

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



First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 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: "As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, we also look forward to the day of His return, His second Advent. On the Last Day, we will see Jesus returning in glory as King and Judge. The Good Shepherd will come again to gather His flock to Himself forever." *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Advent 1 – Being a Gospel-motivated voice for life means loving all our neighbors, regardless of their size, condition, or past. As servants in the Master's house (Matthew 24:43), we not only need to be prepared for Christ's coming (Matthew 24:44; Romans 13:11), we should be eager to make all others ready, preaching the Gospel to them, inviting them "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:3) that they, too, might be brought into the safety of the ark of the holy Church.

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 (Channel 9) or 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: "Light One Candle"

Please see insert.

STJ: The children will begin and play through with the chimes. The congregation will join after the organ introduction.

Confession and Absolution (p.203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 122

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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 2:1–5*

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days

that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³and many peoples shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle: *Romans 13:8–14*

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

Holy Gospel: *Matthew 24:36–44*

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

C Praise to You, O Christ.

³⁶[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you 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.206)

Office Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB 332

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:

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table” LSB 618

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home” LSB 673

“How Great Thou Art” LSB 801

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” LSB 516

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

- ❖ Our Shut-ins
- ❖ Thomas Venzke’s family
- ❖ Thank God for the promise of Christ’s return.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Dec. 1	Able-Light	10: 00 am
Beth:	Tues.	Dec. 2	Funeral: Thomas Venzke	11: 00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Dec. 3	LWML	10: 00 am
Beth:	Wed.	Dec. 3	Advent Service	1: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 3	Soup Supper	5: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 3	Chimes	5: 30 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 3	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Dec. 3	Advent Service	7: 00 pm
<i>Acolyte: Isabelle Kramp</i>				
STJ:	Thurs.	Dec. 4	LWML	9: 30 am

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Sunday School	9: 15 am
Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Adult Bible Study	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Advent Program Practice	9: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Adult Bible Study	11: 45 am

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Acolyte: Madalynn Johnson	
			Greeters: Justin Schwarting & Kara Schwarting	
STJ:	Sun.	Dec. 7	Acolyte: Christian Pehlke	

Welcome to all visitors. Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Advent Devotional Booklets are printed and available at church.

Lutheran Witness Renewal: If you wish to renew your Lutheran Witness subscription or if you would like to get a new subscription the price for 2026 is \$27.65. **Deadline for renewal/new subscriptions is November 30th (TODAY).** Payment can be given to the church secretary. If you wish to pay by check, make your check payable to St. John and note it for “Lutheran Witness renewal”.

Advent Worship Schedule:

December 3rd, 10th, 17th

Bethlehem 1:00pm

St. John 7:00pm

Christmas Worship Service Times

Christmas Eve

Bethlehem 5:00pm

St. John 7:00pm

Christmas Day

Bethlehem 8:00 am

St. John 10:00 am

December Newsletter and Calendar are available. Extra copies in the back of church (Bethlehem) or in the bottom row of mailboxes (St. John). Check out the colorful version on the website at stjbeth.org. If you did not receive your newsletter via the USPS, in your church mailbox or via email, please contact Tabitha.

Advent Soup Supper at St. John

What: savory soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and all the delicious fixings

When: 5:00- 6:30pm, Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th, 17th

Free will offering supporting the youth attending the Higher Things Youth Gathering.

December 3rd Soups: Hamburger Vegetable and Cheesy Potato



Put it on your calendar: December 23, 2025! Red Robin will be giving 20% of the food sales on 12/23/25 to the Youth Group for their trip to the Higher Things Gathering. All you need to do is have a delicious meal at Red Robin and show the flyer or mention the fundraiser to your server. See insert for the flyer.

Bethlehem Poinsettia Orders

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Deadline to order is December 7th. Cost is \$12. Please make checks payable to Marlene Schrieber.



St. John Sunday School Holiday Mission: Sunday

School will be collecting non-perishable food, monetary donations to stock the shelves of the pantries for Christmas! ***Items needed most are:*** Canned Meats; Chicken, Ham, Tuna, Spam, Canned Pasta with Meat, Canned Fruit, Cereal. All Non-Perishable items are accepted. Thank you for your support and generosity. Thrivent action cards are a great way to help fill the needs. There are several collection boxes throughout the back of church. Any questions, please contact Traci Pehlke.



Bethlehem Sunday School Christmas Worship Service

Please join us Sunday, December 14th following the 8 a.m. service for a special presentation as our children share a joyful celebration of the CHRISTmas season through music and songs. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We will be having a light brunch following the presentation. Please invite your family and friends.



Help make the Soup, Bake and Craft successful. **Each Bethlehem family** is asked to bring four dozen cookies to church for the Bake Sale by Thursday, December 11th.

Bethlehem Soup, Bake and Craft Sale

Soup Orders: To order your quart(s) of soup, call Dorean at 715-680-0078, before December 12th OR order forms are in the back of church (Beth) and on the counter (STJ).

Soup Pick Up: Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th from 9 am to 3 pm.

Soups available: Chicken Dumpling, Chili, Sauerkraut Chili and Cheesy Broccoli Cauliflower.

Office Items:

- ✓ Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.
- ✓ Check your church mailboxes for your December Newsletter.
- ✓ Check out the Church's Facebook page for upcoming December events.

Community Events: Check out the bulletin boards for more details.

* Stratford Area Food Pantry is having a Holiday Donation Drive now until December 5th.