



The Tidings

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

PASTOR'S PAGE

Learning from the First Christian

Since at least the fifth century, Mary has been recognized by the Church with thanksgiving on August 15. Martin Luther not only acknowledged the obvious—that she was the mother of Jesus (God the Eternal Word come into this world in human flesh)—but also that she was the first Christian (believing, even when not fully understanding). Therefore, she's the model of faith for all who come after her; teaching and showing us what it means to live trusting in Christ Jesus our Redeemer. Luke is the only Gospel-writer to give us almost all we have about Mary (likely interviewing her), including her song of praise ("The Magnificat")—on which Martin Luther based his following words (in the two months after his excommunication):

Tell me, was not hers a wondrous soul? She finds herself the Mother of God, exalted above all mortals, and still remains so simple and so calm that she does not think of any poor serving maid as beneath her....

Now it is much more difficult to practice moderation in the midst of riches, honor, and power than amid poverty, dishonor, and weakness, since the former are mighty incentives to evil-doing. So the wondrous pure spirit of Mary is worthy of even greater praise, because, having such overwhelming honors heaped upon her head, she does not let them tempt her, but acts as though she did not see it, remains "even and right in the way," clings only to God's goodness, which she neither sees nor feels, overlooks the good things she does feel, and neither takes pleasure nor seeks her own enjoyment in it. Thus she can truly sing, "My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior." It is indeed a spirit that exults only in faith and rejoices not in the good things of God that she felt, but only in God, whom she did not feel and who is her Salvation, known by her in faith alone....

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PASTOR'S PAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Mary begins with herself and sings what He has done for her. Thus she teaches us a twofold lesson. First, every one of us should pay attention to what God does for him rather than to all the works He does for others.... In the second place, she teaches us that everyone should strive to be foremost in praising God by showing forth the works He has done to him, and then by praising Him for the works He has done to others....

Mary confesses that the foremost work God did for her was that He regarded her, which is indeed the greatest of His works, on which all the rest depend and from which they all derive. For where it comes to pass that God turns His face toward one to regard him, there is nothing but grace and salvation, and all gifts and works must follow.... Therefore she adds, "And holy is His name." That is to say: "As I lay no claim to the work, neither do I to the name and fame. For the name and fame belong to Him alone who does the work. It is not proper that one should do the work and another have the fame and glory. I am but the workshop in which He performs His work; I had nothing to do with the work itself. No one should praise me or give me the glory for becoming the Mother of God, but God alone and His work are to be honored and praised in me. It is enough to congratulate me and call me blessed, because God used me and did His works in me."

Walking humbly with you in following Christ Jesus our Lord, +Pr. Joel

HEARTS FOR CARTS FESTIVAL

The annual Hearts for Carts ingathering & fundraiser for Mobility Worldwide was held on Sunday, July 13 in Columbia! 149 mobility carts were there—including the one from Bethlehem, which was purchased with funds given in memory of Dick Luehrman & painted by Rebecca Holland & Kersten Thomas. We look forward to finding out whose mobility-impaired life is drastically improved by this personal transportation device. Also, Carol Kurz & Pr. Joel delivered two sewing machines and a nice load of sewing supplies for the international community-empowering work of the Sewing Machine Project—generously donated by folks at Bethlehem. Overall, Mobility Worldwide brought in over \$73,000 of donations through the event. Much goodness will abound in the lives of many!





CHURCH COUNCIL

By: Jeremy VanWey

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Summer is winding down and with that, we will be looking ahead to 2026 before we know it. We will soon be working on next years budget and leadership needs for BLC in 2026. The last several years, our slate of candidates has had several vacancies. Currently, we have 2 vacant spots of Stewardship Chair and one Elder position.

As we start working through the process of preparing for the Annual Congregational Meeting and 2026, please consider how you might be able to help support the leadership of BLC. Make your voice heard and get involved in the present and future of your congregation! Many hands make light work in this area. It is also good to get other perspectives as we make decisions for BLC. If you have questions about any of the positions, please contact me or one of the Elders. I would love to get some new folks (and ideas) in your Bethlehem Church Council!

If I can be of assistance or answer any questions, please let me know.

In His Service,

Jeremy VanWey
BLC Congregational President

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, as a child, you increased in wisdom and stature; you listened to your teachers and asked them questions. Bless those who learn that they may grow in the knowledge of their Maker, Redeemer, Life-giver, and your glorious world.

