

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

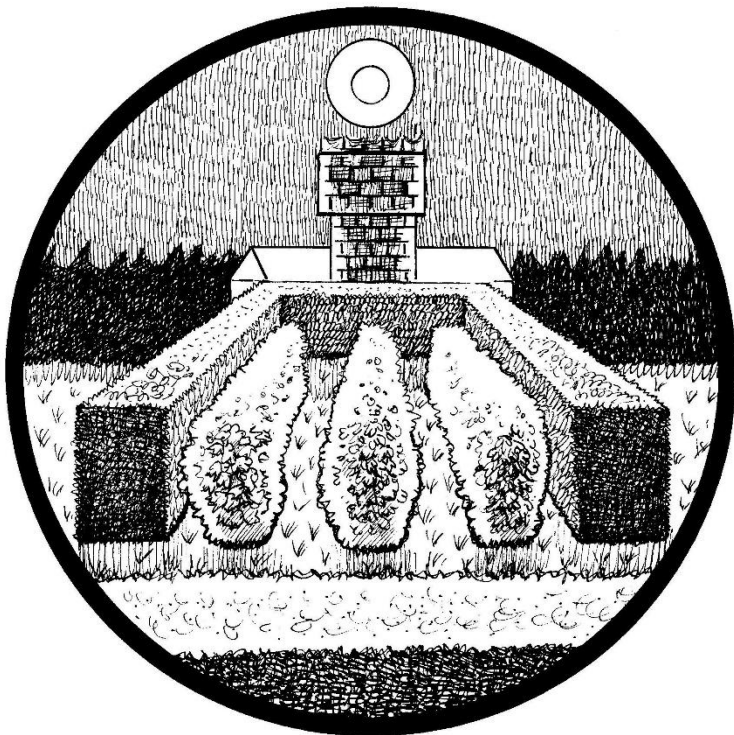
~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

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



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 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: October 4 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 22 A

– The master sent servants to harvest, and the tenants beat them and treated them harshly. Even worse, they killed the son. We too can treat the messengers of the Gospel harshly, especially when they speak the truth of God's Law to us. And yet, the Son of God went to the cross for us who are wicked and sinful (Matthew 21), and the vineyard of the Lord will yield good grapes on the last day (Isaiah 5). So, we press on toward that goal of everlasting life and share the Gospel with others, knowing that it is only by the grace of God that we are counted as perfect (Philippians 3).

Life Quotes: October 4 “Your life is valuable, and your life has purpose. It was not an accident; it was planned from the beginning. But that doesn't mean it will be easy. You will experience hardship and suffering. As you age, your body will wear out. Your mind will dull. Your abilities will lessen. And yet, it is in your body with all of its brokenness that the Holy Spirit resides. It is this, your body, that God the Father formed by hand, and it is this, your body, that Jesus, God's Son, redeemed. And your body, a unique and miraculous gift, will be raised from the dead and made new.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: October 4 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 21:43 – “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.”
The Pharisees were not bearing fruit. Though they were faithful to the letter of the Law in keeping the Sabbath, tithing and all the rest, they neglected the heart of God's will. The grace of God belongs at the center. Our giving and all our other good works flow forth from receiving God's grace and living in that grace on a daily basis.

Divine Service III

Hymn: “Rise, Shine, You People”

LSB 825

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184) installation

Service of the Word

Psalm 80:7-19

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.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 5:1-7*

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the

men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

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 *Philippians 3:4b–14*

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Alleluia (p.190)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 21:33–46*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’” ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Office Hymn: “O Love, How Deep”

LSB 544

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:

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” LSB 637

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” LSB 680

“The Church’s One Foundation” LSB 644

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Thanksgiving (p.200)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Salutation and Benedicamus (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: “Fight the Good Fight” LSB 664

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God’s gift of Baptism as you pray: Thank God for the gift of Baptism, that His Word works through the water to join us to Christ’s death and resurrection

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Oct. 5	Able-Light	10:00 am
	Tues.	Oct. 6	Pastor at Circuit Mtg	9:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 7	LWML	10:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 7	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 7	Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 7	LifeLight	7:00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Oct. 8	LWML	9:30 am
STJ:	Thurs.	Oct. 8	LifeLight	10:30 am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 11	Worship Service	8:00 am
			Sunday School	9:15 am
			Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 11	Worship Service	10:30 am
			Sunday School	9:30 am
			Adult Bible Study	11:45 am
	Sun.	Oct. 11	Dual Parish Voters’ Mtg	7:00 pm
			Location: St. John	

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth: Sun. Oct. 11

Acolyte: Madalynn Johnson

Greeters: Robert & Maria Strack family

STJ: Sun. Oct. 11

Acolyte: Sam Hartwig



Higher Things Informational Meeting

Sunday, October 4th

Bethlehem at 9:15 am

St. John at 11:45 am

Dual Parish Voters' Meeting

Sunday, October 11th at 7pm at St. John

(Next Sunday)

St. John Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, October 13th at 6 pm

We wish to thank everyone that helped with the Harvest Supper in any way.

Once the donations are counted and the bills paid, we will be able to determine the financial amount we can provide to the Neenah / Menasha Tornado Relief Fund. We are truly servants of the Lord! Nancy Witucki and Mary Schultz



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

Lutherans for Life - **Life New – October 2026 Edition** is posted on the bulletin board and can be found at

www.lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-news

October Newsletter are available. Please check your church mailbox, home mailbox or email inbox. Extra copies available at church.



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.

St. John members: Copies of The Constitution and Bylaws of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, LCMS are available. Please pick one up in the carport area.

Liturgical Glossary

Amen: Of Hebrew origin, “Amen” means that what has preceded is “true and certain.” Thus, as the congregation’s response to prayers, the Amen is an affirmation that the prayer just prayed is the prayer of the entire assembly, spoken on their behalf. In the Small Catechism, Luther explained Amen with: “Yes, yes, it shall be so.”



Hope! It's in our blood.

Blood Drive

October 17th, 7:30 am to noon

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, LCMS

223500 Cty. Rd. E, Milan

Appointments preferred

Walk-ins welcome

Sign up at church

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.