

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

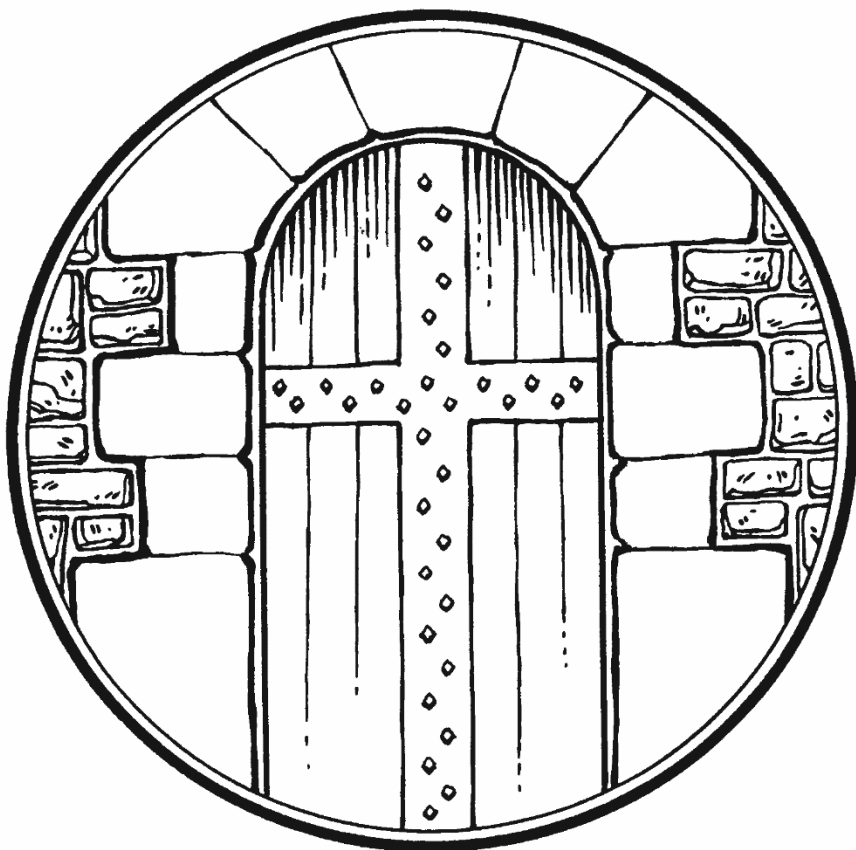
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
233500 County Rd E  
Milan, WI 54411

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter** – The truth of God's Word is not always welcomed by "stiff-necked people" who "resist the Holy Spirit," and even become enraged at hearing the truth. Stephen faithfully proclaimed that Word even though it led to his martyrdom (Acts 7: 51, 59-60). Many angry voices today demand unfettered access to abortion or physician-assisted suicide. But we must continue to sound the trumpet of truth, for only the power of God's Word can open the eyes of the blind and execute justice for the oppressed (Psalm 146: 7-8). It is the narrow road of faith in Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that gives us access to our Father in heaven (John 14: 6). Baptized into Christ, we are living stones, being built up into a spiritual house, that we may proclaim the Good News of the One who calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2: 5, 9).

**Life Quotes:** May 3 "When Jesus returns, all who believe in Him will be raised up from death to live in His presence forever. That is the promise of His enduring, steadfast love: 'I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1: 6). The purpose of God for us will be fulfilled!" *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**LCMS May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

1 Peter 2: 9 – "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." God has called us to be His own. He has chosen us out of love, out of mercy, out of sheer, divine joy. The apostle Peter says that God chose us so that we might share in His glory and "proclaim the excellencies of Him" who has made us His own. And truly, this is our delight! His joy brings joy to our hearts as well.

# Divine Service I

## Easter Greeting:

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen

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

*Hymn:* “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

LSB 477

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

## Service of the Word

Psalms 146

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 God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.

Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire

what You promise, that among the many changes of this world

our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus

Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and

the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## First Reading:

*Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60*

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

<sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

<sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and

Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

<sup>2</sup>And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

<sup>51</sup>You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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 2:2–10*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

**Holy Gospel:***John 14:1-14*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

*Office Hymn: “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”*

LSB 633

Sermon

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:*

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644

“Praise the Almighty”

LSB 797

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

**Announcements**

**Due to the Refresh Project at St. John, all Sunday church activities will be held at Bethlehem.**

**Prayers**

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God’s work in His Church as you pray: with thanksgiving for all the missionaries who serve partner churches, that they would remain faithful in their tasks and be witnesses to the Gospel through acts of mercy

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

STJ:	Mon.	May 4	Able-Light	10:00 am
	Tues.	May 5	Pastor at Circuit Mtg	9:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	May 6	LWML	10:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	May 6	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	May 6	Youth Group	6:00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	May 7	LWML	9:30 am

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

Beth:	Sun.	May 10	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 10	Beth & STJ Sunday School	9:15 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 10	Beth & STJ Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 10	Worship Service	10:30am

**Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters**

Beth:	Sun.	May 10	Acolyte: Evan Strack
			Greeters: Josh Rinehart & family
STJ:	Sun.	May 10	Acolyte: Lexie Noller

**Last Day of Sunday School:**

Bethlehem: May 10<sup>th</sup>      St. John: May 17<sup>th</sup>

**Bethlehem Members:** Dorean is collecting money for the flowers. Please place your donation in the basket on the table at the back of church.

**Confirmation and First Communion** will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Confirmands will be Lauryn Hartwig, Cale Koch, Lexie Noller and

Christian Pehlke. Receiving First Communion will be Aurbree Kirschner, Isabelle Kramp and Cassidy Thompson.

**St. John Graduation Recognition** will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Quilts will be presented at 9: 30 am to the graduates: Cade Koch, Nicholas Pehlke and Micah J. Schulz. Brunch served by the Sunday School students will follow. Brunch will include milk, juice, coffee, tea, sausage, cheese, crackers, fruit and cupcakes. Location will be determined by the completion of the St. John Refresh Project.

**LWML Plant Sale** will be held at Unity Memorial Hall, 121 Madison St., Unity, WI (1 block west of Highway 13) May 14 – 15 from 9 to 5 May 16 from 9 to noon All proceeds go to the Lord's mission work of the LWML, WI Zone 10.

**Thank you** to both congregations for the organist recognition, the well wishes, the cards, flowers and the delicious cake. All were so very much appreciated. We consider our church family a very special blessing.  
-Gloria & Delores

**If anyone would like the bricks or small shrubs** located in the landscape alcove by the cemetery, please contact Linda and also have them removed by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The trees are staying and are not available.

**Bethlehem VBS Shipwrecked - Rescued by God**

July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 volunteers willing to help, please contact Janessa, Tammi, Beth or Patti.

**Ringle Tornado Relief Donations:** Mt. Olive Lutheran Church is the central donation center for the North Wisconsin District. To donate: go to [mtoliveweston.org](http://mtoliveweston.org), scan the QR code or call 715-359-5546

**Bingo Sunday** was held April 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank-you all who attended. We had 17 people attend with 14 playing Bingo. We collected \$150 for the CUP Food Pantry. The Out-Reach Team also donated another \$350, so a total of \$500 was given to the Food Pantry at Zion Lutheran Church in Colby. A fun afternoon was had by all!! Plan for another Bingo Sunday in the fall! The Out-Reach Team Jane, Dorean and Marlene