

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



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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: August 30 – Pentecost 14 – At the end of earthly life, we might cry out: “Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?” (Jeremiah 15: 18). Don't take your life, or anyone else's, into your own hands. Receive St. Paul's encouragement for all your for-life conversations: “Love one another with brotherly affection ... associate with the lowly ... live peaceably with all ... do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12: 9-21). Even though many of us may “taste death” before the Son of Man returns, we set our minds on the things of God—life! —and not the things of man (Matthew 16: 23, 28).

Life Quotes: August 30 “Use the biological reality of the word ‘abortion’ to begin discussion to share that message with your unbelieving neighbor. Do so with boldness, but gentleness, please! Use the eternal reality of the word ‘abortion’ to share that message with your fellow believers. Speak the truth in love, please!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: August 30 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Matthew 16:26** – “**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?**” He who dies with the most toy...is dead. But the one who trusts in the Lord, even though he dies, yet shall he live. We live out our trust in the Lord by faithfully fulfilling the roles God has given us to play in home, church and society as loving, generous people. Those who don't know the Lord are afraid to be generous because they think that what they give away is lost to them. But we who know the Lord know that the things of this world become true blessings when they are used for God's kingdom.

Divine Service I

Hymn: “To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”

LSB 613

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 26

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.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament: *Jeremiah 15:15–21*

¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?

¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

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 12:9–21*

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 16:21-28*

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

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

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office Hymn: “Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus”

LSB 531

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:

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” LSB 625

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” LSB 649

“Jesus, Lead Thou On” LSB 718

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “Christ Be My Leader” LSB 861

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God’s work in Lutheran schools as you pray: for church members who tell the story of their Lutheran school, that their recommendation might lead more students through the school’s doors.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

	Tues. Sept. 1	Pastor at Circuit Meeting	9 am
Beth:	Wed. Sept. 2	LWML	10 am
STJ:	Thurs. Sept. 3	LWML	9: 30am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. Sept. 6 Worship Service 8:00 am

Acolyte: Kelly Mathey

Greeters: Brentin & Taylor Bender & family

STJ: Sun. Sept. 6 Worship Service 10: 30 am

Acolyte: Isabelle Kramp

Sunday School Kickoff Rally will be on September 13th at Bethlehem starting at 12: 30 with a potluck lunch at 1:00. Food, games and fun for all ages. Everyone is welcome, don’t have to have kids in Sunday School.

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.

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

Time To Sign Up For LifeLight! If you'd like to join the LifeLight Bible Study this fall, sign-up sheets are now available. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at Bethlehem or Thursday mornings at 10:30am at St. John. Classes will begin on September 16th and 17th. This fall session will focus on Worship. The price is \$12 for your study book. Please sign up by TODAY, Sunday, August 30th. Please consider joining us for this in-depth study of God's Word!

St. John's Harvest Supper is scheduled for October 3, 2026. Annual Congregation Mission Event. Sign-up sheets are in the carport area. Tasks have been broken down, and time slots have been shortened.

So, ask "What Can I Do?"

1. Pray
2. Donate Items
3. Work

Any questions, contact Nancy Witucki at 715-352-7060 or Mary Schultz at 715-352-2603

Give the Gift of Life! Bethlehem is hosting a community blood drive through Versiti on Saturday, October 17 from 7:30–12:00. Every donation can help provide lifesaving blood to patients in our local hospitals and communities. If you are able, please consider giving the gift of life and encourage your family and friends to participate as well. More information on how to sign up will be coming soon.

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.



Liturgical Glossary Pax Domini (POX DOE-mee-nee): Latin for "peace of the Lord." Prior to the distribution of the Lord's body and blood, the pastor blesses the people with the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you always."

Lutherans for Life – LIFE DATE Fall 2026 is available at church.

Concordia Publishing House – Bible Sale through September 15th get 25% off selected Bibles with promo code BIBLES26. Check it out on the website cph.org

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.

UPDATE 8/11/26 on the
Financial aspect of the St. John Refresh Project
Renovation 2026 Expenses Totals

\$121,035.00	Church Interiors – Paint & Lights
\$ 4489.26	Rice's Floors
\$ 2284.65	Electrician
\$ 510.00	Mayer Upholstery
\$ 4188.00	<u>Innovative Machine – Radiator covers</u>
\$135,506.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$135,506.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$ 40,755.00	Deposit
\$ 51,984.57	Beginning Balance
\$ 34,562.31	<u>2026 Donations</u>
\$ 5205.03	Donations still needed

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.