

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
Milan, WI 54411

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



Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

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)

Teaching Points

Apostles' Creed Though not written by the apostles (a common assumption in the Middle Ages) the Apostles' Creed faithfully summarizes the apostolic teaching of Holy Scripture. Its origins date back to the second century where it developed as a statement of faith in conjunction with Holy Baptism. In most churches it is still used at every baptism

From the Small Catechism

The Apostles' Creed – The First Article (Creation):

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, _____ of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all _____; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my _____, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, _____ and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and _____ provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and _____ and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and _____, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to _____ and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Divine Service III

Hymn: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184)

Stand

Service of the Word

Psalms 72 (verses 1-7) (LSB 72) (prayed responsively by whole
verse)

Kyrie (p.186)

Collect of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-
begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You
with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

P Let us pray.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of
Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle: Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia (p.190)

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1–12

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.””

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Sit

Office hymn: On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry LSB 344
Sermon

Stand

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)

Sit

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray | LSB 623 |
| O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | LSB 357 |
| O God of God, O Light of Light | LSB 810 |

Stand

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come LSB 350

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Shirley Buss
Our Shut-ins

There are Advent Devotion booklets available, please take one or there are multiple ways to read and listen to reflections visit the website at www.higherthings.org to read, listen to, or subscribe to Reflections each day.

St. John - Children's Christmas Bags: If you wish to donate money for the Children's Christmas bags please give your donation to Ryan VanDerLeest or Anna Koepke

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Wed. Dec. 7th. | STJ: | 1:30pm Advent Service |
| | Beth: | 6:00pm Confirmation |
| | Beth: | 7:00pm Advent Service |
| Sun. Dec. 11th | Beth : | 8:00am: Divine Service w/HC 9:15 Bible Study |
| | STJ: | 10:30am Divine Service w/HC |

December Calendar Error: Christmas Eve Services are on Dec. 24th, not the 31st. My apologies for the error.

Bethlehem Acolyte and Greeter Schedule for November

| Month/Date | Acolyte | Greeter |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Dec. 11th | Leighton Kilty | Bruce, Brenda Weiler, April, Amber |
| Dec. 18th | Isaac Kosik | Darlene Wittlinger, Donna Solchenberger |

If you are unable to do your duty for the week you are scheduled, please find an alternate to fill in for you or switch dates with.

Bethlehem Soup Supper, Live Nativity, Craft and Bake Sale: December 10th from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Eat In!

Bethlehem Soup Sale: If you would like to pre-order Soup from the Soup Supper there is a order sheet in the Narthex area of both churches. You can order Chicken Dumpling, Chili, Sauerkraut Chili, or Cheesy Broccoli, Cauliflower. The cost is \$7.00 a Quart. All orders must be in today.

Bethlehem Sunday School Children's Christmas Service, entitled "To Us A Child Is Born", will be held **Sunday, December 18th, immediately following the 8am Service.** After the children's service, a breakfast will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bethlehem Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 25 or Jan.1.

St. John Sunday School: Sunday morning at 9:15 on, Dec.4, 11, and 18 we will be practicing to give the Christmas message to our congregation, family, friends and neighbors.

The Children's presentation will be Dec. 18th at 6:30 P.M.

Note: There will be no Sunday School on Dec 25 and Jan 1, 2023 We will have class again on Jan 8, 2023.

St. John Sunday School will again be doing a Christ- Giving Tree this year to help defray the cost of a hospital bed for Greta Marshall [Elizabeth's daughter] The tree will have ornaments on with donations marked. The tree will be up in Advent and through the Christmas season.

LWML Congregation Christmas Pot Luck Our church Christmas party is Dec. 11 after church. It features a potluck. Hot sandwiches and beverages are provided. Please bring a dish to share. Surprises and prizes will be awarded. You will not want to miss this.