

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 28, 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 “Being a child is a calling. Being a parent is a calling. Being a student is a calling. Being a citizen is a calling. Each so-called occupation is a calling. The role one fills in one's church is a calling. As God crafts each of us in our callings, He places us in the presence of neighbors whom we are to love on His behalf.” *Rev. Adam Osier, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Pentecost XVI (Proper 21C) – Abortion and physician-assisted suicide find their primary motivation in protecting leisure and luxury. The prophet Amos proclaims woe to such priorities (Amos 6:1), and the Apostle Paul warns Timothy that they invite evils (1 Timothy 6:10). Instead, we get to remind one another to “take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:19), namely the Savior and the neighbor right in front of us (Luke 16:20-22).

Divine Service IV

Hymn: “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord”

LSB 930

Confession and Absolution (p.203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 146

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, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; 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 Reading: *Amos 6:1–7*

¹“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!

²Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.

Are you better than these kingdoms?

Or is their territory greater than your territory,

³O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?

⁴“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,

⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,
⁶who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall
pass away.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual:

He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Epistle: *1 Timothy 6:6–19*

⁶Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in

unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

Holy Gospel: *Luke 16:19–31*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

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

¹⁹[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰And he

said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office Hymn: “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

LSB 708

Sermon

Installation of Sunday School Staff

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:

“What IS This Bread”

LSB 629

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

LSB 842

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

LSB 673

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “Fight the Good Fight”

LSB 664

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

- ❖ Our Shut-ins
- ❖ Pray for the strength to forgive people in your life. Ask God to give the faith necessary to forgive as He forgives.

Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

All Week			Harvest Dinner Prep	
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 1	LWML	10: 00 am
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 1	Chimes	5: 30 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 1	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 1	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 1	Lifelight Bible Study	7: 00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Oct. 2	LWML	9: 30 am
Beth:	Thurs.	Oct. 2	Lifelight Bible Study	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sat.	Oct. 4	Harvest Dinner	4: 30pm-6: 30pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 5	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 5	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 5	Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 5	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 5	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 5	Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 5	<i>Acolyte: Isaac Kosik</i>
			<i>Greeters: Verlyn & Judy Wittlinger</i>
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 5	<i>Acolyte: Samuel Hartwig</i>

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Dual Parish Voter's Meeting: October 12th 7 pm at St. John

The Harvest Supper is fast approaching 10-4-25. We are still in need of donations and manual help. All help is appreciated even if you can only come for an hour or two. Consider joining us by assisting with opening paper bags, cranberry cans, carrying roasters, assembly line workers, packing meals, washing and drying dishes in the kitchen, cleaning the Parish Hall plus more odd fill in jobs. Proceeds after expenses will be split between our mission family Paul & Courtney Mroczenski and our Sanctuary Refresh Project. Please keep this successful congregational event in your prayers. Contact Nancy Witucki 715-352-7060 or Mary Schultz 715 352 -2603 if you have any questions.

Attention: All Harvest Supper Workers need to complete a meal order form as soon as possible so that we know how many meals we can offer to the public.

Float wagon for sale. It is approximately 9 ft x 19 ft. If interested, please put a bid in to the church secretary. Any questions contact Lloyd Schultz or Dennis Punke.

Bethlehem Soup Supper, Craft and Bake Sale The Soup Supper, Craft and Bake Sale will be on December 13th. We are in the planning stages and looking for volunteers to sign up for activities during the week. Sign-up sheets with different tasks are available at the back of church. Please take a look and prayerfully consider using your talents and time to volunteer. Deadline to sign up is 10/12. If we do not get enough help, then this will change what we are able to do, and the event will be a carry out only – no eating in!

The First Annual Sunday School Rally was, sponsored by Bethlehem & St. John Sunday School and Board of Education, held on September 14 at the Milan Ball Diamond. We also celebrated Grandparents' Day. We thank God for the children and all who attended, and also beautiful weather, good food, fun games and fellowship of our church families. Mark your calendar for the second Sunday of September next year when we will again celebrate Rally Day and Grandparents' Day.

The Lutheran Hour: The following dates are available for 2026 sponsorship of The Lutheran Hour over radio station WDLB-1450AM/98.7FM at 8:00 am on Sunday morning:

January 11 & 25, February 15 & 22, March 8, 15, 22 & 29

April 5, 12 & 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7 & 28, July 26

August 16, 23 & 30, September 6 & 13, November 1, 8, 15 & 22

December 13 & 20. What better way to help spread the Word of God! Please contact Lisa at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Spencer at 715-659-4006 or email her at trinity.spencer.wi@gmail.com to request a date. In addition, the program airs nationally on SiriusXM Family Talk, Sundays at 10 a.m. ET, channel 131. You can even listen on your phone or speakerphone, by dialing 855-JOHN-316 and selecting option 3. Simply put, you can listen anytime, anywhere ... and it's more convenient than ever!