

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



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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: August 16 – Pentecost 12 – “Thus says the LORD: Keep justice, and do righteousness ...” (Isaiah 56: 1, 7)! Keep justice for innocent unborn babies and for every human life, dear Christian friends. “For God has consigned all to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all” (Romans 11: 32). All have sinned and fallen short—every age, every ability, every race, both genders—and God has had mercy on all in Christ our crucified and risen Lord of life! Let us pray for His mercy, along with the Canaanite woman's cry for her daughter (Matthew 21: 22), even when we don't receive an answer to our for-life prayers right away.

Life Quotes: August 16 “The message concerning the work and person of Christ is meant to bring joy to the sorrowing and light to those in the darkness. The light of God's mercy shines into the darkest of situations; the Holy Spirit guides people to confess their sins and brings forgiveness to those who have participated in abortions, pointed people to end their own lives, or suggested that someone be harmed in some other way.” *Rev. Dennis Norby, Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: August 16 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 15: 27 – “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.” These are the words of faith, for faith means receiving what God gives. And God has given us so much more than just the crumbs that fall from the table — He has given us life, salvation, body and soul, eyes and ears, possessions and income. That's where our stewardship starts: with faith in the God who is the greatest Giver.

Divine Service I

Hymn: “When in the Hour of Deepest Need”

LSB 615

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 67

Kyrie (p.152)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.154)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p.156)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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 56:1, 6–8*

¹Thus says the Lord: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed. . . .

⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

⁸The Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,

“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

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 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32*

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .
²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 15:21–28*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord,

Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office Hymn: “In Christ There Is No East or West” LSB 653
Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.162)

The Words of Our Lord (p.162)

Pax Domini (p. 163)

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“Your Table I Approach” LSB 628

“God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571

“Jesus Shall Reign” LSB 832

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “Voices Raised to You We Offer” LSB 795

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God's work in Lutheran schools as you pray: for parents who support our Lutheran schools with their time, talents and treasures. Give thanks for their dedication to the mission of the school.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ: Mon. Aug. 17 Able-Light 10 am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. Aug. 23 Worship Service 8:00 am

Acolyte: Aleah Kosik

Greeters: Bruce & Geanna Denzin

STJ: Sun. Aug. 23 Worship Service 10:30 am

Acolyte: Sam Hartwig



What a Joyous Celebration of Faith, and

Fellowship at the annual Dual Parish Picnic.

From the delicious potluck dishes and sizzling grill favorites every moment was a reminder of the blessings we share when we gather as one in Christ. A heartfelt **thank you** to all who planned, volunteered, cooked, set up, cleaned up, and prayed for this event. Your generosity of time, and talent made this day possible.

Liturgical Glossary

Preface The opening dialogue between pastor and people that begins the liturgy of Holy Communion. These words, dating from the second century, are likely the most ancient part of the Divine Service.

Save the Date:

St John's Harvest Supper October 3, 2026.

Signup sheets for donations and volunteer jobs will be out in the next few weeks.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Many church activities will be starting soon. Please watch for details in the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, and on the website and Facebook page. All activities start in September.

- ❖ Dual Parish Sunday School Rally: September 13th.
- ❖ First day of Sunday School
- ❖ Adult Bible Study on Sunday
- ❖ Confirmation Class
- ❖ Youth Group
- ❖ LifeLight Bible Study will be starting on September 17th.
- ❖ STJ Chimes

Upcoming LERT Training Opportunities: All details and registration will be posted soon at LCMS-LERT.org under “Upcoming Trainings and Deployments”. Registration is required for the following training.

BASIC LERT TRAINING on Saturday, September 19, 9 am to noon

LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE Basic Chainsaw class on Sunday, September 20 from 5 pm-8pm (classroom portion) and on Monday, September 21, 8: 30 am – 11: 30 am (in the woods portion)

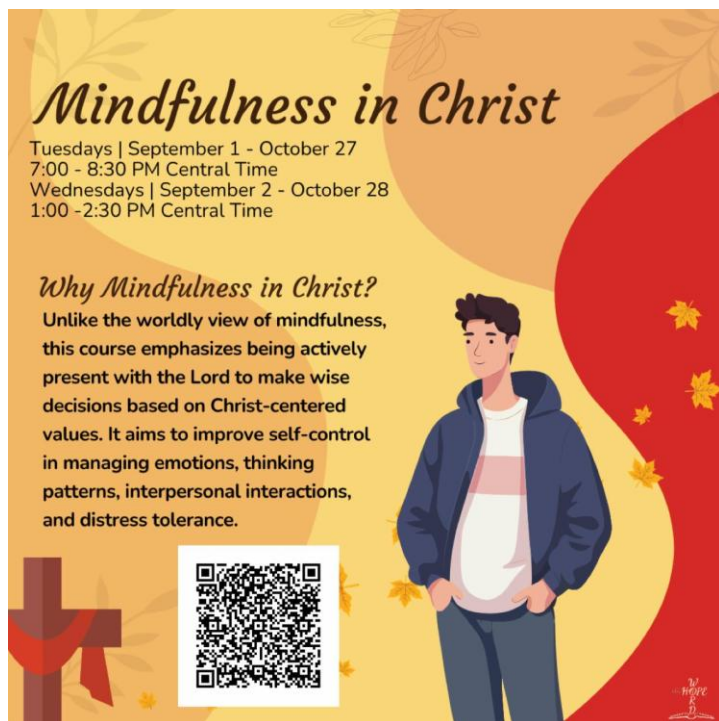
Location: St. John (Easton) Lutheran School, 164475 Granite Rd, Wausau, WI 54403

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 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. Registration will open soon under Events and Info at nwdlcms.org.

Lutheran Hour Sponsorship: Looking for three more churches and/or individuals to sponsor the last three Sundays. *Dates available: September 6 & 13* If interested, contact Lisa Snorheim at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Spencer at 715-659-4006 or send an email to trinity.spencer.wi@gmail.com to request a date.



Mindfulness in Christ

Tuesdays | September 1 - October 27
7:00 - 8:30 PM Central Time
Wednesdays | September 2 - October 28
1:00 - 2:30 PM Central Time

Why Mindfulness in Christ?
Unlike the worldly view of mindfulness, this course emphasizes being actively present with the Lord to make wise decisions based on Christ-centered values. It aims to improve self-control in managing emotions, thinking patterns, interpersonal interactions, and distress tolerance.

A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the poster, next to a stylized cross with a red ribbon. The background features a large yellow circle and a red circle, with several yellow leaves scattered around. A man with dark hair, wearing a blue jacket over a white shirt, stands with his hands in his pockets. The text 'Word of Hope' is visible in the bottom right corner.

Offered by Lutheran for Life: Join **Word of Hope** for an online nine-week class this Fall! In this Christ-centered course, adapted from dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), you will learn skills that will help you develop a non-judgmental awareness of your thoughts and emotions. A Tuesday evening class and a Wednesday afternoon class will be available beginning in early September. There are only eight places available for each class, so sign up soon