



# The Dual-Parish Review

## *Message from Pastor*

When you walk into any number of retail stores at the end of January, you can't help but see red. No, I don't mean that you'll be furious. I mean you will literally see the color red in front of your eyes. Since a time shortly after Christmas Day, the displays of goods for sale in the prominent shelves right in front of the entrances have been dominated by red-colored items. There are bags of candy, cutesy stuffed animals, and boxes of cards for kids to fill out for their classmates. Of course it's the annual display for Valentine's Day, or as a young kid that I once knew used to say, "The love day."

Each February 14<sup>th</sup> seems to be pretty much the same thing. The stores have their trinkets for sale. The day gets closer, and the flower shops begin to take more than the usual amount of orders, especially for roses. The price of those flowers gets higher and higher as the day gets closer. Men are reminded over and over again in commercials that the day is coming quickly, and they better make a big deal out of it or suffer the wrath of their significant other. Of course, many men won't give it much thought until the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> when they'll stop into a store on the way home and grab something because they've been made to feel like they have to. Some couples will find a little romantic magic in the day, especially if they're in a newer relationship, and kids will hand out treats and cards to each other at the annual school Valentine's Day party. And those who find themselves in the category of "single" will find some way to distract themselves from all of the hype. It's pretty much the same thing every year.

Of course, February isn't only about Valentine's Day this year, at least for many Christians. Once again this year, February also contains the day that we call Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. This time of the Church Year focuses on an extended period of repentance and preparation for observing and celebrating the Passion of Our Lord and then His Resurrection.

During this time of Lent – which comes from the Latin word for "spring" – Christians observe 40 days of self-reflection to help us focus on the depths of our sinful nature, and to remember how much Christ had to endure and suffer to pay for our sin. There are a number of ways that you are encouraged to do this. The first is extra time in worship.

Continued on page 2.....



# 2023

**Bethlehem**

**Lutheran Church**

233500 County Road E

Milan, Wisconsin 54411

**Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m.**

**Sunday 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

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:

## Message from Pastor continued....

Just like our Advent preparation period before Christmas, there will be special times of prayer and worship at each congregation on Wednesdays (*1:30pm at Bethlehem and 7:00pm at St. John*) throughout the season beginning on Ash Wednesday.

An additional way to prepare is the old tradition of giving something up for the season of Lent, which is actually the old practice of fasting. Many people choose to refrain from doing something or eating something for the 40 days of Lent, and this is certainly a good practice to observe. But there's another part of this fasting tradition that is often overlooked. The original intent of giving up something for Lent was to give yourself extra time to spend in prayer or in reading God's Word. So, if you do choose to give up something such as your favorite food or snack, you should plan on using the time that you would have spent eating and preparing that food to spend extra time in prayer or meditation on God's Word.

That brings me to my final suggestion for how to observe this Lenten season, and that is with extra personal time reading God's Word. If you want to do that, there will be a special sheet available for you on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. That sheet will have a reading plan for the New Testament on it, and if you follow that reading plan from Ash Wednesday through the Sunday of Pentecost it will take you through the entire New Testament.

Each year the Old Testament reading for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday is from the prophet Joel. Give special attention to his words once again this year, and hear their call to prepare for Christ's Passion. "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster."

*Until Next Month...Pr. M.*

LUTHER'S  
SMALL  
CATECHISM  
with Explanation



### *The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: The Third Part*

*How can water do such great things?*

Certainly not just water, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which \_\_\_\_\_ this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a \_\_\_\_\_ water, rich in grace, and a washing of the rebirth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of \_\_\_\_\_ and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." *Titus 3:5-8*

### *The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: The Fourth Part*

*What does such baptizing with water indicate?*

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and \_\_\_\_\_ be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should \_\_\_\_\_ emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

*Where is this written?*

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore \_\_\_\_\_ with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new \_\_\_\_\_." *Romans 6:4*

## St. John Church Council Meeting

January 10, 2023

Those attending were Doug Brown, Kay Christiansen, Rev. Mathey, Stacy VanHoy, Stephan Schneider, Jeff Werner, Mel and Sharon Niemann.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's minutes from the last meeting was approved.

Pastor reported that Ash Wednesday will be Feb. 22 with services at 1:30 at Milan and 7pm at St John. Synodical convention is this year and voting will be for President, Vice President and the Great Lakes regional Vice President. Roger Ballerstein and Pastor Schorey are the delegates from our zone.

