

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

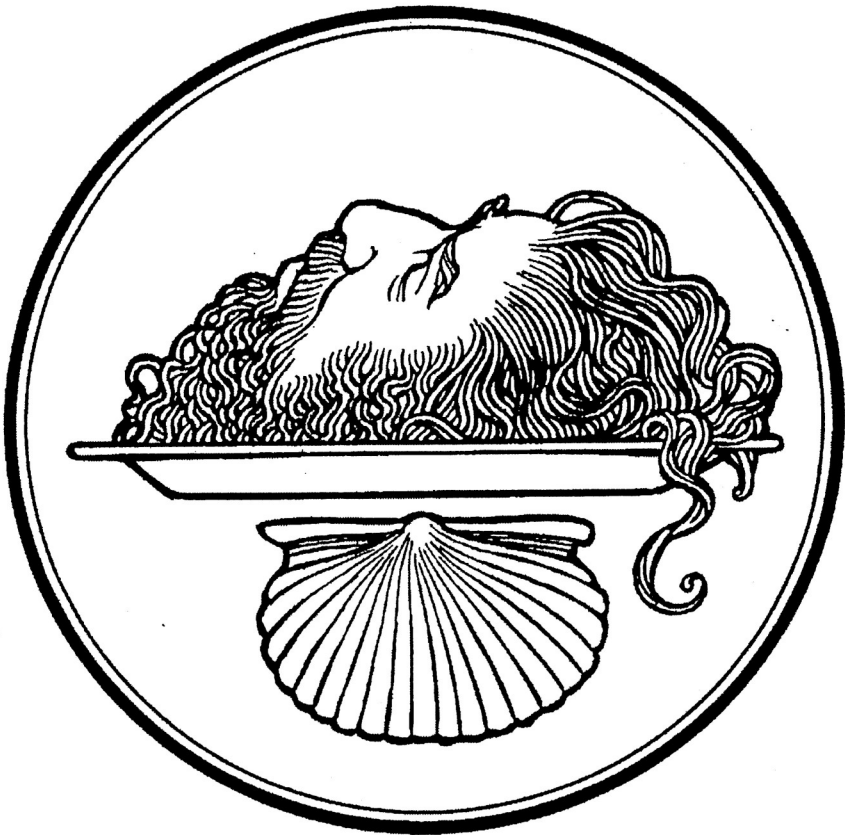
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024

Reverend Neely Owen

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 : "We are each created in God's image regardless of our abilities. He has called us to be His witnesses in the world. We are blessed for life—that we might be a BLESSING—glorifying Him in all we do. Because He has redeemed ME, my response to His everlasting love is to seek to do His will in all things and seek to serve. All His children, regardless of age (pre-born to wise with age), could seek to share God's love with each and every soul God has created." *Lori Solyom, Director of Development, Voice of Care – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: The relaxing lies our culture prophesies cannot even approach our Lord's promises (Jeremiah 23:16-18). We speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly and gladly (Jeremiah 23:28-29), though it earns us persecution, because He sets great joy before us. In this faith we will sit around His throne with the cloud of witnesses His Word saved. *Lamb of God, You have given me Your people's crown of life; forge in me Your prophets' faith. Amen.*

Divine Service IV

Hymn: By All Your Saints in Warfare (*sts. 1, 24, 3*) *LSB 518*

Confession & Absolution (p.203)

Psalm 85 (1-13)

Kyrie (p. 204)

Gloria in Excelsis (p. 204)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; 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 Reading: *Amos 7:7-15*

⁷This is what [the Lord God] showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"Behold, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass by them;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words.

¹¹For thus Amos has said,

“Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.”

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual:

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

Epistle: *Ephesians 1:3–14*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised

Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

Holy Gospel: Mark 6:14–29

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him."¹⁵But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."¹⁷For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her.¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not,²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.²²For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."²³And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.

²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office hymn "I Leave All Things to God's Direction" LSB 719

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.208)

Sanctus (p.208)

The Lord's Prayer (p.209)

The Words of Institution (p.209)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.210)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" LSB 618

"How Firm a Foundation" LSB 728

"God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons" LSB 682

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" LSB 803

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

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

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ: Sat. July 20 STJ VBS Staff Meeting 9am

Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. July 21st Voters Meeting 9:15am

STJ: Sun. July 21st Voters Meeting 11:45

STJ: VBS July 22nd to July 26th 9am to Noon

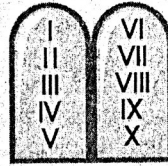
STJ: Fri., July 26th VBS Closing Picnic at 6:00 pm

St. John will be hosting the Dual Parish Service this year on August 11, 2024. Watch for further information in the coming weeks.

LWML Brat and Hot Dog & Baked Goods Sale Friday July 19th 10:30am to 3:00pm at the Cenex Station, HWY 13, Dorchester. If you would like to donate pies. (disposable tins & Identify the Flavor) or baked goods (identify the type) or if you would like to volunteer to attend or help at the sale. Call Janean Morrow 715-383-6128 or email we2morrow@gmail.com

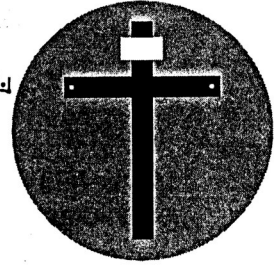
BETHLEHEM VBS - Thank you to everyone who helped with our Jungle Journey with God VBS, whether it was through prayers, help with planning, donations, preparing food, making decorations, helping set up and clean up, being present to help on Monday and Tuesday, or anything else. It takes a team effort to put this together and it wouldn't be possible without the support of the congregation. Thank you also to those who brought kids, we had a great turnout with 24 kids attending.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Law and Gospel

Many people wrongly think that the Old Testament is the Law and the New Testament is the Gospel. In fact the Old Testament and the New Testament each contain both Law and Gospel.



What are the basics of the Law and the Gospel?

The Law teaches us God's will for how we live, namely the Ten Commandments. God's Law demands perfection, but it is impossible to be perfect. According to the Law, we are sinners, and are in big trouble with God. We need someone to save us. The Law shows us our sins.

The Gospel tells us what Jesus has done to save us from our sins. But the Gospel doesn't stop there. It tells us what Jesus continues to do for us because of His great love for us. The Gospel shows us our Savior, Jesus!

An easy way to remember all of this is to think of the following letters: S.O.S. The Law "shows our sins" while the Gospel "shows our Savior"!



Parents: Distinguishing between Law and Gospel is a life-long venture of study. Perhaps you or your child can take notes during the sermon. Following the Divine Service, discuss these notes, identifying the Law and the Gospel in the sermon.

