

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

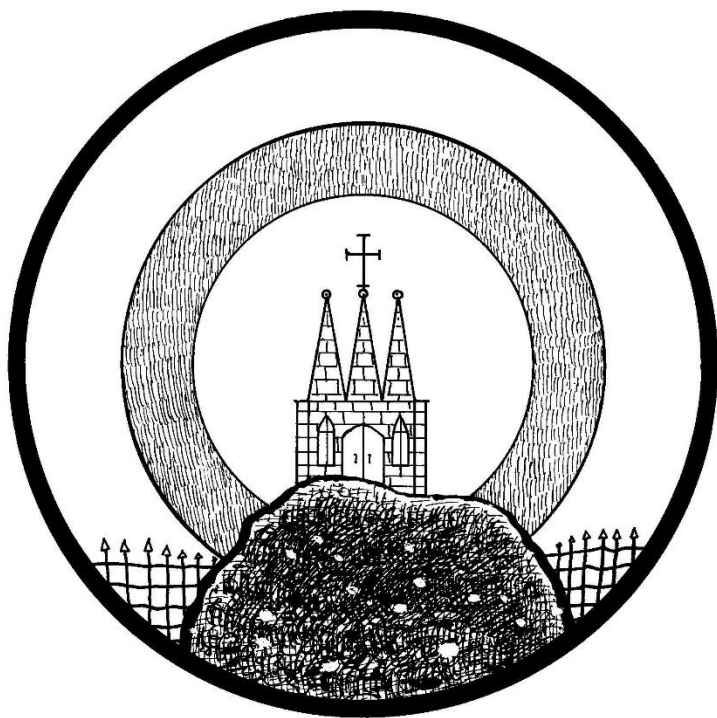
~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
Milan, WI 54411

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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: August 23 – Pentecost 13 – Do you remember the day you were born? No? Your Father in heaven does! So do your earthly mother and father. “Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him” (Isaiah 51: 2). Every human life has a divine plan and purpose: “The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me” (Psalm 138: 8)! “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things” (Romans 11: 36)! Blessed are all whom God our Father in heaven forgives, saves, and justifies by faith (Matthew 16: 17).

Life Quotes: August 23 “The One who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows is now seated in sovereign authority over all things. He is not pacing the floor of heaven, wringing His hands. He is reigning. And because He reigns, we can have courage and peace even when our world seems like it's unraveling before our very eyes.” *Rev. Brian W. Thomas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS National Mission: August 23 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Romans 12:1 – **“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”** That's the order: God's mercies, then our sacrifice. Since God's mercies are all-encompassing, so is our sacrifice: a total sacrifice, our total selves placed over into God's service according to how He has called each of us individually to serve in home, church and society.

Divine Service I

Hymn: “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

LSB 845

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 138

Kyrie (p.152)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.154)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p.156)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament: *Isaiah 51:1–6*

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

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: *Romans 11:33—12:8*

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (p.156)

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 16:13-20*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

Apostles’ Creed (p.159)

Office Hymn: “Built on the Rock”

LSB 645

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:

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” LSB 623

“Take My Life and Let It Be” LSB 783

“The Church’s One Foundation” LSB 644

Thank the Lord (p. 164)

Post Communion Collect (p.166)

Benediction (p.166)

Hymn “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” LSB 802

Announcements

Prayers

- Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- Remember God’s work in Lutheran schools as you pray: for daily opportunities for our teachers and staff to show God’s mercy, love and forgiveness both inside and outside of the classroom. Pray that God would maintain our ability to practice our faith in Lutheran schools.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Mon.	Aug. 24	Budget Meeting	6 pm
Beth:	Tues.	Aug. 25	Dual Board of Ed. Mtg	7 pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Aug. 30	Worship Service	8:00 am
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Acolyte: Evan Strack

Greeters: Dick and Lois Niemi

STJ:	Sun.	Aug. 30	Worship Service	10:30 am
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Acolyte: Cale Koch

Sunday School Kickoff Rally will be at Bethlehem starting at 12:30 with a potluck lunch at 1:00. Food, games and fun for all ages. Everyone is welcome, don’t have to have kids in Sunday School.

