

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

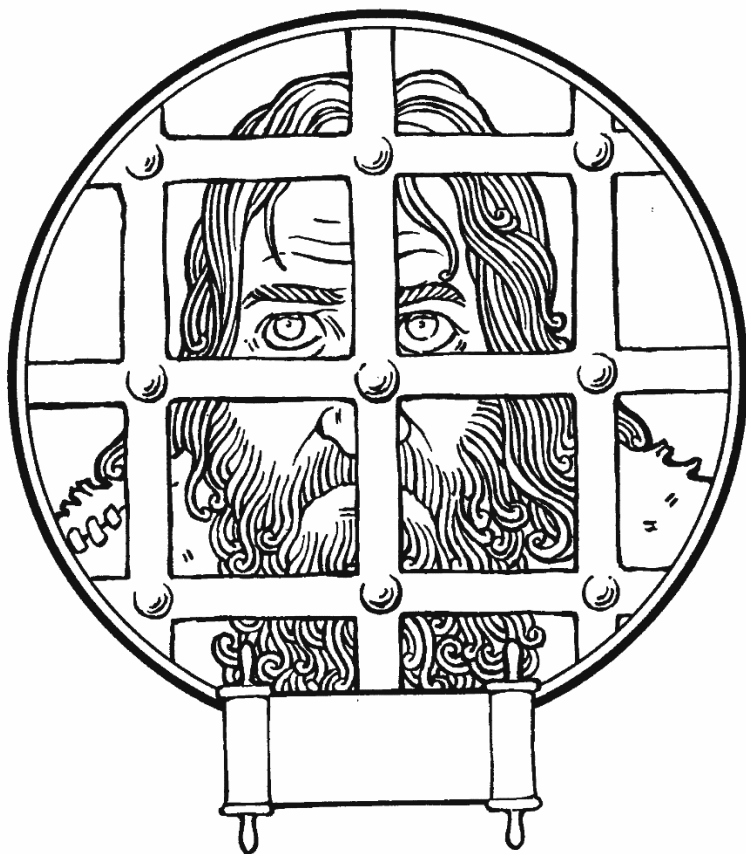
~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

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



Second Sunday in Advent

December 14, 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: "And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God." *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Advent 3 – God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

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: "Come, Thou Almighty King"

LSB 905

Confession and Absolution (p.203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 146

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

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 35:1–10*

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
6then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
7the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
8And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
9No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle: *James 5:7–11*

7Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming

of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

Holy Gospel: *Matthew 11:2–15*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law

prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office Hymn: “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348

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:

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” LSB 641

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” LSB 849

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” LSB 790

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “The Advent of Our King” LSB 331

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

- ❖ Our Shut-ins
- ❖ That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith until Christ's return.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Dec. 15	Able-Light	10:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Dec. 17	Advent Service	1:00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 17	Soup Supper	5:00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 17	Chimes	5:30 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 17	Confirmation	6:00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 17	Advent Service	7:00 pm
<i>Acolyte: Lexie Noller</i>				
Beth	Sat.	Dec. 20	Private Party	

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 21	Worship Service	8:00 am
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 21	Worship Service	10:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 21	Light Meal After Church	
STJ	Sun.	Dec. 21	Children's Advent Program	1:00 pm

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 21	Acolyte: Evan Strack
			Greeters: Pastor, Deb Mathey & family
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 21	Acolyte: Sam Hartwig

Advent Worship Schedule: December 17th

Bethlehem	1:00pm
St. John	7:00pm

Christmas Worship Service Times

Christmas Eve

Bethlehem	5:00pm
St. John	7:00pm

Christmas Day

Bethlehem	8:00 am
St. John	10:00 am

Bethlehem Sunday School Christmas Worship Service

Please join us TODAY following the 8 a.m. service for a special presentation as our children share a joyful celebration of the CHRISTmas season through music and songs. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We will be having a light brunch following the presentation.



If you are a visitor, please sign the Guest Register (red/maroon book) at the end of the pew. Thank you for worshipping with us today.

St. John Sunday School will be presenting their Advent Children's Program on December 21st at 1 pm. There will be a light meal served by the Youth Group after the worship service. Please stay for fellowship and Children's program.

Advent Soup Supper at St. John

When: 5:00- 6:30pm, Wednesday, December 17th. Donations accepted for the youth attending Higher Things Gathering.

December 17th Soups: Chicken Dumpling and Cheesy Broccoli Cauliflower

Put it on your calendar: December 23, 2025! Red Robin will be giving 20% of the food sales on 12/23/25 to the Youth Group for their trip to the Higher Things Gathering. All you need to do is have a delicious meal at Red Robin and show the flyer or mention the fundraiser to your server.

St. John Sunday School Holiday Mission: Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable food, monetary donations to stock the shelves of the pantries for Christmas! All Non-Perishable items are accepted. Thank you for your support and generosity. There are several collection boxes throughout the back of church. Any questions, please contact Traci Pehlke.

St. John Sunday School received Thank You Cards from Edgar/Marathon Circle of Joy and Stratford Food Pantry. The thank you cards are posted on the bulletin board for viewing.

Sunday School will not meet:

Bethlehem

December 21st

December 28th

January 4th

St. John

December 28th

January 4th

- Sunday School will resume on January 11th at Bethlehem and St. John Lutheran Churches

Confirmation Classes and Youth Group will not have class on December 24th and 31st. Classes will resume on January 7th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (new year - location change).

Office Items:

- *Please be sure to check your church mailbox regularly.
- *Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.
- *Check out the Church's Facebook page for December events.