Elders reported that the proposal for the Alliance Defending Freedom for the Freedom Church Alliance will be brought before the voters at the meeting on the 15'th. Also, a LERT training review will be presented to that meeting on what our congregation can do locally should an emergency arise.

Outreach team reported that caroling took place. We will be ready with dates for the blood drives this year soon.

Board of Ed will have a door collection for the Pennies for Life fund on January 22'nd.

Treasurer reported that everything is current.

Finance committee is going well. Jeff has the computer now and statements should come out soon.

Trustees sent word that the parking lot will be sanded as needed by the Hughs company.

Reports were accepted as given.

Old business: Deb Mathey will be ready with a preliminary report on her findings on the church directory options.

New business: Sub sandwich sale will be held by the LLL on Super Bowl Sunday. It will be a freewill offering.

Motion was made to adjourn. Seconded.

Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary

## St. John Quarterly Voters Meeting

January 15, 2023

28 members signed in and Doug Brown called the meeting to order. Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.

Secretary minutes from our last meeting on Oct. 23 was reviewed and approved.

Pastor gave his report. Attendance was good for Advent and Christmas. We look forward to Ash Wednesday on Feb.22'nd. services will be 1:30 at Milan and 7pm here at St John. Synodical convention is this year in Milwaukee. We all are welcome to attend. The opening service is especially spectacular. Elections will be held for President, Vice President, and Great Lakes District Vice President. Motion was made, seconded and passed to make Roger our elector at the convention on our behalf.

Elders reported on the LCML guide by the Alliance Defending Freedom, Protecting Your Ministry. For \$250 we could join this group. They would review our constitution and all written policies and provide guidelines. Motion was made to join this group and secure the legal advice for one year. Motion was made to reelect Rev. Harrison as our synodical President, seconded, and passed.

Outreach reported that they will meet later this month.

Board of Education said that they will have a joint meeting on the 24'th with Milan to discuss youth group. The youth have a mission trip planned to Niagara Falls this summer. There are 4 youth and 2 adult chaperones interested so far. Pennies for Life door offering will be next Sunday. Also, the youth are studying for the Bible Quiz Bowl this year with Trinity in Athens. This year the topic is Exodus.

Treasurer report was given. Motion was made to move \$50,000 to the 4% earning interest account with LCEF. Second was given and motion passed.

Trustees had no report. It was noted that sanding only after plowing was not enough with the icy conditions. We will need to call for sanding as ice is more regularly forming on the lot.

Finance reported things are going well. There are 2 more counter spots that could be filled. Statements should be out by next Sunday.

Cemetery had no report.

All reports were approved as given.

New business: Motion was made to make a new directory since our last one was done in 2017. Second was given and motion passed. Deb Mathey reviewed the options that she found. Motion was made to go with Harmon Studios out of Green Bay, Wi.

Old business: Steve gave a review of what the individual and congregation could do with LERT. Team and individual response work is needed. Congregational planning is needed to be done so we can fit a need should a disaster happen in our area.

Motion was made to adjourn.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary

**1 - BIG NEWS AT WI VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL: WI Valley has now joined the WI Parental CHOICE Program!** Through this program eligible families may send their students to The Valley **tuition free**. At The Valley, this year and next year, students may qualify at all grade levels for incoming, transfer, and current students. **Families of students who are currently in the CHOICE Program do not need to re-qualify for eligibility, but do need to apply to the WI CHOICE Program as they have each year.** The CHOICE application period starts February 1st and runs through April 20th. We are excited about the CHOICE Program because of the potential to share the ministry of The Valley with families who may not have otherwise considered enrolling their student due to the cost of tuition. Both the families who enroll through the CHOICE Program and WI Valley Lutheran will benefit from families being a part of the CHOICE Program. It's a win/win! Please apply at [wvlhs.org/choice-program](http://wvlhs.org/choice-program) or call the school office for more information (715-693-2693).

