

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



Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2023

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 14 “So, what can we do? We must keep doing what we have always done. We must continue to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We must be sure our own church members, families, friends, and co-workers understand the value that God places on all human life.” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: April 14 – Easter III – With St. Peter and the Pentecost Apostles, we confess Jesus Christ alone as “Author of life” (Acts 3:15). This means no one else has right or responsibility to decide what kind of life a neighbor may have or when any human life ought to end. Rather, we rejoice to repeat the message of repentance and forgiveness (Luke 24:47) for every sinner and every sin – abortion and assisted suicide included.

Divine Service I

Easter Proclamation:

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn: "This Joyful Eastertide"

LSB 482

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 4

Kyrie (p.152)

This is the Feast (p. 155)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading: *Acts 3:11-21*

¹¹While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the

presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C 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 3:1–7*

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one

deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (p.156)

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:36–49

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

³⁸And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office hymn: “With High Delight Let Us Unite”

LSB 483

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord (p. 162)

Proclamation of Christ (p. 162)

The Lord's Prayer (p.162) Spoken

Pax Domini (p. 163)

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” LSB 641

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” LSB 680

“All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine” LSB 815

Post Communion Collect (p.164)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn: “Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living” LSB 479

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

This Week for Bethlehem and St. John

STJ: Sun. April 14 Youth Chili Feed 1pm

Beth: Wed. April 17 Confirmation 6pm

Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. April 21 Sunday Worship 8:00am

Sunday School 9:15am

Voters Meeting 9:15am

STJ: Sun. April 21 Sunday Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Voters Meeting 11:45am

Beth: Wed. April 24 Confirmation 6pm

Bethlehem, St. John Quarterly Voters Meeting: following Worship Services on Sunday, April 21.

May News Items must be submitted to the office no later than Wednesday April 24th.

Annual Thrift Sale Bethlehem and St. John May 1,2,3, 4 from 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!

Pastor Giebel's birthday is in April. His wife has asked to have their address put in the bulletin so we could send him Birthday cards.

This would make him very happy.

Frank Giebel

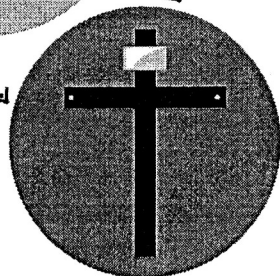
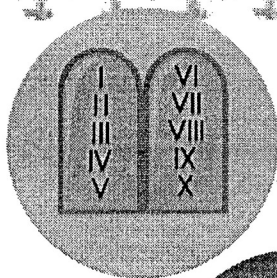
6501 Reed Rd. Apt 111

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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.

