Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~
Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888
www.stjbeth.org

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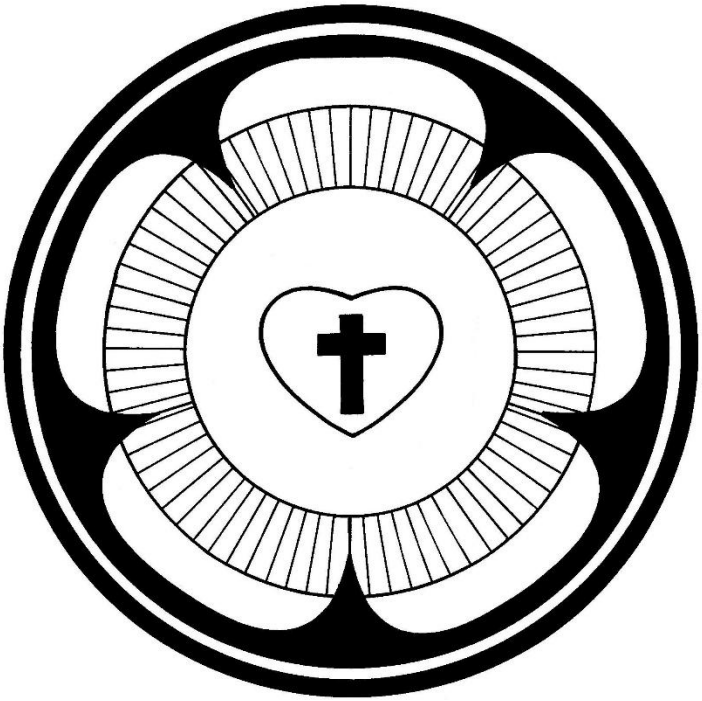
233500 County Rd E
Milan, WI 54411

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426



Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Day (observed)

October 25, 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: October 25 – Reformation Day – Our freedom from slavery to sin comes through the Son of God being nailed to a tree (John 8). The righteousness of God has come to us by faith. This sets us free from sin and also sets us free to love God and love our neighbors. The life we have from God, we live for the benefit of others (Romans 3). In so doing, we give glory to God for all that He has done for us (Revelation 14).

Life Quotes: October 25 "Today God continues to defend and aid His people, those who trust in His Son as their Savior. God is ever with us. He preserves His Word and Church despite the constant attack of the devil, the unbelieving world, and false teachers. God provides for all our needs of body and soul, even in times of great need and conflict. God is our refuge. His Word endures forever. His grace and power never fail." *From "Meditations on Favorite Scriptures: Devotions for a Year" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: October 25 – Reformation Day (Observed) John 8:36 – "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Today we celebrate Reformation Day! Luther is rightly remembered as a champion of the Gospel — but he also called himself "the apostle of good works." For, only by being set free by the Gospel, can we do good works. Jesus has set us free: His blood covers our sins, and now we stand before God as His beloved children, invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.

STJ: Pre-service music provided by the Sunday School Students

Divine Service III

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

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)
Corporate Confession (p.184) installation

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.**

Frist Reading *Revelation 14:6–7*

6 Then 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. 7 And 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.

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'?"

34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone
who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in
the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So 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: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” LSB 657
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
“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” LSB 497
“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” LSB 655
Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)
Thanksgiving (p.200)
Post Communion Collect (p.201)
Salutation and Benedicamus (p.201)
Benediction (p.202)

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

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God's gift of the Sacrament of the Altar as you pray: for the LCMS, that we might believe, teach and confess all things according to God's will.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

	Mon.	Oct. 26	Deadline for November Newsletter	
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 28	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 28	Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 28	LifeLight	7:00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Oct. 29	LifeLight	10:30 am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 1	Worship Service	8:00 am
			Sunday School	9:15 am
			Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 1	Worship Service	10:30 am
			Chimes	9:00 am
			Sunday School	9:30 am
			Adult Bible Study	11:45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Nov. 1	Acolyte: Kelly Mathey
			Greeters: Doreen Freimund & Marlene Schreiber
STJ:	Sun.	Nov. 1	Acolyte: Sam Hartwig

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 Appreication Month**. Let's be sure to show our gratitude to Pastor Mathey, Deb Mathey and Elizabeth Marshall. Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ around the LCMS in letting them know how much we appreciate them.

Higher Things Conference: The Youth Group will be attending the Higher Things conference in Mequon June 22-25, 2027. Registration materials is due TODAY, October 25th. See Deb Mathey for any qeustions

Mark your calendars for **Bethlehem Soup, Bake and Craft** Sale on December 4th and 5th. More details to come. You won't want to miss this!

Part-time Bookkeeper Wanted:
St. John is looking to hire a part-time bookkeeper. This is a paid part-time position starting as soon as possible. Resumes can be emailed to the church secretary at secretary@stjbeth.org. Please call to confirm delivery of resume. (emails can be delivered to junk mail). The deadline for submitting a resume is November 9, 2026. Any questions regarding this position please Linda Mueller @ 715-574-6751

Every One His Witness, Lutheran Evangelism on November 7th from 8:15am – 4:00pm. This Core Module will help you understand why we witness, and teach you how the name LASSIE can help you to witness! The cost for each participant to attend is $15 (to cover the cost of your workbook). After you've completed the Core Module, you will have access to additional information on how to witness to people in more specific contexts.

Please RSVP by calling 715-352-2888 no later than October 28! Leave a message with your name and *your phone number*! Everyone is His Witness, including *you*!

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 2027 is $30.50. 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".

Blood Drive Results Thanks so much for hosting us on Saturday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, LCMS. We collected 21 units of blood, which will impact the lives of local patients, and that is simply wonderful.

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.

Liturgical Glossary: Chancel The section of the church building beyond the nave where the altar and pulpit (and often the font) are located.

Luther/Reformation Display at St. John in the library. We'd love for you to take your time and enjoy the display and learn.

LCMS Family Ministry - Explore the classic theme of the Reformation with Family Ministry's
'The Luther Seal: Summary of the Gospel' coloring page, found at resources.lcms.org/general/the-luther-seal-summary-of-the-gospel-coloring-page.

Camp Luther Summer Staff & Jr. Counselor Applications Open
Do you know someone who loves Jesus, loves kids, and wants to put their faith into action? Camp Luther seeks passionate, Christ-centered individuals to join Camp Luther's **2027 Summer Team**! Applications for Summer Staff are open on October 15, and Junior Counselor applications open on November 1, 2026. Visit **campluther.com/why-serve** to learn more!

Community Events: Check out the bulletin boards for more details.
* Hot BBQ Pork Sandwich Luncheon at St. Paul Lutheran Church at Green Grove on October 25th
*Annual Soup & Pie Supper at St. John's Lutheran Church, Withee on October 28th
* Christmas Benefit/Fish & Shrimp Fry at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edgar on November 20th
*Trinity Annual Craft Sale at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens on November 22nd

Church Office Information

- ✓ Deadline for November Newsletter and Calendar is Monday, October 26th.