

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



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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 Quotes: March 22 "Grief is a road no one chooses, yet in this fallen world, it is a path we must all tread. There are no words that can fully capture the sorrow of losing someone we love—no explanations that can make death seem natural or right. It wasn't meant to be this way. Death is the great intruder, a bitter consequence of sin's curse. And yet, even in the depths of sorrow, the Lord gives us this promise: He is near." *Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts (Lent 5) – Jesus is the "resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), the one true God who raises the dead from their graves and gives them new life (Ezekiel 37:5-6). Everything Jesus has said and done testifies that He gives, sustains, and loves life. It is inconceivable to think that Jesus, who raised Lazarus from the tomb and who died to "give life to our mortal bodies" (Romans 8:11), would approve of the murder of any innocent person, regardless of their size or condition.

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 (Channel 9) or 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: “Glory Be to Jesus”

LSB 433

Confession and Absolution (p.203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 130

Kyrie (p. 204)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 205)

P The Lord be with You

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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: *Ezekiel 37:1–14*

¹The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I

prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

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: *Romans 8:1–11*

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the

dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: *John 11:1–53*

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

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

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him,

“I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to

them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office Hymn: “My Song Is Love Unknown”

LSB 430

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.208)

Sanctus (p.208)

Prayers of Thanksgiving (p. 209)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.209)

The Words of Our Lord (p.209)

Pax Domini (p. 209)

Agnus Dei (p.210)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”

LSB 632

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

LSB 575

“God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets’ Son”

LSB 682

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

LSB 420

Announcements

Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Remember the centrality of God’s Word as you pray: for the continued growth of Christ’s Church on earth, that the Lord would continue to raise up missionaries according to His good and gracious will.

April – June 2026 **Portals of Prayers** are available at church.

Deadline for Newsletter is Tuesday, March 24 by noon.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 22	New Member Catechism Class	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Mon.	Mar. 22	Quilters	9: 00 am
	Tues.	Mar. 23	Deadline for Newsletter	
STJ:	Wed.	Mar. 25	Lenten Service	1: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 25	Lenten Meal provided by CWIA	5: 30 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 25	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 25	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 25	Lenten Service	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	Mar. 26	LifeLight Bible Study	10: 30am
STJ:	Thurs.	Mar. 26	Chimes	5: 30pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Mar. 26	LifeLight Bible Study	6: 30pm
STJ:	Sat.	Mar. 28	Blood Drive	8 am - noon

PALM SUNDAY Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 29	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 29	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 29	Palm Sunday Breakfast	
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 29	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 29	Worship Service	10: 30 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	April 5	Acolyte: Aubree Kirschner
			Greeters: Michael & Marnie Neuman
STJ:	Sun.	April 5	Acolyte: Cale Koch

The Bethlehem Out-Reach is having **Palm Sunday Breakfast** following the church service on March 29th.

EASTER LILY Donations! They are \$15.00. Sign up and pay Marlene Schreiber by Sunday, March 29th.

Bethlehem Sunday School will sing during the service on Palm Sunday, March 29th. There will be no Sunday School on Easter.

St. John Sunday School Children will be passing out palms and part of the processional on Palm Sunday.

St. John Sunday School Children will be playing the chimes on Easter Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

The **Bethlehem Out-Reach** WATCH FOR DETAILS FOR OUR NEXT BINGO SUNDAY!! Tentatively set for April 26th.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with our wedding, for all the cards, and prayers. You all made it a special day. Thank you Bob & Linda

You are invited to a **powerful musical Easter drama, BOW THE KNEE**. Come follow Anthony, a Roman centurion, whose life changed after encountering Jesus. Admission is free. See the bulletin board for dates, times and locations.

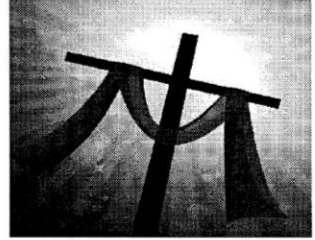
Lenten Season Church Services

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, March 25

STJ: 1:00pm

Beth: 7:00pm



Lenten Meal

Wednesday 5:30 pm at Bethlehem

March 25th – provided by CWIA

Palm Sunday

March 29

Beth: 8:00am

STJ: 10:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 2

STJ: 1:00pm

Beth: 7:00pm

Good Friday

April 3

STJ: 1:00pm

“Devotional Service”

Beth: 7:00pm

Full Service

Easter Sunday

April 5

Beth: 8:00am

St. John: 10:30am

Update on the Church Refresh

Church Interiors, Inc. refresh/painting/lighting contract price:
\$123,499.

Downpayment already sent to contractor: \$40,755.

Total donations presently secured in LCEF Checking as of 2/28:
\$62,617.

Balance of remaining contract dollars needed: \$19,827.

LCEF CD Savings account balance (in addition to checking):
\$56,021.

Additional costs beyond this contract with Church Interiors, Inc. will be incurred by an electrician's work on the installation of lights. Copies of the contract are available from the Treasurer or the Church Secretary.

Please feel free to contact Danni Seibert, Treasurer, at 909-801-1776 for any questions you may have, or for updates as donations come in. We are a blessed congregation, and we are truly grateful for everyone's generosity toward this project.



BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday
March

28

8:00AM - 12:00PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a
healthy meal and drink
plenty of water before
donating.

877-232-4376



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



LOCATION
ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
119495 Huckleberry Street, Edgar



Sundara Inn & Spa
ENERGIZE YOUR SOUL

PROMOTION
Donate and get away! All attempting
donors will be entered for a chance to win a
weekend getaway package to the Wisconsin Dells,
including lodging and a spa day!

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
Call 877.232.4376 or Versiti Donor Portal

blood provider for Marshfield Clinic Health System

 **versiti**
Blood Center of Wisconsin



*NO PURCH. NEC. WI residents only; 18+. Ends 3/30/2016. One drawing; one 1st winner. Enter by blood donation or online. See Official Rules and online entry form at versiti.org/getaway. Sponsor: Versiti, Inc., 438 N. 18th St., Milwaukee, WI 53223