

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



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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 20 – Pentecost 17 – Thanks be to God for faithful servants of God who have lifted up the truth of God's Word in their times. Believers who recognize the difficulties of this life often yearn to be with the Lord as Paul says, "...for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1: 21). So, today, we need not fear death or any enemy, but we can rejoice and stand firm in the Holy Spirit, speaking the truth about God's gifts of life, eternity, and forgiveness. The Lord's Word makes clear that He wants people everywhere to repent and be cleansed of their sins that they may dwell with Him forever (Psalm 27: 4).

Life Quotes: September 20 "I firmly believe that the sanctity of human life is the most important issue of our day and that by means of informing and educating the public, as well as by applying Christian love and compassion to those directly affected by the trauma of abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia, the pro-life position will prevail, and our nation will again uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life." *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: September 20 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 20:9 – **"And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius."** Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His generosity.

Divine Service III

Hymn: “Salvation unto Us Has Come”

LSB 555 stz. 1-5

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184) installation

Service of the Word

Psalm 27:1-9

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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 55:6-9*

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

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

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Alleluia (p.190)

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his

vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Office Hymn: "Salvation unto Us Has Come" LSB 555 stz. 6-10
Sermon

Offertory (p.192)

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:

"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"	LSB 631
"Seek Where You May to Find a Way"	LSB 557
"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"	LSB 851

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Thanksgiving (p.200)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Salutation and Benedicamus (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: "All Praise to Thee, For Thou, O King Divine" LSB 815

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Rejoice in the gifts of Confession and Absolution as you pray: That God would lead all sinners to repentance and Confess your sins before God. Trust that God forgives your sins through Christ Jesus.
- We ask for your prayers for the Graun family as they mourn the passing of their loved ones. May God's love surround them and bring them peace in the days ahead.
- We celebrate the sacred union of Olivia and Dalton. Bless their hearts with unwavering love, their minds with understanding, and their spirits with patience and grace.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Sept. 21	Able-Light	10:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Sept. 22	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Sept. 22	Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Sept. 22	LifeLight	7:00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Sept. 23	LifeLight	10:30 am
Beth:	Fri.	Sept. 25	Funeral	12:00 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 27	Worship Service	8:00 am
			Sunday School	9:15 am
			Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 27	Worship Service	10:30 am
			Sunday School	9:30 am
			Adult Bible Study	11:45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth: Sun. Sept. 27 Acolyte: Aubree Kirschner
Greeters: Deana & Scott Parker
STJ: Sun. Sept. 27 Acolyte: Christian Pehlke

Upcoming Dual Parish Meetings

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

St John's Congregation Harvest Supper Time is running out. All the Harvest Supper donations need to be in the kitchen by 9-27-26 so we can start preparing for our HUGE Community Service. Meat donation envelopes are available. Please review the signup sheets to see where you feel comfortable helping. Extra hands / extra helpful. Shortfall of donations will mean added expenses against our goal to donate to the Neenah Menasha tornado Relief Fund. We still need carrots, cranberries and Lipton Beefy Soup Mix. Check your pantry for paper bags with handles. Hy-Vee and Festival offer bags with handles, Pick N Save has bags without handles. This week use paper instead of plastic when shopping. If many bring 1-5 bags we'll be all set! We are still looking for help with cleanup in the kitchen, Parish Hall and putting the roasters away on Sunday. Do you have time on Thursday afternoon to watch the last pies bake and then take them out of the oven? Or setting up the tables while you wait? Pray for our success. If you have any questions on where to volunteer, please contact Nancy or Mary.

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 signup sheet is available on the table in the Narthex. Please consider volunteering.

New Address for Arabella Syring:

Wells Nature View
1016 S. Adams Ave.
Room 10a
Marshfield, WI 54449

Liturgical Glossary

Salutation: From the Latin salutatio, meaning "a greeting." A liturgical greeting by which the pastor blesses the people: "The Lord be with you." The traditional response, "and with your spirit," acknowledges that this blessing is spoken by the Lord's servant. The Salutation occurs before the Collect of the Day and at the beginning of the communion liturgy.

Kwik Trip Gift Card available at Bethlehem.

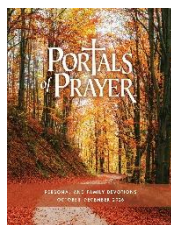
When you purchase a Kwik Trip gift card through us, you will be donating 5-15% back to our church.

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.



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 Mroczewski will give a presentation. Monetary donations will be accepted for mites. Check out the bulletin board for the letter invitation.

Portals of Prayer for October – December 2026 are available at church. Please feel free to pick up a copy.



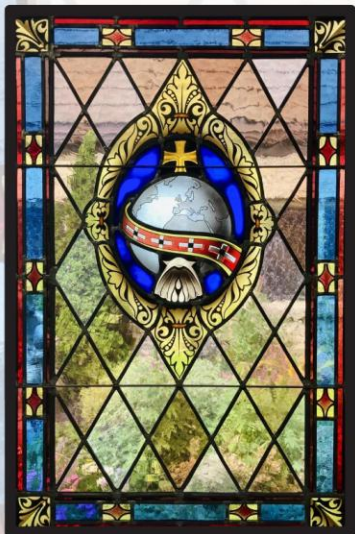
NWD Adult Gathering - October 12 in Eau Claire or October 13 in Weston Plan now to join us at one of the two Adult Gatherings being offered this fall! The first will be held on Monday, October 12, at Peace, Eau Claire and the second will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at Mount Olive, Weston. Rev. Dr. 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.

Do you know that the way Christian's go about their day and connect with members in their household is a critical aspect of spiritual growth? **Join us at the North and South Wisconsin LLL Districts Joint Convention on Saturday, October 10.**

Gather items to bring to the Convention to support Orphan Grain Train ministry. For the list of items and to register today visit <https://lhm.org/no-sowisc-lll>.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | 2335 S. WEBSTER AVE. | GREEN BAY, WI 54301



Lutherans Witness Differently

Saturday,
October 10, 2026

8 AM - 12PM*

FREE EVENT!

*LUNCH IS PROVIDED

Please
register
here



Sharing the gospel message from God's word is essential to the life of a Christian. But many of us might be intimidated by this task. We see others who share their faith by knocking on doors, standing on street corners with signs, or debating people on the street to make a Youtube video. Is this how we are supposed to witness and share our faith? We know the truth - that we have been buried with Christ and raised with Him in our baptism. This truth should change how we share our faith because Lutherans Witness Differently.



Guest speaker:

Rev. Timothy Droegemueller

- Pastor at Living Faith Lutheran Church, Cumming, Georgia
- previous board member for LCMS National Mission

Sponsored by:



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!

