

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



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 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: “When life around us is dark and despairing, when troubles are real and overwhelming, when our hurts outweigh our joys, take a moment to think about God’s beautiful creation given for us as a ‘good and perfect gift.’ Take a moment to remember that we have another Light in our world—our Lord Jesus Who is the Creator of all things and is the light of men.” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: – (Proper 28) – As the days draw closer to Christ’s return, we have witnessed people brought before kings and governors for the sake of Jesus’ name and the truth that every life is precious in God’s sight, just like Jesus warned (Luke 21:10-12). But don’t be afraid! “This is your opportunity to bear witness” (Luke 21:13)! We can go out “leaping like calves from the stall” (Malachi 4:2), proclaiming the sanctity of all life because we know that God promises to “give you a mouth and wisdom” (Luke 21:15) and that the “sun of righteousness” shall soon “rise with healing in its wings” (Malachi 4:2).

Divine Service I

Hymn: “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

LSB 590

BETH: Rite of Holy Baptism (p.268)

Confession and Absolution

STJ: Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

STJ: Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

STJ: Psalm 98

STJ: Kyrie (p.152)

STJ: Gloria in Excelsis (p.154)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament:

Malachi 4:1–6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶And he will turn the

hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual:

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Epistle: *2 Thessalonians 3:1–13*

¹Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ²and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *Luke 21:5–36*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and

with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office Hymn: “The Day Is Surely Drawing Near” LSB 508

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:

“Send Forth By God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

“Fight the Good Fight” LSB 664

“O Sing to the Lord” LSB 808

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” LSB 924

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

Announcements

Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Thank God for Sabbath rest. Hold His Word sacred. Gladly hear and learn it.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Nov. 17	Able-Light	10: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Nov. 19	Chimes	5: 30 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Nov. 19	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Nov. 19	Youth Group	6: 00 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Deadline to order a wreath	
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Acolyte: Aubree Kirschner
			Greeters: Del and Michelle Schwarting
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 23	Acolyte: Sam Hartwig

Higher Things Meeting TODAY (November 16th) at 5 pm.

Baptism of Baylyn Jeffery Bender

We welcome Baylyn Jeffery into our church family.
Parents are Brentin and Tayler Bender. Sponsors are
Brandon and Jill Schreiber.



Lutheran Witness Renewal: If you wish to renew your Lutheran Witness subscription or if you would like to get a new subscription the price for 2026 is \$27.65. **Deadline for renewal/new subscriptions is November 30th.** Payment can be given to the church secretary. If you wish to pay by check, make your check payable to St. John and note it for "Lutheran Witness renewal".

The **Bethlehem LWML Ladies Aid** is again offering their **10th annual Christmas wreath sale.** Sign-up sheets are at both churches. Deadline is November 23rd. Delivery date is November 30th. Any questions please call Arlette at 715-223-6060 or 715-223-3946 or Shirley at 715-654 5291



Bethlehem Poinsettia Orders Sign-up sheet available at church. Deadline is December 7th. Cost is \$12. Please make checks payable to Marlene Schrieber.

Bethlehem Soup, Bake and Craft Sale

Soup Orders: To order your quart(s) of soup, call Dorean at 715-680-0078, December 1st through December 12th OR order forms are in the back of church (Beth) and on the counter (STJ).

Soup Pick Up: Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th from 9 am to 3 pm.

Soups available: Chicken Dumpling, Chili, Sauerkraut Chili and Cheesy Broccoli Cauliflower.



Each Bethlehem family is asked to bring four dozen cookies to church for the Bake Sale by Thursday, December 11th. Help make this a successful Soup, Bake and Craft Sale!

Advent Soup Supper at St. John The Youth Group will be serving savory soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and all the delicious fixings from 5:00- 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th and 17th. Free will offering is going to support the youth group and their Higher Things Youth Gathering. Traci Pehlke will be coordinating the meals. If you can help or donate, please contact Traci at 715-432-9333. There will be a sign-up sheet at St. John's church for anyone that wants to help by making soups or desserts.



St. John Sunday School Holiday Mission: We are stocking the local food pantries for the Thanksgiving and Christmas! Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable food, monetary donations, going grocery shopping, and delivering the food to stock the shelves of the pantries! ***Items needed most are:*** Canned Meats; Chicken, Ham, Tuna, Spam, Canned Pasta with Meat, Canned Fruit, Cereal. All Non-Perishable items are accepted. Thank you for your support and generosity. Thrivent action cards are a great way to help fill the needs. There are several collection boxes throughout the back of church. Any questions, please contact Traci Pehlke.