

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

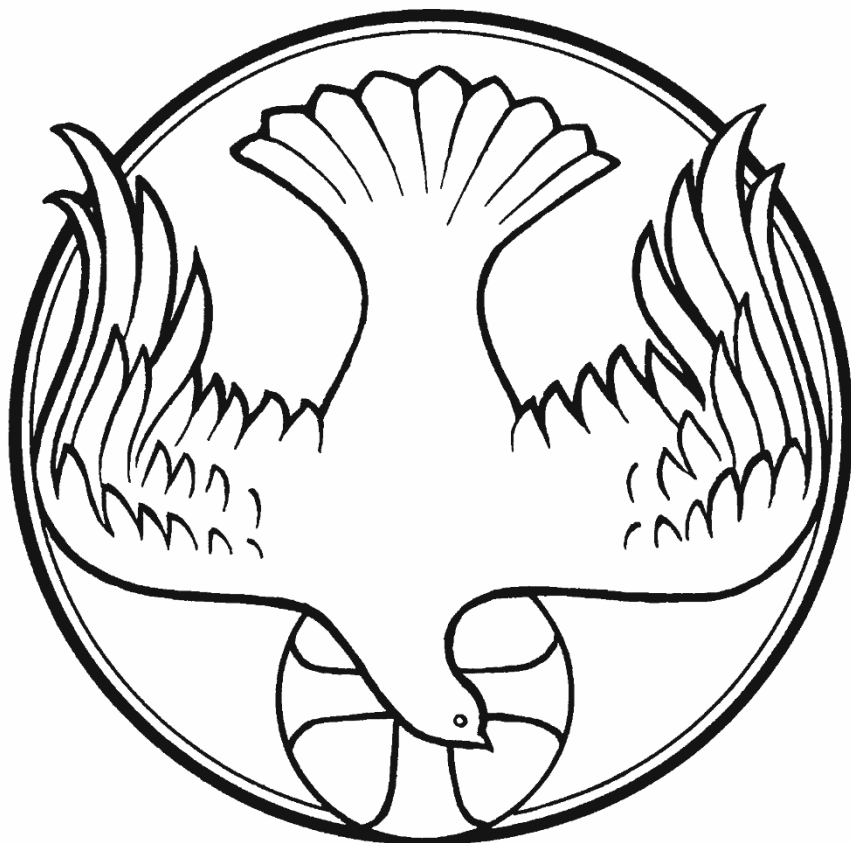
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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: May 10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter** – Like Athens at the time of the Apostle Paul's preaching (Acts 17: 16), this world is full of idols. Today's idols may take on a different shape, but they are just as deadly. These idols craftily disguise themselves with practical-sounding words and phrases, such as "reproductive health care" and "death with dignity." The One True God, the Lord of Life, offers a better way. Jesus says, "Because I live, you will also live" (John 14: 19). Though in this life we may be tested and tried like silver, and what may appear to be a crushing burden is laid on our backs, the Lord God has promised to bring us into a place of abundance (Psalm 66: 10-12). We have been given the Helper, the Spirit of Truth, who dwells in us (John 14: 16-17), that we may serve God in our various vocations as Gospel-motivated voices for Life, always being ready to make a defense for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3: 15).

**Life Quotes: May 10** "If you're a single parent, don't count yourself out ... If you're widowed or divorced, don't count yourself out. If you've never married, don't count yourself out. We sinners are all in this together. We want to see the relevance of faith for our daily lives. We hear the religious talk and we humbly ask, 'How does this apply to me?' The answer is that the glory of Christ's resurrection is for us all. It continues in the message of forgiveness and hope we experience each time we gather together." *Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Speaker Emeritus of "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**LCMS May 10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter John 14:15** – "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Jesus is clear: our obedience to His Word comes from our love for Him. But where does that love come from? Jesus tells us that as well: "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven — for she loved much" (Luke 7: 47). Christ shows us His love and gives us the forgiveness of our sins, which causes love to well up in us and thereby keep the commandments of Jesus. For after all, the summary of the Law is "love."

# Divine Service I

## Easter Greeting:

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

*Hymn:* “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” LSB 556 (stz. 1-5)

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

## Service of the Word

Psalms 66:8-20

Kyrie (p.152)

This Is the Feast (p.155)

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those 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.

## First Reading: *Acts 17:16-31*

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things

mean.” <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

<sup>29</sup>Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:**

Christ has risen from the dead.

**God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.**

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

**he has put all things under his feet.**

**Epistle:** *1 Peter 3:13–22*

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

**Holy Gospel:** *John 14:15-21*

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

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

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever

has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

*Office Hymn:* “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” LSB 556  
(stz. 6-10)

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

## **Service of the Sacrament**

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Words of Our Lord (p.162)

Proclamation of Christ (p. 162)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.162)

Pax Domini (p. 163)

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

*Distribution Hymns:*

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” LSB 641

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” LSB 821

“Son of God, Eternal Savior” LSB 842

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

*Hymn* “Christ is Risen, Christ is Living” LSB 479

## **Announcements**

**Ascension of the Lord Worship Service** at Bethlehem on  
Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

## Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God's work in His Church as you pray: that God would continue to raise up faithful servants for His Church in locations around the world

### This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Mon.	May 11	Elders Mtg	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Mon.	May 11	Council Mtg	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Tues.	May 12	Elders Mtg	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Tues.	May 12	Council Mtg	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	May 13	CWIA	1: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	May 13	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	May 13	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	May 14	Ascension Worship	7: 00 pm

### Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	May 17	Worship Service	8: 00 am
			First Communion	
Beth:	Sun.	May 17	STJ Graduation Recognition	9: 30 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 17	Worship Service	10: 30am
			Confirmation and First Communion	

### Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	May 17	Acolyte: Kelly Mathey
			Greeters: Joseph & Gloria Cornelius
STJ:	Sun.	May 17	Acolyte: Sam Hartwig

Last Day of Sunday School: Beth: May 10<sup>th</sup> & St. John: May 17<sup>th</sup>

Last Day of Confirmation classes: Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Confirmation and First Communion will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Confirmands will be Lauryn Hartwig, Cale Koch, Lexie Noller and Christian Pehlke. Receiving First Communion will be Aurbree Kirschner, Isabelle Kramp and Cassidy Thompson.

