

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



Seventh Sunday of Easter &

The Rite of Confirmation

May 17, 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: May 17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – “Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts!” (Psalm 68: 4). What a wonderful picture of Christ, God-in-the-flesh, who entered the desert wilderness of this world to bring light into the darkness and life to the dead! In a world that fosters a culture of death, Jesus came to give us eternal life. In Him, grace and peace rain down in abundance (Psalm 68: 9). What hope this brings to those who are suffering, facing an unexpected pregnancy, or have lost their mooring in life! Christ brings forgiveness and restoration. Although we endure fiery trials (1 Peter 4: 12), and the devil prowls like a roaring lion, seeking to devour (1 Peter 5: 8-9), yet by the power of God's Word, we resist him, firm in the faith. We are blessed as we follow Jesus, who suffered once for all on the cross, accomplishing the work that the Father gave Him to do (John 17: 4). Risen, ascended, and glorified, Jesus restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes us in the true faith (1 Peter 5: 10).

Life Quotes: May 17 “We are no longer terrified sinners but God's own children because of what Jesus has done for us. And so, the Day of Judgment becomes good news for us—because it is the day when the One we love most returns to bring us home in peace.” *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: May 17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Exaudi) 1 Peter 4: 10 – “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” God's grace is His undeserved mercy toward us. What do we have that is not a gift flowing from God's grace? He means for us to use all these gifts in service of our neighbor. The chief way we serve one another is by supporting the church's work: bringing more of God's grace to more of God's people. That's what it means to be a steward!

Divine Service I

Easter Greeting:

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C **He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**

Hymn: "Up through Endless Ranks of Angels" LSB 491

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalms 68:1-10

Kyrie (p.152)

This Is the Feast (p.155)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading: *Acts 1:12-26*

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who

became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’”

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual:

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle: *1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11*

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not

obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *John 17:1-11*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I

am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

BETH: Apostles’ Creed (p.159)

Office Hymn: “By All Your Saints in Warfare”

LSB 517

(stz. 1, 13, & 3)

Sermon

STJ: Rite of Confirmation (p. 272)

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Words of Our Lord (p.162)

Proclamation of Christ (p. 162)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.162)

Pax Domini (p. 163)

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

“Fight the Good Fight”

LSB 664

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

LSB 594

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God's work in His Church as you pray: that God would guide the consideration process according to His will
- Remember our graduates, pray for wisdom, guidance and blessings as they step into the next chapter of their lives.
- Remember the confirmands and the journey that has brought them here. Pray that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit — granting wisdom, courage, and a heart to serve. May they shine Christ's light in all they do, stand firm in faith, and walk closely with the Lord all their days.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	May 18	Able-Light	10:00 am
	Mon.	May 18	NWD Spring Pastor Conf.	
	Tues.	May 19	NWD Spring Pastor Conf.	

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	May 24	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 24	Worship Service	10:30 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	May 24	Acolyte: Bailey Schreiber
			Greeters: Nathan Kunze & Melaine Kunze
STJ:	Sun.	May 24	Acolyte: Cale Koch

Graduation Recognition Brunch is today at 9:30 am.

STJ: Quilts will be presented to the graduates.

Confirmation and First Communion is today, Sunday, May 17th.

SAVE THE DATE: 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.



Bethlehem Members: Dorean is collecting money for the flowers. Please place your donation in the basket on the table.

STJ Lawn Mowing: Warmer weather is coming. Please consider helping and sign up. Signup sheet available at Bethlehem or talk to Pete. -Thank you! Trustees



The Grain Train wishes to say THANK YOU to Janice Brown, Shirley Buss, and Arlette Molthen for the 214 crocheted hats and Sharon Ballerstein for the 70 plastic sleeping mats she crocheted. The hats were made from donated yarn. Anyone that has yarn they no longer want, even a small amount, please bring to church. Jeff W. will accept yarn at St. John.

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.



Ringle Disaster Response: Per the North Wisconsin District Happenings Newsletter. As recent devastation has impacted many within our district we give thanks to our merciful Lord that no lives were lost. Please keep all affected in your prayers. If you feel moved to support this mercy ministry of the North Wisconsin District, offerings can be sent to the District Office at: North WI District LCMS, 3103 Seymour Lane, Wausau, WI 544401 (memo line – Disaster Response), please make a note if designating to a specific disaster area.

Bethlehem LWML Ladies will be hosting Undie Sunday

Destitute people around the world need basic necessities. Thousands of people helped by The Grain Train do not have good underwear or socks. For Undie Sunday, please bring NEW underwear (all sizes, men's women's, girl's and boy's) and socks to church. Arlette will be collecting at Bethlehem and Jeff W. will collect at St. John. Undies and socks will be collected through Sunday, June 14th.



Presentation by Paul and Courtney Mroczenski on Sunday, May 31st in-between services. Please attend and hear about their service in Puerto Rico.

Church Secretary Hours for the week of May 17th
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to noon.



First
Communion
Confirmation

Congratulations to the Confirmands:

Lauryn Hartwig, Cale Koch,
Lexie Noller and Christian Pehlke

First Communion:

Aurbree Kirschner, Isabelle Kramp
and Kassidy Thompson.

GRADUATES



Bethlehem

Marcus Van Luven: graduating from Abbotsford High School with plans to attend Milwaukee School of Engineering for Biomedical

St. John

Cade Koch is graduating from Edgar High School with plans to enter the workforce.

Nicholas Pehlke is graduating from Veritas Scholars Academy with plans to attend Concordia University in Wisconsin, majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in cyber security.

Micah Schulz is graduating from Edgar High School with plans to attend Michigan Technological University, majoring in engineering.

Edgar Memorial Day Services 2026

The Edgar area Memorial Day Services will be conducted by the Edgar Sawyer-Drumm American Legion Post 393 and Edgar Memorial VFW Post 10187. They will pay tribute at the following cemeteries on Monday, May 25, 2026.

8: 30 am	Holy Family Church	Poniatowski
9: 00 am	St. John Lutheran Church (High Steeple)	Town of Wien
9: 20 am	Hope Lutheran	Hwy 97
9: 40 am	St. John Lutheran	Hwy N
9: 50 am	Joint Township	Town of Wein
10: 05 am	Village of Fenwood	Fenwood
11: 00 am	Edgar Veterans Memorial	Edgar Oak St. Park

After the ceremony at the Edgar Veterans Memorial, a parade in Edgar will start at the Oak Street Park and we will march to the Scotch Creek Bridge for a service for those who served on the water. From there we will proceed to the Edgar cemetery.

Our guest speaker at the Edgar cemetery will be Wisconsin State Representative John Spiros from Marshfield who represents the Wisconsin 86th District Assembly.

The Edgar Girl Scouts and the Edgar High School Band will also participate in the parade and ceremonies.