Bless those who teach, that they may share the wisdom they have received from above, and that they may do their work with patience and love that reflect your mercy that endures forever. You yourself are the Great Teacher. Instruct all of us in your commandments: to show love by glorifying you and serving our neighbors. Disciple all of us with your holy Gospel: to be forgiven, renewed, and empowered through your life, death and resurrection.

Fill our hearts with wonder and excitement as we see your divine design in math and science, as we see your hand in history, as we learn to glorify you through art and music, as we learn to know our neighbors, their hopes, their hurts, their needs, that your love may flow through us to them.

Your holy Word also tells us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." By your power, help us increase in wisdom, never ceasing to learn all the days of our lives until we sit at your feet in your Kingdom, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen. - Source: © 2016 Paul C. Stratman

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE FACILITATOR

By: Rebecca Holland-VanWey

FAMILY DEVOTIONS: PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

Family devotions and Bible study are integral parts of our daily household routine, but it has not always been this way. Neither Jeremy nor I grew up with a strong spiritual leader in the home or anything like family devotions. Our current practices have grown out of homeschooling, really. Once I had readers on my hands, I thought about how to make them Bible-literate. I started planning ways to incorporate that into the rest of our schooling, but I found myself running out of time and attention span during our morning schoolwork. So I delegated. I told Jeremy he was the Bible teacher, and our suppertime family devotions were born. It's funny to me how relatively short a time we've spent with this routine (about 3 years), because it is so very integral to our daily rhythm now!



I started out by selecting a children's Bible with stories that were about the right length for a 5-minute reading during supper. After we bless our meal and fill plates, we sit at the table and do our devotion. Jeremy reads or leads it, but I usually select the content. Once we finished the children's Bible, I selected a book of devotions targeted to kids. We've continued to alternate those two types of devotions until recently. When we started eating outside on the deck last spring, we found our-

selves away from the books we were used to having right there, so Jeremy would play the LHM Daily Devotion audio on his phone. We've stuck with that for the time being and will likely change it up again for some unforeseeable reason. Clearly, the key is not that you have exactly the right format or content on hand, but rather that you build the routine for doing a devotion together. Sometimes discussion ensues about the devotion; sometimes not. Either way, it's often the kids who remind us when we get distracted with the (formidable) chore of getting a hot meal to the table and forget. It is so gratifying to see that they are counting on that time of hearing God's word together!

Our family devotion time is brief, easy, requires very little preparation, and is quite simple. Nevertheless, the power it has had over our household is formidable! Conversations in our house are very often about spiritual and Biblical matters, and this includes the frequent times that neighbors are visiting. Bible studies have been incorporated into the morning schoolwork because the kids are familiar with the Bible's stories and contextual differences from today's world and hungry to learn more. Jeremy and I have each developed our individual Bible reading habits, both because the kids getting older means we have a little more time and brain space for it and because, well, we have to stay a little ahead of their quickly advancing knowledge! This year we and Nana are all three reading through the whole Bible using the same study program, which is yet again next level. And now Bryce has been folded into that routine (so much for staying ahead of the kids!). God's Word is a powerful builder of family unity centered on Christ and a necessary part of the Armor of God that we all, young and not so young, need.

MARY MARTHA GUILD



August 8: 4-7pm, August 9: 8am-1pm

1/2 Price Sale: Saturday 8-11

Sack Sale: Saturday 11-1 (some exclusions will apply)

NO CLOTHING OR SHOES WILL BE ACCEPTED

Please wait to bring big items until August 4.

Last day to bring items in is August 6.

Help will be needed. Sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board near the mailboxes. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

MARY MARTHA GUILD PROJECTS

Stamps and Pop Top Tabs—we are still collecting stamps and pop top tabs. There is a labeled container in the mailboxes slots where you can put each of these items. The pop top tabs will be collected by the to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Recycling—Please consider bringing all of your **aluminum cans** to be recycled! You can place your bags in the can on the side of the shed. Rode then takes them to turn in for cash. Proceeds go to the Lutheran World Relief through the Guild.

