

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

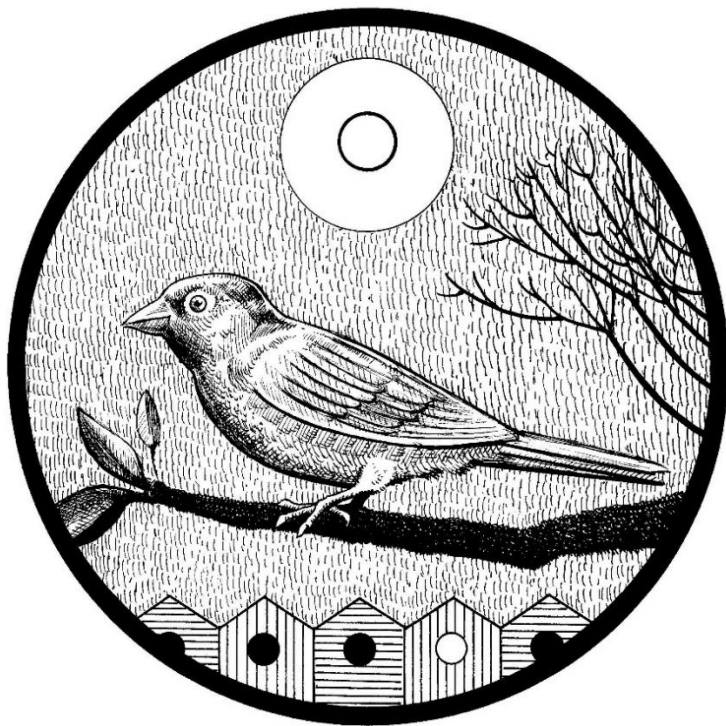
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 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: June 21 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost – “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions” (Romans 6: 12). Our world has been a culture of death since sin entered through Adam. We seek to make our passions our gods. We make our hobbies, careers, lifestyles, plans, and happiness all gods. But what happens when God throws us an unexpected gift? Will we rejoice, or will we destroy? That gift may be a spouse, it may be a child, it may be a friend in need, or it may be time with a dying family member. But will we stop and enjoy the time God gives, or will we hurry the “inevitable” and seek to destroy what God has given? Cain was warned that he must rule over sin and he didn't, thus the blood of his brother cried out from the ground. Seek God's gift of Life so that He may bless you with His grace and mercy and you may live with Him eternally.

Life Quotes: June 21 “Committed, present, and selfless fathers are the antidote to the culture that has embraced abortion. If we want to end abortion and restore a culture of life, then we need men to embrace fatherhood. We need to take on the great mission, the life-long quest of courage, servitude, and faith. So, let's cheer on fathers for the amazing work they do. They're shaping the future, one day at a time, with God's love as their guide.” *Jeff Gunnarson, Campaign Life Coalition – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*
lutheransforlife.org

LCMS National Mission: June 21 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 6: 13 – “Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.” Everything we have — even our own existence, our very selves — is a gift from God to be used for His purposes. God has called you to be His own and has given you tasks to perform in home, in church and in society. How will you serve Him today?

RESPONSIVE PRAYER 2 (pg. 285)

Opening Hymn: “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

LBS 570

Opening Versicles (pg. 285)

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 91:1-10

Old Testament: *Jeremiah 20:7-13*

⁷O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! “Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my close friends, watching for my fall. “Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹²O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: *Romans 6:12-23*

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as

those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 10:5a, 21-33*

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning in the fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .

²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the

house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn: “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns” LSB 532

Kyrie:

L O Lord,	C have mercy.
L O Christ,	C have mercy.
L O Lord,	C have mercy.

The Lord’s Prayer (pg. 285 or the back cover of the hymnal)

Apostles’ Creed (pg. 286 or the back cover of the hymnal)

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

Sermon

Offering

Versicles (pg. 286)

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C **let my cry come to You.**

L In the day of my trouble I call upon You,

C **for You answer me.**

L Hide Your face from my sins,

C **and blot out all my iniquities.**

L Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C **and renew a right spirit within me.**

L Cast me not away from Your presence,

C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

L Because Your steadfast love is better than life,

C my lips will praise Thee.

L For You have been my help,

C and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.

L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;

C unite my heart to fear Your name.

L I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

C and I will glorify Your name forever.

L May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

C May those who love Your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”

L Save Your people and bless Your heritage!

C Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

L Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

C listen to my plea for grace.

Collects/Prayers (respond with “Amen” at the end of each Collect.)

Morning Prayer (pg. 287)

All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus & Blessing:

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

LSB 923

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our home bound members
- Please keep Pastor, Deb, Ronda, Kelly, Lauryn, Jady, Isabelle and Kassidy all in your prayers as they travel and experience the Higher Things Conference.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Youth Group at Higher Things Conference June 21st – June 26th

STJ:	Sun.	June 21	Edgar Parade	1: 00 pm
STJ:	Mon.	June 22	Able-Light	10: 00 am
	Fri.	June 26	DCE Appreciation Day	

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	June 28	Worship Service	8: 00 am
			<i>Acolyte: Aleah Kosik Greeters: Cory & Amy Broeske</i>	
Beth:	Sun.	June 28	Worship Service	10: 30 am
			<i>Acolyte: Lexie Noller</i>	



Portals of Prayer for July – September are available.

Thank you St. John Quilters for my graduation gift. – Micah Schulz

Edgar parade Today at 1: 00 pm

Quarterly Voters' Meeting July 19th

Beth: 9: 15 am
St. John: 11: 45 am



St. John Sunday School Missions St. John Sunday School has given \$55.96 (undies and socks) to the Orphan Grain Train. Our students faithfully bring offerings to Sunday School, and we share Jesus by giving to others. Praise the Lord!



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.



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.

Higher Things Youth Conference in St. Louis, MO at Washington University. If you haven't already, please join the Youth Facebook group. We will give updates, pics and some live videos of the trip. We appreciate all the support our congregations have given to us to help us attend this event.

June 26th is DCE Appreciation Day. Do you know what a DCE is? DCE stands for director of Christian education. They serve as lifespan ("cradle to grave") Christian educators, who typically serve within congregations and their ministries. Through their leadership and service, they assist and support pastors as they teach the faith to children, youth and adults. If you're blessed with a DCE at your congregation or school, please take some time to show your gratitude for all that he or she does!

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

LIFEDATE is Lutherans For Life's quarterly journal of news and commentary offering a biblical Law/Gospel perspective on life issues, such as abortion, post abortion, adoption, end of life, bioethics, creation, family life, worldview and culture, and more. Our summer 2026 theme: **God Said ... And It Was So.** You can download your copy at <http://lutheransforlife.org/article/lifedate-summer-2026-god-said-and-it-was-so/>