2- WI Valley Lutheran High School financial information through the 2nd Quarter of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

	Annual Budget	Actual Through December	Remaining Budget
Tuition & Fees	\$103,000.00	\$81,300.00	\$21,700.00
Assessments	\$38,200.00	\$12,700.00	\$25,500.00
Donations/Fundraising	\$383,500.00	\$87,900.00	\$295,600.00
Total	\$524,700.00	\$181,900.00	\$342,800.00

3 - WI Valley Lutheran High School Honor Roll - 2nd Quarter

**HIGH HONORS: 3.80-4.00 GPA**

Sarah Gustafson-Trinity Lutheran, Merrill; Kiley Johnson-Trinity Lutheran, Wausau; Abigail Madonia-Bible Truth Chapel, Wausau.

**HONORS: 3.40-3.79 GPA**

Michael Albekioni-Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, Georgia; Riley Brendemuehl-Trinity Lutheran, Merrill; Joshua Massey-Woodlands Community, Plover; Konnor Mehlberg-St. Paul Lutheran, Stevens Point; Lydia Szeto-St. John Lutheran, Merrill; Evan Wegner-St. Paul Lutheran, Stevens Point; Melodee Witter- St. Mark’s Lutheran, Wausau.

**HONORABLE MENTION: 3.00-3.39 GPA**

Sophia Goetsch-Trinity Lutheran, Wausau; Bjorn Leafblad-Bethany Baptist, Schofield; Tim Mathey-St. John Lutheran/Bethlehem Lutheran-Edgar/Milan; Tristan Swanson-Rib Mountain Lutheran, Rib Mountain; Kiel Zuelsdorff-Trinity Lutheran, Wausau.

4 - Have you been thinking about which high school is right for your student? Even if your student is registered at another high school, you can still make the move to WI Valley Lutheran High School! Do you want a high school that offers: a Christ-centered environment, academic excellence, small class sizes, a personal touch, WIAA athletics, courses for college credit, leadership training and much more—then **come check out WI Valley Lutheran High School**. The Valley campus is located at [601 Maple Ridge Road](http://601MapleRidgeRoad.com) in Mosinee. WI Valley is open to students of all faiths entering grades 9-12. WI Valley is a WI Parental CHOICE school offering free tuition to eligible families as well as tuition assistance for families who don’t qualify through the CHOICE Program. Call to set up a tour today: 715-693-2693.

In Christ,

Jamie Wehrs

Administrator WI Valley Lutheran High School

Deb Mathey

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.” Psalm 37:5



**Bethlehem - Passion Play Trip**

The Northeast Wisconsin Passion Play is an inspiring production celebrating the joyous time when Our Lord walked the earth and commemorated his death and resurrection. A cast of 100 people in a portrayal of Christ's ministry presented with beautiful costumes, in a production appropriate for all ages.

**Where:** It will be Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, show time at 1:00pm at The Xavier Fine Arts Theater in Appleton.

The cost is \$70.00, this includes, the cost of the bus, ticket for the show, and a supper meal at the Pizza Ranch. A snack can be brought along on the bus for your noon meal.

**Pickup times:**

9:30am at Abbotsford's Hardees,  
 10:00am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and at  
 10:30 at Edgar Family Restaurant  
 We need to make reservations by February 12<sup>th</sup>.  
 Please contact Marlene Schreiber at 715-383-0259, or sign up at Bethlehem Church.

**Blood Drive:** February 23, 3pm - 7pm

**The Two By Four Quilters** donated 72 youth and baby quilts to Orphan Grain Train in January. They were dropped off at the packing center at St Mark's in Wausau. Six more will be set aside for the Abbotsford Fire Department to be given in the event of family needs

**Lutheran Hour and Super Bowl Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>:** Sub Sandwiches available that Sunday. There are order blanks in the narthex area at St. John and in the entry at Bethlehem. Celebrate over 90 years of bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to Christ! All profits are given to the Lutheran Hour and Trinity Spencer for local broadcast of the Lutheran Hour.

