

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

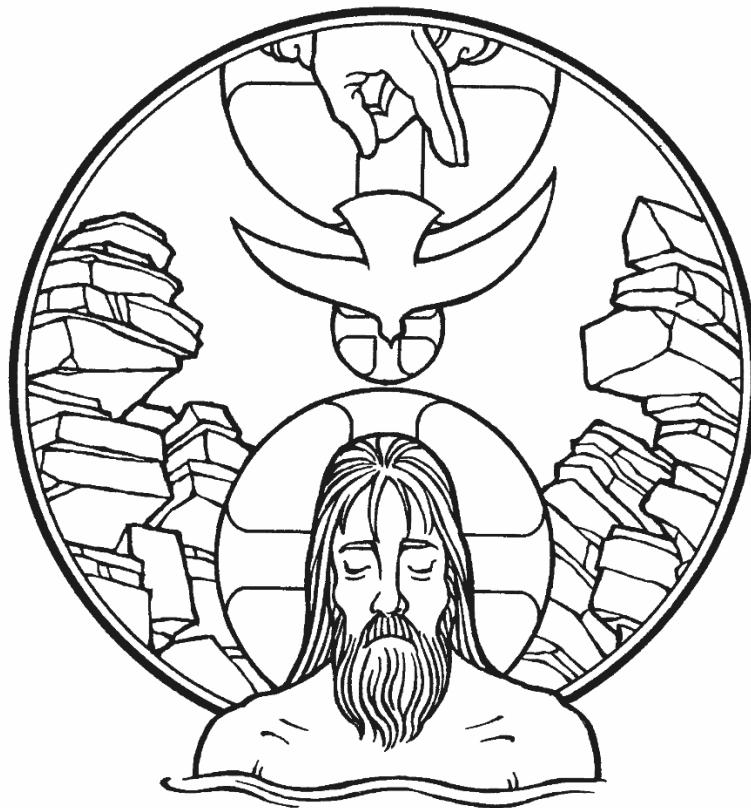
~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

[www.stjbeth.org](http://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 after Epiphany and

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 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: January 11** “A baby is God’s opinion that the world should go on.” *Carl Sandburg – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Life Thoughts: January 11 (Baptism of our Lord)** – Jesus was baptized to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15), that all whom God created and gave breath to (Isaiah 42:5) might be baptized into His death and resurrection and have everlasting life (Romans 6:4-5). Living in that new life in Christ and dying to sin (Romans 6:7-8) means that we are to cherish all life the way God does, caring about our neighbor’s physical life and wellbeing, as well as their everlasting life in Christ.

### **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](http://waow.com) (Channel 9) or [wsaw.com](http://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 III

Hymn: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

LSB 398

### Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184)

### Service of the Word

Psalm 29

Kyrie (p.186)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.187)

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 42:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
    my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
    he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup>He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
    or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break,  
    and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
    he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
    till he has established justice in the earth;  
    and the coastlands wait for his law.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the Lord,  
    who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
    who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
    and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;  
    I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
    a light for the nations,  
    <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
    from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the Lord; that is my name;  
    my glory I give to no other,  
    nor my praise to carved idols.

<sup>9</sup>Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
    and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
    I tell you of them.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual**

Praise the Lord, all nations!  
    **Extol him, all peoples!**  
For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
    **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
    **bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

### **Epistle                   Romans 6:1–11**

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the

body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

Alleluia (p.190)

**Holy Gospel** *Matthew 3:13–17*

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

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

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (p.191)

**Office Hymn:** “To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord”      LSB 406

Sermon

Offertory (p.192)

*Installation of New Church Officers*

Prayer of the Church

**Service of the Sacrament**

Preface (p.194)

Sanctus (p.195)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.196)

The Words of Our Lord (p.197)

Pax Domini (p. 197)

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Distribution of the Sacrament

**Distribution Hymns:**

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”

LSB 625

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

LSB 594

“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”

LSB 405

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Thanksgiving (p.200)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Salutation and Benedicamus (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

**Hymn:** “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

LSB 394

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**Announcements**

**Prayers**

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ That the Lord would help us raise our children and young people in the faith, always pointing them to the hope and salvation found only in Christ.
- ❖ The Koch family

