

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

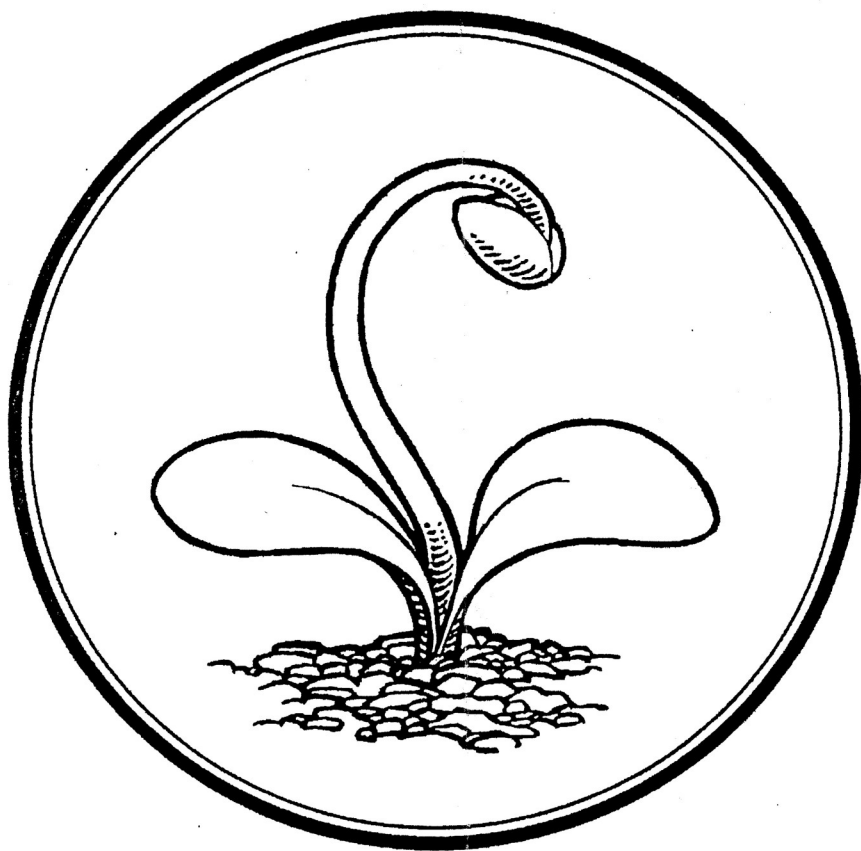
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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 after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

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: "I can finally perceive that God put some of the most difficult neighbors in my life at some of the most difficult times in order to bring me to the end of myself. Jesus didn't say that what God asks us to do would be easy. What God asks is impossibly difficult if God were not actually alongside us, helping us every step of the way. But the good news is that He is alongside us, helping us every step of the way." *Donna Harrison, M.D., American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*
lutheransforlife.org

Life Thoughts: God's love and Christ's forgiveness come to us and carry us. Afraid and unable on our own, His words and ways bear us home every time to rejoicing (Luke 15:1-10). Let us seek with Him to rescue His little ones, no matter where they've wandered or how they're wounded (1 Timothy 1:12-17), that we may celebrate together. *Holy Father, accompany me with Your grace through this collapsing world that no more may be lost. Amen.*

Divine Service III

Hymn : "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB 700

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184)

Service of the Word

Psalm 1

Kyrie (p.186)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.187)

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament: *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

On your wondrous works, I will meditate,
and I will declare your greatness.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:1–17

¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (p.190)

Holy Gospel : Mark 4:26–34

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

G Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁶Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles Creed (p.192)

Office hymn: “O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”

LSB 834

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 Institution (p.197)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LSB790

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

LSB 577

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

Beth: Sun. June 16 Sunday Worship 8:00am

STJ: Sun. June 16 Sunday Worship 10:30am

Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. June 23 Sunday Worship 8:00am

STJ: Sun. June 23 Sunday Worship 10:30am

Mon. June 24 Youth Leave for Higher things Conference

Fri. June 28 Youth return

Beth VBS Bethlehem Vacation Bible School

July 8 & 9, 2024 4:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Registration forms available on table in entryway.

St. John Vacation Bible School Mon. July 22nd to Friday July 26 9qm to noon. Closing Picnic On Friday 6pm. Extra registration forms on library table in upper narthex.

Bethlehem VBS Meeting: there will be an all staff VBS meeting Wednesday, June 19 at 6:30pm.

Correction: Lillian Pehlke Graduate -Veritas Scholars Academy
Attending Concordia University of Wisconsin ~ Mequon

Newsletter Information: If you have any announcements for July Calendar or newsletter please have them to the office no later than **Friday June 21st**.

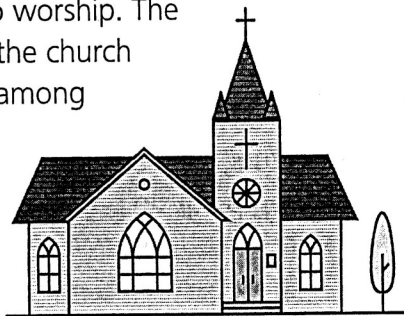
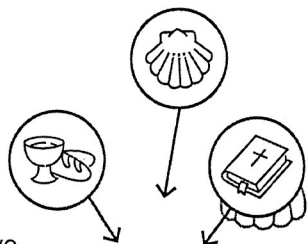
AbelLight (aka Bethesda) As Many of you are aware, Bridge Street Mission purchased the building that we currently operate our Wausau AbleLight Thrift Shop in. Although Bridge Street's intentions was for us to stay, it was decided that continuing operation would continue to be difficult.

