

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

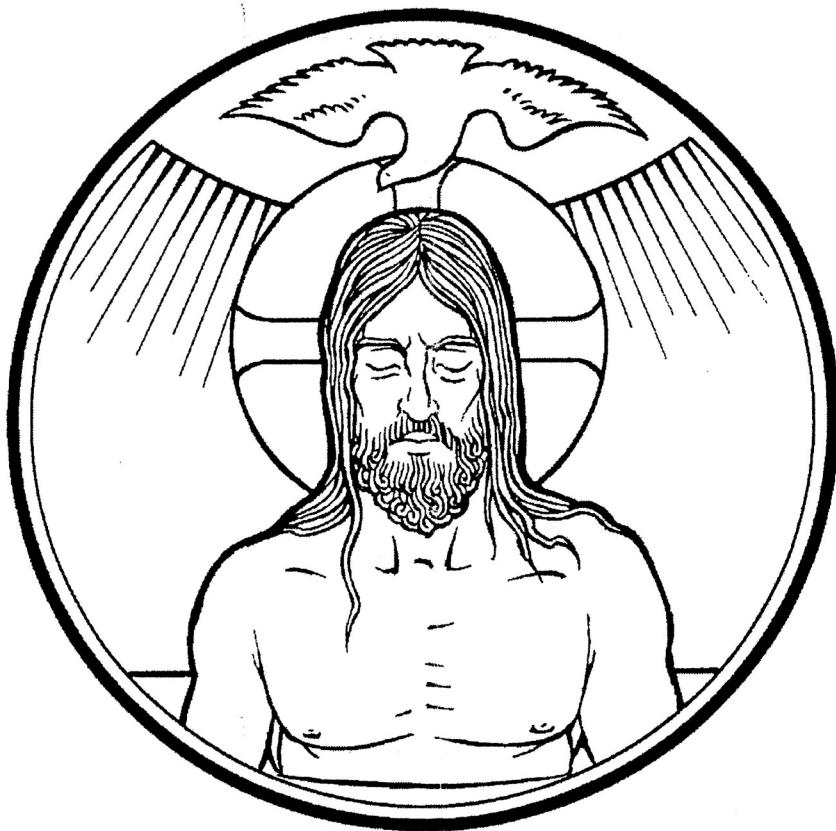
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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



The Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 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)

**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!

**Life Quotes: January 12** "From the moment you were being knitted together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), God's began His careful construction of His chosen jewel of redemption." *Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Life Thoughts::** Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord – With the sacrament of Baptism, the Lord Jesus makes childbirth central to the Christian Gospel. The coming forth of new life always provides cause for celebration because the Savior has sanctified it. Human beings as helpless and dependent as gestating babies have His blessing: "You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

## Divine Service I

Hymn: "The Only Son from Heaven"

LSB 402

### Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

### Service of the Word

*Psalm 29*

Kyrie (p.152)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.154)

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River  
You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him  
with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name  
faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with  
Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 43:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my eyes,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give men in return for you,  
peoples in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup>Fear not, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you.  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, Give up,  
and to the south, Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the end of the earth,  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual:**

Praise the LORD, all nations!

**Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

**bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

**Epistle *Romans 6:1–11***

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once

for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *Luke 3:15–22*

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

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

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

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

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

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office hymn: “To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord” LSB 406

Sermon

Installation of Officers

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

## Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

The Lord's Prayer (p.162)

The Words of Institution (p.162)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

### Hymns:

"Your Table I Approach" LSB 628

"As with Gladness Men of Old" LSB 397

"Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered" LSB 404

Post Communion Collect (p.164)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB 394

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## Announcements

### Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

### This Week for Bethlehem and St. John

BETH: Sun. Jan. 12 Installation of Officers 8:00am

STJ: Sun. Jan. 12 Installation of Officers 10:30am

BETH: Mon. Jan. 13 Elders 6:00pm

BETH: Mon. Jan. 13` Council 7:00pm

STJ: Tue: Jan. 14 Elders 6:00pm

STJ: Tue: Jan. 14 Council 7:00pm

STJ: Wed: Jan.15 Youth Bible Study 6:00pm

STJ: Wed. Jan.15 Confirmation 6:00pm

BETH: Thurs. Jan 16 LifeLight Bible Study 10:30am

STJ: Thurs. Jan. 16 LifeLight Bible Study 6:00pm

### Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

BETH: Sun. Jan. 19 Voters Mtg. 9:15am

STJ: Sun. Jan. 19 Voters Mtg. 11:45 am

STJ: Wed: Jan. 22 Youth Bible Study 6:00pm

STJ: Wed: Jan 22 Confirmation 6:00pm

BETH: Thurs. Jan. 23 LifeLight Bible Study 10:30am

STJ: Thurs. Jan. 23 LifeLight Bible Study 6:00pm

**Bulletin Announcements: Are due no later than Wednesday, Noon.** This includes any special announcements, or meeting changes, dates, times, or information, etc. Please make all the information or changes in writing, send either in an email or leave a note on secretary's desk.

**Thank You** to the Bethlehem Ladies Aid for the beautiful Poinsettia and fruit plate. It was greatly appreciated.  
Letta Ebbens

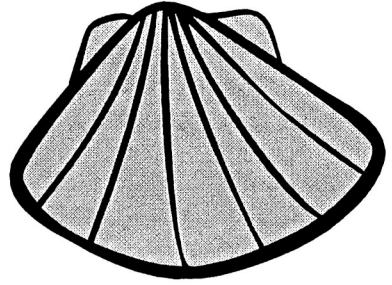
**LifeLight Bible Study** starts on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Bethlehem at 10:30am and St. John 6:00pm.

**Thank You** for donating a Poinsettia this Christmas Season. Glory Be To God! Blessings to everyone in 2025. Marlene

**In Memory Of**

Dorean Freimund	Danny & Diane
Elizabeth Kirchner	Galen & Michelle
Sprotte Family	Dorothy
Loretta Schafer	Family
Shirley Buss	Family
Verlyn, Judy Wittlinger	Family
Alan & Lori Schmitt	Family
Richard & Lois Niemi	Loved Ones
Galen & Marlene Schreiber	Loved Ones
Joshua & Jill Penk	Loved Ones
Darlene Wittlinger	Loved Ones
Shane, Pattie Hammel & family	Loved Ones
Schwarting Family	
Ladies Aid	
C.W.I.A	

+ + +  
**KIDS IN THE  
DIVINE SERVICE**  
+ + +



## What is “The Baptism of Our Lord”?

Today is the First Sunday after the Epiphany. Today we celebrate the day that our Lord Jesus was baptized by John the Baptizer. That’s right, Jesus was baptized just like you!



## Why was Jesus baptized?

Jesus’ Baptism is very important. When Jesus was baptized, it marked the beginning of His mission to save the world from sin through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. As Scripture says, Jesus’ Baptism was one of the many things He did to “fulfill all righteousness.” Because of Jesus and all He has done for us, our Baptism is now a source of forgiveness, life and salvation.



**Parents:** Before or after the service, allow your children to approach the baptismal font in the sanctuary. Remind them that this is where our life in Jesus begins. Because of God’s gifts in Baptism, we have been washed clean, and now we are His children.