St. John Graduation Recognition will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Quilts will be presented at 9: 30 am to the graduates: Cade Koch, Nicholas Pehlke and Micah J. Schulz. Brunch served by the Sunday School students will follow. Brunch will include milk, juice, coffee, tea, sausage, cheese, crackers, fruit and cupcakes.

Bethlehem Members: Dorean is collecting money for the flowers. Please place your donation in the basket on the table.

**LWML Plant Sale** will be held at Unity Memorial Hall, 121 Madison St., Unity, WI (1 block west of Highway 13) May 14 – 15 from 9 to 5 May 16 from 9 to noon All proceeds go to the Lord's mission work of the LWML, WI Zone 10.

**Thank you** to both congregations for the organist recognition, the well wishes, the cards, flowers and the delicious cake. All were so very much appreciated. We consider our church family a very special blessing.  
-Gloria & Delores

**If anyone would like the bricks or small shrubs** located in the landscape alcove by the cemetery, please contact Linda and also have them removed by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The trees are staying and are not available.

**SAVE THE DATE: Bethlehem VBS Shipwrecked - Rescued by God** July 13th and 14th from 4: 30-7: 00. Join us for two fun-filled days of Vacation Bible School where kids will learn to trust God through life's storms. Enjoy Bible stories, music, crafts, and games in an exciting, shipwrecked adventure! Anyone willing to help, please contact Janessa, Tammi, Beth or Patti.

**Ringle Disaster Response:** Per the North Wisconsin District Happenings Newsletter. As recent devastation has impacted many within our district we give thanks to our merciful Lord that no lives were lost. Please keep all affected in your prayers. If you feel moved to support this mercy ministry of the North Wisconsin District, offerings can be sent to the District Office at: North WI District LCMS, 3103 Seymour Lane, Wausau, WI 544401 (memo line – Disaster Response), please make a note if designating to a specific disaster area.

**Bingo Sunday** was held April 26th. Thank-you all who attended. We had 17 people attend with 14 playing Bingo. We collected \$150 plus the Out-Reach Team donated \$350 for a total of \$500 was given to the Food Pantry at Zion Lutheran Church in Colby. A fun afternoon was had by all!! Plan for another Bingo Sunday in the fall! The Out-Reach Team Jane, Dorean and Marlene

**The Grain Train wishes to say THANK YOU** to Janice Brown. Shirley Buss and Arlette Molthen for the 214 crocheted hats and Sharon Ballerstein for the 70 plastic sleeping mats she crocheted. The hats were made from donated yarn. Anyone that has yarn they no longer want, even a small amount, please bring to church. Jeff Werner will accept the yarn at St. John.

## Edgar Memorial Day Services 2026

The Edgar area Memorial Day Services will be conducted by the Edgar Sawyer-Drumm American Legion Post 393 and Edgar Memorial VFW Post 10187. They will pay tribute at the following cemeteries on Monday, May 25, 2026.

8: 30 am	Holy Family Church	Poniatowski
9: 00 am	St. John Lutheran Church (High Steeple)	Town of Wien
9: 20 am	Hope Lutheran	Hwy 97
9: 40 am	St. John Lutheran	Hwy N
9: 50 am	Joint Township	Town of Wein
10: 05 am	Village of Fenwood	Fenwood
11: 00 am	Edgar Veterans Memorial	Edgar Oak St. Park

After the ceremony at the Edgar Veterans Memorial, a parade in Edgar will start at the Oak Street Park and we will march to the Scotch Creek Bridge for a service for those who served on the water. From there we will proceed to the Edgar cemetery.

Our guest speaker at the Edgar cemetery will be Wisconsin State Representative John Spiros from Marshfield who represents the Wisconsin 86<sup>th</sup> District Assembly.

The Edgar Girl Scouts and the Edgar High School Band will also participate in the parade and ceremonies.

# Happy Mother's Day

Today, we joyfully celebrate and honor all the amazing women who have nurtured, guided, and loved us—mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures. Your faith, strength, and compassion are a reflection of God's love in action.

May God bless you abundantly for the seeds of love you've sown and the lives you've touched. We thank you for your unwavering faith and the light you bring to our church family.



**Bethlehem LWML Ladies will be hosting Undie Sunday** - Destitute people around the world need basic necessities. Thousands of people helped by The Grain Train do not have good underwear or socks. For Undie Sunday, please bring NEW underwear (all sizes, men's women's, girl's and boy's) and socks to church.

Arlette will be collecting at Bethlehem and Jeff W. will collect at St. John. Undies and socks will be collected through Sunday, June 14th.

**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.

**STJ Lawn Mowing:** Warmer weather is coming. Please consider helping and sign up. Signup sheet available at Bethlehem or talk to Pete. -Thank you! Trustees