

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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: September 6 – Pentecost 15 – In faith, as God's watchmen, we humbly proclaim His Word. The faithful Word gives a true warning to the wicked (Ezekiel 33: 7-8). We are called to speak boldly when lives are heartlessly ended and when God's gifts are mocked. We also rejoice as we teach about forgiveness. In Psalm 32 we read that the Lord forgives those who acknowledge their sin before Him. In God's plan, He allows us to be watchmen, proclaiming warnings so that all may confess their sins and have a clear conscience. Many have guilty consciences because they have rejected the truth concerning God's gift of life. May God's mercy lead them to rely completely on the grace of God.

Life Quotes: September 6 "However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. 'When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world' (John 16: 21). 'Take heart; I have overcome the world' (John 16: 33)!" *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: September 6 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 18:4 – **"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."** What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is childish — we are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts: with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we'll take His advice!

Divine Service I

Hymn: “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

LSB 915

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 32:1-7

Kyrie (p.152)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.154)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p.156)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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: *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual:

Fear the Lord, you his saints,

for those who fear him lack nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Epistle: *Romans 13:1-10*

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 18:1-20*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

Apostles' Creed (p.159)

Office Hymn: “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”

LSB 820

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Lord's Prayer (p.162)

The Words of Our Lord (p.162)

Pax Domini (p. 163)

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

"What Is This Bread" LSB 629

"Children of the Heavenly Father" LSB 725

"Praise the Almighty" LSB 797

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" LSB 707

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray: Thank God for reason. Pray that learning and intellect are always in service of God's Kingdom.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Mon.	Sept. 7	Church Office closed	
Beth:	Wed. Sept. 9	CWIA	1 pm
Beth:	Wed. Sept. 9	Dual Parish Budget Mtg	7 pm

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun. Sept. 13	Acolyte: Bailey Schreiber
		Greeters: Duwayne & Susan Gumz
STJ:	Sun. Sept. 13	Acolyte: Lauryn Hartwig

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 13	Worship Service	8:00 am
			Installation of Sunday School Staff	
			Sunday School	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 13	Worship Service	10:30 am
			Installation of Sunday School Staff	
			Sunday School	9:30 am
Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 13	Sunday School Rally	12:30 pm

Upcoming Dual Parish Meetings

*Dual Budget Meeting September 9 at 7pm at Bethlehem

*Dual Council Meeting September 17 at 7pm at Bethlehem

*Dual Parish Meeting October 11 at 7pm at St. John

St John's Congregation Harvest Supper Continue to keep this event in your prayers. Clear your calendars for October 1- 3, 2026 and visit the signup sheets to see where you can share your time. There are many positions available, where an extra set of hands will make the projects go faster. Contact Nancy Witucki or Mary Schultz with questions.

Volunteers are needed for the Bethlehem Soup Supper. Dates for the Soup Supper are December 4th and 5th. We need a list of people who would be interested in helping us November 30th thru December 4th with the Soup Supper prep. We have some key people with health issues & can't do it alone. A signup sheet is available on the table in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider volunteering.

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.



Bethlehem Sunday School: Sunday School starts September 13th. We are looking for teachers and helpers who are willing to share their time and faith with our children. Whether you can teach every Sunday or help occasionally, your willingness to serve can make a lasting difference in a child's life. No experience is necessary—lesson materials and support are provided. If you are able to help, please speak with Patti, Janessa, Tammi or Beth.



Sunday School Kickoff Rally

Date: September 13th

Time: starting at 12: 30 with a potluck lunch at 1: 00.

Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church

What: Food, games and fun for all ages. Everyone is welcome. Board of Education will be providing smoked pulled pork, hot dogs, buns, condiments and beverages. Potluck signup sheet available at church.

Sunday School will resume on September 13th.

Bethlehem at 9: 15 am

St. John at 9: 30 am

Installation of Sunday School Staff on September 13th during church.

Confirmation Classes (grades 6th - 8th) will resume on September 16th at Bethlehem starting at 6 pm. Any questions ask Pastor Mathey.

Youth Bible Study (grades 9th - 12th) will start on September 16th at Bethlehem at 6pm. Any questions ask Deb Mathey.

LifeLight Bible Study class will be on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at Bethlehem or Thursday mornings at 10: 30am at St. John. Classes will begin on September 16th and 17th.

Adult Bible Study Classes will start on Sunday, September 20th.

Bethlehem at 9: 15 am

St. John at 11: 45 am

LWML North WI Zone 10 Fall Rally on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Green Grove, Colby
Registration and Brunch: 8:00 am to 8:30 am. Fee is \$5.00 and includes morning brunch, the cost of the speaker and materials
The Christian Life Bible Study topic is "To Hear or Not to Hear".
The "Gifts from the Heart" will be for the Concordia Theological Seminary, Food & Clothing Co-op in Fort Wayne, IN. Vicar Paul Mroczenski will give a presentation. Monetary donations will be accepted for mites. Check out the bulletin board for the letter invitation.

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.

Liturgical Glossary

Agnus Dei (AH-nyoos DAY-ee) Latin for "Lamb of God," this hymn in the communion liturgy draws on the words of John the Baptist who pointed his disciples to Jesus, the Lamb of God (Jn 1:29). In the context of the communion liturgy, we are praying to Christ who is there present in his body and blood to have mercy on us and grant us peace.

HOPE

IT'S IN OUR BLOOD

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Blood Drive

WHEN & WHERE

Sat, October 17
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Road E, Milan

*Blood
donation tips*



Eat a healthy meal &
drink plenty of water
before donating.



Wear a shirt with
short or easy-to-
roll sleeves.



Don't forget to
bring your ID.



◀ Schedule your appointment
Appointments preferred.
Walk-ins welcome!