MISSIONS

SHOW-ME CHRISTIAN YOUTH HOME MISSION



This is a request to the people of Bethlehem Lutheran to help contribute supplies to the Show Me Christian Youth Home near La Monte, MO. With the sponsorship of the Mission Board, a Thrivent grant and your generous contribution of paper products, snack items, and school supplies we can take these items to the Home before their Open House on Saturday, September 6. Additional information about the Open House will be printed elsewhere in the bulletin. Paper items could include paper towels, napkins, plates, toilet paper, etc. School supplies could include crayons, notebooks, notebook paper, pencils, etc. Thank you for your generous contributions.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. You can also watch Sunday's service live on Facebook, YouTube or on the webpage at blchurch.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School—Our family-style Sunday School will be taking a break during the months of June and July. Stay tuned for more information in the bulletins and/or the Tidings about starting back up in August.

Pastor's Sunday Study is embarking on a exploration of the early Christian document called *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* (or *The Didache* in Greek) over these next several weeks. This short document from the 2nd century enables us to delve further into Christ's way of faith, life, and worship. **Join us in the conference room at 9:15 a.m.**

Wednesday Bible Study **Wednesday Bible Study** is undertaking a study of the biblical book of the prophet Jeremiah. Consider joining us in the conference room from **10:30 to noon**. We still have a lot of ground to cover!

Thursday Bible Class is being held at **7:00 p.m.** in the conference room. Pr. Ricky Bertels is presenting the Book of Isaiah.

Couples' Bible Study—*Reclaiming the Heart of Marriage* is a new CPH title we'll be using for a couples' Bible study. The study was written by Pastor David Shadday and guides couples "to understand the love God has for you, your response to His love, and the meaning that love brings to your life and your home" (p.7). Join other couples in exploring how marriage is a reflection of Christ the bridegroom and His bride, the Church. We'll continue this study monthly on the **4th Sundays through the rest of the year**.

Neighborhood Night on August 13! Help us interact with our neighbors who live adjacent to our church grounds by making them a place of intentional interaction that evening from **6:30 to 8:30 (or so)**. We'll aim to gather for volleyball and frisbee.

EXERCISE

Exercise Class happens at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. No exercise the week of August 4th due to rummage sale preparation.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will not meet in August We will start back up in September.

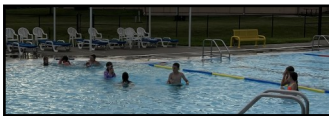
OTHER GROUPS

Look for start-up times in the September Tidings and bulletins for other groups such as Sunday School, Men's Club, Quilting, Mary Martha Guild.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



MEMBERS

BIRTHDAYS

Rebecca Stewart	3rd	Colin Hart	15th	Cody Droege	28th
Kevin Hill	6th	Judy Smith	18th	Larry Haase	29th
Felisa Brown	7th	Judy Florida	19th	Nora Hart	30th
Alan Miller	11th	Holli Burge	20th	Zachary Brown	30th
Ron McComas	12th	Elijah Fouts	23rd	Benjamin Smith	30th
		Lynda Creech	27th		

BAPTISMAL MILESTONES

Baptismal Milestones are published for the first year, every fifth year and all of those baptismal dates over 70 years.

Mike Chasar	1st
Rose Steitz	3rd
Nicole Clemons	11th
Kaye Fair	20th

ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Lori Bell	3rd
Larry & Karen Haase	6th
Thomas & Elizabeth Fatka	7th
Sean & Becca Estanek	15th
Phil & Tiffany Frerking	18th
Ryan & Ashley Fouts	18th
Benjamin & Cindy Smith	25th
Rev. Ricky & Janice Bertels	29th
Terry & Nancy Holsten	29th

Aedan Pederson joined Concordia St. Paul's students to go to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Abby Humphrey went on her own and served as a Youth Leader. It was projected that they would have over 20,000 participants.



