

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

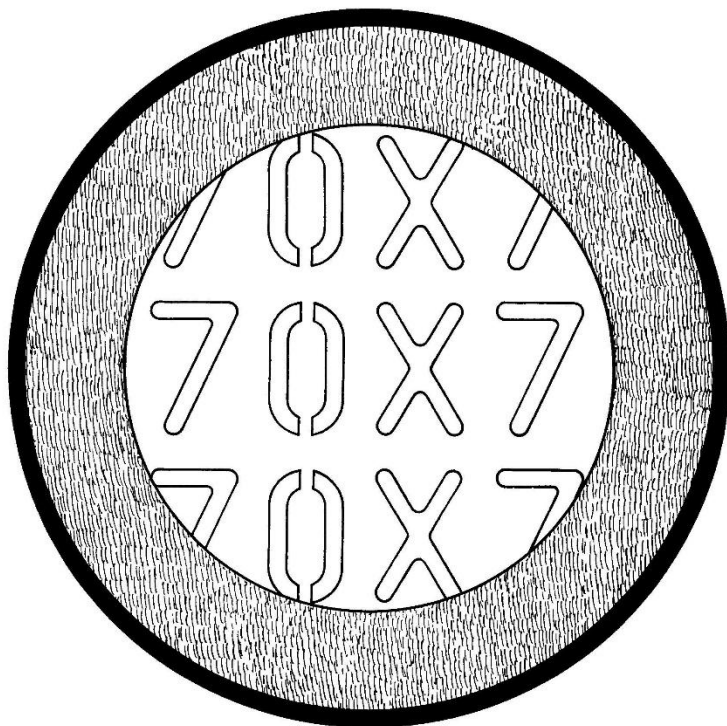
~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

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



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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: September 13 – Pentecost 16 – Joseph was a man wronged, repeatedly. However, as we find him in Genesis 50, those wrongs against him did not lead him to live with bitterness or a desire for revenge. Instead, we find that God provided him with patience and compassion even against those who had so terribly sinned against him. We are often quick to anger and slow to forgive. May He work patience and wisdom in our hearts when we hear about the numerous ways God's gifts are twisted. Thanks be to God that He is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103: 8).

Life Quotes: September 13 "Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!" *Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: September 13 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost Romans 14:7 – **"For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself."** We just don't belong to ourselves — we belong first of all to God, and through Him, we belong to our neighbors. We are here to serve God in our service to one another. God has called you to this service through your vocation: as a Christian you serve others in the church, as a neighbor you serve others in society, and as a son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, you serve your family.

Divine Service III

Hymn: "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

LSB 606

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184) installation

Service of the Word

Psalm 103:1-12

Kyrie (p.186)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.187)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament *Genesis 50:15–21*

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Fear the Lord, you his saints,

for those who fear him lack nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Alleluia (p.190)

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven

times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Office Hymn: “Come Down, O Love Divine”

LSB 501

Sermon

Offertory (p.192)

Installation of Sunday School Staff

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.194)

Sanctus (p.195)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.196)

The Words of Our Lord (p.197)

Pax Domini (p. 197)

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” LSB 621

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul” LSB 814

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” LSB 685

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Thanksgiving (p.200)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Salutation and Benedicamus (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: “Where Charity and Love Prevail” LSB 845

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Rejoice in God’s goodness in Christ as you pray: Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Pray that He would keep all in the true faith.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 13	Sunday School Rally	12: 30 pm
Beth:	Mon.	Sept. 14	Elder Meeting	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Mon.	Sept. 14	Council Meeting	7: 00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Sept. 15	Elder Meeting	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Sept. 15	Council Meeting	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Sept. 16	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Sept. 16	Youth Bible Study	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Sept. 16	LifeLight	7: 00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Sept. 17	LifeLight	10: 30 am
Beth:	Thurs.	Sept. 17	Dual Council Mtg	7: 00pm
Beth:	Fri.	Sept. 18	Wedding Rehearsal	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Sat.	Sept. 19	Wedding	2: 30 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 20	Worship Service	8: 00 am
			Sunday School	9: 15 am
			Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 20	Worship Service	10: 30 am
			Sunday School	9: 30 am
			Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am

Upcoming Dual Parish Meetings

*Dual Council Meeting September 17 at 7pm at Bethlehem

*Dual Parish Meeting October 11 at 7pm at St. John

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth: Sun. Sept. 20 Acolyte: Kylee Johnson
Greeters: Adam & Marya Viegut
STJ: Sun. Sept. 20 Acolyte: Kassidy Thompson

Sunday School Kickoff Rally TODAY, September 13th



At Bethlehem Lutheran Church starting at 12:30 with a potluck lunch at 1:00. Please come for fun, fellowship and food. Everyone is welcome. Board of Education will be providing smoked pulled pork, hot dogs, buns, condiments and beverages. Potluck sign-up sheet available at church.

