

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
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St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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 5 – Pentecost 6 – Sin dwells in each one of us so that even when we desire to do what is right, we are seldom able to do it without stain (Romans 7: 18). Therefore, even Christians fall into sins which dehumanize our neighbors. We treat others differently or harbor hatred toward them because of their race, political views, past sins, etc. Thanks be to God that He is pleased to reveal His salvation to us in His Son, Jesus Christ, forgiving our sins, delivering us from the power of sin, and considering us as His own beloved children (Matthew 11: 25-27; Romans 7: 25).

Life Quotes: July 5 “The Fourth of July is an ideal time to thank God if you have a good homeland ... or in the U.S., a free country. What a blessing! Just like Job or Jonah, this isn't the case for everyone. And we should continually pray for those whose homelands or countries are ravaged by war, politics, or disease. Praise God for giving us a country where we can worship Him and live our lives in relative freedom and peace.” *Katrina Harrmann, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: July 5 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 11:28 – “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Jesus has come to do the work so that we might have rest from burdens and labors we are not capable of bearing. He frees us from sin, death and the demands of the Law. In that peace and rest of Jesus we find a new purpose — His light yoke is not a burden to bear, but a joy!

Divine Service IV

Hymn: “Before You, Lord, We Bow”

LSB 966

Confession and Absolution (p. 203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 145:1-14

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

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life’s end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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: *Zechariah 9:9–12*

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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 7:14–25a*

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 11:25-30*

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

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

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in

heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office Hymn: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

LSB 699

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:

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

LSB 622

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

LSB 662

“Be Still, My Soul”

LSB 752

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “God Bless Our Native Land”

LSB 965

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our home bound members
- Remember God’s work through the Synod’s church workers as you pray: for the Synod’s pastors, that they would hold fast to the Word of God and find strength to continue preaching God’s truth in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

	July 6-8	Pastor at Continuing Education Class	
STJ:	Mon. July 6	Able-Light	10:00 am
STJ:	Tues. July 7	VBS Planning Mtg.	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed. July 8	CWIA	1:00 pm
Beth:	Sat. July 11	Ortman Funeral	11:00 am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun. July 12	Worship Service	8:00 am
<i>Acolyte: Kelly Mathey Greeters: Deana & Scott Parker</i>			
STJ:	Sun. July 12	Worship Service	10:30 am
<i>Acolyte: Cale Koch</i>			



Quarterly Voters' Meeting July 19th: St. John 11:45am

NO VOTERS MEETING AT Bethlehem

Bethlehem VBS Shipwrecked - Rescued by God

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. Enjoy Bible stories, music, crafts, and games in an exciting, shipwrecked adventure! Anyone willing to help, please contact Janessa, Tammi, Beth or Patti.



LWML Brats and Hot Dogs, Pies and Baked Goods Sale

Date: Friday, July 17th

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.

Undie Sunday – A big THANK YOU to everyone that supported Undie Sunday. We collected 342 pairs of ladies, and men's underwear and t-shirts, girls' and boys' underwear and ladies, men, and kids' socks. Thank you, Jeff and Arlette

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

When: Saturday, July 18th, starting at 8:00 AM

Rain Date: Saturday, July 25th

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. We will have donation boxes starting Sunday, July 5. Please help support our VBS with your donations.

DATES to SAVE St. John VBS:

VBS Planning meeting: July 7th at 6 pm

VBS all staff meeting and decorating: July 18th at 9 am



Edgar Parade Float: The theme was “fishers of men”, which will be a story in our VBS. Thanks to all the people that borrowed the boat to us, decorated and rode in the parade. The children were armed with bubble guns and were shooting the entire route.

Still collecting: Any questions ask Arlette or Jeff.

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

Liturgical Glossary

Absolution – Following the confession of sins, the Absolution pronounces God's forgiveness either in a direct form (“I absolve/forgive you”) or in a declarative form (“God forgives you all your sins”). The word comes from the Latin, absolvere, which means “to loosen, set free, or absolve” (Jn 20: 23).

Church secretary will be **out of the office** July 7th – July 10th returning on the 14th.



LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Obey God Rather Than Man

After the Ascension, Peter and the Apostles boldly preached the good news of Jesus, drawing crowds hungry for healing and hope. Their witness angered the rulers, who arrested and imprisoned them to silence the gospel. But God sent His angel to free them, commanding them to return to the Temple and speak “all the words of this Life.” Released by God, they continued proclaiming Christ with courage, refusing to be silenced by earthly authority.

Their defiance was not rebellion for rebellion’s sake. It was faithful resistance—obedience to divine authority when human authority attempted to overstep its God-given bounds. The Apostles honored earthly rulers where they could, but they refused to surrender the proclamation of Christ, the worship of God, or the conscience bound to His Word.

So it remains today. God’s people do not resist government simply because they dislike its decrees. Christian disobedience is never rooted in pride or stubbornness; it is grounded in obedience to God. Civil government possesses legitimate, limited authority, but it is not ultimate. When the state issues rules or regulations that contradict God’s commands, we obey God, not man.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for Religious Liberty.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



<https://www.lcrlfreedom.org>