

# August 10, 2025

#### **AS WE GATHER**

Sometimes one simple word can have two meanings that are complete opposites. The word anxious is one of them. In English, it comes from the old Latin verb "angere," which means to "take hold of" or "to give pain." When Jesus says, "Do not be anxious," He is inviting us to let go of that which causes us pain and to trust in God's complete and loving care. And yet the flip side of "angere" describes a positive sense of eagerness. In the hymn "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" (LSB 350), we pray to our Savior: "Come, Thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for Thee" (st. 1). May our faithful worship reflect that hopeful kind of anxiety as we celebrate the presence of the Lord among us.

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.)



# **Morning Prayer**

**Opening Verses**...... *page 235* Lord, o - pen my lips, and my mouth shall de-clare Your praise. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men. al - le - lu - ia. ia, Al - le - lu **Psalmody Antiphon**......page 235 Give glory to God, our light and our life. let us wor - ship come, Him. **Venite.....** *page 236* come, the Lord; let sing us to





Psalm 33:13-22 .....(spoken responsively)

The Lord looks down from heaven;

he sees all the children of man;

from where he sits enthroned he looks out

on all the inhabitants of the earth,

he who fashions the hearts of them all

and observes all their deeds.

The king is not saved by his great army;

a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a false hope for salvation,

and by its great might it cannot rescue.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord;

he is our help and our shield.

For our heart is glad in him,

because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,

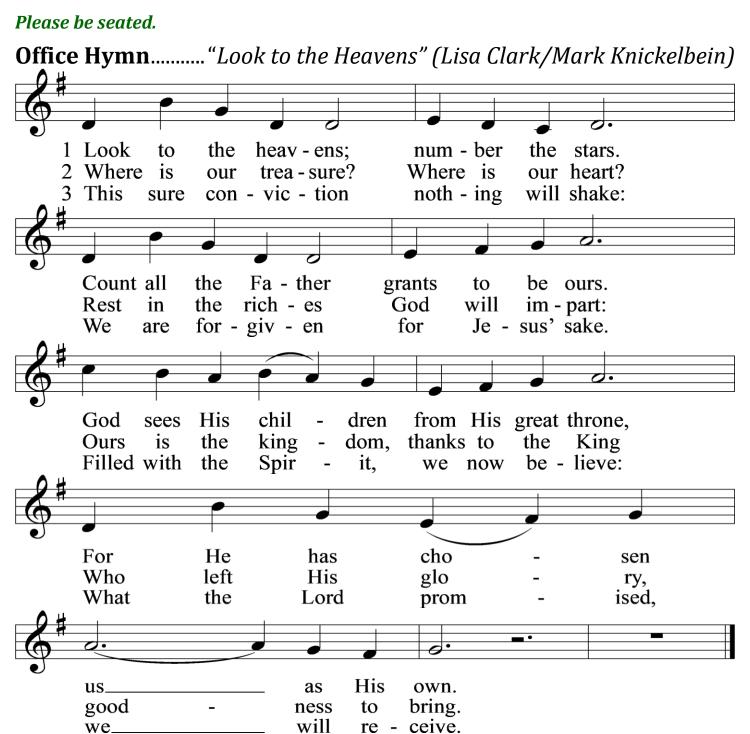
even as we hope in you.

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.



# Readings

# Old Testament Reading......Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- **P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- Thanks be to God.

# Epistle Reading ...... Hebrews 11:1-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and

him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please rise, as able.

Holy Gospel ......Luke 12:22-34

[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

- P In many and various ways, God Spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles' Creed.....(back cover of hymnal)

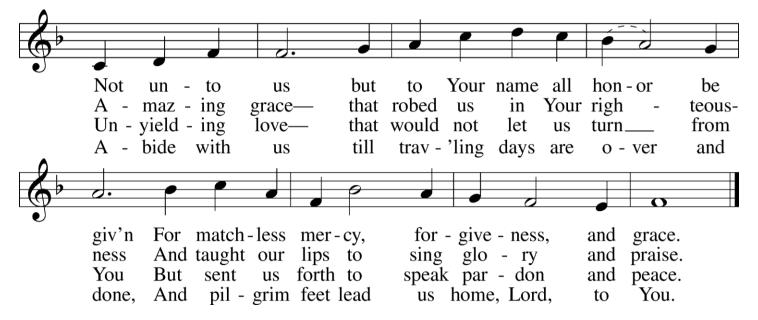
C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the 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,

Please be seated.

# Children's Message

and the life everlasting. Amen.





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# Offering

Please rise, as able.

