



The Dual-Parish Review



Message from Pastor

With the exception of a small minority of people, everyone has something that they love most about this time of year. Some look forward to hearing their favorite songs played everywhere they go. Some like the old classic movies that are shown on all of the different TV stations, and others like the newer classics that have become popular enough to be played alongside the older ones. As with any holiday there's the special foods and drinks like fruit cake (no thanks!) and egg nog (yum!), none of which is really what one would consider part of a healthy diet.

Of course with this time of year there's the added feature of presents, and everything that's involved with receiving and giving those. Some enjoy the shopping part of gift giving while others dread it more than a root canal. Some people are easy to shop for while others are always a challenge, and there are people who like to be completely surprised and people who try to figure out what they're getting every year. Everyone has their own personal way of figuring out how and what to give to the people in their lives depending on everything from their relationship to their age.

When you were a kid, this time of year was probably focused on being extra good so that the jolly man in the red suit would give you the best presents possible! Santa Claus is a primary fixture of the Christmas holiday in America, especially for kids. He's such a big part of the holiday that stories and legends about him have grown with each passing year and with every new movie or song that comes out about him. But no matter how far today's stories about Santa Claus go, they all begin with one Christian bishop who lived early in the 4th century in the area that we know today as Turkey. That bishop's name was Nicholas, as in St. Nick, and as I wrote about a few months ago, the historic church has observed special days of thanks for servants of Christ throughout history and St. Nicholas day falls on December 6th of each year – not on Christmas Day as you might expect – and that makes him one of the first saints remembered at the beginning of each new Church Year.

St. Nicholas of Myra – as he is historically known – was famous for his kindness to poor people throughout Christendom. The most famous account of his kindness and generosity concerns the way that he helped a particular poor man with three daughters. This man had no money to provide his girls with a dowry so that they could be married, and without being married in that place and time, the girls would have likely ended up as slaves or prostitutes. When the kind Bishop Nicholas heard about the family's situation, he used funds from the church to help them. In the middle of the night, Nicholas visited the poor family's home and left a small bag of gold coins for each daughter to be able to use for a dowry. In spite of a few minor variations to the account (Did he drop them through a window or down a chimney? Did he deliver the bags all at once or at a separate time for each daughter before she was old enough to marry?), the young ladies were able to use the money as a dowry, and were rescued from a life of disgrace and hardship by the bishop's generous gift.

Because of his reputation for such generosity, St. Nicholas is associated in many places today with charitable giving, and with a special love for the Lord's smallest children in church. December 6th is observed in many countries as a time to give gifts to others, especially to children. In Germany, it is common for a person to dress up in the full outfit of a bishop and give small gifts to the children present. Here in America of course, St. Nicholas has been merged with other traditions to become what we know today as Santa Claus. What the Church still remembers today is a man of passionate faith and devotion who was generous with many people because of his love for Jesus! – *until next month! Pr. M.*

UNTOLD
US A Child
IS
Born
December
2023

Bethlehem

Lutheran Church

233500 County Road E

Milan, Wisconsin 54411

Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m.

Sun. Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey

Pastors Office Hours @ BETH.

Tues. 9am-5pm

Pastors Number:

715-330-5599

Pastors Email:

lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

Office Secretary Email:

secretary@stjbeth.org

St. John "High Steeple"

Lutheran Church

119415 Huckleberry Road

Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Sun. Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sun. Bible Study at 11:45am

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey

Pastors Office Hours: M, W, T, F:

9am to 5pm

Pastors Number:

715-352-2888

Or 715-330-5599

Not a cell phone .

Please leave a message

Pastors Email:

lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

Sec. Office Hours: M, T, W, F:

1pm to 4pm

Dual Parish Office:

715-352-2888

Office Secretary Email:

secretary@stjbeth.org

Dual Parish Website:

www.Stjbeth.org

St. John Church Council Meeting

November 14, 2023

8 members plus Pastor Mathey attended, Kay Christiansen, Traci Pehlke, Dean Pehlke, Stephen Schneider, Jeff Werner, Doug Brown, Mel Niemann and Sharon Niemann.
Pastor opened with Prayer.

Motion was made to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.

Pastor's report: Thanksgiving Services are set with Wednesday night at Bethlehem 7pm and Thursday morning 9am here at St John. Christmas Eve service is at Bethlehem at 5pm and here at 7pm. Christmas Day service is at Bethlehem at 8am and here at St John at 10am.

LifeLight Bible studies ends this week. We will start again after the first of the year. Higher Things at Concordia Wisconsin at Mequon is in June and the Youth and 3 adults are planning to attend. One budget item. \$6700 was in the proposal to be put in the HSA account for Pastor's deductible. This has since been corrected to be \$6000. There is a savings in that fee. We have a baptism on November 26 at St. John.

Elder's Report was a review from the Reporter newsletter. They continue to review safety and policy issues. Reminder that Lutheran Hour Ministry offers daily devotions in many different formats.

Outreach reported on the Planning and Zoning's problems with the new church sign. As it is now it is 7 feet to close to the road. They will continue to look for new options with the land owner.

