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

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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: October 18 – **Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist** – The Lord provides laborers in His harvest field. We pray for our pastor and for more pastors in the Church of Christ (Luke 10). We, the harvest, will receive the crown of righteousness on the Last Day. There will be suffering between now and then, but we endure knowing that God provides (2 Timothy 4). The Lord turns everything on its head and provides for His people healing, restoration, life today, and life everlasting (Isaiah 35).

Life Quotes: October 18 "Do not be silent. You have the most positive, powerful, life-giving, and life-affirming message in the universe! It is a message of love for every sinner, i.e., everyone! It is a message of forgiveness for everyone and every sin. It is a message of the certain hope of a paradise whose reality surpasses the most beautiful of words." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: October 18 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 22:21 – "Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." So what is Jesus saying? Doesn't everything belong to God? Yes — and God has a place for everything. Some of what He gives us goes to Caesar. Some must come back to the work of His church. And some goes to support the families He has given us. All belongs to God, and He has work for us to do with what He has given us in the home, in the church and in society.

Divine Service IV

Hymn: "O God of God, O Light of Light" LSB 810

Confession and Absolution (p. 203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 96
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
O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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: *Isaiah 45:1–7*

[1]Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:
[2]"I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,
[3]I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
[4]For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.
[5]I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, [6]that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. [7]I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Epistle: *1 Thessalonians 1:1–10*

1Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and
peace.2We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly
mentioning you in our prayers, 3remembering before our God and
Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, brothers loved by
God, that he has chosen you, 5because our gospel came to you not
only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with
full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be
among you for your sake. 6And you became imitators of us and of
the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the
joy of the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For not only has the word
of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but
your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not
say anything. 9For they themselves report concerning us the kind
of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from
idols to serve the living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son
from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us
from the wrath to come.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 22:15-22*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

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

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle
[Jesus] in his talk. 16And they sent their disciples to him, along
with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true
and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about
anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17Tell
us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or
not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the

test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (p.207)

Office Hymn: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" LSB 940

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

"Take My Life and Let It Be" LSB 784

"We Give Thee But Thine Own" LSB 781

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crown" LSB 525

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our home bound members
- Remember God's gift of the Sacrament of the Altar as you pray: That God would grant us faith in His Word, that we worthily receive the Sacrament and live in repentance.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 18	Quarterly Voters' Mtg	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 18	Quarterly Voters' Mtg	11:45 am
STJ:	Mon.	Oct. 19	Able-Light	10:00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 21	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 21	Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Oct. 21	LifeLight	7:00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Oct. 22	LifeLight	10:30 am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 25	Worship Service	8:00 am
			Sunday School	9:15 am
			Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 25	Worship Service	10:30 am
			Sunday School	9:30 am
			Adult Bible Study	11:45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Oct. 25	Acolyte: Evan Strack
			Greeters: Jeff & Renae Geisking
STJ:	Sun.	Oct. 25	Acolyte: Isabelle Kramp

Quarterly Voter's Meetings:
TODAY, Sunday, October 18th
Bethlehem: 9:15 am
St. John: 11:45 am

LWML Sunday will be celebrated Today, Sunday, October 18th with mite box offerings.

October 25th is the day we will celebrate Church Worker Appreciation Month. We thank God for the gift of our church workers! Let us express our gratitude for their service in Christ's church. St. John Sunday School students will sing on October 25th and will celebrate Pastor Mathey, Deb Mathey and Elizabeth Marshall.

Higher Things Conference: The Youth Group will be attending the Higher Things conference in Mequon June 22-25, 2027. Registration materials is due October 25th. See Deb Mathey to get a packet.

Part-time Bookkeeper Wanted: St. John is looking to hire a part-time bookkeeper. This is a paid part-time position starting as soon as possible. Resumes can be emailed to the church secretary at secretary@stjbeth.org. The deadline for submitting a resume is November 9, 2026. Any questions regarding this position please Linda Mueller @ 715-574-6751

Every One His Witness, Lutheran Evangelism on November 7th from 8:15am – 4:00pm. This Core Module will help you understand why we witness, and teach you how the name LASSIE can help you to witness! The cost for each participant to attend is $15 (to cover the cost of your workbook). After you've completed the Core Module, you will have access to additional information on how to witness to people in more specific contexts.

Please RSVP by calling 715-352-2888 no later than October 28! Leave a message with your name and *your phone number*! Everyone is His Witness, including *you*!

Church Office Information

- ✓ Check out the Church's Facebook page and website for upcoming events
- ✓ Any corrections on member information please let the church secretary know (contact information changes, birthdays/anniversary changes, misprints in bulletin or newsletter, etc.)

Liturgical Glossary: Benedictus (Beh-neh-DIK-tuss) Zechariah's song of praise following the birth and naming of his son, John the Baptist (Lk. 1:68—79). Benedictus is Latin for "blessed be."

Community Events: Check out the bulletin boards for more details.
* Hot BBQ Pork Sandwich Luncheon at St. Paul Lutheran Church at Green Grove on October 25th
*Trinity Annual Craft Sale at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens on November 22nd

2026-2028 LWML Mission Grants

For detailed descriptions of each mission grant, please visit
www.nwdlwml.org/missions/mission-grants/

2026-2028 Mission Grants
Mission Grant Goal $155,000

North Wisconsin District

1. OGT SHIPPING
2. NWD CHURCH WORKERS STUDENT GRANTS
3. CAMP LUTHER

4. LCFS TELEHEALTH
5. CHILDREN OF PERU
6. CTSFW FOOD CO-OP

7. REDEEMING GRACE RETREAT
8. CENTRAL WI H.S ASSISTANCE FUND
9. TRINITY HOPE HAITI

10. LBT BIBLE PRINTING
11. COMFORT DOGS
12. CHRIST COMMUNITY SCHOOL