

# 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 after Epiphany

February 1, 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: February 1** "You may have a messy story. Your family may have a dysfunctional past. Your past (or present) may be filled with greed, sexual immorality, or other idols. But Jesus won't let that stop Him from reaching out to you with the message of His unconditional love. You might be far from good, but you are not too far gone for God." *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Life Thoughts: – (Epiphany 4)** – Tragically there are many people who do in fact sacrifice the fruit of their bodies for the sins of their soul (Micah 6:7), killing their own children to undo or cover up the sinful choices they've made. How foolish is the so-called "wisdom" of the world (1 Corinthians 1) that calls death life! And though the Lord could rightly bring an indictment against His people for this evil (Micah 6:2), He instead shames the "strong" and "wise" among us by sacrificing His only begotten Son to cover the sins of the entire world (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). In Christ crucified, all who believe will inherit the kingdom of heaven, and those who mourn the wanton destruction of life will be comforted forevermore (Matthew 5:3-4).

## **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 I

*Hymn:* “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

LSB 904

## Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

## Service of the Word

Psalm 15

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 God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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:

*Micah 6:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has an indictment against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,  
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:**

Praise the Lord, all nations!

**Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

**bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

**Epistle:**

*1 Corinthians 1:18–31*

<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.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

**Holy Gospel:** *Matthew 5:1–12*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed (p.158)

*Office Hymn:* “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

LSB 842

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:*

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

LSB 637

“Lift High the Cross”

LSB 837

“Seek Where You May to Find a Way”

LSB 557

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

*Hymn* “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

LSB 394

## Announcements

### Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ We ask for your prayers for the Hahn family and Brown family as they mourn the passing of their loved ones. May God's love surround them and bring them peace in the days ahead.
- ❖ Remember God's love and will for children and families as you pray for all Christians, that they would help and defend the orphan and widow, the poor and lonely, the helpless and oppressed.

### This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Feb. 2	Quilters	9: 00 am
STJ:	Mon.	Feb. 2	Able-Light	10: 00 am
	Tues.	Feb. 3	Pastor at Circuit Mtg	9: 00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 4	LWML	10: 00 am
STJ:	Wed.	Feb. 4	Chimes	5: 30 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 4	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Feb. 4	Youth Group	7: 00 pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Feb. 5	LWML	9: 30 am
Beth:	Thurs.	Feb. 5	LifeLight Bible Study	10: 30 am
STJ:	Thurs.	Feb. 5	LifeLight Bible Study	6: 30 pm
STJ:	Fri.	Feb. 6	Doug Brown's Funeral	11: 00 am

### Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

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

### Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Feb. 8	Acolyte: Kylee Johnson
			Greeters: Jason & Tammi McKee
STJ:	Sun.	Feb. 8	Acolyte: Isabelle Kramp

**Bethlehem is looking for a custodian.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alan Schmitt at 715-650-2428.

**Thank you to all who donated plastic bags.** Fifty-five mats have been made. The goal is to make 100 mats. Keep bringing in plastic bags.

**Youth Group will be hosting a Soup Supper** on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem starting at 5 pm. Menu items: Potato Soup, Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Salad and Desserts.

**Bethlehem/St. John Quilters** are asking for good, used flat sheets to help with our quilting mission. Please bring sheets to church at any time. Thanks.



**St. John Window Project Help** We hope to replace 5 more windows this summer, but since this is a non-budgeted expense, we need your help to do it! If you would like to donate to this project in whole (about \$5000 total) or in part, please see Pete VanDerLeest asap.



**Super Bowl party:** All youth are invited to Pastor & Deb's house on Sunday, Feb. 8 at 5:00pm to watch the commercials & the game! Bring a snack or dessert to share. Chili & drinks will be provided!

**Lutheran Hour Sunday / Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sandwich Sale is February 8, 2026.** The proceeds will be given to the Lutheran Hour for their local broadcast of the Lutheran Hour. This Gospel message has been on the radio for over 90 years. It has now expanded into social media etc. Join us in ordering a sandwich to also celebrate your favorite football team as this event is on Super Bowl Sunday. Free will offering will go to the Lutheran Hour.



**Order Forms are in the narthex area at St. John and on the bulletin board at Bethlehem.** Please place your completed order form and donation in the envelope! No extra sandwiches will be made.

**SAVE THE DATE:** *Buckets O' Blarney Trivia Contest Fundraiser* will be Friday, March 13, 2026. More details to come in the upcoming weeks.



**Camp Luther Summer Registration opens:**  
**Sign up at [campluther.com](http://campluther.com)**

**February 24:** Kindercamp, Quest, & IMPACT

**February 26:** Explorer, Pathfinder, Trailblazer, & High School