

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

*[www.bethstj.org](http://www.bethstj.org)*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
233500 County Rd E  
Milan, WI 54411

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10th, 2023

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** - September 10 "There is no more valuable work for God and for all of Christendom than bringing up your children in the faith and trust of Jesus! It's not hard to believe that if this were our primary aim, that our children would not question their gender, that they would respect their neighbor and love their spouses, that they would welcome the opportunity to serve the public with politics that reflect solid biblical values, and that they would continue to attend church well after confirmation!" Rev. Jeff Duncan, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Life Thoughts** -September 10<sup>th</sup> Those who see abortion as just "another issue" and would support or encourage a woman to make such a choice fail to understand the scriptural concept of "neighbor" and have a false sense of what it means to love. Those who see both mother and unborn child as "neighbor" and take action to bring help and hope fulfill the second greatest commandment in the Law and reflect the love of Christ (Matthew 22:34-40).

**From the Small Catechism -**

*The Lord's Prayer: The Fifth Petition*

And forgive us our trespasses as we \_\_\_\_\_ those who trespass against us.

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our \_\_\_\_\_, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we \_\_\_\_\_ them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

# Divine Service I

Hymn: "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

LSB 915

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

## Service of the Word

*Psalm 32: 1-7*

Kyrie (p.152)

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 God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through 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: *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

<sup>7</sup>"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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: Epistle Romans 13:1–10**

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (p.156)

*Holy Gospel: Holy Gospel     Matthew 18:1-20*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup>"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup>"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

<sup>10</sup>"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man came to save the lost. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

<sup>15</sup>"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to

them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.158)

**Office hymn:** “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”

LSB 820

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Offertory (p.159)

### Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.162)

The Words of Institution (p.162)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

#### Hymns:

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”

LSB 625

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

Post Communion Collect (p.164)

Benediction (p.166)

**Hymn:** “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways ”

LSB 707

## Announcements

### Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins, Mel Niemann & Family

### This Week for Bethlehem and St. John

St. John Sunday School Staff installed today. Staff includes teachers, substitute teachers, helpers and music people. Pete V., Delores T., Nic P., Joan C., Traci P., Deb M., Ronda D., Tabitha H., Sam V., Trish V., Lillian P., and Mary S. Supt.

<b>Beth:</b>	Mon. Sept. 11	6:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting
<b>STJ:</b>	Tue. Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00 Council Meeting

### Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

<b>Beth:</b>	Sun. Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am: Divine Service w/HC
<b>Beth:</b>	Sunday School	9:15am
<b>Beth:</b>	Youth Bible Class	9:15am
<b>STJ:</b>	Sunday School	9:15am
<b>STJ:</b>	Sun. Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am: Divine Service w/HC
<b>STJ:</b>	Tue. Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm Dual Parish Budget Mtg.

**Dual Parish Budget Meeting** will be Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at St. John.

**St. John Harvest Supper is set for October 7<sup>th</sup>.** This is a congregational mission event for us to reach out to our surrounding community (especially homebound and senior living) and provide home cooked meals. **Please** consider how you can best serve the Lord by volunteering your time or gifts to this event. There are still many jobs you can sign up for. Let's join together to do the Lord's work.

**Join us for LifeLight**, a new Adult Bible Study series beginning on Sept. 20 at 7pm at St. John and on Sept. 21 at 11am at Bethlehem. We will begin by examining the Book of Revelation. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet for whichever class time and place you want to be a part of (purple for evenings at St. John & white for mornings at Bethlehem). The cost of the study book is \$12 per participant.

**Youth Bible Class:** Both congregations will offer a Bible class for students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade which will alternate from place to place on Sundays. The first and third Sunday will have this class at St. John, and the second and fourth Sunday will offer it at Bethlehem. It will be led by Deb Mathey, and this class will also work in conjunction with the return of Youth Group times so that our younger members can have some fellowship time together. All of our students who are in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



### **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty**

#### **NWD Adult Gathering – October 17<sup>th</sup>. 2023**

Make plans now to attend the NWD Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Weston. Registration and morning refreshments begin at 9:30am with the program from 10Lam – 2:30pm. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Devotions will be led by Dr. Dwayne Lueck, president of the North Wisconsin District. Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of Synod's Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) and speaker emeritus for the Lutheran Hour, will share the message "Defending our Religious Liberty as People of Faith." The cost is \$30 which includes morning refreshments, program & lunch. **Registration deadline is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.** An offering will be collected at the event to support the Lutheran Center Religious Liberty. Registration forms are available in the narthex and on the NWD homepage at [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org) under 'Events and Info'