

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

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: "Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong." *Deaconess Janet Nicol, Word of Hope – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Only the grace of God could supply as supreme a blessing as a mother's company and comfort. In the same way (John 16:7b), the Holy Spirit gives life and saves life even and especially when sorrow fills the heart (John 16:6). Indeed, the Word of forgiveness, joy, and hope He implants redeems both hopeless situations and helpless souls for everlasting celebration (James 1:21). Ever-present Redeemer, embrace us with Your Spirit until we trust Your truth, follow Your way, and enjoy Your life. Amen.

Divine Service I

Easter Acclamation:

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C: **He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**

Hymn: “Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”

LSB 822

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 148

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: *Acts:11: 1-18*

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me.

⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

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: *Revelation 21:1-7*

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be

with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *John:13: 31-35*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office hymn: “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” LSB 633

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)
Sanctus (p.161)
Prayers of Thanksgiving (p.161)
The Words of Our Lord (p.162)
Proclamation of Christ (p.162)
The Lord's Prayer (p.162)
Pax Domini (p.163)
Agnus Dei (p.163)
Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

"Wide Open Stand the Gates"	LSB 639
"Lift High The Cross"	LSB 837
"With High Delight Let Us Unite"	LSB 483

Post Communion Canticle (p.164)
Post Communion Collect (p.166)
Benediction (p.166)

Hymn: "In Thee Is Gladness" LSB 818

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

This Week for Bethlehem and St. John

STJ: Mon. May 19	Able-Light	10:00 am
STJ: Wed. May 21	Board of Ed Mtg	5:45 pm
STJ: Wed. May 21	Dual Board of Ed Mtg	6:00 pm
STJ: Wed. May 21	Confirmation	6:00 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. May 25	Sunday Worship	8:00 am
STJ: Sun. May 25	Sunday Worship	10:30am

JOIN US TODAY to thank and celebrate Sharon!

We will be having a pot-blessed meal after worship in the St. John Parish Hall.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, June 1st at Bethlehem. The confirmands are Madalynn Johnson, Isaac Kosik, Kelly Mathey and Sequioa Miles.

STJ Lawn Mowing Sign Up

Signup sheet is located on the table in the carport area. Please consider helping.

Monthly Announcements Items for June: Please have your announcements to the church secretary by Friday May 23rd.

Float Help Needed:

St John High Steeple will have a float in the Annual parade on Sunday June 15, 2025. We will need walkers, riders and help decorating! Please watch the bulletin for details as to when we will do some planning. We need everyone's help to reach our community with God's Word!

St. John Brewer Trip

Date: Wednesday, June 25th.

Cost: \$85 includes ticket, sack lunch, water, soda and charter bus to drop off and pick up at the door.

To reserve your spot contact Stacey VanHoy 715-506-0207.

Looking Ahead to Summer VBS:

Mark your Calendars

Bethlehem VBS: July 14-15 from 4: 30 pm -7: 00 pm. Stay tuned for further information. Anyone interested in helping can contact Janessa Thomas, Tammi McKee or Patti Hammel.

St. John VBS: July 21-25 from 9 am to noon. We're going on an Epic Australian Adventure. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" is our theme verse, John 14: 6. Sign up sheets coming soon.

Edgar area Memorial Day Services will be conducted by the Edgar V.F.W. Post 10187 and American Legion Post 393. They will pay tribute at the following cemeteries on May 26, 2025.

8: 30 am	Holy Family Church	Poniatowski
9: 00 am	St. John Lutheran	High Steeple
9: 20 am	Hope Lutheran	Hwy 97
9: 40 am	St. John Lutheran	Hwy N
9: 50 am	Joint Township	Hwy N
10: 05 am	Fenwood	Fenwood
11: 00 am	Edgar Veteran Memorial	Oak St. Park

The 2025 Convention of the North Wisconsin District

welcomes guest speaker Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the LCMS. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison will preach the opening worship service. All are welcome!

Date: June 1, 2025

Time: 4: 30 pm – 6: 00 pm

Location: Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 6205 Alderson Street, Weston, WI

The theme for the convention is “Alive” based on Hebrews 4: 12 “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword...”

Military Honors at the Town of Wien/Frankfort Cemetery on May 26, 2025

Edgar Homeschoolers are hosting a celebration at the Edgar Village Hall in the afternoon (12: 30-3: 30) commemorating “Wisconsin in the Civil War” (160 Years). We will be honoring Charles (Carl) Marquardt at the Civil War Veteran buried in the Town Cemetery.

NOTE: He was one of the founding fathers of the Town of Wien and St. John Church. St. John’s own Charlotte Murkowski is a direct descendant of his.

Confirmation and Graduation Party for Kelly Mathey

Date: May 31, 2025

Time: 2 pm – 6 pm

Location: St. John Lutheran Church

RSVP: Sunday, May 25 to Deb (715) 216-6634

St. John will be hosting a reception for Kelly after service on June 1st. Plan to attend and give her our blessings.