Board of Ed reminded us that the Children's program will be Dec. 20'th at 7pm. (**Been Changed to Thursday Dec. 21st**) An all church ice cream social will follow.

Treasurer reported that we still have a shortfall in the weekly giving; but bills are being paid.

Finance Committee will need 3 more new counters this coming year. Volunteers are welcome to sit in on a counting to see what the work involves.

Motion was made to accept all reports as given. It was approved.

Old Business:

Election of officers cannot be held yet as we are short one candidate.

New Business:

In the event that services need to be cancelled; please check the church's phone no., 715-352-2888. The answering machine will have the announcement as soon as a decision is made. Other options are being explored.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sharon Niemann



What About . . . The Gospel

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This pamphlet has been prepared to show you how much we need the Gospel, why it is such good news, how we receive it and how we respond to it.

Why do we need the Gospel?

We cannot really understand how good the message of the Gospel is until we understand how bad our situation is without it. We are poor miserable sinners. We sin daily and deserve nothing but God’s wrath and punishment.

Without Jesus Christ, our situation would be totally hopeless. The Scriptures describe human beings as dead in trespasses and sin. Without the mercy and cleansing of God through the blood of Jesus Christ, there awaits for us only everlasting punishment in hell. Thus, we need the Gospel— desperately!

What is the Gospel? The word “gospel” is a translation of a Greek word that means, “an announcement of good news.” The Gospel is the good news that God the Holy Trinity decided not to abandon humanity when Adam and Eve first fell into sin. God decided then and there that sin and death would not have the last word. He promised to send a Savior.

When the time was right, God sent His Son into our world to be born of the Virgin Mary. Our Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect life for us. On the cross, He received the penalty and punishment for the sins of the whole world, offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus rose from the dead, victorious over our ancient enemies: sin, death and the devil.

Therefore, each Christian is able with great joy and confidence to declare before the whole world: “My Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”

What glorious good news! The one, true eternal and all powerful God came into our world to live, suffer, die and rise again for us. We, who are unholy and unrighteous, receive the forgiveness of all our sins and thus receive the perfect holiness and righteousness of Christ our Savior—as a free gift—purely because of His love for us. That is good news! That is the Gospel!

— Dr.A.L.Barry President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



St. John Dec. Acolyte Schedule

Dec. 3, 2023	Sunday	Colin Pehlke
Dec. 6, 2023	Wed. Advent	Ben Hartwig
Dec. 10, 2023	Sunday	Cale Koch
Dec. 13, 2023	Wed. Advent	Delayna Noller
Dec.17, 2023	Sunday	Lauryn Hartwig
Dec. 20, 2023	Wed. Advent	Colin Pehlke
Dec. 24, 2023	Sunday A.M.	Lexi Noller
Dec.24, 2023	Sunday P.M	Kelly Mathey
Dec. 25, 2023	Christmas	Kelly Mathey
Dec. 31, 2023	Sunday	Christian Pehlke

Bethlehem: Dec. Acolyte Schedule

Dec. 3	Aleah Kosik
Dec. 10	Calleigh Cook
Dec. 17	Madalynn Johnson
Dec.24	Bailey Schreiber
Dec. 31	Isaac Kosik

Bethlehem Dec. Greeter Schedule

Dec. 3	Justin & Kara Schwarting
Dec. 10	Ray, Sarah Vanluven & family
Dec.17	Pastor Mathey, Deb & family
Dec. 24	Bart, Brittney Schreiber & family

In Loving Memory

The Niemann family donated the memorial money from John's funeral to the general fund. Thank

you to everyone who made the funeral a blessed service for John's family.

A maple tree was planted on the property line in the southeast corner on the property line, in his memory.



Bethlehem Safety Committee

Starting Jan 1, 2024 the back door will be locked at 8:00am when the Sunday

service starts and remain locked for the rest of the day. Please use the front door after 8:00am as it will be unlocked. This is for the safety of our congregation.

St. John Milestone Gifts: We will hand out milestone gifts on Sunday, December 3rd

St. John Children's Advent Program will be on Thursday, December 21 at 6 PM.

Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on Dec 24th and Dec. 31st, 2023 We will have class again on Jan 7th, 2024.

Invest in ministry with LCEF's 30-month, 6.25% CD!

You probably know the value of having your money work for you. But did you know your investment could do even more?

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you join tens of thousands of like-minded Lutheran investors who make funds available for loans to LCMS churches, schools, organizations and workers. We call it Lutherans helping Lutherans.

This limited-time offer is available to LCMS individuals, congregations, organizations and businesses. Minimum of \$500 to invest, new money only. You can start an account today at <http://www.lcef.org>. Should you have any questions, please call LCEF's toll-free helpline at 1-800-843-5233.

CHURCH OR MEETING

CANCELLATION POLICY

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!



SOUPER SUPPER

Bethlehem: Soup Supper, Live Nativity, Craft and Bake Sale:

Saturday, December 9th, 4pm to 7:30pm is our Soup Supper (eat in) and Live Nativity, be sure to invite your family, neighbors and friends to come join us for the evening.

