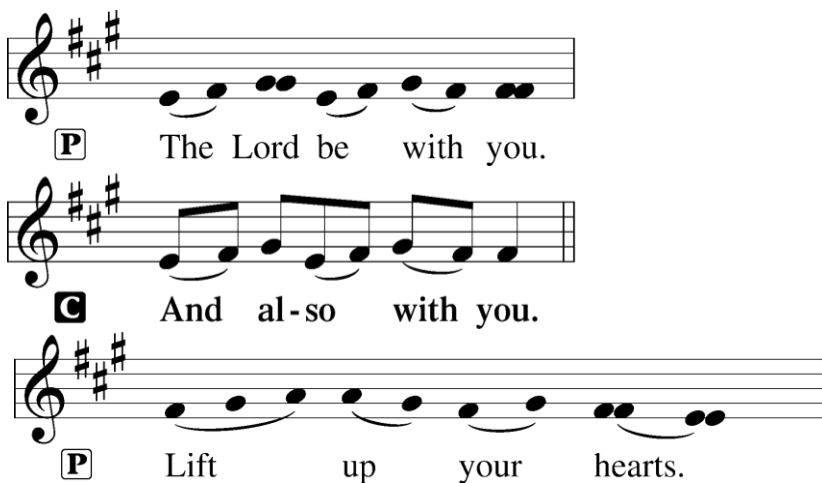
Offertory page 176



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;



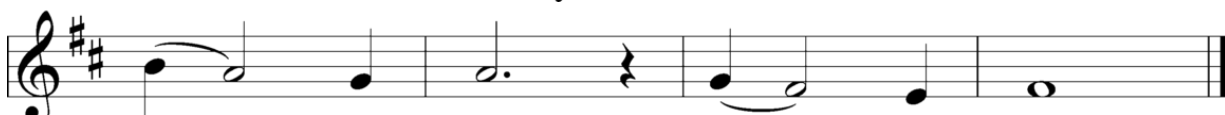
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



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)

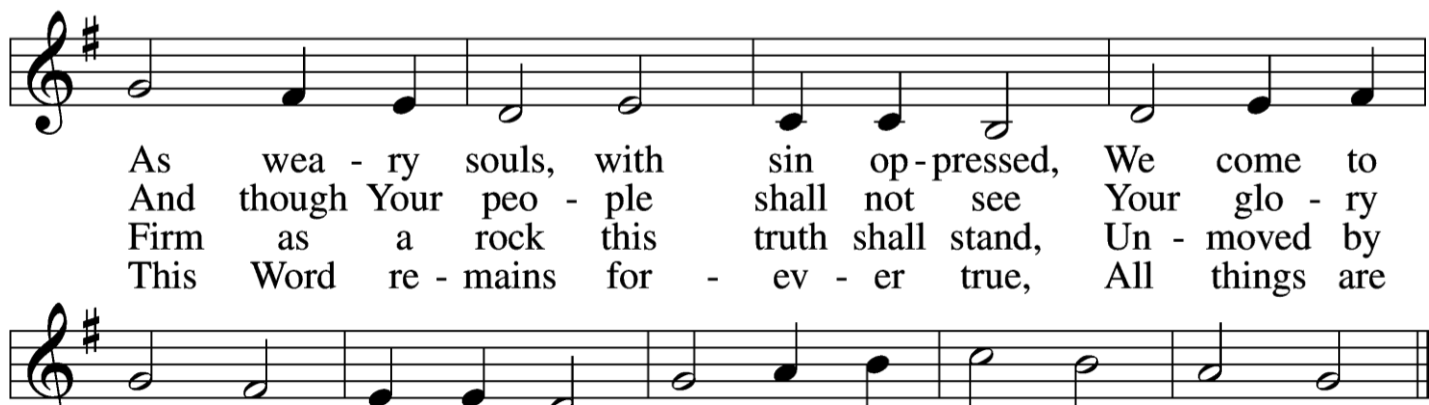
Communion Hymn “Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy”, #774

Feed Thy chil - dren, God most ho - ly; Com - fort sin - ners
poor and low - ly. O Thou Bread of Life from heav-en, Bless the
food Thou here hast giv - en! As these gifts the bod-y nour - ish,
May our souls in grac - es flour - ish Till with saints in
heav'n - ly splen - dor At Thy feast due thanks we ren - der.

