

# 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



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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: March 15** "Never will a time come when the most marvelous recent invention is as marvelous as a newborn baby." *Carl Sandburg – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Life Thoughts (Lent 4)** Sin makes us blind to the things of God (Isaiah 42:16, 18). Not only do we often fail to recognize our neighbors and the many needs they have, but we also have a hard time seeing our own lack of love (John 9:41) and need for salvation. Thankfully, Jesus has come to open our blind eyes and turn our darkness into light (John 9:6, Isaiah 42:16). The Lord not only grants us faith to see Him and know His salvation, He also empowers us to "walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8) to better see and serve our neighbors in need, from the least of them to the greatest.

## **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 IV

*Hymn:* "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849

### Confession and Absolution (p.203)

#### Service of the Word

Psalm 142

Kyrie (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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: *Isaiah 42:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!

<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord?

<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:**

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
**the founder and perfecter of our faith,**  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,  
despising the shame,  
**and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Epistle:**           *Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel:**   *John 9:1–41*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that

anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

*Office Hymn:* “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

LSB 420

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:*

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

LSB 637

“Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

*Hymn:* “Beautiful Savior”

LSB 537

## Announcements

### Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Remember the centrality of God's Word as you pray: for Lutherans throughout the world, that they rejoice in God's gifts of His Word and Sacraments

### This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 15	New Member Catechism Class	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Mon.	Mar. 16	Quilters	9: 00 am
STJ:	Mon.	Mar. 16	Able-Light	10: 00am
STJ:	Wed.	Mar. 18	Lenten Service	1: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 18	Baked Potato Bar	5: 30 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 18	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 18	Lenten Service	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	Mar. 19	LifeLight Bible Study	10: 30am
STJ:	Thurs.	Mar. 19	Chimes	5: 30pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Mar. 19	LifeLight Bible Study	6: 30pm

### Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 22	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 22	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 22	Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 22	Sunday School	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 22	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 22	Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am
Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 22	New Member Catechism Class	6: 00 pm

### Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 29	Acolyte: Bailey Schreiber Greeters: Kyle & Ashley Kunze family
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 29	Acolyte: Isabelle Kramp

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting** on April 19<sup>th</sup> after worship service.

The Bethlehem Out-Reach is having **Palm Sunday Breakfast** following the church service on March 29<sup>th</sup>.



**EASTER LILY Donations!** They are \$15.00. Sign up and pay Marlene Schreiber by Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Bethlehem Sunday School** will sing during the service on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Sunday School on Easter.



April – June 2026 **Portals of Prayers** are available at church.

The **Bethlehem Out-Reach** would like to Thank everyone who played **Bingo** on February 15th. We had 35 players and had \$251.00 given in donations. ( We suggested \$2 per card.) The Out-Reach gave a donation of \$249.00. With both of these donations we were able to give \$500.00 to the Athens (Circle of Joy) Food Pantry. They were extremely excited and thankful to now be able to buy dairy products and produce. WATCH FOR DETAILS FOR OUR NEXT BINGO SUNDAY!! Tentatively set for April 26th. Thank you so much from the Bethlehem Team, Dorean, Jane, & Marlene

*Thank  
you*

We would like to thank everyone who helped with our wedding, for all the cards, and prayers. You all made it a special day. Thank you again Bob and Linda

### **Update on St. John Church Refresh**

Church Interiors, Inc. refresh/painting/lighting contract price: \$123,499.  
Downpayment already sent to contractor: \$40,755.

Total donations presently secured in LCEF Checking as of 2/28:  
\$62,617.

***Balance of remaining contract dollars needed: \$19,827.***

LCEF CD Savings account balance (in addition to checking): \$56,021.  
Additional costs beyond this contract with Church Interiors, Inc. will be incurred by an electrician's work on the installation of lights. Copies of the contract are available from the Treasurer or the Church Secretary. Please feel free to contact Danni Seibert, Treasurer, at 909-801-1776 for any questions you may have, or for updates as donations come in. We are a blessed congregation, and we are truly grateful for everyone's generosity toward this project.

Grain Train is in need of **prescription pill bottles**. Labels need to be removed and pill bottles need to be clean. Collect boxes located at church. Contact person Arlette (Beth) or Jeff W. (St. John).

Thank you for promoting "Bringing Christ to the Nations-Nations to the Church" to those living in our local communities The following dates are available for **Lutheran Hour** sponsorship: May 3, 24 & 31, Aug. 23 & 30, Sept. 6 & 13, and Dec. 13.

**North Wisconsin District LCMS District Happenings** (monthly newsletter) is available at [www.nwdlcms.org/newsletters](http://www.nwdlcms.org/newsletters)

*Available for viewing on the bulletin board:*

- ✓ **Mroczenski Missionary Monthly** – February 2026 Edition.
- ✓ **Life News** – March 2026 Edition.

You are invited to a **powerful musical Easter drama, BOW THE KNEE**. Come follow Anthony, a Roman centurion, whose life changed after encountering Jesus. Admission is free. See the bulletin board for dates, times and locations.