Bethlehem Sunday School: Sunday School starts September 13. We are looking for teachers and helpers who are willing to share their time and faith with our children. Whether you can teach every Sunday or help occasionally, your willingness to serve can make a lasting difference in a child’s life. No experience is necessary—lesson materials and support are provided. If you are able to help, please speak with Patti, Janessa, Tammi or Beth.

St. John Budget Meeting August 24th at 6pm in the conference room.

Upcoming Dual Parish Meetings

- *Dual Board of Education Meeting August 25 at 7 pm at Bethlehem
- *Dual Budget Meeting September 9 at 7pm at Bethlehem
- *Dual Council Meeting September 17 at 7pm at Bethlehem
- *Dual Parish Meeting October 11 at 7pm at St. John

Time To Sign Up For LifeLight! If you'd like to join the LifeLight Bible Study this fall, sign-up sheets are now available. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at Bethlehem or Thursday mornings at 10: 30am at St. John. Classes will begin on September 16th and 17th. This fall session will focus on Worship. The price is \$12 for your study book. Please sign up by Sunday, August 30th. Please consider joining us for this in-depth study of God's Word!

The Harvest Supper is set for October 3, 2026. This congregational mission event requires everyone's prayers, help and support. The signup sheets will be out next week. It has been suggested to donate any profits from this event to the Neenah / Menasha Tornado Relief Fund. Please let Mary or Nancy know if you feel this is an appropriate way to Service the Lord or if you have any other suggestions.

Give the Gift of Life! Bethlehem is hosting a community blood drive through Versiti on Saturday, October 17 from 7: 30–12: 00. Every donation can help provide lifesaving blood to patients in our local hospitals and communities. If you are able, please consider giving the gift of life and encourage your family and friends to participate as well. More information on how to sign up will be coming soon.

Kwik Trip Gift Card available at Bethlehem.

When you purchase a Kwik Trip gift card through us, you will be donating 5-15% back to our church. There are multiple cards on hand, but if you would like to order card(s), please fill out a pre-order form located on the table.



Liturgical Glossary: Sanctus (SAHNK-tus): A Latin word meaning "holy." The Sanctus is the liturgical song sung at the beginning of the communion liturgy. It is drawn from the song of the angels in Is. 6: 3. The concluding text, "blessed is He who comes..." is from Ps. 118: 26 and Mk. 11: 9—10.

LWML North WI Zone 10 Fall Rally on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Green Grove, Colby
 Registration and Brunch: 8:00 am to 8:30 am. Fee is \$5.00 and includes morning brunch, the cost of the speaker and materials
 The Christian Life Bible Study topic is "To Hear or Not to Hear".
 The "Gifts from the Heart" will be for the Concordia Theological Seminary, Food & Clothing Co-op in Fort Wayne, IN. Vicar Paul Mroczenski will give a presentation. Monetary donations will be accepted for mites. Check out the bulletin board for the letter invitation.

UPDATE 8/11/26 on the
Financial aspect of the St. John Refresh Project
Renovation 2026 Expenses Totals

\$121,035.00	Church Interiors – Paint & Lights
\$ 4489.26	Rice's Floors
\$ 2284.65	Electrician
\$ 510.00	Mayer Upholstery
\$ 4188.00	Innovative Machine – Radiator covers
\$135,506.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$135,506.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$ 40,755.00	Deposit
\$ 51,984.57	Beginning Balance
\$ 34,562.31	2026 Donations
\$ 5205.03	Donations still needed

NWD Adult Gathering - October 12 in Eau Claire or October 13 in Weston

Plan now to join us at one of the two Adult Gatherings being offered this fall! The first will be held on Monday, October 12, at Peace, Eau Claire and the second will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at Mount Olive, Weston.
 Rev. Dr. Brian Gauthier, from the LCMS Office of International Mission, will present a message on "Unpacking Lutheran Mission" as he helps us understand not only missions, but the LCMS impact around the world, and how you and your congregation can make an impact. he \$35 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, and a catered lunch. Registration deadline is September 25. Registration forms are available in the narthex and under Events and Info at nwdlcms.org.