

# 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



Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 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 Thoughts: April 19<sup>th</sup> (Easter 3)** – The practice of abortion rests on the argument that the unborn should not be considered real persons, worthy of dignity and protection under the law. How different that is from the way God views these little ones! St. Peter reminds us that the death and resurrection of Jesus are “for you and your children and for all who are far off” (Acts 2: 39). If all children have been purchased by the “precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1: 19), surely they are worthy of our love and care, both inside and outside the womb.

**Life Quotes: April 19** “Sin has made an impact on human conception: Babies are conceived that the parents do not want, and parents who desperately want children do not conceive. Yet, I do not believe for one moment that there is ever an unplanned pregnancy. God personally knows every child even before conception. He has a plan to create, redeem, and call that child into a relationship with Him.” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**LCMS April 19 – Third Sunday of Easter** 1 Peter 1: 18–19 – “You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” Christ ransomed us and bought us back from the slavery into which we were born. We do not belong to ourselves, to the devil or to the world. We belong to Jesus. Therefore, we live our lives not in accordance with our own wisdom, but in line with God's Word.

# Divine Service I

*Hymn:* “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

LSB 466

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

## Service of the Word

Psalm 116:1-14

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, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Acts 2:14a, 36–41*

<sup>14</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

<sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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:**

*1 Peter 1:17–25*

<sup>17</sup>If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, <sup>21</sup>who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup>since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup>for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, <sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

**Holy Gospel:**

*Luke 24:13-35*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup>That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing together,

Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup>but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” <sup>33</sup>And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup>saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

Nicene Creed (p.158)

*Office Hymn*: “With High Delight Let Us Unite”

LSB 483

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

## Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)

Sanctus (p.161)

Prayer 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

*Distribution Hymns*:

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

LSB 618

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

LSB 474

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

LSB 680

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

*Hymn* “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

LSB 576

**Starting on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>,**

Church Services, Sunday School and  
Adult Bible Study will be at Bethlehem.

8:00 am Church Service

9:15 am Sunday School (both congregations)

9:15 am Adult Bible Study (both congregations)

10:30 am Church Service

Due to the Refresh Project



## Announcements

### Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray: that God would continue to provide faithful church workers to serve as role models and teach people about their identity as a baptized child of God.

### This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	April 20	Able-Light	10:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	April 22	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	April 22	Youth Group	6:00 pm

### “Good Shepherd Sunday”

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

Beth:	Sun.	April 26	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 26	Beth & STJ Sunday School	9:15 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 26	Beth & STJ Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 26	Worship Service	10:30am
Beth:	Sun.	April 26	BINGO	2pm-4pm

#### Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	April 26	Acolyte: Madalynn Johnson Greeters: Loretta Schafer & Natasha Kaminski
STJ:	Sun.	April 26	Acolyte: Cassidy Thompson

#### Quarterly Voters’ Meeting TODAY after church service.

Bethlehem will have the meeting at 9:15 am.

St. John will have the meeting at 11:45 am.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and worked hard over the last two weeks getting St. John sanctuary cleared out and ready for the Refresh Project.

#### Thank you to those who donated to the Mroczenski Mission.

The Sunday School was able to donate \$325.00! God Is Good!

Thank you St. John Lutheran Church for your generous contribution in support of **The Lutheran Hour**.

Thank you Bethlehem Members who gave their Thrivent Choice Dollars to church.



**Welcome to our new members:** We are blessed to welcome you into our fellowship. May you find encouragement, friendship, and opportunities to serve as we grow together in faith.

*Beth: Dalton Feddick STJ: Robert Strunk*

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” (Romans 15: 7)

**Kwik Trip Gift Card available at Bethlehem.**

When you purchase a Kwik Trip gift card through us, you will be donating 5-15% back to our church. There are multiple cards on hand, but if you would like to order card(s), please fill out a pre-order form and give to Deana Parker, Marlene Schreiber or Lori Schmitt.

**KWIKTRIP**



**STJ Lawn Mowing:** It is that time of year! Warmer weather is coming. Please consider helping and sign up. Talk to Pete to sign up.

-Thank you! Trustees

**Life Date Spring 2026 Edition** is available on the Lutherans For Life website or find a copy in the Church Narthex.

The **LWML, North Wisconsin Zone 10 Spring Rally** will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, WI on **Thursday, April 23, 2026**. Registration begins at 5 pm with Rally starting at 5: 30 pm. Registration fee is \$5. Please see the April Newsletter for directions, and the “Gifts From the Heart Wish List”.

**LCMS Worker Wellness:** April is a full month of celebration — both in our Risen Lord and in the work that He still accomplishes through His church. We recognize and give thanks to God for the many volunteers who keep our congregations running smoothly.

We also give thanks to our organists who fill our churches with beautiful music and songs every Sunday. We will be celebrating Delores and Gloria on April 26, 2026.

