

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



Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 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 : April 7 "In the resurrection we find solace in our mourning, in our uncertainty, and in our troubles. Our longing for escape finds its hope in the resurrection of Christ. It is God's approval upon the redemptive work of His Son. It is the assurance that as He was raised from the dead, so shall we, and all who have 'fallen asleep in Him' shall be raised to life eternal." *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Easter II – Our bodily life matters so much to God that He incarnated human flesh Himself. Even after accomplishing atonement by His body's brokenness, He did not discard it but inhabits it by resurrection as His eternal instrument (John 20:27). When we are physically suffering sin's consequences, our Savior's words of forgiveness breathe healing (John 20:21-23), and His ways of faith bring peace into our very bodies. *Lord Jesus, let me take hold of You by faith until Your wounded and resurrected body redeems my own. Amen.*

Divine Service IV

Easter Proclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen

G: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn: "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

LSB 464

Confession & Absolution (p.203)

Psalm 148

Kyrie (p. 204)

Gloria (p. 204)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading *Acts 4:32-35*

³²The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual:

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory

and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle: *1 John 1:1—2:2*

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

G: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.205)

Holy Gospel: Holy Gospel John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office hymn "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

LSB 470

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:

“O Living Bread from Heaven” LSB 642

“Beautiful Savior” LSB 537

“These Things Did Thomas Count as Real” LSB 472

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” LSB 466

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: Sun. April 7 LLL Spring Rally 1:00pm

Beth: Mon. April 8 Elders 6:00pm

Mon. April 8 Council 7:00pm

STJ: Tue. April 9 Elders 6:00pm

April 9 Council 7:00pm

Beth: Wed. April 10 Confirmation 6pm

STJ: Thur. April 11 LWML Spring Rally 8:30-9am
registration

Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. April 14 Sunday Worship 8:00am

Sunday School 9:15am

Adult Bible Study 9:15am

STJ: Sun. April 14 Sunday Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Adult Bible Study 11:45am

STJ: Sun. April 14 Youth Chili Feed 1pm

Beth: Wed. April 17 Confirmation 6pm

Thank You to Both Ladies Aids for the Cards and Flowers sent to me on Easter. Gods Blessings to you All Leta Ebben

Bethlehem: Thank you for all the generous support for our local nursing home community!!
Thank You the Outreach Team

LLL Meeting: You are invited to join the Lutheran Layman's League for a 1:00pm. Pot blessed lunch after Bible Study. We will be exploring ways to share your faith and the love of Jesus your Savior.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League invites all our gals to join us for the Spring rally on Thursday April 11th 8:30 to 9:00am registration {Coffee, tea, orange juice plus delicious breads available. Opening Devotions by Pastor Mathey followed by the Bible Study "Forgiving When You Are Hurt". Presentation by the Orphan Grain Train.
The OGT is the recipient of a lot of our mission endeavors and has interesting things to learn about it. Rally concludes with noon lunch.

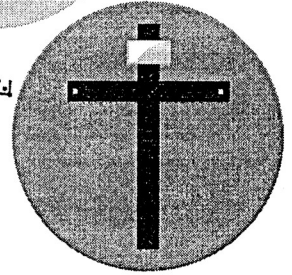
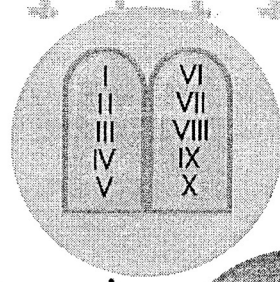
St. John Sunday School is still collecting for the month of April for our Districts "Labor of Love" campaign. Envelopes are still available for you to send personally or if you wish put your gift in an envelope marked "Sunday School"

Annual Thrift Sale Bethlehem and St. John May 1,2,3 and 4 9 to 5 Please bring items after April 14. **No large furniture or electronics.** Set up after services on Sunday April 28, Monday & Tuesday April 29 and 30th. For more information and to sign up to help contact Arlette Molthen 715-223-6060 or Janice Brown 715-219-1970

Posters are available to post where ever you wish.
Bethlehem and St. John members will be able to shop after services on Sunday May 6th
Clean up, pack up and deliver will be done on Monday May 7th at 9:00 A.M. All help appreciated!

Newsletter Items for the May Newsletter **MUST** be to the office no later the Wednesday April 24th.

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.