**Ash Wednesday Services**  
**Feb. 22, 2023**  
**Beth: 1:30pm**  
**STJ: 7:00pm**

**Lenten Services**  
**March; Wed. 1, 8, 15, 22, 30**  
**April, Wed. 5.**  
**Beth: 1:30pm**  
**STJ: 7:00pm**

**Maundy Thursday - April 6**  
**Good Friday - April 7**  
**To be determined**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**April 9**

**Bethlehem**

**Birthdays**

Graelyn Bernt	2/3
Robert Strack	2/3
Kosik, Kevin	2/9
Penk, Jill	2/12
Braison Bender	2/15
Brian Venzke	2/17
Paxton Schumacher	2/17
Schwarting, Delbert	2/20
Venzke, Wanda	2/20
Strack, Maria (Kena)	2/28

**Anniversaries**

Daniel & Jane Becker	2/17
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**St. John Birthdays**

Virgene Martens,	2/01
Selma Miessner	2/02
Arabella Syring	2/04
Kassidy Thompson	2/05
Greg Mueller	2/09
Kelsey Schreier(VanDerLeest)	2/11
Randy Syring	2/12
Char Murkowski	2/16
Cathy Schneider	2/21
Sandy Hartwig	2/26



# Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

February 5

## "Your Time to Shine"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes  
Light is necessary for life; God's light, even more so.  
(Matthew 5:14-16)

February 12

## "Shine Like Stars"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A social media star with a million followers can't possibly know all one million of them. However, there is one really famous Person with billions of followers Who knows--and loves --each one.  
(1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

February 19

## "Table Manners"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Exodus 24:11)

February 26

## "It Begins with Who I Am"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy  
Our identity defines us. Every decision we make, every action we take, and every temptation we face begins with who we are. In Christ we receive an identity uncompromised and secure.  
(Matthew 4:1-11)

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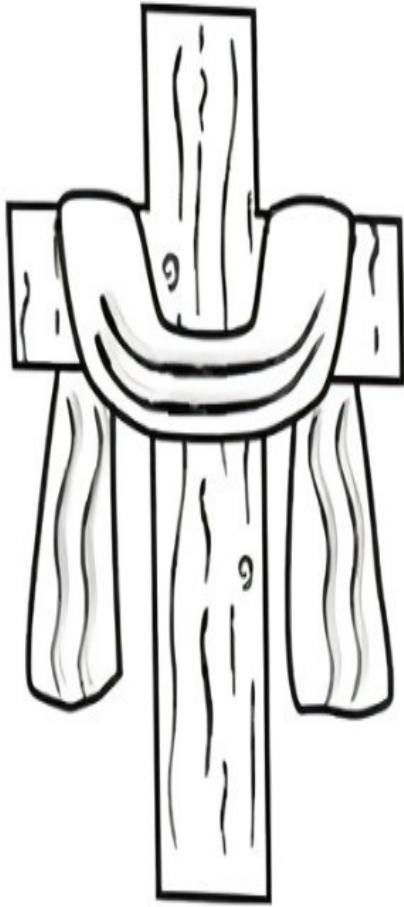
WDLB	Marshfield, WI	1450 AM	Sun	8:00am
WRVM	Marshfield, WI	91.3 FM	Sun	10:00am
WRVM	Medford, WI	98.7 FM	Sun	10:00am
WRVM	Wausau, WI	101.3 FM	Sun	10:00am
WSAU	Wausau, WI	550 AM	Sun	8:30am
WSAU	Wausau, WI	99.9 FM	Sun	8:30am
WAXX	Altoona, WI	104.5 FM	Sun	6:30am

You can also go on line at [www...lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) or download the free App @ [LHM.ORG/APPS](http://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.



Find all ten words!

- Jesus
- Lent
- Ash
- Wednesday
- Dust
- Prayer
- Alms
- Fasting
- Sacrifice
- Purple

W J E P S A C T A P  
E Q L L U F A W L R  
D J G E O R V R M A  
N E A F N V P C Q Y  
E P R R I T E L W E  
S A C R I F I C E R  
D U S T F W Y R Z N  
A R Y H V A L M S D  
Y Z B J E S U S H U  
Z J F A S T I N G F

Unscramble these Lenten Words

TRYFO YASD \_\_\_\_\_

HSESA \_\_\_\_\_

NLTE \_\_\_\_\_

TISFGNA \_\_\_\_\_

One thing I can do during Lent to  
bring me closer to God...



# ALLRISE!

THE NORTHEAST WISCONSIN PASSION PLAY

## Bethlehem - Passion Play Trip

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**Where:** It will be Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, show time at 1:00pm at The Xavier Fine Arts Theater in Appleton.

**Cost:** \$70.00, this includes, the cost of the bus, ticket for the show, and a supper meal at the Pizza Ranch. A snack can be brought along on the bus for your noon meal.

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



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light  
of  
Jesus  
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