

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



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Day / Sunday ????

October 26, 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: October 26 “We need pro-life laws and alternative-to-abortion options to provide bridges and buy time for us to share the Gospel of salvation in Christ. Yet we cannot settle for a favorable court ruling, a strong piece of legislation, or a life-favoring politician ... Ultimately, though, changed hearts provide the alternative of eternal hope when despair and desperation tempt us to do bad things.” *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: October 26 – (Proper 25) – Defending the lives that God created, redeemed, and called by the Gospel is a good thing! But we must be careful not to become like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable, who became so proud of his good works that he mistreated those who didn't think like him (Luke 18:11-12). Affirming the sanctity of every life also means caring about those who disagree with us, treating them with compassion and sharing the forgiveness of Christ with them, that they, too, might receive the “crown of righteousness” on the Last Day (2 Timothy 4:8).

Divine Service III

Hymn: “Salvation unto Us Has Come”

LSB 555 stz. 1-5

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184)

Service of the Word

Psalm 46

Kyrie (p.186)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.187)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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

Revelation 14:6–7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,
consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
that this is God, our God forever and ever.

STJ: Chimes “Faith of Our Fathers”

Epistle

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

Alleluia (p.190)

Holy Gospel

John 8:31–36

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord**

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Office Hymn: “Salvation unto Us Has Come” LSB 555 stz. 6-10

Sermon

Offertory (p.192)

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.194)

Sanctus (p.195)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.196)

The Words of Our Lord (p.197)

Pax Domini (p. 197)

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” LSB 617

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” LSB 655

“By Grace I’m Saved” LSB 566

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Thanksgiving (p.200)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Salutation and Benedicamus (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” LSB 657

Announcements

Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Remember Pastor Mathey, and all church workers in your prayers as we celebrate Church Worker Appreciation Month.

Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth/STJ:	Mon.	Oct. 27	November Newsletter Deadline	
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 29	Chimes	5: 30 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 29	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 29	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Oct. 29	Lifelight Bible Study	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	Oct. 30	Lifelight Bible Study	10: 30am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Acolyte: Kelly Mathey
			Greeters: Doreen Freimund & Marlene Schreiber
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 2	Acolyte: Christian Pehlke



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.

Bethlehem Reformation Sunday Breakfast

following worship service TODAY!

Everyone is invited.



Higher Things Conference registration packet and the \$150 registration fee is due to Deb Mathey by TODAY, October 26th.

Announcements for the November Newsletter: Please have your announcements to the church secretary by Monday, October 27th.

St. John Members: Make sure your church activities are on the monthly calendar. With the snowy months approaching, the parking lots will be cleared out for Church Services and activities listed on the monthly calendar.



Blood Drive Results Thanks so much for hosting us on Saturday at St. John's Lutheran Church. We collected 13 units of blood, which will impact the lives of up to 39 local patients, and that is simply wonderful.

Mark your calendars for **Bethlehem Soup, Bake and Craft Sale** on December 12th and 13th. Pick up will be from 9 am to 3 pm. More details to come. You won't want to miss this!



NEEDED: Plastic Bags to make mats for the Orphan Grain Train. It takes approximately 800 bags to make one mat. Any questions contact Arlette or Sharon B.



As we celebrate **Pastor Appreciation Month**, we want to thank you, Pastor Mathey, for all you do for us! We appreciate the time and sacrifice you put in to serve the church. We thank the Lord Jesus Christ for bringing you to our church. You are a faithful servant of his people. Thank you for your service to the church throughout the year.

Our LCMS church workers serve all of us in the Body of Christ with faithfulness and dedication. To acknowledge their service, the Synod is encouraging churches and schools to show appreciation to workers on designated dates throughout the year.

October is **Church Worker Appreciation Month**.

Let's be sure to show our gratitude to Pastor Mathey, Deb Mathey and Elizabeth Marshall. No gesture is too small! Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ around the LCMS in letting them know how much we appreciate them.



Weekly Announcements Items Please send your weekly announcements to the church secretary by Wednesday. Thank you! Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9am to noon.

Church Office Information

- ✓ Check out the Church's Facebook page for upcoming events
- ✓ Any corrections in the bulletin or newsletter, please let the church secretary know

Lutheran Hope in a Dark World sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church (2335 S. Webster St., Green Bay, WI 54301) will be taking place on Saturday, November 8, 2025 from 9 am to noon. This is a free event with lunch provided. Please RSVP on their website at <http://flcgb.com> by clicking on the Lutheran Hope in a Dark World icon and filling out the google doc.

Event Information:

Together with Higher Things speaker and host of Christ in All Things, Rev. Harrison Goodman, we will learn how to speak in truth and act in love as we face current challenging societal situations. "Lutheran Hope in a Dark World" will help us navigate many world issues including self-harm, same sex attraction, gender dysphoria, pornography and use of technology trauma and more.



Community Events: Check out the bulletin boards for more details.

*Chili Sale at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Milan 10/26/25

*18th Annual Soup and Pie Supper at St. John Lutheran Church
Withee 10/29/25

*Trinity Annual Craft Sale (pre-order chili), Trinity Lutheran Athens,
11/23/25