Bethlehem Soup Sale: If you wish to order soup from the Soup Supper call Dorean Freimund at 715-680-0078. You can pick up your soup the day of the Soup Supper on December 9th from 9am to 7pm.

Bethlehem Sunday School: - Please join us for the Christmas program, "What Child is This?" on December 17th immediately after the church service. There will be a breakfast following the program. There will be no Sunday School December 24 or December 31.

may you know
the comfort & joy
of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!
lcef.org



December Birthdays and Anniversaries Blessings

Myszka, Samantha	12/01	Kilty, Sutton	12/02	Clarence & Arlette Molthen	
Myszka, Valerie	12/01	Miles, Sequoia	12/04		12/02
Schneider, Stephan	12/01	McKee, Tammi	12/06	Matthew, Janessa Thomas	
Telschow, Audrey	12/01	Geisking, Louise	12/09		12/19
Ulrick, James	12/02	Denzine, Kurt	12/10	Albert & Miriam Wolff	
Durkee Jr., James	12/04	Schwarting, Justin	12/12		12/12
Noller, Delayna	12/05	Kunze, Rosie	12/13	Ryan & Samantha VanDerLeest	
Koepke, Emma	12/08	Kirchner, Elizabeth	12/14		12/15
Hartwig, Lauryn	12/09	Bernt, Joshua	12/16	Stephan & Catherine Schneider	
Syring, Amanda	12/09	Neumann, Marnie	12/18		12/26
Rodman, Raegene	12/11	Kelly Mathey	12/18		
Hamann, Theodora	12/15	Rinehart, Karley	12/21		
Koepke, Steven	12/18	Geisking, Justin	12/28		
Mathey, Kelly	12/18	Thomas, Janessa	12/28		
Myszka, Victoria	12/20	Kirchner, Galen	12/30		
Niemann, Karissa	12/20				



Advent Wk. 1
Beth: Wed. Dec. 6th 1:30pm
STJ: Wed. Dec. 6th 7:00pm
Advent Wk. 2
Beth: Wed. Dec. 13th 1:30pm
STJ: Wed. Dec. 13th 7:00pm
Advent Wk. 3
Beth: Wed. Dec. 20th 1:30pm
STJ: Wed. Dec. 20th 7:00pm

Sunday Morning
Dec. 24th Advent 4
Beth: 8:00am
ST. John 10:30am
Christmas Eve Service
Beth: 5pm
St. John: 7pm

Christmas Day
Beth: 8:00am St.
John: 10:00am



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

December 3 "Before They Call"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue. So is "Lord, have mercy!" (Isaiah 64:4)

December 10 "A-T Walker"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Isaiah 40:3)

December 17 "Life After Landing"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Isaiah 61:1-2)

December 24 "TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

December 31 "TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcasts

Lutheran Hour Ministries - God has called all laypeople to be powerful witnesses for Christ to their families and communities. At LHM, we strive to create convenient ways for you to connect with Jesus and share your faith with others. Our products are free, easy, and digital so that you can use them in your home, on-the-go, or wherever you may be.

In this time of uncertainty, don't find yourself feeling isolated. HE is always with you! Discover FREE resources for your entire household and continue enriching your faith even when we can't gather together. Visit lhm.org/covid-19 and explore all of the ways you can hear God's Word, equip yourself in outreach, and provide Gospel-centered activities for the kids!

Internet Resources:

Worship Anew is an online ministry put out by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne available to view on the Internet. The current week's program can be found on their homepage at Worshipanew.org/program.

Moments of Comfort is an online video ministry of Worship Anew which speaks to the sufferings we face in this life with the comforting message of God's Word.

They have a list of archived programs listed on the site.



Station City, State Freq. Day Time

WDLB	Marshfield, WI	1450 AM	Sun	8:00am
WRVM	Marshfield, WI	91.3 FM	Sun	10:00am
WRVM	Medford, WI	98.7 FM	Sun	10:00am
WRVM	Wausau, WI	101.3 FM	Sun	10:00am
WSAU	Wausau, WI	550 AM	Sun	8:30am
WSAU	Wausau, WI	99.9 FM	Sun	8:30am
WAXX	Altoona, WI	104.5 FM	Sun	6:30am

You can also go on line at www...lhm.org or download the free App @ LHM.ORG/APPS



Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Jeff Schwarz.

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Avent Wk. 1

Beth: Wed. Dec. 6th 1:30pm

STJ: Wed. Dec. 6th 7:00pm

Advent Wk. 2

Beth: Wed. Dec. 13th 1:30pm

STJ: Wed. Dec. 13th 7:00pm

Advent Wk. 3

Beth: Wed. Dec. 20th 1:30pm

STJ: Wed, Dec. 20th 7:00pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sunday Dec. 24th Advent 4

Beth: 8:00am

ST. John 10:30am

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service

Beth: 5pm

St. John: 7pm

Christmas Day

Beth: 8:00am

St. John: 10:00am

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches
119415 Huckleberry Road
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426
715-352-2888



Bethlehem Milan



Where
the
light
of
Jesus

