

# 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



First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

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: February 22** "God created us anew in Baptism. We are the work of His hands, and He will not forsake us. Guided by the Spirit through the wisdom of His Word, we learn to walk in His ways, even when we must 'walk in the midst of trouble.'" *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Life Thoughts: (Lent 1)** – Satan tempts us to turn away from God by appealing to the desires of our flesh and our egos. The devil twists God's Word to make us think that things like abortion, sex without marriage, suicide, and assisted suicide will give us pleasure, self-fulfillment, and an end to our suffering. But, like our first parents did, those who give in quickly find that the devil's words are nothing but empty promises which end in pain and suffering. Thankfully, by withstanding the devil's temptations, Jesus both defeats that old Satanic foe for all sinners and reminds us that the way to true joy and happiness is found in trusting the unfailing promises of our Heavenly Father.

### **Church Cancellation Procedure**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If there is a need to cancel Church Services or Meetings due to bad weather, you can find out by checking waow.com (Channel 9) or wsaw.com (Channel 7). Every effort will also be made to change the message on St. John's answering machine as soon as possible, and please, if you are not comfortable with the weather conditions, be safe and stay home!

## Divine Service IV

*Hymn:* "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

LSB 418

### Confession and Absolution (p.203)

#### Service of the Word

Psalm 32: 1-7

Kyrie (p. 204)

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 205)

P The Lord be with You

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

#### Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 3:1-21*

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid

themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between our offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup>The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:**

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,  
despising the shame,

**and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Epistle:**           *Romans 5:12–19*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— <sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel:**   *Matthew 4:1–11*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

7Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

11Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (p.206)

*Office Hymn:* “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

LSB 657

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering

## **Service of the Sacrament**

Preface (p.208)

Sanctus (p.208)

Prayers of Thanksgiving (p. 209)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.209)

The Words of Our Lord (p.209)

Pax Domini (p. 209)

Agnus Dei (p.210)

Distribution of the Sacrament

*Distribution Hymns:*

“O Lord, We Praise Thee”

LSB 617

“All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall”

LSB 562

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

LSB 718

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

*Hymn:* “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

LSB 655

## Announcements

### Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Remember God's love and will for children and families as you pray for families, that they might attend worship to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments

### This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Feb. 22	New Member Catechism Class	6: 00 pm
	Mon.	Feb. 23	Deadline for Newsletter	
STJ:	Mon.	Feb. 23	Quilters	9: 00 am
STJ:	Wed.	Feb. 25	Lenten Service	1: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 25	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 25	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 25	Lenten Service	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	Feb. 26	LifeLight Bible Study	10: 30am
STJ:	Thurs.	Feb. 26	Chimes	5: 30pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Feb. 26	LifeLight Bible Study	6: 30pm
STJ:	Sat.	Feb. 28	Mueller/Strunk Wedding	

### Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 1	New Member Catechism Class	6: 00 pm

### Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Acolyte: Madalynn Johnson	
			Greeters: Randy & Christina Cook Family	
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 1	Acolyte: Cale Koch	

New Member Catechism Classes will be on Sundays for approximately 6 weeks at Bethlehem starting at 6 pm.

Lenten Devotional Booklets are available. Pick one up today.

*Save the Date:* **STJ: Blood Drive**, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8 am to noon.

Thank you everyone who contributed to making subs and those who placed sub orders. It was a successful **Lutheran Hour Sub Sandwich** fundraiser with \$774.00 donated and \$94.00 went to the Lutheran Hour in Spencer WDLB.

## **Buckets O' Blarney Silent Auction**

Along with the trivia contest, we will also have a silent basket auction in the multipurpose room. For the gift baskets, we are asking for donated items. If possible, also include a monetary value of your item so that we can start bidding on the baskets close to the value of the items in the basket.



Below are some theme ideas for the basket donations:

Children's Basket	Chocolate, Coffee and Tea Basket
Baby Basket	Gardening and Tools Basket
Date Night Basket	Cooking and Kitchen Basket
Family Game Night Basket	Sports and Packers Basket

Items can be given to Deb Mathey or Cathy Schneider. They can also be left on a table in the Parish Hall with a note FOR THE BASKET AUCTION. **Please have donations to church by Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.** For questions or for more information, contact Cathy Schneider at 715-660-1718 or [cathy\\_schneider2@yahoo.com](mailto:cathy_schneider2@yahoo.com).

*Buckets O' Blarney Trivia Contest Fundraiser* will be on Friday, March 13, 2026.

### **Check the bulletin board for more information:**

- Peach Lutheran Church - Drive Thru Chili Dinner – 3/1/26
- Camp Luther summer camp brochures are available. Camp Luther offers many opportunities for kids, families and groups. Information is also available online at [campluther.com](http://campluther.com)

### **Office Items:**

- ✓ Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.
- ✓ Check your church mailboxes
- ✓ Check out the Church's Facebook page for upcoming events.

Love like Jesus