

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



Second Sunday in Lent

March 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: March 1 “This is love—the God who became a human baby for us, who suffered for us, who rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. This is love, shining into our own darkness to give us joy and salvation.” *Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: (Lent 2) – Salvation comes only through faith in Christ, who was “lifted up” on the cross as the payment for the world's sins (John 3:14-15). Not even Abraham our forefather was saved by his works or inner worth (Romans 4:2-3). In choosing to redeem us by His own grace apart from our works, God shows us that our value is not found in a person's own qualities. Instead, every person is precious to God and worthy of dignity because “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son” (John 3:16).

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: “When I Behold Jesus Christ”

LSB 542

Confession and Absolution (p.203)

Service of the Word

Psalm 121

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

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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: *Genesis 12:1–9*

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to

the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

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: *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: *John 3:1–17*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.206)

Office Hymn: “God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571

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

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” LSB 427

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home” LSB 673

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)

Post Communion Collect (p.212)

Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)

Hymn: “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” LSB 708

Announcements

Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Remember the centrality of God's Word as you pray: for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, that all there might grow in the Word and prepare for the proper proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 1	New Member Catechism Class	6: 00 pm
STJ:	Mon.	Mar. 2	Quilters	9: 00 am
STJ:	Mon.	Mar. 2	Able-Light	10: 00 am
	Tues.	Mar. 3	Pastor at Circuit Mtg	9: 00 am
STJ:	Wed.	Mar. 4	Lenten Service	1: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 4	Confirmation	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 4	Youth Group	6: 00 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Mar. 4	Lenten Service	7: 00 pm
Beth:	Thurs.	Mar. 5	LifeLight Bible Study	10: 30am
STJ:	Thurs.	Mar. 5	Chimes	5: 30pm
STJ:	Thurs.	Mar. 5	LifeLight Bible Study	6: 30pm

Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John

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

Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 8	Acolyte: Aleah Kosik
			Greeters: Phil & Tammy Kunze family
STJ:	Sun.	Mar. 8	Acolyte: Lexie Noller

Save the Date: **STJ: Blood Drive**, March 28th, 8 am to noon.

Thank you everyone who contributed to making subs and those who placed sub orders. It was a successful **Lutheran Hour Sub Sandwich** fundraiser with \$774.00 donated and \$94.00 went to the Lutheran Hour in Spencer WDLB.



Buckets O'Blarney Silent Auction

Along with the trivia contest, we will also have a silent basket auction in the multipurpose room. For the gift baskets, we are asking for donated items. If possible, also include a monetary value of your item so that we can start the bidding on the baskets close to the value of the items in the basket.

Below are some theme ideas for the basket donations:

Children's Basket	Chocolate, Coffee and Tea Basket
Baby Basket	Gardening and Tools Basket
Date Night Basket	Cooking and Kitchen Basket
Family Game Night Basket	Sports and Packers Basket

Items can be given to Deb Mathey or Cathy Schneider. They can also be left on a table in the Parish Hall with a note FOR THE BASKET AUCTION. **Please have donations to church by Sunday, March 8th.** For questions or for more information, contact Cathy Schneider at 715-660-1718 or cathy_schneider2@yahoo.com.

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).

Check the bulletin board for more information:

- Peach Lutheran Church - Drive Thru Chili Dinner – 3/1/26
- Camp Luther summer camp brochures are available. Camp Luther offers many opportunities for kids, families and groups. Information is also available online at campluther.com

Office Items:

- ✓ Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.
- ✓ Check your church mailboxes

LCMS Worker Wellness: The first Friday of March (March 6, 2026) is Lay Worker Appreciation Day. Please join the LCMS as we recognize and appreciate all lay workers within our local congregations.

Upcoming Church Events:

Lenten Schedule

Wednesday Lenten Services - March 4, 11, 18, 25

STJ: 1:00pm

Beth: 7:00pm

Lenten Meals Wednesdays 5:30 pm at Bethlehem

March 4th – Tacos

March 11th – Chicken Noodle Soup

March 18th – Potato Bar

Palm Sunday - March 29

Beth: 8:00am

STJ: 10:30am

Maundy Thursday - April 2

STJ: 1:00pm

Beth: 7:00pm

Good Friday - April 3

STJ: 1:00pm “Devotional Service”

Beth: 7:00pm Full Service

Easter Sunday - April 5

Beth: 8:00am

St. John: 10:30am



Quarterly Voters' Meeting on April 19th after worship service.