

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

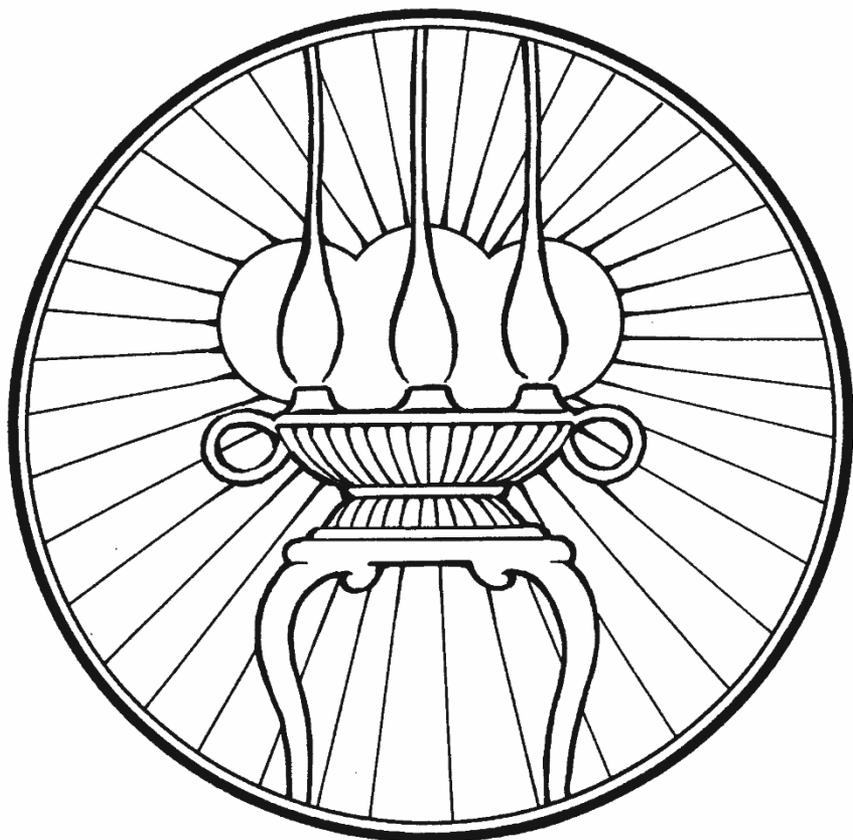
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 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: February 8 "God loves you in your vulnerability so much that He subjected Himself to conform to a vulnerable human body. So today ... remember that Jesus, in whom all things hold together, loves you, individually. He is fully present with you just as He was in His mother's arms. God's peace be with you this day, this night." *Andrea Delwiche – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: – (Epiphany 5) "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). God's people do wonderful things before the world: march for life, support local pregnancy resource centers, speak up on behalf of the unborn and vulnerable. However, we must always remember that we are to shine our light before men, not to earn favor with men or with God. Such self-serving works "will not make your voice be heard on high" (Isaiah 58:4). Instead, knowing Christ crucified and having the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:2, 16), we let our light shine before men to give glory to God (Matthew 5:16), that all might have life now and forever.

Church Cancellation Procedure

PLEASE NOTE: If there is a need to cancel Church Services or Meetings due to bad weather, you can find out by checking waow.com (Channel 9) or wsaw.com (Channel 7). Every effort will also be made to change the message on St. John's answering machine as soon as possible, and please, if you are not comfortable with the weather conditions, be safe and stay home!

Divine Service I

Hymn: “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” LSB 560

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 112:1-9

Kyrie (p.152)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.154)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day

will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,

a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,

and a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual:

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle: *1 Corinthians 2:1–16*

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden

wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *Matthew 5:13–20*

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

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

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

17“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office Hymn: “Thy Strong Word”

LSB 578

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.162)

The Words of Our Lord (p.162)

Pax Domini (p. 163)

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling”

LSB 630

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728

“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”

LSB 848

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

LSB 650

Announcements

Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ We ask for your prayers for the Brown family as they mourn the passing of their loved ones. May God's love surround them and bring them peace in the days ahead.
- ❖ Remember God's love and will for children and families as you pray for widows, that they might know Christ as their faithful bridegroom who will supply for their needs as they live their lives in prayer and purity.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Feb. 9	Quilters	9:00 am
Beth:	Mon.	Feb. 9	Elder Mtg	6:00 pm
Beth	Mon.	Feb. 9	Council Mtg	7:00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Feb. 10	Elder Mtg	6:00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Feb. 10	Council Mtg	7:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 11	CWIA	1:00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Feb. 11	Chimes	5:30 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 11	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 11	Youth Group	6:00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	Feb. 12	LifeLight Bible Study	10:30 am
STJ:	Thurs.	Feb. 12	LifeLight Bible Study	6:30 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Sunday School	9:15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Sunday School	9:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Worship Service	10:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Adult Bible Study	11:45 am
STJ:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Higher Things Mtg	6:00 pm

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Acolyte: Aubree Kirschner
			Greeters: Shane, Patti Hammel & family
STJ:	Sun.	Feb. 15	Acolyte: Lauryn Hartwig

Thank you to all who donated plastic bags. Fifty-five mats have been made. The goal is to make 100 mats. Keep bringing plastic bags.

Bethlehem LWML would like to express heartfelt thanks for your incredible support, which generated \$366.50 through resale sales.



Super Bowl party: Youth are invited to Pastor & Deb's house TODAY at 5:00pm to watch the commercials & the game! Bring a snack or dessert to share. Chili & drinks will be provided!

EDITED TIME: Youth Group will be hosting a Soup Supper

Date: Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Where: Bethlehem

Time: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Menu Items: Potato Soup, Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Salad and Desserts.



Bethlehem/St. John Quilters are asking for good, used flat sheets to help with our quilting mission. Please bring sheets to church at any time. Thanks.



St. John Window Project Help We hope to replace 5 more windows this summer, but since this is a non-budgeted expense, we need your help to do it! If you would like to donate to this project in whole (about \$5000 total) or in part, please see Pete VanDerLeest asap.

SAVE THE DATE: *Buckets O' Blarney Trivia Contest Fundraiser* will be Friday, March 13, 2026. More details to come in the upcoming weeks.



Lutheran Hour: The following dates are available to sponsor May 3, 24 & 31, June 28, August 23 & 30, September 6 & 13, and December 13.

Church secretary's office hours for the week of February 8th.
Office Hours: Monday from 11 am to 2 pm,
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to noon.

Available for viewing on the bulletin board:

- ✓ **North Wisconsin District Annual Report** prepared by District President Rev. Timothy Shoup.
- ✓ **Mroczenski Missionary Monthly** – January 2026 Edition.
- ✓ **Life News** – February 2026 Edition.

Love like Jesus