

# 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



Holy Cross Day

September 14, 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** "If we expect to be the one to change hearts by sowing seeds of judgment rather than love, we are changing the mission we have been sent to fulfill. Please use your Gospel-motivated voice For Life in love and may God bless your efforts!" *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Life Thoughts: Holy Cross (Proper 19C)** – Jesus made His cross a decidedly public proclamation, lifted up and appealing to everyone (John 12:32). Christianity knows nothing of private convictions and personal choices. We get to speak openly, courageously, and compassionately that no other deliverance exists (Psalm 40:10), not even abortion or assisted suicide. Every human life belongs to Him alone who has drawn all unto Himself.

## Divine Service IV

*Hymn:* “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” LSB 560

### Confession and Absolution (p.203)

### Service of the Word

Psalm 40:1-11

Kyrie (p. 204)

Gloria in Excelsis (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

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading:**    *Numbers 21:4–9*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a

pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:**

“Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations,  
and raise my signal to the peoples,” [says the Lord.]  
So must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**Epistle:** *1 Corinthians 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

**Holy Gospel:** *John 12:20–33*

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

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

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you,

unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

*Office Hymn:* “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

LSB 427

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:*

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB 628

“The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place”

LSB 838

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

*Hymn: “Lift High the Cross”*

LSB 837

## **Announcements**

### **Remember in our Prayers:**

- ❖ Our Shut-ins
- ❖ Pray for protection over our nation. Shield us from any evil, harm, or destruction that may arise.

**Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.**

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

Beth/STJ: TODAY	Sunday School Rally	12: 30 pm
STJ: Mon. Sept. 15	Able-Light	10: 00 am
STJ: Wed. Sept. 17	Chimes	5: 30 pm
STJ: Wed. Sept. 17	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
STJ: Wed. Sept. 17	Higher Things Mtg	6: 00 pm
STJ: Wed. Sept. 17	Lifelight Bible Study	7: 00 pm
Beth: Thurs. Sept. 18	Lifelight Bible Study	10: 30am
Beth/STJ: Thurs. Sept. 18	Dual Council Mtg	7: 00 pm

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

Beth: Sun. Sept. 21	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth: Sun. Sept. 21	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth: Sun. Sept. 21	Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
STJ: Sun. Sept. 21	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ: Sun. Sept. 21	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ: Sun. Sept. 21	Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am

### **Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters**

Beth: Sun. Sept. 21	<i>Acolyte: Kylee Johnson</i>
	<i>Greeters: Adam and Marya Viegut</i>
STJ: Sun. Sept. 21	<i>Acolyte: Cale Koch</i>

### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Dual Parish Council Meeting:** September 18<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at St. John

**Dual Parish Meeting:** October 12<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at St. John

**LifeLight Bible Study** Starts this week! There is still time to sign up. We will be studying Hebrews. Pay Pastor Mathey at the first Bible Study.

## **First Annual Dual Parish Sunday School Rally Picnic**



When: TODAY!!! Start time is 12: 30 pm  
Where: Milan Ball Diamond, *Bring a dish to pass.* BBQ, Hot Ham, and Hotdogs will be provided. Also, provide will be soft served chocolate and vanilla ice cream!!! ALL ARE WELCOME!!



### **Grandparents Day Celebration**

Grandparents are being celebrated today! Sunday School students are encouraged to bring their grandparents to Sunday School, Church and the Rally.

### **St. John Sunday School Staff installed today:**

Teachers: Mary S., Joan C., and Traci P.  
Teacher -in- Training: Kelly M.  
Substitute Teachers Sam V., Trish V., and Ronda D.  
Helpers: Christian P. and Isabelle K.  
Youth Teacher and Leader: Deb M.  
Music: Delores T.  
Co-superintendents: Mary S. and Traci P.



**HELP WANTED:** Help is needed to crochet plastic mats for Orphan Grain Train as they are begging for more mats. Anyone that can crochet or is willing to learn, please contact Arlette at 715-223-6060.

**Float wagon for sale.** It is approximately 9 ft x 19 ft. If interested, please put a bid in to the church secretary. Any questions or would like to look at it please contact Lloyd Schultz or Dennis Punke.

### **Space is still available for the bus trip.**

Christmas in the Dells Dinner Show on Saturday, November 15.  
Cost is \$105.00 per person. Contact Marlene ASAP at 715-383-0259

### **The Harvest Supper is October 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Harvest Supper signup and donation sheets are on the counter in the carport. Please consider where your talents can be useful at this church event and sign up where you can help. Meal order sheets are also ready along with an envelope for the completed requests. Thank you to those who have already signed up.



**Higher Things Conference Meeting:** Informational meeting for all students 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up who are interested in going to the Higher Things Conference summer of 2025. Meeting will be on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at St. John

**Portals of Prayer:** The October-December Portals of Prayer are available in the back of church.

**The Edgar Lions Club** would like to invite all Edgar area senior citizens to attend our Annual Senior Citizen Drive-thru Chicken Dinner.

*Date: Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Place: Edgar Fire House - follow the signs and cones for drive thru and car delivery

COST: Free to Senior Citizens as one of our Edgar Lions Community Service projects

RSVP by **between October 6<sup>th</sup> - October 13<sup>th</sup>**

to either Marie @ 715-573-5616 OR Kathy @ 715-721-6520

### **St. John Sanctuary Refresh Project**

At the July Voters Meeting, the sanctuary refresh project was approved, and we recently signed the contract with Church Interiors Inc. The sanctuary will be getting a facelift. The plaster will be repaired, walls and ceilings painted (no change in color), new chair rails and baseboards installed, new lighting, and the altar mural will be professionally cleaned. The exact start date is not yet known but we think it will be sometime this winter, and it will take approximately 4 weeks to complete.

We have approximately \$85,000.00 on hand for this project, but that leaves us with a short fall. We are praying that we can complete this project without taking out a loan. However, we have been falling short with our weekly offerings. We are not bringing in enough to cover expenses and have had to use savings to meet our monthly bills.

We are asking everyone to contemplate all the gifts that God has blessed you with and prayerfully consider increasing your weekly donations and/or contribute to the refresh fund. The Bible tells us in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7-8 "Each one must give as he has decided in his own heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver and God is able to make all grace abound to you. So that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." -Thank you