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Communion Hymn ... “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”, #622 (1-6)

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for
2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious
our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y
hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence
hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent
Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y
and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion
they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.
and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are

You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

5 Though reason cannot understand,
 Yet faith this truth embraces:
 Your body, Lord, is even now
 At once in many places.
 I leave to You how this can be;
 Your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unfailing.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.
 Your supper in this vale of tears
 Refreshes me and stills my fears
 And is my priceless treasure.

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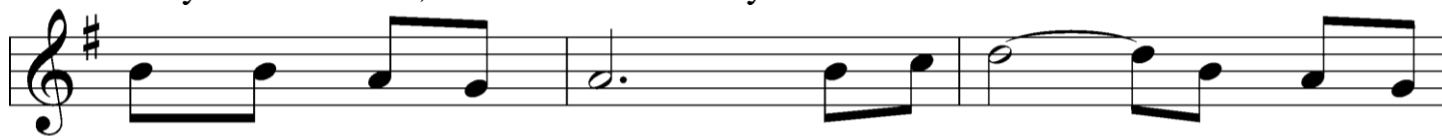
Post Communion Canticle..... page 181



☐ 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.



1 Stay with us, till night has come: Our praise to
 2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: Hear when our
 3 Walk with us, the road will bend: Make all our
 4 Talk with us, till we be - hold A joy - ful
 5 Stay with us, till day is done: No tears nor



You this day be sung. Bless our bread, O - pen our
 wea - ry spir - its cry, Feel a - gain Our loss, our
 weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, For - give our
 life You will un - fold: Heal our eyes To see the
 dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, Your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
 pain: Je - sus, take us to Your side.
 fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
 prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
 part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

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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: Genesis 18:17-33; Epistle: Colossians 2:6-19; Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

Attendance: Last Saturday: 34

Total Offering: \$2,525.00

Home Use: \$2,475.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 53

Missions: \$5.00

Benevolences: \$45.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Rich Vanderburgh (Sat), Alan Miller, Jimmy Smithers (Sun)
MusicianJerrode Marsh
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

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Education/Evangelism Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Thursday	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	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

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), 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'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 online now at www.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.

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!

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 carrots keep producing ... and potatoes have been dug and shared. 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 26th 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 ... and there are always weeds to pull!

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

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 (both of which are currently in the calling process).*

Resolutions Adopted During the District Convention (June 22-24)

*Denotes resolution was adopted as amended.

Floor Committee 1 - Witness and Mercy

1-01: To Encourage a Heightened Awareness and Support of Lutheran Campus Ministries

1-02: To Make and Encourage Efforts in Mission Field Missouri

1-03: To Encourage and Celebrate Multiethnic Ministry

Floor Committee 2 - Life Together

2-01: To Approve Strategic Plan Critical Targets for 2025-2028 Triennium

2-02: To Encourage Congregations to Intentionally Recruit Youth and Young Adults to Consider Church Work Vocations

*2-03: To Encourage Church Worker Retention

*2-04: To Study Shared Ministry Among Small Congregations

*2-05: To Encourage Christian Discipleship in the Home

*2-06: To Encourage Fathers to Provide Spiritual Leadership in the Home

Floor Committee 3 - Theology, Church, and Culture

*3-01: To Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Small Catechism and Encourage Heads of Households to Teach It in the Home

*3-02: To Offer Care and Support for Families Affected by Homosexuality and Transgenderism

3-05 To Commend Congregations, Lutherans For Life, and other Appropriate RSOs Involved in Sanctity of Life Efforts

*3-06: To Oppose Missouri State Amendment 3

*3-07: To Defend God's Gift of Life

Floor Committee 4 - Structure and Administration

4-01: To Realign Circuits

4-02: To Revise Bylaws Article III.D and Article IV.A

4-03: To Revise Bylaws per CCM Recommendations

4-04: To Revise Bylaws Concerning the Convention Nominating Committee

4-05: To Revise Bylaws Concerning Conference Committees

4-06: To Review and Clarify Prior Approval

4-07: To Increase the Missouri District Church Worker Scholarship Endowment Fund

*4-08: To Affirm That Pastoral Formation in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is Done by Synodically Approved Seminaries

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](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

csmith@blchurch.com

Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Tuesday: 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.