

# 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



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 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 pray that you will recognize and value those people in your life who were blessed by God so they could be a blessing to you! I especially pray that you will then use the blessings God has bestowed on you to bless those around you and to pass these blessings on to your own descendants to a thousand generations. Now is the time to pass on the gift. Now is the time to pass the baton to the next runner in the race! To God be all the glory!"

*Barbara Lane Geistfeld, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Life Thoughts:** – In both the Old Testament and Gospel readings we see the ultimate miracle, sons raised from the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24, Luke 7:11-17). Yet they present but a tiny picture of what will happen because God raised His Son from the dead! All the dead in Christ will be raised to eternal life. Death is a defeated enemy! *Prayer: Lord, may Your defeat of death give us courage as we confront a culture of death. Amen.*

## Divine Service III

Hymn "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

LSB 611

### Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184)

### Service of the Word

Psalm 116: 1-9

Kyrie (p.186)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.187)

Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need,  
continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by  
Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live  
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**C** Amen.

Old Testament: *Isaiah 50:4-10*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face  
from disgrace and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who is my adversary?  
Let him come near to me.  
<sup>9</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.  
<sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the LORD  
and obeys the voice of his servant?  
Let him who walks in darkness  
and has no light  
trust in the name of the LORD  
and rely on his God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

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: *James 3:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup>Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made



in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (p.190)

*Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14–29*

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

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

<sup>14</sup>When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. <sup>16</sup>And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup>And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup>And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” <sup>19</sup>And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>20</sup>And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup>And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup>And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup>And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup>And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why

could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup>And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

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

**C** Praise to Thee O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.191)

**Office hymn:** “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” LSB 849

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:

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table” LSB 618

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” LSB 761

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul” LSB 814

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: “Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure” LSB 533

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## 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: Mon. Sept. 16 Joint Council Mtg.  
STJ: Tue. Sept. 17 LifeLight Bible Study 10:30am  
Beth: Wed. Sept. 18 Confirmation 6pm  
Wed. Sept. 18 Youth Bible Class Grades 9-12 6:00pm  
Wed. Sept. 18 LifeLight Bible Study 7pm

### **Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John**

STJ Tue. Sept. 24 LifeLight Bible Study 10:30am  
Beth: Wed. Sept. 25 Confirmation 6pm  
Wed. Sept. 25 Youth Bible Class Grades 9-12 6:00pm  
Wed. Sept. 25 LifeLight Bible Study 7pm  
STJ Sat. Sept. 28 Youth Apple Picking Meet @ STJ 11am

**Sunday Adult Bible Studies** after Church at Bethlehem and St. John  
after Church Services



### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

Harvest Supper Sat Oct 5th, 2024 - Sign up sheets and donation lists on the table in carport area. Pick your job and time ASAP

**Orders For Harvest Dinner:** Please put your orders in for you and your family and friends ASAP. It just helps us plan ahead. Thank you

### **LifeLight Bible Study on the Book of Judges Starting**

STJ: Tue Sept. 17 10:30am LifeLight Bible Study  
BETH: Wed. Sept. 18 7:00pm LifeLight Bible Study

### **Church Interior Committee:**

You may have noticed that our sanctuary is in need of some "refreshing." We have peeling paint, the balcony ceiling has a large stain from years of water damage, and the sanctuary steps continue to be a safety hazard. At this point, we are looking for volunteers to bring ideas for this project and then obtain estimates for work to the congregation. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact Cathy Schneider at 715-660-1718 or [cathy\\_schneider2@yahoo.com](mailto:cathy_schneider2@yahoo.com).

**North Wisconsin District Adult Gathering:** Make plans now to attend the NWD Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. At Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Registration & morning refreshments begin at 9:30am with the program from 10:00 am – 2:30pm. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Devotions will be led by District President Rev. Dwayne Lueck. Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, will share a message based on his book “Overcoming Life’s Sorrows: Learning from Jeremiah” which is included with each registration. Dr Lessing currently serves in various roles such as The Edwin F. and Esther L Laatsch Chair of Old Testament Studies, and Director of the Center for Biblical Studies at Concordia University in St. Paul just to name a few. The \$40 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, lunch, and Dr. Lessing’s book. Registration deadline is October 1. A freewill offering will be collected to support Peru missions. Registration forms are available in the narthex and on NWD homepage at [www.nmdlcms.org](http://www.nmdlcms.org) under ‘Events and Info’.

**Newsletter Items:** All Calendar dates and times, or other announcements or requests must be in the office no later than Monday, September 23rd. Our printing date is September 25th anything submitted after the 25<sup>th</sup> will not be added to the newsletter.

**Bulletin Announcements:** Are due no later than Wednesday, Noon. This includes any special announcements, or meeting changes, dates, times, or information, etc. Please make all information or changes in writing, send either in an email or leave a note on secretary’s desk. Thank You

**Fall’BackIntoYourFaith!** Join us for the **FREE** movie “**Unsung Hero**” This is a remarkable, inspiring, true story of family and faith. Sunday, September 22 @ 4:30 Broadway Theater, Medford  
*Free Admission !!* Everyone is welcome!  
Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church Medford