

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

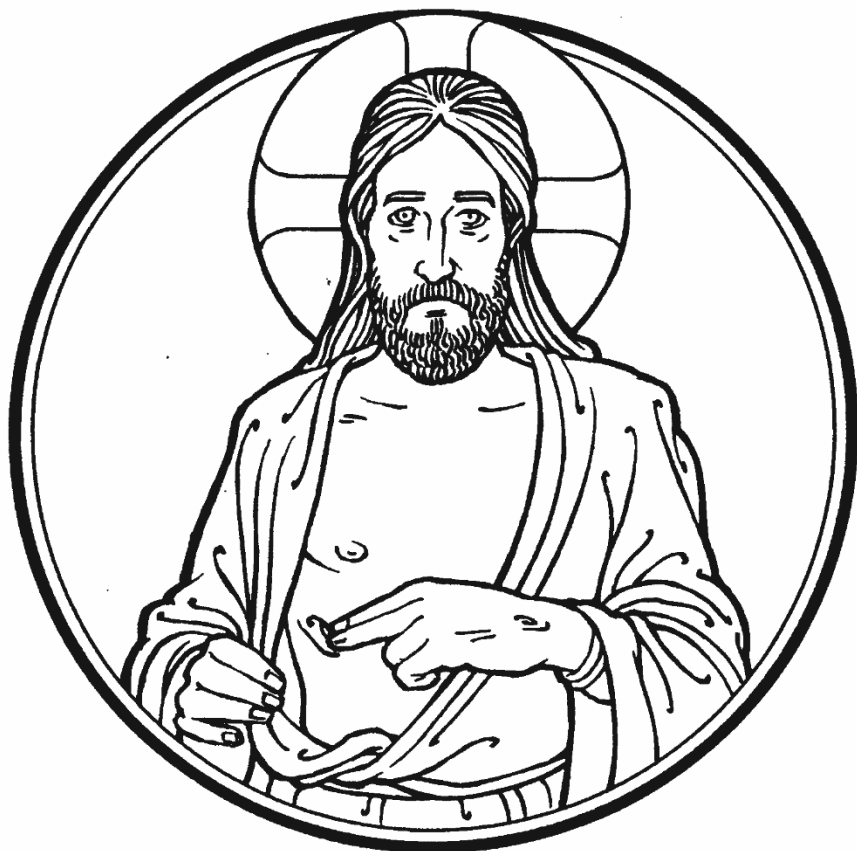
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
Milan, WI 54411

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



Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

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 12 "The cross that held Jesus' body exposed all the sin, violence, and injustice of this world for what it is. At once, the cross revealed what kind of world we have and what kind of God we have: a world of gross unfairness but also a God of sacrificial love." *Rev. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts (Easter 2) – Jesus sent out His apostles with His Spirit to be His witnesses, bringing His peace to the world through the forgiveness of sins (John 20: 21; Acts 5: 32). Through their witness and the witness of the believers who followed, we too have been brought to faith and are therefore blessed even though we have not seen Jesus with our eyes (1Peter 1: 8; John 20: 29). When we "praise the Lord" (Psalm 148: 1) with our Gospel-motivated voices, our neighbors are also brought to see Jesus though us, that they too may believe and "have life in His name" (John 20: 31).

Christ Jesus Breathes His Spirit and His Life into Us by the Ministry of the Gospel

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus establishes the ministry of the Gospel in order to bestow His life-giving Holy Spirit and His peace upon the Church. To those who are called and ordained to this office, and to those they serve in His name, He grants the Holy Absolution of all sins. By the fruits of His cross, He replaces fear and doubt with peace and joy, and thus gives "*repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins*" (Acts 5: 31). Through the preaching of His sent ones, He calls us to believe that He "*is the Christ, the Son of God,*" so that by such faith we "*may have life in his name*" (John 20: 31). In His resurrection, we have the "*living hope*" to which we have been "*born again*" and by which we are guarded "*for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*" (1 Peter 1: 3, 5). Until then, "*though you have not seen him, you love him,*" and by the mercies of God "*you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory*" (1 Peter 1: 8).

