

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

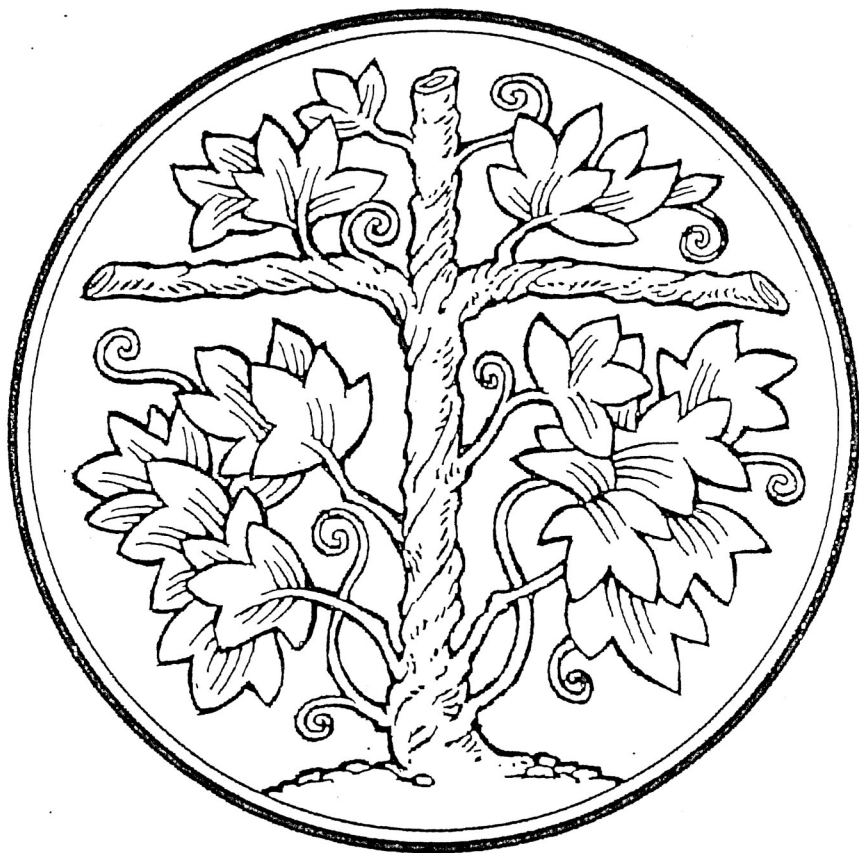
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Milan, WI 54411

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Reverend Michael Mathey, Pastor

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Statement on Close Communion:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor.

(CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper*, Nov 1999)

Life Quotes - April 28 "It is He who sustains us each and every day. It is He who brings us into the world, and He who draws our earthly lives to a close at the proper time. It is He who was born for us, He who died for us, He who rose for us, and He who reigns on high for us. His is the pattern of our lives." *Deaconess Bethany Stoeber, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Easter V – Only the grace of God could supply as supreme a blessing as a mother's company and comfort. In the same way (John 16:7b), the Holy Spirit gives life and saves life even and especially when sorrow fills the heart (John 16:6). Indeed, the Word of forgiveness, joy, and hope He implants redeems both hopeless situations and helpless souls for everlasting celebration (James 1:21). *Ever-present Redeemer, embrace us with Your Spirit until we trust Your truth, follow Your way, and enjoy Your life. Amen.*

Divine Service I

Easter Proclamation:

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn: “O Love, How Deep” LSB 544

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 150

Kyrie (p.152)

This Is the Feast (p.155)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading: *Acts 8:26–40*

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to

him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle *1 John 4:1–21*

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard

was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *John 15:1-8*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Jesus said: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office hymn: “All Christians Who Have Been Baptized” LSB 596
Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

The Words of Institution (p.162)

Proclamation of Christ (p.162)

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we
proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord’s Prayer (p.162)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”	LSB 633
“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”	LSB 474
“Lift High the Cross”	LSB 837

Post Communion Canticle (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.164)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia” LSB 463

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

This Week for Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Wed May 1 Confirmation 6pm

Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. May 5 Sunday Worship 8:00am

Sunday School 9:15am

STJ: Sun. May 5 Sunday Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Beth: Wed. May 1 Confirmation 6:00pm

St. John Sunday School: Special music will be sung Pre-service by the Sunday School children. Come early and enjoy the music. The Sunday School will also be hosting a Reception/Brunch for our High School Graduates on May 5th 9:30 to 10:15am. Quilts and Devotional Books will be presented to Lillian Pehlke, Ethan Telschow, Natalie Thompson and we share a graduate with Bethlehem Tim Mathey

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19th. The confirmands are Benjamin Hartwig, Delayna Noller, Colin Pehlke and from Bethlehem Evan Strack. Pentecost is also the last day of Sunday School.

Bethlehem Outreach Starting in May Bethlehem outreach will be collecting eye glasses NO cases and pop tops!!
Run for the whole month of May!

Annual Thrift Sale Bethlehem and St. John May 1,2,3, 4 from 9 to 5 Please bring items after April 14. No large furniture or electronics. Set up after services on Sunday April 28, Monday & Tuesday April 29 and 30th. For more information and to sign up to help contact Arlette Molthen 715-223-6060 or Janice Brown 715-219-1970

Posters are available to post where ever you wish.

Bethlehem and St. John members will be able to shop after services on Sunday May 6th.

Clean up, pack up and deliver will be done on Monday May 7th at 9:00 A.M. All help appreciated!

NWD Disaster Relief Sunday:

April 28, 2024 is NWD Disaster Response Sunday. The below excerpt was taken from the LCMS Disaster Response Bible Study . Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

"As Christians, we live with the certain and joyful hope of the new age that is coming at Christ's return. We know already that love will triumph over every hate, peace will triumph over every violence, joy will triumph over every sorrow, and this is all because LIFE has already triumphed over death — our Lord is risen! But equipped with this hope, Scripture urges us toward a "spiritual action plan" — that is, always be prepared to die, since no one has any guarantee of a tomorrow in this age; always be ready to help the sufferers, to pray for them, to witness to them about the hope that is given in Christ and to meet their concrete physical needs with joy."