

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

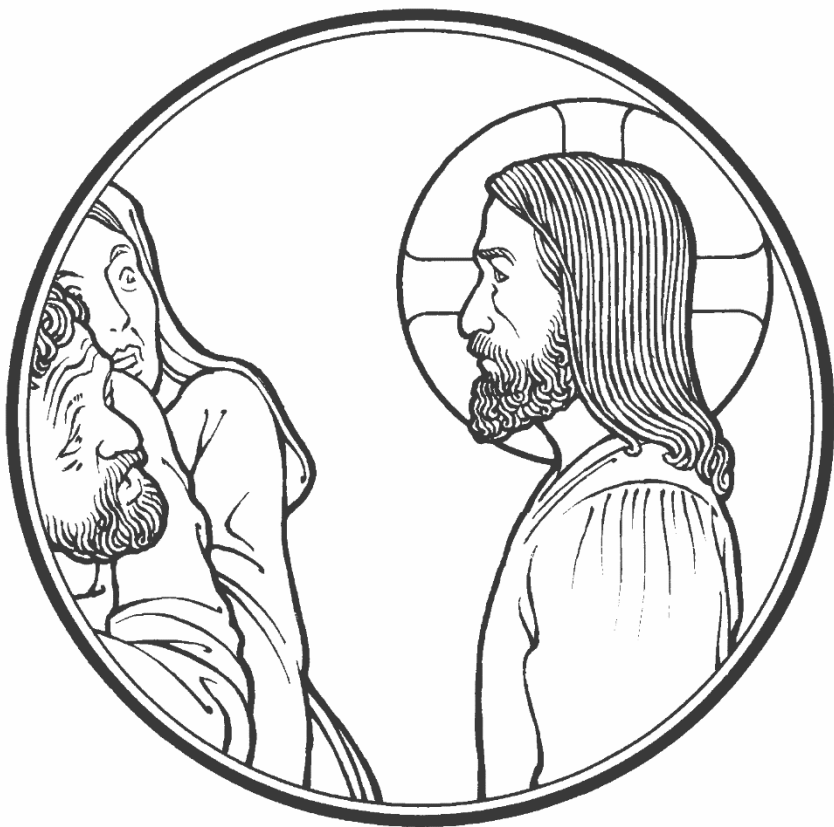
~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

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



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 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:** “Never apologize for sharing God’s Word. Never excuse holding or defending a godly position that clearly states how a life issue stands according to Scripture. Abortion is wrong, as is assisted suicide, and many other life issues happening in our world.” *Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Life Thoughts:** – With God’s prophets we call the culture around us to turn away from the destruction they are bringing upon themselves (Jeremiah 8:5, 11; Luke 19:43-44). With us they each remain precious to Jesus, who by His visitation in the flesh (Luke 19:44) for forgiveness delivers the Gospel that makes for peace (Luke 19:42) and righteousness (Romans 10:4). O Lord God, intervene and redeem our people that we may behold and inhabit Your kingdom. Amen.

# Divine Service I

*Hymn:* “Come, Thou Almighty King”

LSB 905

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

## Service of the Word

Psalm 119 v. 81-88

Kyrie (p.152)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.154)

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same 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: *Jeremiah 23:16–29*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>17</sup>They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

<sup>18</sup>For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

<sup>19</sup>Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

<sup>20</sup>The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed

and accomplished the intents of his heart.  
In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

<sup>21</sup>“I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup>But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup>“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? <sup>24</sup>Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ <sup>26</sup>How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, <sup>27</sup>who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

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:** *Hebrews 11:17—12:3*

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. <sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. <sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life,

made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

<sup>23</sup>By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. <sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup>choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup>He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

<sup>32</sup>And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— <sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

<sup>39</sup>And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is

set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to 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.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

**Holy Gospel: Luke 12:49-56**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

<sup>49</sup>[Jesus said:] “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. <sup>52</sup>For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup>They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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

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

Nicene Creed (p.158)

*Office Hymn: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”* LSB 655

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

## Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Lord's Prayer (p.162)

The Words of Our Lord (p.162)

Pax Domini (p. 163)

Agnus Dei (p.163)

Distribution of the Sacrament

*Distribution Hymns:*

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" LSB 641

"Fight the Good Fight" LSB 664

"Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" LSB 822

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

*Hymn* "For All the Saints" LSB 677

## Announcements

### Remember in our Prayers:

- Our Shut-ins
- Pray for the Outreach Ministry, that they will be effective in ways to share the love of Christ.

Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.  
Deadline for the September Newsletter is Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

### This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ: Mon. Aug. 18 Able- Light 10:00 am

### Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth: Sun. Aug. 24 Worship Service 8:00 am  
*Acolyte:* Aleah Kosik *Greeters:* Bruce & Geanna Denzin

STJ: Sun. Aug. 24 Worship Service 10:30 am

*Acolyte:* Kassidy Thompson

STJ: Sun. Aug. 24 Board of Ed. Mtg after church

## Safety Committee/Concealed Carry

With the recent insurance change at St. John there is an opportunity for training. This training is for anyone who is or would choose to use concealed carry. If you participate in the training our liability insurance would now cover you. For more information contact Linda Mueller.



**Zone 10 LWML** reporting on the Brat Fry and Pie Sale which took place on July 18, 2025. The sale brought in \$1923.46. Donations will be going out to North WI District LWML Mites for \$1723.46 and Lutheran Hour Local Broadcast for \$200.00. Thank you to all who worked and donated.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church BUS TRIP

"Christmas in the Dells Dinner Show" Family style all you can eat Christmas Feast. ***Date:*** Saturday, November 15, 2025

***Cost:*** \$105 per person includes bus & dinner show. If interested contact Marlene Schreiber at 715-383-0259 ASAP



**Thank you to the St. John Cleaning Crew.** This past week the bell tower and balcony were deep cleaned and all VBS decorations were taken down and stored away. We serve the King of Kings!

## FOR YOUTH and their FAMILY



**Higher Things** has a daily *Reflection* @ [higherthings.org](http://higherthings.org)

Two minutes. It takes two minutes to read a

daily *Reflection* full of the Gospel of Christ crucified for you.

Each day you get a reading, a devotion, and a prayer to help you confront the devil, the world, and your own sinful flesh with hope in your Lord's victory over all of it.

*Reflections* is provided free. *Reflections* are available in multiple formats! You can subscribe to the daily email, subscribe to the *Reflections* podcast, or download the entire season in booklet form.

## Enduring Grace: A Church Year Journal for

**Kids** encourages children to spend time reading and meditating on God's Word. Children and their families can spend time with *Enduring Grace* during devotion time, quiet time, or worship to celebrate and reflect upon the life and work of Jesus Christ. The journal includes the following features. Scripture references for every Sunday, introductions to seasons and festivals of the Christian Church Year, reflections on the readings, discussion prompts, Bible illustrations to color. Available at [cph.org](http://cph.org)

