



# The Dual-Parish Review

## Message from Pastor

As I sit here writing, the Christmas celebration is almost here, and soon the last day of 2022 will arrive. New Year's Eve broadcasts and news articles will soon begin, filled with reflections of the year that is coming to a close. There will be lists of the best and worst movies, a look at celebrities that have died, a list of the most significant events, and the biggest and greatest changes in our world depending on different points of view. Of course, with these reflections on what has happened, there will also predictions and contemplations of what will happen in the New Year even though no one can really do that with certainty.

Typically lost in all of this is the four days immediately following Christmas Day and the three observances that are part of our Christian calendar. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, we remember and celebrate the first martyr for Christ, St. Stephen (read about him in Acts 6). On the 27<sup>th</sup>, we remember and celebrate "the apostle whom Jesus loved," St. John, who wrote the fourth Gospel, 1, 2, & 3 John, and the book of Revelation. On the 29<sup>th</sup> we give thanks for King David, the great King of Israel who was one of Jesus' ancestors (read about him in I & II Samuel and I Kings 1). Finally, there's the annual observance of The Holy Innocents on December 28<sup>th</sup>. This is the day that Christians honor and give thanks for the children of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod the Great after the visit of the Magi.

In the second chapter of Matthew we're told about this most tragic part of the Savior's arrival, but it's an event that we treat as more of a foot-note because of its heartbreaking nature. Being foreigners, the Magi had no idea that storm that they were about to unleash on the little town of Bethlehem with their search for the newborn King of the Jews. But the local reputation of Herod the Great made it clear that he was a vicious and jealous man who would tolerate no rivals or dissension of any kind. He had already murdered members of his own family, including one of his sons, whom he believed to be conspiring against him.

Herod received the visitors graciously, and gave them the information that they sought so that they could find the child that they were looking for.

He innocently told them that he wished to honor the new king himself, and asked them to send back details of the family's location. But the Lord intervened in the evil king's plans by communicating through dreams to both the Magi and to Joseph. The Magi left without sending word back to Herod, and Joseph fled with his family to Egypt. But Herod the Great wasn't done yet.

Continued on pg. 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:

www.Stjbeth.org

## Message from Pastor Continued....

His soldiers ruthlessly carried out their orders to kill every male boy who was two years old and younger. They had permission from the highest authority. It was perfectly legal as far as the letter of the law was concerned, and Matthew tells us that the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:15 was fulfilled, “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Although we tend to look past this terrible part of the Lord’s arrival, it’s a fitting account to remember this month as we observe what has come to be called Life Sunday near the anniversary of more legal slaughter because of the ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. Although it was overturned this past year, there is still plenty to be concerned about as groups continue to fight for the ability to kill children before they’re even born. Director of Lutherans for Life, Rev. Dr. Michael Salemk writes about The Holy Innocents, “Herod’s sword snuffed them out before they could vocalize the carol the Almighty sent them to sing. The government sanctioned silencing of their voices, never to proclaim their Maker, never to praise the labors of the Savior He gave. Instead only their blood cried out from the ground. It amplified Abel’s ancient appeal for atonement. And their mothers mourned uncomforted...Yet these first martyrs for Christ embody the Gospel. They testify of a Beloved

Son who would spill His blood to spare all others from punishment.

“Abortion resolves no regrets. Abortions make nothing better, not even 3,000 American abortions a day for 45 years. It only adds anguish to anxiety and exchanges a lifetime of happiness for decades of heartache. Only God’s forgiveness works real resurrection. The presence of Christ Jesus relieves abandonment and panic. His words deliver, His ways protect, and His gifts provide abundant and everlasting life. Trusting in His pardon and promise brings the blessings none can seize for oneself.

Let us lend the Holy Innocents our voices the way Jesus Christ gives us His own. Let us declare the worth and purpose of human life no matter what age, appearance, or ability. Let us demonstrate how the Heavenly Father has created, redeemed, and called every human being to be His precious treasure forever. Let us replace the fear and anger of sinful selfishness with courage and compassion. Let us unwrap...joy and hope for everyone [this New Year]!” – *until next month! Pr. M.*

***For more from Lutherans for Life, including resources to help those hurting from abortion and answers to questions regarding end of life decisions, visit their website: [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)***

**Lutheran Hour** The following dates are available for 2023 for the sponsorship of The Lutheran Hour over WDLB– 1450AM/98.7FM at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday mornings. What better way to help spread the Word of God! A full sponsorship is \$94.00 per Sunday. Please contact Bonnie Beyreis of Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer, at 715-659-4006 to request a date.

