

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



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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: July 26 – Pentecost 9 – God does not love us because of any quality in us, such as our age, physical ability, potential, wisdom, race, etc. (Deuteronomy 7: 6-7). God chose to love us from His own good grace and mercy and gave all He had, His own dear Son, to purchase the world from sin and have us as His own possession (Matthew 13: 44). In doing so, God reveals that every person—regardless of their age, size, or condition—is a precious treasure to Him and is worthy of our love and protection.

Life Quotes: July 26 “Even with all our sins, and even our rejection of Him, God is patiently loving us and calling us back to Him through the Holy Spirit. That’s your story, friends. Go out in your God-given identity as a king or a queen and a priest. Don’t go in fear and trembling, because when He calls you, He’ll be with you!” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: July 26 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 13: 45–46 – “*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*” Indeed, Jesus redeemed us, purchased us back from sin and death, with all that He had. We belong to Him now. Our generosity ought to imitate the out-sized generosity of Jesus.

Divine Service IV

Hymn: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

LSB 516

Confession and Absolution (p. 203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 125

Kyrie (p. 204)

Gloria in Excelsis (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 and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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: *Deuteronomy 7:6–9*

⁶“You are a people holy to the Lord your God.

The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen.

Epistle: *Romans 8:28–39*

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 13:44–52*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (p.207)

Office Hymn: “From God Can Nothing Move Me”

LSB 713

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:

“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

LSB 643

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

LSB 673

“In Thee Is Gladness”

LSB 818

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)
Post Communion Collect (p.212)
Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: "Be Still, My Soul"

LSB 752

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our home bound members
- Remember God's work through the Church as you pray: with thanksgiving for every person and organization that supports the work of the Church. The prayers and financial support of God's people enable the Gospel to be shared at home and around the world



This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

No Activities this week

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. August 2 Worship Service 8:00 am

Acolyte: Aubree Kirschner

Greeters: Clarence & Arlette Molthen

STJ: Sun. July 26 Worship Service 10:30 am

Acolyte: Cassidy Thompson

Concordia Publishing House is having a sale on the Lutheran

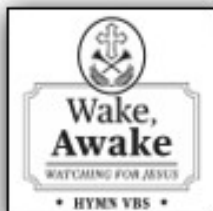
Service Book (LSB) pew edition

hymnals for a limited time.

The hymnals are \$20 each. If interested in purchasing a hymnal, please sign up on the order form located in the narthex. Last day to sign up is Monday, July 27th. *Payment will be due when you pick up the hymnal.*



BETHLEHEM VBS Recap: A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School such a wonderful experience! We are so grateful for our VBS staff, volunteers, and everyone who gave their time, talents, supplies, and support to help create a fun and faith-filled VBS where the children learned that God is always with us and rescues us through every storm.



St. John VBS Recap: We had 10 children ranging in ages 3 through those going into 6th grade. We had a wonderful group of over 12 youth helpers, and about 13 adult workers. This year we followed the hymn “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” to learn that Christ, who came once, will come again. We need His salvation, and we need to prepare for his return with the means of grace. We

rejoice that Christ comes to rescue us from suffering, because He is the source of **ALL JOY!** We participated in fellowship, activities, wonderful snacks, creative crafts, singing, and a lot of fun. It is wonderful to see everyone working together, enjoying the craziness of all the children, and sharing God’s love with all present.

Mission Fundraisers

This year we collected food for local area food pantries, Athens, Edgar, and Stratford. We collected **206 Food Items** during the week and the kids and staff delivered the grocery bags to the 3 local Circle of Joy drop offs at VBS closing on Friday.

Our second mission was Ringle Tornado relief, in conjunction with North Wisconsin District LCMS Disaster Relief. **We collected over \$ 2,252 from VBS with the congregation’s help!**

We closed VBS with an evening church service on Friday, followed by a picnic style supper in the parish hall. The kids enjoyed showing off their new songs to families and friends.

Praise be to God! Thank you to all the children and families that made this possible.

Traci Pehlke - VBS Director

Save the Date: St John’s Harvest Supper

October 3, 2026. Signup sheets for donations and volunteer jobs will be out in the next few weeks.



Dual Parish Picnic and Church Service



August 9, 2026, hosted by St. John.

Divine Service will be in the Sanctuary at St. John at 10 am. Potluck lunch to follow.

Bethlehem members will provide salads and desserts. St. John members will be providing main dishes which include hamburgers, hot ham and hot dogs.

Attention St. John members: Please sign up for main dishes to bring to the Dual Parish Picnic. Examples: mac n cheese, potato dish or beans. Signup sheet is located in the carport area.



LWML Brat and Hot Dog, Pie and Baked Goods Sale

Brats were not the only things “frying” on Friday!!!

The truck parked by the gas pumps and store were also ablaze!!! It was really on fire!! That was pretty scary for a while! We showed our appreciation by giving the firemen a brat and water. So many thanks to everyone

who Served the Lord with Gladness!!!

We will be depositing \$2,322.06!!!

Last year, we made around \$1900.

Thank you, and God Bless You!!

Janean Morrow (Zone 10 President)



Lutheran Hour Sponsorship: Looking for three more churches and/or individuals to sponsor the last three Sundays. We need to fill in these dates soon. A full sponsorship is \$94 for a half-hour broadcast. Please contact Lisa Snorheim at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Spencer at 715-659-4006 or send an email to trinity.spencer.wi@gmail.com to request a date. Checks can be made payable to “Lutheran Hour WDLB” and mailed to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 109, Spencer, WI 54479
Dates available: September 6 & 13 and December 13

If anyone asks, yes, we are accepting sponsorships for 2027.

Thank you so much for your support. I couldn't do this without all of your help.

Liturgical Glossary

Gradual A selection of psalm verses traditionally sung between the Epistle and Gospel. With the regular use of the Old Testament reading, the Gradual now appears after that reading, before the Epistle. The word Gradual is from the Latin for “step”, which refers to the step of the lectern from which the Gradual was traditionally sung.