**This Week at Bethlehem and St. John**

STJ:	Mon.	Jan. 12	Quilters	9: 00 am
Beth:	Mon.	Jan. 12	Elder Mtg	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Mon.	Jan. 12	Council Mtg	7: 00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Jan. 13	Elder Mtg	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Jan. 13	Council Mtg	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Jan. 14	CWIA	1: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Jan. 14	Chimes	5: 30 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Jan. 14	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Jan. 14	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	Jan. 15	LifeLight Bible Study	10: 30 am
STJ:	Thurs.	Jan. 15	LifeLight Bible Study	6: 30 pm

**Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters**

Beth:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Acolyte: Aleah Kosik
			Greeters: Tom and Lucy Geisking
STJ:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Acolyte: Lexie Noller

**Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John**

Beth:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Quarterly Voters' Mtg	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Jan. 18	Quarterly Voters' Mtg	11: 45 am

**Edited from last week : Sunday School at Bethlehem and St. John will resume today.**

**Thanks to Arlette and Clarence** for donating the supplies for 10th annual wreath sales. - Bethlehem LWML

**Bethlehem/St. John Quilting Group** will start meeting again on Monday, January 12, 2025. We will meet 9am to noon in the Fireside Room at St. John.

Last day to sign up for **LifeLight Bible Study** focusing on the book of Mark will be meeting on Thursdays starting January 15<sup>th</sup> 10: 30 am at Bethlehem and 6: 30 pm at St. John. Sign-up sheets at church.

- Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.
- Please be sure to check your church mailbox regularly.

The “**MROCZENSKI MISSIONARY MONTHLY” Newsletter** is posted on the bulletin for your viewing. Read about Paul, Courtney and Jacqueline’s Christmas while serving the Lord in Puerto Rico.

**The Bethlehem Out-Reach** would like to thank everyone who came and helped us with the Craft, Soup, & Bake Sale. All your help was greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. We could not have done it without all your helping hands. The week was very successful and we made \$3,878. Again, thank you to everyone who helped make this event very successful !! God be with you all. Merry Christmas & a Happy Healthy New Year!!

**District Happenings (newsletter) January 2026 issue** is available on the district website at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org).

**Camp Luther Summer Registration opens:**

**February 24:** Kindercamp, Quest, & IMPACT

**February 26:** Explorer, Pathfinder, Trailblazer, & High School Week



**The new North Wisconsin District LCMS logo** reflects the faith, mission and landscape of the church body it represents. The **LCMS cross** signifies Christ's crucifixion and resurrection – the foundation of the faith and saving grace God gives to us. The **open Bible** beneath

the cross reveals the message we proclaim – Christ crucified for sinners – and the comfort we have in God's unchanging Word. The **circular arc** flowing from the cross reflects our purpose to *Bring Christ and His Word to People* throughout the district and beyond, even as **blue** points to baptismal water and the gifts of Christ God gives at the font. **Trees, water, and rolling fields** illustrate the breadth and beauty of God's creation across north Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the region we call home.

### **Camp Luther Men's Retreat** Feb 5th - Feb 8th, 2026

Step Away. Reconnect. Be Refreshed. Men, it's time to step away from the everyday. Whether you're looking to unwind, recharge, or seek adventure, this retreat offers a weekend to reconnect—with God, with brothers in Christ, and with yourself.

This isn't just a break from routine—it's an opportunity to:

- Be strengthened in your faith.
- Enjoy authentic fellowship.
- Experience the beauty of God's creation.
- Leave feeling challenged, inspired, and refreshed.

Sign up at [campluther.com](http://campluther.com). Need help signing up? Talk to Tabitha.

### **Poinsettia Donations at Bethlehem**

Loretta Schafer  
Darlene Wittlinger  
Shirley Buss  
Alan and Lori Schmitt  
Verlyn and Judy Wittlinger  
Galen and Marlene Schreiber  
Josh and Jill Penk and family  
Dick and Lois Niemi  
Hammel Family  
Dorean Freimund  
Elizabeth Kirchner  
Schwarting Family  
Ladies Aid  
C.W.I.A.

### **In memory of:**

Loved Ones  
Danny and Diane  
Galen and Michelle

I would like to Thank everyone who donated poinsettias this year. The church is beautiful. God's Blessings and a Happy, Healthy New Year in 2026

- Marlene