Annual Church Picnic

August 24, 2025

Immediately after service


Men's Club will provide meat and Fellowship will provide sides

Outside activities for kids



AUGUST 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.” Psalm 32:8</p>					<p>1 Cindy Off 9:30a-Exercise Class</p>	<p>2 5:30p-Holy Communion</p> 
<p>3 9:15a-Bible Study 10:30a-Holy Communion 12:00p-Sale Setup</p> 	<p>4</p> 	<p>5 11:30a-Braille in Concordia 5:00p-Trustees' Meeting</p>	<p>6 10:30a-Bible Study 12:00p-MofB</p>	<p>7 Pastor's Vacation 7:00p-Bible Study</p>	<p>8 Pastor's Vacation 4:00p-Rummage Sale</p> 	<p>9 8:00a-Rummage Sale 10:00a-Garden Workday 1:00p-Sale Tear Down 5:30p-Worship</p>
<p>RUMMAGE SALE PREP</p>						
<p>10 9:15a-Bible Study 10:30a-Worship 2:30p-Country Club and Arbors</p> 	<p>11 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>12 7:00p-Church Council Meeting</p> 	<p>13 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:30a-Bible Study 6:30p-Neighborhood Night</p> 	<p>14 Pastor's at Conference 7:00p-Bible Study</p> 	<p>15 Pastor at Conference 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>16 5:30p-Holy Communion</p> 
<p>17 9:15a-Bible Study 10:30a-Holy Communion</p> 	<p>18 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>19 3:00p-Mission Board Meeting</p> 	<p>20 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:30a-Bible Study 12:00p-MofB</p> 	<p>21 12:00p-Lunch Bunch 5:30p-Fellowship Meeting 7:00p-Bible Study</p> 	<p>22 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>23 10:00a-Garden Workday 5:30p-Worship</p> 
<p>24 9:15a-Bible Study 10:30a-Worship 12:00p-Annual Picnic</p> 	<p>25 9:30a-Exercise Class 6:30p-4-H Meeting</p> 	<p>26 6:00p-Elders' Meeting 7:30p-Education & Evangelism Board Meeting</p>	<p>27 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:30a-Bible Study</p> 	<p>28 7:00p-Bible Study</p> 	<p>22 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>30 5:30p-Holy Communion</p> 
<p>31 9:15a-Bible Study 10:30a-Holy Communion</p> 	<p>“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6</p>					



August

Faith

Day 1 – Matthew 21:21-22

Day 2 – Hebrews 11:1-3

Day 3 – Hebrews 11:4-7

Day 4 – Hebrews 11:8-12

Day 5 – Hebrews 11:23-31

Day 6 – Hebrews 11:32-12:2

Day 7 – James 2:14-17

Day 8 – James 2:18-26

Day 9 – Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 10 – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Day 11 – 2 Corinthians 5:6-7

Day 12 – James 1:5-8

Day 13 – Galatians 2:15-16

Day 14 – 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Day 15 – Romans 4:13-14

Day 16 – Romans 4:15-17

Day 17 – Romans 4:18-25

Day 18 – Romans 5:1-5

Day 19 – Romans 10:9-11

Day 20 – Matthew 17:14-21

Day 21 – Psalm 37:5-6

Day 22 – 1 Timothy 4:10-12

Day 23 – Galatians 3:23-29

Day 24 – John 3:14-17

Day 25 – Romans 1:16-17

Day 26 – John 11:23-27

Day 27 – 1 Corinthians 15:16-22

Day 28 – Ephesians 3:16-19

Day 29 – Mark 10:46-52

Day 30 – 1 Peter 1:6-9

Day 31 – Galatians 2:20



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

Return Service Requested



Worship Schedule:

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: Bible Study and
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.



USHERS AND GREETERS

The Elders are looking to start back our greeters and ushers program. If you would like to help out before service as a greeter handing out bulletins and welcoming people or during the service as an usher for offering and/or communion, please let an Elder know.

Service Elders

- 2 Willie Crespo
- 3 Evan Florida
Willie Crespo
- 9 Rich Vanderburgh
- 10 Rich Vanderburgh
- 16 Jeremy VanWey
- 17 Alan Miller
Evan Florida
- 23 Jimmy Smithers
- 24 Alan Miller
- 30 Jimmy Smithers
- 31 Willie Crespo
Evan Florida



Altar Committee:

Peggy Hoyer (Chair)
Sue Cottrill
Karon Harding
Lauren Schumaker
Stephanie Schumaker

Flower Committee:

Penny Humphrey
(Chair)
Diana Holland
Bonnie Rich

Kitchen:

Dorothy Anderson
(Chair)
Mary Creswell
Judy Schache
Lori Sloan

Sound:

Jerry Harding
Scott Humphrey

Video:

Zach Brown
Aedan Pederson