

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

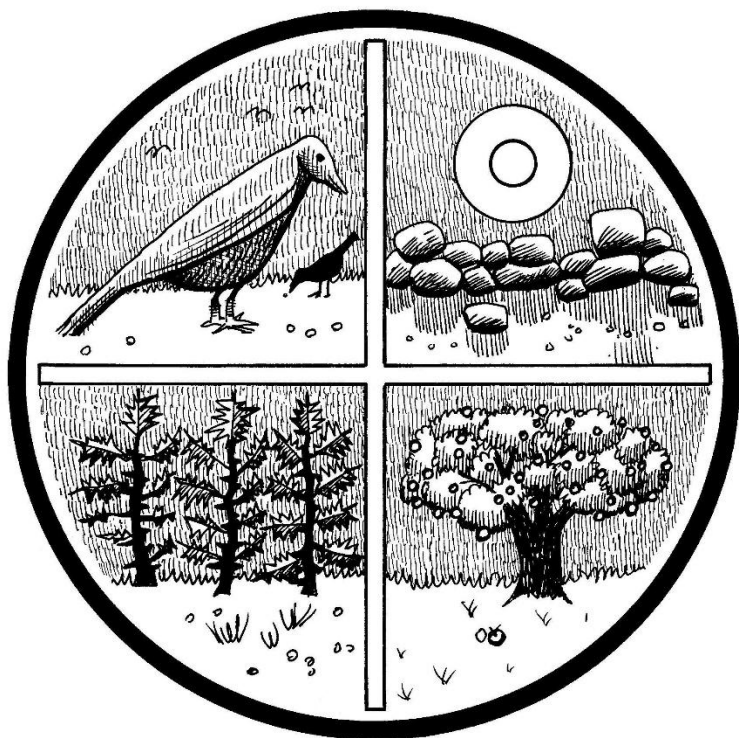
~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

*[www.stjbeth.org](http://www.stjbeth.org)*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
233500 County Rd E  
Milan, WI 54411

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



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 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 Thoughts: July 12 – Pentecost 7** – Oh, how many sins against life occur because the devil has snatched the Word of God from peoples' hearts and because the cares of this earthly life choke out the Word (Matthew 13: 19-22)! We are often tempted to withhold preaching the Word to some, thinking that we know which people will believe and bear fruit. However, God calls us to continue casting out His Word onto every type of soil, knowing that His Word never returns to Him empty and will accomplish His purpose (Isaiah 55: 11), sometimes in the most unlikely of places.

**Life Quotes: July 12** “Realistically, most of us will never be more than ordinary, but that doesn't mean we're useless. God works through the ordinary, the mundane, and the commonplace. He worked through Esther, and He works through you to bless others in ways you may never know.” *Grace MacPherson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**LCMS National Mission: July 12 –Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Romans 8:12** – “So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.” We owe the flesh, the world and the devil nothing at all. We are not debtors to these enemies; we are freed by the blood of Christ. We are joyful servants in Christ's kingdom — servants that He calls friends. We share our Lord's plans and purposes, and this gives direction and purpose to our lives.

## Divine Service IV

*Hymn: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

LSB 686

### Confession and Absolution (p. 203)

### Service of the Word

Psalm 65

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

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament: *Isaiah 55:10–13*

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Gradual**

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

**To him be glory forever. Amen.**

**Epistle:**           *Romans 8:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia and Verse** (p. 205)

**The Holy Gospel:**       *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil

one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostle's Creed (p.207)

*Office Hymn:* “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

LSB 577

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:*

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

LSB 641

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LSB 790

“Hark, the Voices of Jesus Calling”

LSB 827

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

*Hymn:* “All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine”

LSB 815

# Announcements

## Prayers



- Remember in our prayers our home bound members
- Pray for the Vacation Bible School Volunteers, that they may be strengthened, inspired, and equipped as they communicate God's love to these students.
- Pray for our Vacation Bible School Students, that they would understand the love of God and want to live their lives for Him.

