

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

[www.stjbeth.org](http://www.stjbeth.org)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
233500 County Rd E  
Milan, WI 54411

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



Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

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:** “Children brightly signaled hope in our sin-infested world of old—consider the births of Seth, Isaac, Moses, Samson, Samuel, John, and, finally, of course and paramount, Jesus. And we, too, must become as children.” *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*  
*[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Life Thoughts:** Advent 2 – We rejoice that God Himself defends the cause of the poor and needy (Psalm 72:4) and that He does this primarily through us, His saints. We must be careful, however, that we don't fall into self-righteousness and become a pharisaical “brood of vipers” (Matthew 3:7), always pointing out the sins of others while neglecting our own. Instead, as children of Abraham, we are all to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matthew 3:8), remembering that the things of God's Word were “written for our instruction” (Romans 15:4), as well as for the instruction of others.

## **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](http://waow.com) (Channel 9) or [wsaw.com](http://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 IV

*Hymn: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"*

LSB 345

### Confession and Absolution (p.203)

#### Service of the Word

Psalm 72: 1-7

Kyrie (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

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

#### Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's  
den.

<sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal  
for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting  
place shall be glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of  
Jerusalem.

**Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having  
salvation.**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

**Epistle:**           *Romans 15:4–13*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our  
instruction, that through endurance and through the  
encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the  
God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such  
harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that  
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has  
welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the  
circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the  
promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles  
might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup>And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

**Holy Gospel:** *Matthew 3:1–12*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,  
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.””

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid

to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (p.206)

*Office Hymn:* “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344

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:*

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

LSB 623

“Jesus Shall Reign”

LSB 832

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

LSB 515

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

*Hymn:* “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

## **Announcements**

### **Remember in our Prayers:**

- ❖ Our Shut-ins
- ❖ For hearts that imitate the generosity and graciousness of Jesus. Pray that God's people would be eager to show forth the love of God through their good works for their neighbor.

### **This Week at Bethlehem and St. John**

Beth:	Mon.	Dec. 8	Elder Mtg	6:00 pm
Beth:	Mon.	Dec. 8	Council Mtg	7:00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Dec. 9	Elder Mtg	6:00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Dec. 9	Council Mtg	7:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Dec. 10	CWIA	
Beth:	Wed.	Dec. 10	Advent Service	1:00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 10	Soup Supper	5:00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 10	Chimes	5:30 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 10	Confirmation	6:00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 10	Advent Service	7:00 pm
<i>Acolyte: Christian Pehlke</i>				
Beth	Fri.	Dec. 12	Soup, Craft and Bake Sale	9am–3 pm
Beth	Sat.	Dec. 13	Soup, Craft and Bake Sale	9am–3 pm

### **Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John**

Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 14	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 14	Children's special presentation after church	
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 14	Advent Program Practice	9:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 14	Worship Service	10:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 14	Adult Bible Study	11:45 am

### **Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters**

Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 14	Acolyte: Aleah Kosik
			Greeters: Alan and Lori Schmitt
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 14	Acolyte: Cale Koch

**Advent Devotional Booklets** are printed and available at church.

### **Advent Worship Schedule: December 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

Bethlehem	1:00pm
St. John	7:00pm

### **Christmas Worship Service Times**

#### **Christmas Eve**

Bethlehem	5:00pm
St. John	7:00pm

#### **Christmas Day**

Bethlehem	8:00 am
St. John	10:00 am

### **Bethlehem Poinsettia Orders**

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Deadline is TODAY, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$12. Please make checks payable to Marlene Schrieber.

### **Bethlehem Sunday School Christmas Worship Service**

Please join us **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** following the 8 a.m. service for a special presentation as our children share a joyful celebration of the CHRISTmas season through music and songs. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We will be having a light brunch following the presentation. Please invite your family and friends.

### **Bethlehem Soup, Bake and Craft Sale**

Soup Orders: To order your quart(s) of soup, call Dorean at 715-680-0078, before December 12<sup>th</sup> OR order forms available at church

Soup Pick Up: December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm.

Soups available: Chicken Dumpling, Chili, Sauerkraut Chili and Cheesy Broccoli Cauliflower.

**Each Bethlehem family** is asked to bring four dozen cookies to church for the Bake Sale by Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Advent Soup Supper at St. John**

**When:** 5:00- 6:30pm, Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Donations accepted for the youth attending Higher Things Gathering.

**December 10<sup>th</sup> Soups:** Hawaiian Chili and Beef Barley

**Put it on your calendar: December 23, 2025!** Red Robin will be giving 20% of the food sales on 12/23/25 to the Youth Group for their trip to the Higher Things Gathering. All you need to do is have a delicious meal at Red Robin and show the flyer or mention the fundraiser to your server.

**St. John Sunday School Holiday Mission:** Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable food, monetary donations to stock the shelves of the pantries for Christmas! All Non-Perishable items are accepted. Thank you for your support and generosity. There are several collection boxes throughout the back of church. Any questions, please contact Traci Pehlke.

### **Office Items:**

- ✓ Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.
- ✓ Check your church mailboxes, personal mailboxes, and email inboxes for your December Newsletter.
- ✓ Check out the Church's Facebook page for upcoming December events. Lot of great events happening!