Pr	ayer
Col	lect of the Day(spoken in unison)
offe way	ighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who racceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
(Add	litional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)
Col	lect for Gracepage 241
P	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.
Lor	d's Prayerpage 241
Ben	nedicamuspage 241



#### **Postlude**

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from ESV Bible (*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*) copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

## Next week's readings:

OT: Jeremiah 23:16-29; EP: Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3; Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Attendance Last Saturday: 37

Total Offering: \$7,349.00

Home Use: \$6,654.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 62

Missions: \$72.50

Benevolences: \$622.50

#### Serving us today:

Elder	Rich Vanderburgh
Musician	Jerrode Marsh
Altar Committee	Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Sue Cottrill, Karon Harding
	Lauryn Schumaker, Stephanie Schumaker
Flower Committee	Penny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland, Bonnie Rich

#### This Week's Schedule

9.30 a m

Monday

ivioriuay	9.50 a.III.	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
Thursday		Pastor at Circuit Visitor Meeting in St. Louis
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday		Pastor at Circuit Visitor Meeting in St. Louis
	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

Exercise Class

# **Altar Flowers**

The flower arrangements on the altar this weekend are placed in celebration of **Larry** and **Karen Hasse's 58th anniversary** which was on August 6<sup>th</sup>. May the Lord continue to give them abounding love and goodness in their life together!

#### **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), 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), Cindy Smith, 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*.

Campus Ministry Weekend will be observed at our services on August 16 & 17. Pr. Jon-Michael Schwiegert, the director of the Lutheran Student Center, will be here preaching and sharing about events and activities there for new and returning students to UCM. Help us extend welcome that day to all who show up in our midst as they're getting settled for a new year! Thanks to everyone that the Lutheran Student Center's sewer issues were able to be fixed before school started.

## **Christian Education & Faith Formation**

**Together In Christ! Starting September 10th**, we will meet every **Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.** with a meal and study session. This will take the place of the monthly Faith

Night and making it weekly. The first three sessions (September 10, 17, & 24) will focus on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount—to be followed in October and beyond by a survey of saints' lives and lessons". Please join us for an all ages/intergenerational time of spiritual growth through surveying the lives of the faithful who have gone before us. Our content will be CPH's Journey Through Church History curriculum, which outlines monumental figures and events in the Church from its beginning to the beginning of the LCMS. Stay tuned for ways to become involved, from contributing to the weekly meal to leading an evening's session.

**Sunday School downstairs resumes on September 7th.** All are welcome to join in a kickoff celebration bagel breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Consider joining the families downstairs at any time this year for our all-ages discussion focused on the day's readings.

**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 sharing the Book of Isaiah. All are welcome to attend!

## **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. There will be no exercise class the week of the rummage sale (August 4-8).

Last Neighborhood Night of the Summer on August 13! Join up with whoever shows up that night from 6:30 to 8:30 (or so) as we'll aim to spend some time together playing volleyball or frisbee. Watchers are welcome, too!

Bethlehem's Annual Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 24, immediately after service. ALL FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED by the Men's Club, Fellowship Committee and a Thrivent Grant. Everyone is welcome to come. There will be some games outside for children and those adults that want to participate.

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**

**Get Well Card**—Please take a moment to sign a card for **President Hagan.** The card will be located on the table outside Pr. Joel's office. Pr. Joel will be taking it next week when he goes for his Circuit Visitor Meeting.

For the fifth year, the Missouri District continues Tomorrow's Teachers & Preachers—the annual campaign to promote church work vocations and bolster the scholarship endowment. We have seen the shortage of professional church workers within the LCMS and are taking these steps to slow and perhaps reverse this trend. Knowing what God can do, this task is taken with a joyful boldness—and offers an invitation to all of you to join in the mission. Sunday, August 24, is the day congregations throughout the state will hold a special offering for the endowment and pray for current and future church workers. We thank God for all of you and the many ways He is and will be using these leaders to care for His flock!

Supply Drive for 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 September 6. Paper items could include paper towels, napkins, plates, toilet paper, etc. School supplies could include crayons, notebooks, notebook paper, pencils, etc. There will be a box for donations at the North Entrance. Thank you for your generous contributions!

**Greeters and Ushers**—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.

**Summer Gardening—Fresh Fruit & Vegetables**—Blackberries have finished, and some apples and pears have been dropping early! Carrots keep growing in the ground, while tomatoes, peppers, okra, and kale keep ripening above ... as do the watermelons. Have a look, harvest a bit, and pull a few weeds or water as needed. We thank the Lord for good rain and a year of bounty! The next garden workday is on **August 23rd from 10-noon**, but you're welcome to help out anytime.

## **This and That**

Immanuel Lutheran 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Higginsville Country Club on Saturday, August 16 starting at 7 a.m. Fee is \$280/4 Person Team,

Cart rental \$30/cart. For questions or an entry form please contact Micah Thurmon at 660-238-5497 or Jason Hilbrenner at 660-909-3217.

#### 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 (<a href="www.lcms.org">www.lcms.org</a>) 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**

· 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: <a href="https://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.blchurch.com">blcwarrensburg</a>

#### **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.