## This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

|       |       |         |                                              |                  |
|-------|-------|---------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Beth: | Mon.  | July 13 | VBS                                          | 4: 30p – 7: 00 p |
| Beth: | Mon.  | July 13 | Elder Mtg                                    | 6: 00 pm         |
| Beth: | Mon.  | July 13 | Council Mtg                                  | 7: 00 pm         |
| Beth: | Tues. | July 14 | VBS                                          | 4: 30p – 7: 00 p |
| STJ:  | Tues. | July 14 | Elder Mtg                                    | 6: 00 pm         |
| STJ:  | Tues. | July 14 | Council Mtg                                  | 7: 00 pm         |
|       | Fri.  | July 17 | LWML Brat, Hot Dog,<br>Pie & Baked Good Sale | 10: 30a – 5: 00p |
| STJ:  | Sat.  | July 18 | Window Replacement                           | 8: 00 am         |
| STJ:  | Sat.  | July 18 | VBS all staff<br>meeting/decorating          | 9: 00 am         |

## Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

|                                                                                       |      |         |                 |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|-----------------|-----------|
| Beth:                                                                                 | Sun. | July 19 | Worship Service | 8: 00 am  |
| <i>Acolyte: Bailey Schreiber Greeters: Bart &amp; Brittany Schreiber &amp; family</i> |      |         |                 |           |
| STJ:                                                                                  | Sun. | July 19 | Worship Service | 10: 30 am |
| <i>Acolyte: Isabelle Kramp</i>                                                        |      |         |                 |           |

**Quarterly Voters Meeting 11:45 am**



**IMPORTANT  
UPDATE**

## **NO QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING AT BETHLEHEM**

## **Bethlehem VBS Shipwrecked - Rescued by God**



This week, July 13th and 14th from 4: 30-7: 00. Join us for two fun-filled days of Vacation Bible School where kids will learn to trust God through life's storms.

## **LWML Brats and Hot Dogs, Pies and Baked Goods Sale**

**Date:** Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10: 30 am to 5: 00 pm

**Where:** Cenex, Hwy 13, Dorchester

Sponsored by Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)  
from area Lutheran Missouri Synod churches



How can you help?

- Donate pies (using disposable pie tins & identify the flavor)
- Donate baked goods (identify the type)
- Attend and/or help at the sale



**Portals of Prayer** for July – September are available.

**July Newsletters are available.**

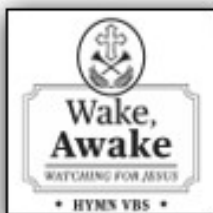
## **Join as a volunteer for St. John's window replacement project**

**When:** Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8: 00 AM

**Rain Date:** Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

**Who:** Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome to assist with the window replacement. Volunteers are needed to help with removing the old windows, installing the new windows and general clean-up.

If interested in volunteering, contact Pete.



## **St. John VBS: Wake, Awake, Watching for Jesus Hymn VBS**

is July 20-24, 9: 00am- Noon. Please contact Traci if you can help, would like to register a child, or if you have any questions.

**St. John VBS Missions:** We will be supporting two local missions this year. We will be supporting The **North Wisconsin District LCMS Disaster Relief** for the Ringle tornado with a monetary donation, and we will be donating food items to the local food pantries. Look for the donation boxes at church. Please help support our VBS with your donations.

## **DATES to SAVE:**

**St. John VBS all staff meeting and decorating:** July 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 am

## Quarterly Voters' Meeting at St. John on July 19<sup>th</sup> after church service.

### Still collecting:

- ✓ Prescription Pill Bottles (labels removed and rinsed)
- ✓ Old issues of Portals of Prayer

Any questions ask Arlette or Jeff.

### Church Office Information

- ✓ Large Print Divine Service Setting binder is available in the back of church at St. John
- ✓ Weekly announcements due by Wednesday
- ✓ August Newsletter announcements are due by July 27th
- ✓ Check out the Church's Facebook page for upcoming events
- ✓ Any corrections on member information please let the church secretary know ( address, phone number, email address changes, etc.)
- ✓ Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.

### Liturgical Glossary

*Kyrie eleison* (KEE-ree-ay ay-LAY-ee-zon) From the Greek, it is a direct address to God, meaning "Lord, have mercy." The ten lepers, blind man Bartimaeus, and others addressed Jesus with these words. The Kyrie appears early in the Divine Service. It is not part of the confession of sins but a cry to God to have mercy on us and all humanity.

