

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

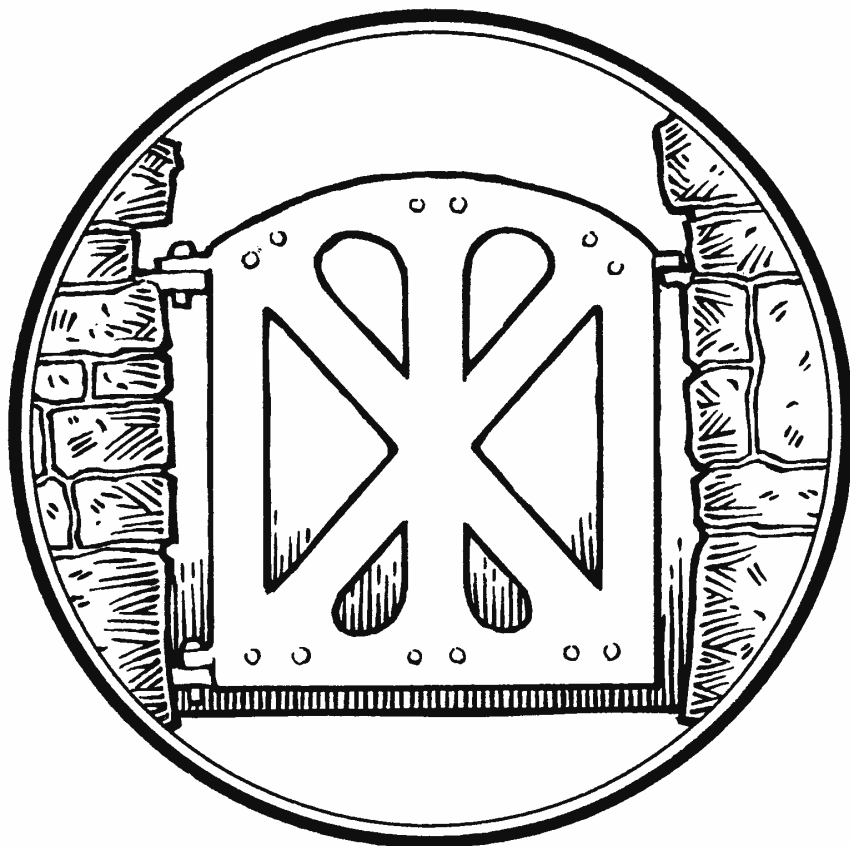
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ Good Shepherd

April 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: April 26 (Easter 4)** – The first generation of Christians were “selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2: 45). They did this because they recognized that the Gospel of Jesus grants worth and dignity to every person. This doesn't mean that each Christian needs to sell all they have. But it does mean that we would “die to sin and live to righteousness” (1 Peter 2: 24), loving the poor and needy as well as the unborn, the sick, and the dying.

**Life Quotes: April 26** “Sin and shame and guilt are taken away by one thing only—the blood of Jesus Christ—which cleanses us from all sin. Our sins have already been punished in Him, on that cross. Jesus bodily rose from the tomb so that we would know that now even death itself cannot harm those who belong to Jesus and trust in Him alone, for as He lives, so we live as well.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**LCMS April 26 – Fourth Sunday of Easter** 1 Peter 2: 21 – “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” Our heavenly Father wants us to grow into the image of His Son and to follow in His steps. Jesus suffered for us not only to redeem us, but also to show us what love looks like and to leave us an example of self-giving, sacrificial generosity. “Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure.”

# Divine Service I

## Easter Greeting:

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C **He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**

*Hymn:* “Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”      LSB 473

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

## Service of the Word

Psalm 23

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.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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 2:42–47*

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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 2:19–25*

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

**Holy Gospel:**

*John 10:1-10*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>This figure of

speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

*Office Hymn:* “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

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:*

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”

LSB 625

“Shepherd of Tender Youth”

LSB 864

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

LSB 710

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

*Hymn* “Have No Fear, Little Flock”

LSB 735

## Announcements

**Due to the Refresh Project at St. John, all Sunday church activities will be held at Bethlehem.**

### Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray: that we might have hearts that are willing and eager to serve the Lord in every way.

### This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	April 26	Celebrate Organist	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 26	BINGO!	2pm-4pm
Beth:	Wed.	April 29	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	April 29	Youth Group	6: 00 pm

### Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	May 3	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 3	Beth & STJ Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 3	Beth & STJ Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	May 3	Worship Service	10: 30am

### Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	May 3	Acolyte: Aleah Kosik Greeters: Ray Yessa & family
STJ:	Sun.	May 3	Acolyte: Christian Pehlke

**Please join us today at 9:15 am to celebrate our organists who fill our churches with beautiful music and songs every Sunday.**

**Confirmation and First Communion** will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Location will be determined by the completion of the St. John Refresh Project.

**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. Location will be determined by the completion of the St. John Refresh Project.

**Thank you** to all who volunteered their time preparing St. John sanctuary for the Refresh Project.

**Thank you Bethlehem Members** who gave their Thrivent Choice Dollars to church.

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.

**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:** It is that time of year! Warmer weather is coming. Please consider helping and sign up. Signup sheet available at Bethlehem or talk to Pete. -Thank you! Trustees

**Update for the Refresh Project, as of 04/23/26**

**Balance of remaining contract dollars needed: \$16,303.**

Please feel free to contact Danni Seibert, Treasurer, at 909-801-1776 for any questions you may have, or for updates as donations come in. We are a blessed congregation and we are truly grateful for everyone's generosity toward this project.

**THANK YOU to everyone who donated Easter Lilies**

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory</u>
Verlyn & Judith Wittlinger	Loved Ones
Schwarting Family	Loved Ones
Hammel Family	Loved Ones
Shirley Buss	Loved Ones
Loretta Schafer	Loved Ones
Joshua & Jill Penk & Family	Loved Ones
Dorean Freimund	Danny & Diane
Galen & Marlene Schreiber	Loved Ones
Joanne Luther	Loved Ones
Brenda Weiler	
L.W.M.L.	
C.W.I.A	

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

- God's Blessing, Marlene



Time is running out to save big with the **CPH Warehouse Sale**. Over 600 items are yours to save up to 70% on! Load up your cart and *check out before midnight April 27* to take home these discounts and expand your Christian library.

TODAY! Come play BINGO!



# Bingo



April 26, 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



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Suggested donation \$2 per card  
100% of proceeds will go to the Cup  
CUP Food Pantry in Colby

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Snacks and drinks  
provided.



Prizes awarded!



**Reaching** Out with Jesus Christ  
**Building** Our Community  
**Teaching** All to Love and  
**Serve** One Another

233500 County Road E  
Milan, Wisconsin  
(across from the Milan cemetery)