Divine Service IV

Hymn: “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

LSB 480

Confession and Absolution (p.203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 148

Kyrie (p. 204)

Gloria In Excelsis (p.204)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 205)

P The Lord be with You

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading: *Acts 5:29–42*

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them

alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

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 Peter 1:3–9*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p.205)

Holy Gospel: *John 20:19–31*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office Hymn: “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

LSB 470

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.208)

Sanctus (p.208)

Prayers of Thanksgiving (p. 209)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.209)

The Words of Our Lord (p.209)

Pax Domini (p. 209)

Agnus Dei (p.210)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LSB 790

“These Things Did Thomas Count as Real”

LSB 472

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”

LSB 464

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray: with thanksgiving for faithful parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and other role models who help to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22: 6).
- Remember Danielle and her twin girls. Lord, please watch over these sweet baby girls. Keep them safe in your loving arms. Help them to grow healthy and strong.
- Remember Leta Ebbens family. Please keep Leta Ebben’s family in your thoughts and prayers as they walk through this season of loss. May they find comfort, strength, and peace each day.

Starting on Sunday, April 19th,

Church Services, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will be at Bethlehem.

8:00 am Church Service

9:15 am Sunday School (both congregations)

9:15 am Adult Bible Study (both congregations)

10:30 am Church Service

Due to the Refresh Project



This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Mon.	April 13	Elders Mtg	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Mon.	April 13	Council Mtg	7: 00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	April 14	Elders Mtg	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	April 14	Council Mtg	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	April 15	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	April 15	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	April 16	Chimes	5: 30 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	April 19	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 19	Beth & STJ Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 19	Beth Quarterly Voters' Mtg	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 19	Worship Service	10: 30am
Beth:	Sun.	April 19	St. John Quarterly Voters' Mtg	11: 45am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	April 19	Acolyte: Isaac Kosik Greeters: Dan and Jane Becker
STJ:	Sun.	April 19	Acolyte: Lauryn Hartwig

Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 19th. Bethlehem will have the meeting at 9: 15 am. St. John will have the meeting at 11: 45 am.



Welcome to our new members: We are blessed to welcome you into our fellowship. May you find encouragement, friendship, and opportunities to serve as we grow together in faith.

Beth: Dalton Feddick STJ: Robert Strunk

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” (Romans 15: 7)

Kwik Trip Gift Card available at Bethlehem. When you purchase a Kwik Trip gift card through us, you will be donating 5-15% back to our church. There are multiple cards on hand, but if you would like to order card(s), please fill out a pre-order form and give to Deana Parker, Marlene Schreiber or Lori Schmitt.

KWIKTRIP



Thank you to those who donated to the Mroczenski Mission.

The Sunday School was able to donate \$325.00!
God Is Good!



STJ Lawn Mowing: It is that time of year! YES! Warmer weather is coming. Please consider helping and sign up. The sign-up sheet is located on the table in the carport area. Thank you Trustees

Thank you St. John Lutheran Church for your generous \$680 contribution in support of **The Lutheran Hour**. We could not do this work without members like you.

Thank you

Life Date Spring 2026 Edition is available on the Lutherans For Life website or find a copy in the Church Narthex.

Portals of Prayer for April – June 2026 are available at church. If you have past issues of Portals of Prayers, please place them in the basket located in the carport area at St. John or Bethlehem members can place them in the church secretary's black bin.

DATE CORRECTION The **LWML, North Wisconsin Zone 10 Spring Rally** will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, WI on **Thursday, April 23, 2026**. Registration begins at 5 pm with Rally starting at 5:30 pm with devotions, Bible Study, Bridge Street Mission center presentation and business meeting. A light sandwich lunch will be served from 5:00p to 5:30p. Registration fee is \$5. Please see the April Newsletter for directions, and the "Gifts From the Heart Wish List".

LCMS Worker Wellness:

April is a full month of celebration — both in our Risen Lord and in the work that He still accomplishes through His church. We recognize and give thanks to God for the many volunteers who keep our congregations running smoothly.

Visit [lcms.org/workerwellness](https://www.lcms.org/workerwellness) for more details.



We also give thanks to our organists who fill our churches with beautiful music and songs every Sunday. We will be celebrating Delores and Gloria on April 26, 2026.

Available for viewing on the bulletin board:

- ✓ **Mroczenski Missionary Monthly** – March 2026 Edition.
- ✓ **Life News** – April 2026 Edition. Also available on the Lutherans For Life website