St. John Sunday School Staff installed today:

Teachers: Mary S., Joan C., & Traci P.
Youth Bible Study: Aaron N.
Substitute Teacher and Helpers: Danni Seibert & Sam V.
Youth Teacher and Leader: Deb M.
Music: Delores T. & Aaron N.
Co-superintendents: Mary S. & Traci P.



St John's Congregation Harvest Supper Continue to keep this event in your prayers. Clear your calendars for October 1- 3, 2026 and visit the sign-up sheets to see where you can share your time. There are many positions available, where an extra set of hands will make the projects go faster. Contact Nancy Witucki or Mary Schultz with questions.



Volunteers are needed for the Bethlehem Soup Supper. Dates for the Soup Supper are December 4th and 5th. We need a list of people who would be interested in helping us November 30th thru December 4th with the Soup Supper prep. We have some key people with health issues & can't do it alone. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the Narthex. Please consider volunteering.

Kwik Trip Gift Card available at Bethlehem.

When you purchase a Kwik Trip gift card through us, you will be donating 5-15% back to our church. There are multiple cards on hand, but if you would like to order card(s), please fill out a pre-order form located on the table.



*Thank
You!*

St. John VBS received a thank you card from Stratford Community Food Pantry. They are very thankful for your support. They provide food to 35-40 families a month. All donations are so much appreciated. It is even more special when our young community members help out.



Sunday School starts today, September 13th.

Bethlehem at 9: 15 am

St. John at 9: 30 am

Bethlehem Sunday School:

Sunday School starts September 13th. We are looking for teachers and helpers who are willing to share their time and faith with our children. Whether you can teach every Sunday or help occasionally, your willingness to serve can make a lasting difference in a child's life. No experience is necessary—lesson materials and support are provided. If you are able to help, please speak with Patti, Janessa, Tammi or Beth.

Confirmation Classes (grades 6th - 8th)

This week starts on September 16th at Bethlehem starting at 6 pm.
Any questions ask Pastor Mathey.

Youth Bible Study (grades 9th - 12th)

This week starts on September 16th at Bethlehem at 6pm. Any questions ask Deb Mathey.

LifeLight Bible Study

First day of class will be Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm at Bethlehem or Thursday, September 17th at 10: 30am at St. John.

Adult Bible Study Classes will start on Sunday, September 20th.

Bethlehem at 9: 15 am

St. John at 11: 45 am

HOPE

IT'S IN OUR BLOOD

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Blood Drive

WHEN & WHERE

Sat, October 17
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Road E, Milan

*Blood
donation tips*



Eat a healthy meal &
drink plenty of water
before donating.



Wear a shirt with
short or easy-to-
roll sleeves.



Don't forget to
bring your ID.



◀ **Schedule your appointment**
Appointments preferred.
Walk-ins welcome!



Give the Gift of Life! Every donation can help provide lifesaving blood to patients in our local hospitals and communities. If you are able, please consider giving the gift of life and encourage your family and friends to participate as well. Signup sheets are available at church or scan the QR code (above) or visit Versiti website.

LWML North WI Zone 10 Fall Rally on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Green Grove, Colby
Registration and Brunch: 8:00 am to 8:30 am. Fee is \$5.00 and includes morning brunch, the cost of the speaker and materials
The Christian Life Bible Study topic is “To Hear or Not to Hear”.
The “Gifts from the Heart” will be for the Concordia Theological Seminary, Food & Clothing Co-op in Fort Wayne, IN. Vicar Paul Mroczenski will give a presentation. Monetary donations will be accepted for mites. Check out the bulletin board for the letter invitation.

NWD Adult Gathering - October 12 in Eau Claire or October 13 in Weston Plan now to join us at one of the two Adult Gatherings being offered this fall! The first will be held on Monday, October 12, at Peace, Eau Claire and the second will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at Mount Olive, Weston.
Rev. Dr. Brian Gauthier, from the LCMS Office of International Mission, will present a message on “Unpacking Lutheran Mission” as he helps us understand not only missions, but the LCMS impact around the world, and how you and your congregation can make an impact. The \$35 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, and a catered lunch. Registration deadline is September 25. Registration forms are available in the narthex and under Events and Info at nwdlcms.org.

Liturgical Glossary

Nunc Dimittis (noonk di-MIT-iss) Latin for “now dismiss.” These are the words spoken by Simeon as he held the 40-day-old Jesus in his arms (Luke 2: 25—35). One of the New Testament canticles, it was traditionally used in the daily service of Compline and as an alternate to the Magnificat in Vespers. In the Lutheran Church it is also appointed for use following the distribution of the Lord's Supper.

From District President Shoup:

Have questions about how the LCMS is forming faithful pastors to meet the current and future demands of the holy ministry? Come and talk to the LCMS Pastoral Formation Committee, which includes the two seminary presidents, at the Listening Session hosted at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Ill., on Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. or at Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa, on Sunday, Nov. 15, 1–4 p.m.