

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

www.stjbeth.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
Milan, WI 54411

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 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 - May 5 "The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ's goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven." *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts - Easter VI – Paul encourages Timothy, "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:3). Sharing in the suffering of Christ sometimes comes when we share Christ and apply His Word of Life to spiritual issues that are also controversial. But faithfulness to the truth means to "endure everything for the sake of the elect" (2:10). *Faithful Lord, permit me to share You in the sufferings of my neighbors as You share in all my own. Amen.*

Divine Service I

STJ Sunday School Children Singing Before Service

Easter Proclamation:

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn: “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice ” LSB 556 (1-5)

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalms 98

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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 10:34-48*

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went

about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

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 5:1–8*

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *John 15:9–17*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office hymn: "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" LSB 556
(6-10)

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:

"O Living Bread from Heaven" LSB 642

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" LSB 469

"Now Thank We All Our God" LSB 895

Post Communion Canticle (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.164)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn: "O Sing to the Lord" LSB 808

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

This Week for Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Wed May 8 Confirmation 6pm

Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun. May 12	Sunday Worship 8:00am Sunday School Last Day
Beth:	Mon. May 13	Elders Mtg. 6:00pm
	Mon. May 13	Council Mtg. 7:00pm
STJ:	Sun. May 12	Sunday Worship 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am
STJ:	Tue. May 14	Elders Mtg. 6:00pm No Council Mtg this month
Beth:	Wed. May 15	Confirmation 6:00pm

St. John LWML groups will be meeting The 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30 am.

STJ Graduation Recognition: Quilts and Devotional Books will be presented to Lillian Pehlke, Ethan Telschow, Natalie Thompson and we share a graduate with Bethlehem Tim Mathey. Special music will be sung Preservice by the Sunday School children.

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 For the month of May Bethlehem outreach will be collecting eye glasses NO cases and pop tops!!

Annual Thrift Sale Bethlehem and St. John members are able to shop after services. Clean up, pack up and deliver will be done on Monday May 7th at 9:00 A.M. All help appreciated!

Bethlehem is looking for someone to take care of the Garden in front of the church. To weed and take care of the flowers. Anyone interested should contact one of the Trustees of the Church by May 12, 2024 church

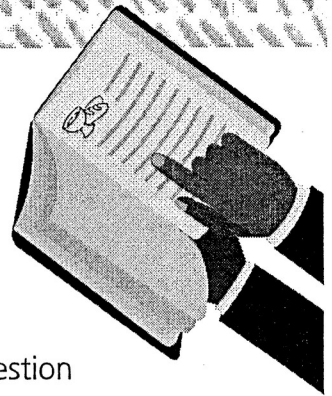
STJ: Sunday May 19 Pentecost is our last day of Sunday School.

Bethlehem Sunday School - Reminder that next Sunday, May 12, is the last day of Sunday School, the kids will be singing during the service. We would also like to thank everyone for the donations for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace mission project. In addition to the pillows, bedding sets and blankets, we were also able to make a monetary donation of \$250, which is the cost to make one bed.

STJ & Bethlehem Youth Bible Classes. There will be no Youth Bible classes at either Church in May. Classes will begin again in the fall.

STJ Lawn Mowing Schedule is available on the library table. If you are helping with mowing be sure to put your name down for the day that suits you. Or if you wish to pay for a mowing, put your name down and we will fill in when needed. The bill will be sent to church with your name on it.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

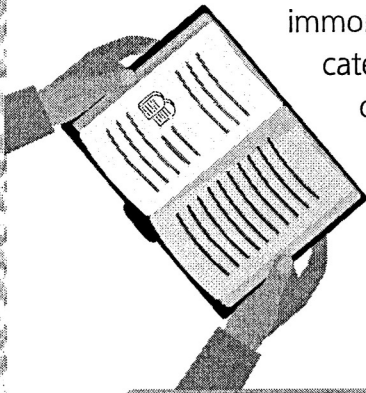


What is a “catechism”?

A catechism (pronounced KAT-eh-kizm) is a book of instruction usually written in question and answer form. The word “catechism” comes from the Greek word *katekhein*, which means “to instruct.” A catechism teaches the basics of the Christian faith.

Why do we need catechisms?

While visiting local churches, Martin Luther found many pastors and their church members were unaware of the true teachings of the Bible. Because of this, the people were living immoral lives. Martin Luther wrote the catechisms to instruct people in the basics of the Christian faith, that they might know Christ and His forgiveness and live accordingly. We still use Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms so that we never forget those things that are necessary for faith in Christ.



Parents: Consider these words from Luther: “I, too, am a theologian who has attained a fairly good practical knowledge and experience of Holy Scriptures through various dangers. But I do not so glory in this gift as not to join my children daily in prayerfully reciting the Catechism. ... For God gave the Word that we should impress it on ourselves. ... Without this practice our souls become rusty, as it were, and we lose ourselves” (Plass, Ewald M., *What Luther Says* vol. 1 [St. Louis: Concordia, 1986], 125–26).