As you know AbleLight has operated their thrift stop in Wausau for 40 years, and they look forward to continuing to do so. They are currently in the final stages of lease negotiations to relocate the store. Their intent is to exit the current building no later than August 31st, and re-open in our new location in early September. As they finalize details they will continue to communicate our plans verbally and through written notice posted at the store.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is the “church”?

When someone says the word “church,” we usually think of a place people go to worship. The Lutheran Confessions teach us that the church is the “assembly of all the believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the Holy Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.” Wow! The church is so much more than a building!



If the church is more than just the building, then why is the building and everything in it so important?

The church building, or the “sanctuary,” is a place where God is present. We know that our Lord has promised to come to us in His Sacraments. Since God is actually here with us in His house, we should be very reverent, or respectful. We don’t want anything in the church pulling us away from what God gives us in His Word and Sacraments. Everything should direct our attention toward Him.



Parents: Before or after the service, direct your children to the wonderfully Gospel-rich symbolism found in the sanctuary, including the on the altar, windows and banners. Remind them that the Lord truly comes to us here in His Word and Sacraments. He brings us what we really need: the forgiveness of sins.



2024 HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE

BEHOLD, I HAVE ENGRAVED YOU ON THE PALMS OF MY HANDS." ISAIAH 49:16A

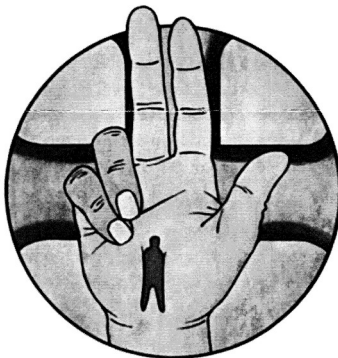
Identity.

More than what you want to be when you grow up. More than what's expected of you. What do you see when you look in the mirror? What gives you value? What makes you ... "you"? Dealing with insecurity, anxiety, and self-hate is hard enough before the pressures of the world, the pressures of your family, your own hopes and wants and dreams, and even the pressures of the church make this question debilitating.

So Jesus baptizes you. Your identity is here. A child of God. It gives shape to the rest. It gives shape to your role as a man, a woman. It gives promise to your vocation. It even gives answer to your sin. You don't identify by that anymore. Not by what you've done, but by what's been done for you.

Who am I? A Christian. You're found in the wounds of the savior. Your identity starts there.

Join us in the summer of 2024 to learn about how your identity is rooted in Christ at Who Am I.



JUNE 25-28, 2024

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN
MEQUON, WI

JULY 16-19, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS
CLARKSVILLE, AR

JULY 23-26, 2024

LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE
PORTLAND, OR

Higher Things Mission

...to make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults.

Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was crucified for your sins and raised for your forgiveness, and the forgiveness, life, and salvation He won for you on Good Friday and Easter are delivered right to you in His Holy Spirit-filled Word and Sacraments. This is the heart and soul of our preaching, teaching, and worship because this is the full substance of the entire Christian faith. Jesus died, Jesus rose, Jesus delivers FOR YOU.

Jesus' salvation, won and delivered, is for all people of all nations, and Higher Things believes that this is regardless of age group. For over 20 years, we have been blessed by God to assist in delivering Jesus' cross-won, empty-tomb-certain salvation to thousands of youth and young adults through our summer conferences, regional retreats, and digital resources. We are humbled to assist the local congregations, their pastors, parents, and youth leaders as we do the same thing they do: delivering Jesus through His Word and Gifts.

By the Spirit's working upon us, we rejoice wholeheartedly in the completely free salvation and forgiveness that Jesus won for us, delivers to us and also delivers through us to others. By the Holy Spirit's working upon us through Christ's Word and Gifts, He enlivens us to go about our work of passing on to the next generation what we believe, teach, and confess about Jesus and what He has done for each of us and for all.

Higher Things History

...Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:1-2)

In 1998, several LCMS pastors began planning a smaller, more regionally minded, cost-effective conference for youth, designed to be uniquely Lutheran. A year later, those plans were unveiled for the Dying to Live national Lutheran youth conference, held in the summer of 2000. Over 700 youth and adults from 25 states attended what was, for all intents and purposes, the first Higher Things conference. Based on the success of that first conference, more plans developed for what would become Higher Things.

The name for the emerging group was chosen just before the first conference, as it had become obvious by then that the event would serve as the impetus for something worth continuing and expanding. The new organization's theme verse was: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians. 3:1-2).

Twenty years ago, Higher Things was started by a handful of pastors and laypeople who cared very deeply about the young people of the church. Today over 1700 LCMS congregations have been impacted by the mission of Higher Things.

Higher Things is many things, all of which seek to keep young people focused on Christ and His gifts as they grow and mature in their faith. It is parents teaching their children the catechism. It is youth workers and volunteers reinforcing what is preached from their congregations' pulpits and confessed in their pews. And it is pastors keeping their young sheep Lutheran as they grow up.

In two decades, we haven't wavered in our mission to assist parents, pastors, and congregations in cultivating a distinctly Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults. We work to bring the Gospel of Christ, and Him crucified to youth via our events, app, confirmation curriculum, Reflections, videos, articles, VBS curriculum, and more! Higher Things strives to be available to youth from their cell phones and computer screens all the way to their summer plans.

Our plan for the future? We will keep putting the Gospel in the ears of youth as long as the Lord allows!