

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



Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 23, 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: “Thankful hearts and people produce a grateful culture, a society that is set free to live freely, set free from the mere whims of others, allowing all to live, everyone from the smallest to the perceived greatest. Whether you trust in God or not, freedom exudes gratitude. Gratitude is the grace that blesses all in this life. It gives others some semblance of hope.” Rev. Mark Frith, *Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*
lutheransforlife.org

Life Thoughts: – (Proper 29) – When people argue that we should not bring more children into a world such as this, they agree with the people of Jerusalem at the time of its destruction: “Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed” (Luke 23:29). But this is not the way that Jesus intends us to view the gift of new life. Instead, we weep with those who cannot bear and nurse, and we celebrate God's gift of life, trusting that He will always reign over all things and be the “refuge and strength” of His people (Colossians 1:18; Psalm 46:1), and the little children will always be His “treasured possession” (Malachi 3:17).

Divine Service I

STJ Chimes: “Thanksgiving Medley”

Hymn: “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

LSB 610

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 46

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament:

Malachi 3:13–18

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

¹⁶Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured

possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual:

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Epistle: *Colossians 1:13–20*

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *Luke 23:27–43*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

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

²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office Hymn: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” LSB 549

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:

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" LSB 618

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" LSB 761

"Jerusalem, My Happy Home" LSB 673

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LSB 733

Announcements

Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Thank God for the people God has provided in your life.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth/STJ: Mon.	Nov. 24	Deadline for Newsletter	
Beth: Wed.	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Service	1:00 pm
STJ: Wed.	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Service	7:00 pm
Beth/STJ: Thurs.	Nov. 27	Office Closed	
Beth/STJ: Fri.	Nov. 28	Office Closed	

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Sunday School	9:15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Advent Program Practice	9:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Worship Service	10:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Adult Bible Study	11:45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Acolyte: Isaac Kosik
			Greeters: Lori and Alan Schmitt
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 30	Acolyte: Kassidy Thompson



Join us for Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 26th

Bethlehem - 1 pm

St. John - 7 pm

Office Information:

- Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.
- Make sure to check your church mailboxes.
- Deadline for the Newsletter is Monday, November 24th (tomorrow).

Advent Devotional Booklets are printed and available at church.

Lutheran Witness Renewal: If you wish to renew your Lutheran Witness subscription or if you would like to get a new subscription the price for 2026 is \$27.65. Deadline for renewal/new subscriptions is November 30th (NEXT WEEK). Payment can be given to the church secretary. If you wish to pay by check, make your check payable to St. John and note it for "Lutheran Witness renewal".



TODAY (11/23) is the last day to sign up. The Bethlehem LWML Ladies Aid is again offering their **10th annual Christmas wreath sale.** Delivery date is November 30th. Any questions please call Arlette at 715-223-6060 or 715-223-3946 or Shirley at 715-654 5291

Bethlehem Poinsettia Orders

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Deadline to order is December 7th. Cost is \$12. Please make checks payable to Marlene Schrieber.



Each Bethlehem family is asked to bring four dozen cookies to church for the Bake Sale by Thursday, December 11th. Help make this a successful Soup, Bake and Craft Sale!



Bethlehem Soup, Bake and Craft Sale

Soup Orders: To order your quart(s) of soup, call Dorean at 715-680-0078, before December 12th OR order forms are in the back of church (Beth) and on the counter (STJ).

Soup Pick Up: Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th from 9 am to 3 pm.

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



Advent Soup Supper at St. John The Youth Group will be serving savory soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and all the delicious fixings from 5:00- 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th and 17th. Free will offering is going to support the youth attending the Higher Things Youth Gathering. If you can help or donate, please contact Traci Pehlke at 715-432-9333. There will be a sign-up sheet at St. John's church for anyone that wants to help by making soups or desserts.

St. John Sunday School Holiday Mission: We are stocking the local food pantries for the Thanksgiving and Christmas! Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable food, monetary donations, and delivering the food to stock the shelves of the pantries! ***Items needed most are:*** Canned Meats; Chicken, Ham, Tuna, Spam, Canned Pasta with Meat, Canned Fruit, Cereal. All Non-Perishable items are accepted. Thank you for your support and generosity. Thrivent action cards are a great way to help fill the needs. There are several collection boxes throughout the back of church. Any questions, please contact Traci Pehlke.



Church secretary office hours:

Monday, November 24th - 8 am – 1 pm

Tuesday, November 25th - 8 am – 1 pm

Wednesday, November 26th - 8 am – 10 am

Community Events: Check out the bulletin boards for more details.

*Trinity Annual Craft Sale (pre-order chili), Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens on 11/23/25 (today)

* Stratford Area Food Pantry is having a Holiday Donation Drive now until December 5th.