

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



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 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 19 – Pentecost 8 – The devil sowed his evil seed of suffering and death into the world by convincing Adam to doubt and disobey God's Word (Matthew 13: 39). The sons of the evil one (Matthew 13: 38) would convince us that we could avoid the sufferings of this present time (Romans 8: 18) by embracing death through abortion, suicide, and euthanasia. But, God, who is our Rock (Isaiah 44: 8), promises us true redemption from suffering through the blood of Christ, in whom we are adopted as God's children and have the promise of the resurrection of our bodies (Romans 8: 23).

Life Quotes: July 19 "Each of us amounts to more than assorted cells, isolated fluids, and random spasms. Human means—in every case—a character, with an emerging identity, disclosing a history, developing toward an intended destiny. Every life is a story." *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: July 19 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost *Romans 8: 18* – "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel — if we keep our focus on "the glory to be revealed," we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

Divine Service IV

Hymn: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

LSB 892

Confession and Absolution (p. 203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 119:57-64

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

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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 44:6–8*

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

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 8:18–27*

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the

weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.207)

Office Hymn: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

LSB 770

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:

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

LSB 642

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

LSB 700

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

LSB 575

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)
Post Communion Collect (p.212)
Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

LSB 761

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

STJ:	Sun.	July 19	Quarterly Voters' Mtg	11:45 am
STJ:	Mon.	July 20	Able- Light	10:00 am
STJ:	Mon.	July 20	VBS	9 am – Noon
STJ:	Tues.	July 21	VBS	9 am – Noon
STJ:	Wed.	July 22	VBS	9 am – Noon
STJ:	Thurs.	July 23	VBS	9 am – Noon
STJ:	Fri.	July 24	VBS	9 am – Noon
STJ:	Fri.	July 24	VBS Closing Program	6:00 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. July 26 Worship Service 8:00 am

Acolyte: Kylee Johnson

Greeters: Darelene Wittlinger & Donna Solchenberger

STJ: Sun. July 26 Worship Service 10:30 am

Acolyte: Lauryn Hartwig

NO Quarterly Voters' Meeting at Bethlehem

TODAY! Quarterly Voters' Meeting at St. John.

July 19th after church service.

Still collecting:

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

Any questions ask Arlette or Jeff.



St. John VBS: Wake, Awake, Watching for Jesus Hymn VBS THIS WEEK

July 20-24, 9:00am- Noon. VBS Closing Program will be July 24th at 6 pm. 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.

Fresh Fruit is requested for St. John VBS:

- Popular options include apples, bananas, grapes, oranges, melon or berries.
- Drop off Dates: Monday or Tuesday at St. John Church
- Quantity: Any amount is welcome
- By bringing fruit, you'll help provide healthy snacks for children attending VBS. For any questions about drop off, contact Traci or Mary.



BETHLEHEM VBS: A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School such a wonderful experience! We are so grateful for our VBS staff, volunteers, and everyone who gave their time, talents, supplies, and support to help create a fun and faith-filled VBS where the children learned that God is always with us and rescues us through every storm.



Concordia Publishing House is offering 20% off Lutheran Service Book (LSB) pew edition hymnals for a limited time.

The hymnals are \$20 each. If interested in purchasing a hymnal, please sign up on the order form located in the narthex. Last day to sign up is Monday, July 27th. *Payment will be due when you pick up the hymnal.*





Dual Parish Picnic and Church Service

August 9, 2026, hosted by St. John.

Divine Service will be in the Sanctuary at St. John at 10 am. Potluck lunch to follow.

More details to come.

Church Office Information

- ✓ 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 attendance pad.

Liturgical Glossary

Gloria in excelsis (GLOR-ee-ah in ex-SHELL-sis) Also known as the "greater doxology," this is the hymn of praise sung at the beginning of the Divine Service. It originates from the fourth century and has been in regular use for over a millennium. The canticle begins with the angel's song in Luke 2: 14 and then continues with a hymn of praise to the triune God, focusing chiefly on the saving work of Jesus, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." It is omitted during Advent, in anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, and during Lent, a season of penitence.