

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

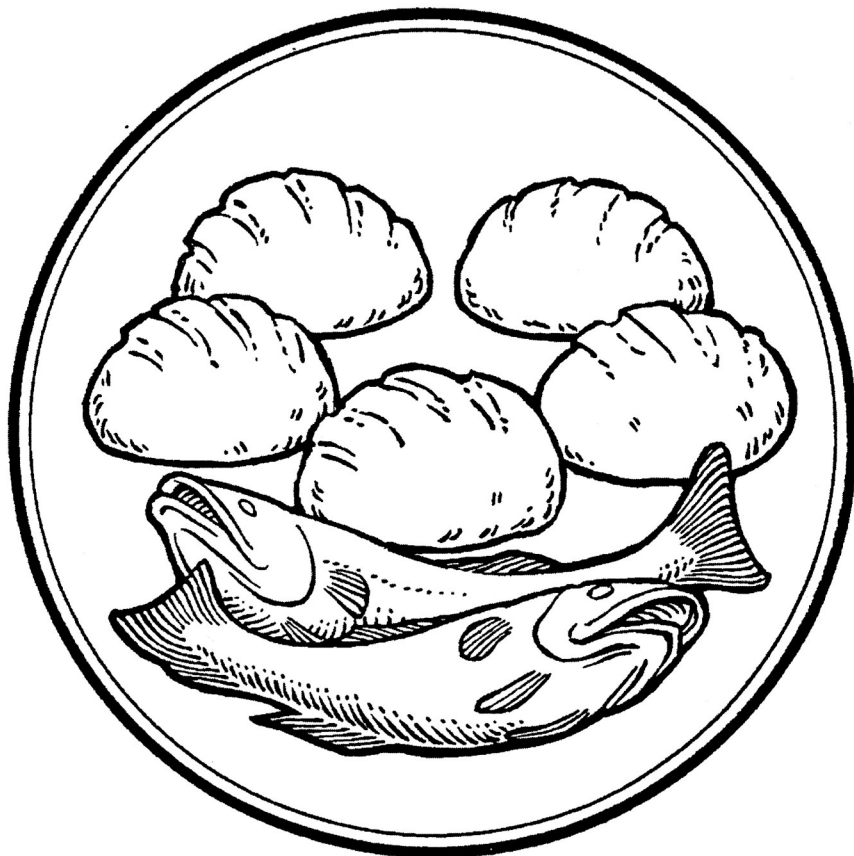
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
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St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 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 : “We have the grace and truth of the Gospel to share—not only with women and men in crisis pregnancies but also with those so adamantly advocating for abortion. Why would we not share Christ with a lost and hurting people?” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Temptations to idolatry exist today as they did in biblical times. The great idol “Death” draws many to its altar. They look to death for rescue from a crisis pregnancy or chronic disease or pain. Death's allure is so great it even tempts Christians to bow before it. But we have a way out of such temptations to faithlessness: “God is faithful” (1 Corinthians 10:1-13). Christ our “Rock” never leaves us (10:4). We can trust in Him. *Rock of our salvation, may Your faithful service to us through Your cross and resurrection move us to be faithful to You. Amen.*

Divine Service IV

Hymn: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

LSB 709

Confession & Absolution (p.203)

Psalm 23

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.

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: *Jeremiah 23:1-6*

¹"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

⁵"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and

righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G 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 2:11–22*

¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

G: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

Holy Gospel: Mark 6:30–44

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

G: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed (p.207)

Office hymn “The Church’s One Foundation ”

LSB 644

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:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread" LSB 625

"Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing" LSB 847

"I'm But a Stranger Here" LSB 748

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: "Christ Be My Leader" LSB 861

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.	July 21st	Voters Meeting 9:15am
STJ:	Sun.	July 21 st	Voters Meeting 11:45
STJ:	Mon.	July 22 nd – Fri.	July 26th VBS 9am -Noon
STJ:	Fri.	July 26 th	VBS Closing Picnic at 6:00 pm



We are looking for donations of fresh fruit for VBS. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Thank You

VBS 2024: This year we are *Digging into the Apostles' Creed.*

We will be working on understanding Law and Gospel, Salvation, and the wonder of the Holy Trinity.



We will discuss how God claims us as His own children in Holy Baptism and that the catechism encourages us to remember our Baptism daily with the Word of God and the sign of the cross that the pastor made. We will hear about another baptism, the baptism of Jesus! And as we begin to dig in, we will look at the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in our first lesson!

Registration is still open for ages 3 through those going into 6th grade, who will attend VBS from July 22 through July 26th, 9:00 am - noon. We are very flexible with student ages; older children are welcome as VBS students or as VBS youth volunteers. Come along with us as we dig into the Apostles' Creed, sing songs, do creative crafts, eat scrumptious snacks, play group games, and fuel the faith of our younger generation. Join us! Cannot wait to see you there.

We appreciate your prayers for Digging into the Apostles' Creed VBS, being held on July 22-26th. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior!
Traci Pehlke, VBS Director



VBS

Mission Projects

Donations Needed for Vacation Bible School Mission Projects:

Support for Local Food Pantries

We will be collecting items for our local food pantries. Items needed most are canned meat [Chicken, ham, tuna, Spam] Canned pasta with meat, canned fruit, cereal.

All non-perishable items are accepted.

Monetary offerings will be going to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation mission called *"Let the Children Come to Me"*.

A donation of only \$2.00 per student will provide a one-year curriculum [translated in their language] of Sunday School material, [countries like Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia]. For more interest look up these countries with your children.



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference