

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



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 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: “Our Lord Jesus Christ assures us that the Heavenly Father makes His love for our kind evident in sunshine and rainfall (Matthew 5:45) along with sparrows and lilies (Matthew 6:25-33). So, we may expect to learn about the sanctity of every human life not only from His Word but also from His world.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*
lutheransforlife.org

Life Thoughts: – Jesus' merciful words and ways work life and healing (Proverbs 4:20-22). He brings forth brilliant and abundant fruit (Galatians 5:22-23) even from flesh like ours (Galatians 5:19-21) that was born broken. We who take these words to heart—and the hearts we touch with them—will live indeed. Gracious Savior, bring life to us and bring life through us. Amen.

Divine Service I

Hymn: “Not unto Us”

LSB 558

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 33 v. 12-22

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.

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; 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 15:1-6*

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

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 11:1–16*

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are

seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *Luke 12:22-40*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

³⁵“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are

those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office Hymn: “O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe” LSB 666

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:

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” LSB 621

“Amazing Grace” LSB 744

“I’m But a Stranger Here” LSB 748

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng” LSB 813

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

- Our Shut-ins
- Pray for our Dual Church Service and Picnic, that it would be a great time of reflecting on God's faithfulness as well as an opportunity connect with fellow Christians.



This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Mon.	Aug. 11	Elders Mtg	6:00 pm
Beth:	Mon.	Aug. 11	Council Mtg	7:00 pm
STJ:	Tue.	Aug. 12	Elders Mtg	6:00 pm
STJ:	Tue.	Aug. 12	Council Mtg	7:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Aug. 13	CWIA	6:00 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Aug. 17	Worship Service	8:00 am
<i>Acolyte:</i> Madalynn Johnson <i>Greeters:</i> Bruce & Jolene Gumz Family				
STJ:	Sun.	Aug. 17	Worship Service	10:30 am
<i>Acolyte:</i> Kelly Mathey				



Church Secretary Hours

Thursday, August 14 8 am – 2 pm
Friday, August 15 8 am – 2 pm
Bulletin Announcements are due on Wednesday 8/13

Bethlehem Lutheran Church BUS TRIP



What: "Christmas in the Dells Dinner Show"
Family style all you can eat Christmas Feast.
Wisconsin's Largest & most Spectacular Christmas Show

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025

Cost: \$105 per person includes bus & dinner show

If interested contact Marlene Schreiber at 715-383-0259 ASAP

Bethlehem CWIA will be meeting on Wednesday, August 13 at 6pm. All ladies are welcome to come!

Thank you St. John VBS Students for the donation of groceries to the food pantry. With your help we are able to continue helping those in need. - - Edgar/Marathon Circle of Joy

Check out the Church's Facebook page for upcoming events!

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

Celebrating Pastor Mathey's 20th Ordination Anniversary



Since being ordained on Aug 27, 2005, Pastor Mathey was first installation as a pastor was to Faith Lutheran in Dexter, MO. He served here from Sept 11, 2005 to Aug 31, 2006. Him and Deb were blessed with their first child, Tim, during this time, on March 26, 2006. His next call brought him, Deb and Tim to St John Lutheran Church in Pickerel, WI, where he served the saints until May 1, 2017. They were blessed with their daughter, Kelly, on December 18, 2010 while in Pickerel. Then on May 14, 2017, Pastor was installed at Faith Lutheran in Marinette, WI as their next pastor. He served until May 31, 2020. During this time and in the months to come he served as vacancy pastor and as supervisor to Dustin Ridings pastor candidate at Zion in Oconto, WI. On Aug 27, 2022, 17 years after his ordination, Pastor Mathey was installed as Pastor to St. John High Steeple and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches. He has faithfully served here for the past three years and has been blessed to be in ministry with this flock. May the Lord continue to bless the efforts of Pastor and the Lord's sheep for as long as He sees fit!