

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

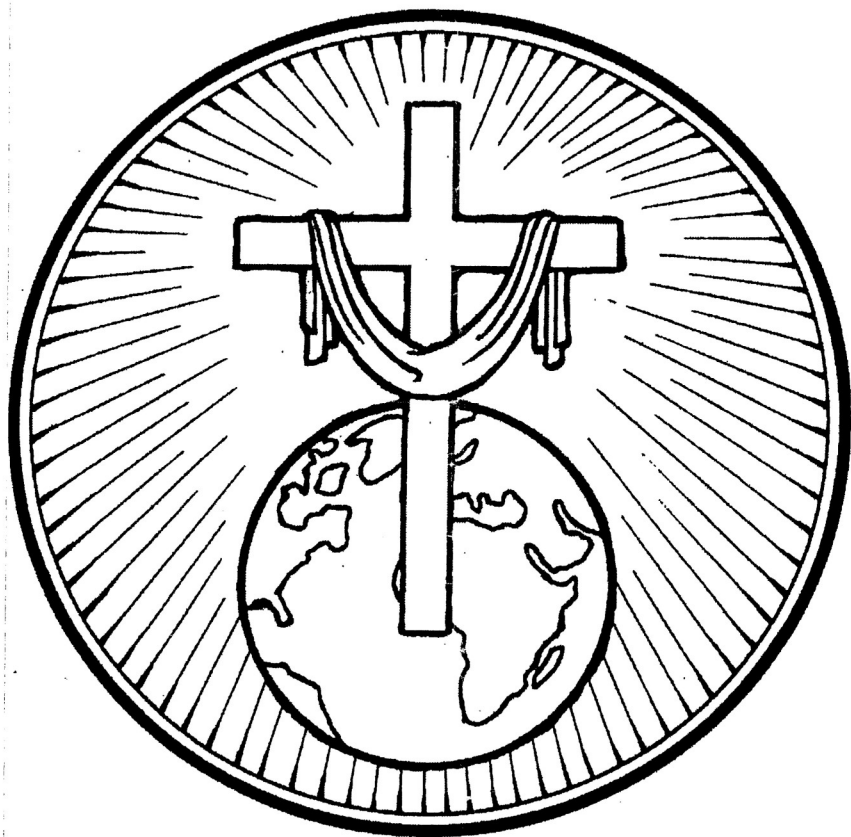
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

[www.stjbeth.org](http://www.stjbeth.org)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
233500 County Rd E  
Milan, WI 54411

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



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

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 : March 10** "With gentleness and respect, we witness to our faith in Jesus so that others will come to believe in Him and eagerly await His return. All who confess Jesus as Lord look forward to His Second Coming with a joy far greater than idle mirth. We are encouraged as we remind each other that our Savior is coming back, and we pray that He would 'hear and grant our fervent plea.' Come, Lord Jesus!" *Dr. Carol Geisler – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Life Thoughts: March 10 – Lent IV** – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis come with risks and costs. But as with the ancient Israelite serpent infestation, the real enemy is neither one's neighbor nor the Maker (Numbers 21:8). Only impaling the snake (not terminating each other) brought deliverance, and the antidote called for faith instead of death. Christians insist God has sent us His Son for extending lives and not ending them (John 3:17).

### **Church Cancellation Procedure**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If there is a need to cancel Church Services or Meetings due to bad weather, you can find out by checking [waow.com](http://waow.com) (Channel 9) or [wsaw.com](http://wsaw.com) (Channel 7). Every effort will also be made to change the message on St. John's answering machine as soon as possible, and please, if you are not comfortable with the weather conditions, be safe and stay home!

## Divine Service IV

Hymn: "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

LSB 915

Confession & Absolution (p.203)

Psalm 107: 1-9

Kyrie (p. 204)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 Reading: *Numbers 21:4-9*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual:** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
    **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the  
cross, despising the shame,  
    **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Epistle:** *Ephesians 2:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Holy Gospel:** *John 3:14–21*

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

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

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal

life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

**P**: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C**: Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

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

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

## Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.208)

Sanctus (p.208)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.209)

The Words of Institution (p.209)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.210)

Distribution of the Sacrament

### Hymns:

“What Is This Bread” LSB 629

“By Grace I’m Saved” LSB 566

“Amazing Grace” LSB 744

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “When I Behold Jesus Christ” LSB 542



**Bethlehem:** For the next 4 weeks we will be collecting items for nursing homes and assisted living facilities for the patients living there!!! There are boxes in the entry way with a list of items needed. Thank you

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my church family, friends, & Pastor Mathey for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits while I was “out of town” ha, ha. God’s Blessings to all.

**LWML:** This evening, March 10 LWML Mission Guild meeting is at 6:30 P.M. Bible Study will be at 6:30 followed by packing quilts for pick up and tying a quilt. We will meet in the Fireside Room. All gals who can't make afternoon meetings--this is for you.

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

FATHER



SON

## Who is the Holy Spirit?

The explanation of the Small Catechism says, the Holy Spirit is “the third person in the Holy Trinity, true God with the Father and Son.” This means that we believe in one true God, in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God just as the Father is God and the Son is God.

## What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit sanctifies God’s people. In other words, He makes us holy by giving us saving faith in Jesus and the strength to lead godly lives in His name.

## Why is the Holy Spirit so important?

We need the Holy Spirit and what He gives to us, because without Him, we are not able to believe in Jesus. In 1 Cor. 2:14 we hear the following: “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” The Holy Spirit calls us to faith through the Gospel and delivers the gracious gifts of salvation in the Sacraments.

### Parents:



During the service, tell your children to listen for times the Pastor says the name of the Holy Spirit (i.e. the Invocation, Benediction). Remind your children that the Holy Spirit is exactly where God promised us He would be — in the Word and Sacraments. He comes to us by no other means than through these gracious gifts.

