

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

~ The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ~

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

*[www.stjbeth.org](http://www.stjbeth.org)*

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

September 7, 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** “Difficult situations like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can tempt us to forget our Savior’s presence and power. Comfort comes not from making deals with death but from the gifts He wrings and the privileges He brings even in and through hardship. An everlasting, unchanging, and all-sufficient Creator and Keeper not only provides life, He protects it as well!” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*  
*[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Life Thoughts:** The compassionate Samaritan does not euthanize or terminate the already halfdead traveler. He treats this stranger and rival not as less human but as dear neighbor and trades his own convenience, cost, and comfort to help a brother (Luke 10:33-35). Our Savior showers us with just such grace so that we may share it as well. Dear Savior, grant me fully to appreciate Your grace to me and freely to extend it to all in need. Amen.

## Divine Service IV

*Hymn:* “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

LSB 845

### Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p. 203)

Confession of Sins and Absolution (p.203)

### Service of the Word

Psalm 1

Kyrie (p. 204)

Gloria in Excelsis (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 merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading:**     *Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land

that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

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:**           *Philemon 1–21*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our  
sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your  
house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my  
prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have  
toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the  
sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge  
of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have  
derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother,  
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to  
command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love’s sake I prefer  
to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for  
Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose  
father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless  
to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am  
sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have  
been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on  
your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I  
preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your  
goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free  
will. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while,  
that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but  
more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how  
much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you  
would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you  
anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my

own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)

**Holy Gospel:** *Luke 14:25-35*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

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

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (p.206)

*Office Hymn:* “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

LSB 853

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:*

"Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread"	LSB 625
"Take My Life and Let it Be"	LSB 783
"I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"	LSB 729

Nunc Dimittis: (p.211)  
Post Communion Collect (p.212)  
Benedicamus and Benediction (p.212)  
*Hymn:* "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

LSB 918

## **Announcements**

### **Remember in our Prayers:**

- ❖ Our Shut-ins
- ❖ Pray for individuals facing financial hardships, that they would see God's provision.

**Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.**

### **Church Office Information**

- ✓ Weekly announcements due by Wednesday
- ✓ Check out the Church's Facebook page for upcoming events
- ✓ Any corrections on member information please let the church secretary know ( contact information changes, birthdays/anniversary changes, etc.)

### **This Week at Bethlehem and St. John**

Beth/STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 7	Youth Group Kickoff Party	4 pm
Beth:	Mon.	Sept. 8	Elders Mtg	6 pm
Beth:	Mon.	Sept. 8	Council Mtg	7 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Sept. 9	Elders Mtg	6 pm
STJ:	Tues.	Sept. 9	Council Mtg	7 pm
Beth:	Wed.	Sept. 10	CWIA	1 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Sept. 10	Chimes	5: 30 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Sept. 10	Confirmation	6 pm
STJ:	Wed.	Sept. 10	Youth Group	6 pm

### **Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John**

Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 14	Worship Service	8: 00 am
Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 14	Installation of Sunday School Staff	
Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 14	Sunday School	9: 15 am
STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 14	Worship Service	10: 30 am
STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 14	Installation of Sunday School Staff	
STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 14	Sunday School	9: 15 am
	Sun.	Sept. 14	Sunday School Rally	12: 30 pm

### **Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters**

Beth:	Sun.	Sept. 14	<i>Acolyte: Bailey Schreiber</i>
			<i>Greeters: Duwayne &amp; Susan Gumz</i>
STJ:	Sun.	Sept. 14	<i>Acolyte: Christian Pehlke</i>

**Time To Sign Up For LifeLight!** If you'd like to join the LifeLight Bible Study this fall, sign-up sheets are now posted. You can join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at St. John or Thursday mornings at 10: 30am at Bethlehem. We will be studying the Book of Hebrews this Fall, and classes will begin on September 17th and 18th. There is a special price of \$10 for your book this session! Please consider joining us for this in-depth study of God's Word!

### **First Annual Dual Parish Sunday School Rally Picnic**

When: September 14th

12: 30 Rally begins

Lunch 1p – 2 p

Kickball game 2 p – 3p

Where: Milan Ball Diamond

*Bring a dish to pass.* BBQ, Hot Ham, and Hotdogs will be provided. Also, provide will be soft served chocolate and vanilla ice cream!!!

Hosted by the Dual Board of Education. Let's kick off the Sunday School year!



**Bethlehem Sunday School** starts on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone willing to teach to please reach out to Patti, Janessa or Tammi.



**HELP WANTED:** Help is needed to crochet plastic mats for Orphan Grain Train as they are begging for more mats. Anyone that can crochet or is willing to learn, please contact Arlette at 715-223-6060.

**Safety Committee/Concealed Carry**

With the recent insurance change at St. John there is an opportunity for training. This training is for anyone who is or would choose to use concealed carry. If you participate in the training our liability insurance would now cover you. For more information contact Linda Mueller.

**Float wagon for sale.** It is approximately 9 ft x 19 ft. If interested, please put a bid in to the church secretary. Any questions or would like to look at it please contact Lloyd Schulz or Dennis Punke.

**The Harvest Supper Sign Up Sheets** have been placed on the counter in the carport. Please review the donation sheet and sign-up for jobs early so we know we have workers to make this meal a success. All church members can be involved in this event by inviting their neighbors and/or delivering meals to friends and the homebound.



**Grandparents Day Celebration**

Grandparents will be celebrated on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School students are encouraged to bring their grandparents to Sunday School, Church and the Rally.



**Space is still available for the bus trip.**

Christmas in the Dells Dinner Show on Saturday, November 15. Cost is \$105.00 per person. Contact Marlene ASAP at 715-383-0259

**Edgar American Legion** is hosting a cookout at Oak Street Park from 11 am – 2 pm on September 20<sup>th</sup> for area Veterans. A speaker from the Never Forgotten Honor Flight will be there. Contact Marshall Jacobs at 715-432-6877 by September 6<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot.

The Hartwig Family and the Athens Cross Country Team thanks St. John Lutheran Church for the use of the parish hall and kitchen for Carbo Load (team meal bonding night). The runners had an amazing time playing hide and seek in the parish hall and basement. It was the perfect space for all.