### Open Dates:

Jan. 15th, 29th

Feb. 5th, 19th, 26th

Mar. 12th, 19th, 26th

April. 2nd, 9th, 30th

May 7th, 14th, 21st, 28

July 9th, 23rd, 30th

Aug, 20th, 27th

Sept. 10th

Oct. 1st, 8th, 22nd

Nov. 5th, 19th

Dec. 10th, 17th, 24th

**St. John Council**  
**December 13, 2022**

Present: Doug Brown, Kay Christiansen, Anna Koepke, Sharon Niemann, Melvin Niemann, Jeff Werner, Stephen Schneider, Cathy Schneider and Pastor Mathey attended the meeting. The meeting was called to order and pastor opened with a prayer.

The minutes were reviewed from November's meeting and the correction was made concerning the prevention of lawsuits. That phrase will be left out and the rest was approved.

Pastor's report reviewed how the word would be spread throughout the congregation when services need to be cancelled due to weather conditions. Elders will make phone calls, face book will announce the change and radio and TV stations will carry the cancellations also.

Installation of officers will be January 8 during the Sunday morning service.

Elder's report was concerning the LERT training. There will be a more indepth report during our January voter's meeting. We will be able to identify many jobs that we could do locally.

Outreach report that caroling will leave from church on Jan. 7'th. Watch for more details to come in the bulletin.

Board of Ed. No report.

Treasurer's Report shows that all bills are paid and current. We are a little behind on the budget with our giving. The new computer is working very well.

Finance Committee is needing several volunteers for this next year. See Jeff for a chance to sit in with a current team to see how it works and sign up for a shift that works for you.

Trustees will be packing bags to give the children this weekend at their service. There is a need to find someone to sand or salt the parking lot here at the church. Anyone who knows of someone who may be available to work treat the parking lot; should contact the trustees or the church office. The video system is working in the cry room.

All reports are approved.

Old business: The gift from the Levi Hoppenworth family was put into the Helping Hands fund. This fund continues to give relief to those in need of the basic necessities. Anyone needing assistance should contact Pastor or an Elder. All requests are handled in the strictest of confidence.

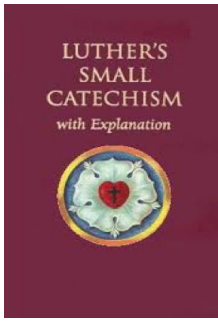
Deb Mathey has volunteered to look into the church directory options.

Thank you was mentioned to the LWML for their work on organizing the Christmas potluck.

Motion was made to adjourn.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary



### *What is Confession?*

Confession has two parts. First, that we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, \_\_\_\_\_, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

### *What sins should we confess?*

Before God we should plead \_\_\_\_\_ of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we \_\_\_\_\_ and feel in our hearts.

### *Which are these?*

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been \_\_\_\_\_, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your \_\_\_\_\_ or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?



### **Mission**

To support families by providing quality adult care in a homelike environment, recognizing individuality and promoting social-emotional, mental and physical wellness.

Companion Day Services (CDS) is a Social Adult Day Service program designed to meet the needs of:

- Adults who are recovering from a recent illness, injury or surgery.
- Frail or socially isolated adults living at home, alone or with a caregiver.
- Adults Experiencing a decrease in physical, mental or social functioning. (including those suffering memory loss and who are developmentally disabled)

Participant needs will be met through our comprehensive programs designed to:

- Help delay the progress of a participant's existing disability.

- Preserve or improve the participant's health and level of functioning.
- Maintain a participant's level of independence.
- Establish an individual plan of care based on an assessment of personal needs and strengths.
- Assist with activities of daily living and personal care provided in a safe and secure environment.
- Provide nutritional meals and snacks.
- Foster companionship through social interactions with other participants, children and students.

CDS is part of the Tiny Tiger Intergenerational Center focused on bridging the gap between generations. The Tiny Tiger Intergenerational Center provides three interacting services under one roof including: Child Care, Adult Care and a Human Service Academy.

For more information contact them at :  
Companion Day Services, Inc.  
905 Tiny Tigers Court  
Marshfield, WI 54449

Phone: 715 - 384 - 2115  
Companionday@hotmail.com



## Bethlehem

### Birthdays

Yessa, Raymond	1/05
Hammel, Patricia	1/07
Anderson, Keagen	1/08
Molthen, Arlette	1/10
Underwood, Virgil	1/11
Carlson, Luke	1/14
Graun, Thomas	1/14
Kilty, Braxton	1/19
Carlson, Philip	1/21
Reynolds, Randy	1/22
<b>Denzin, Bryan</b>	<b>1/23</b>
Kosik, Isaac	1/24
Freimund, Dorean	1/25
Schmidt, Luke	1/28
Ebben, Leta	1/29
Venzke, Thomas	1/29
Hammel, Olivia	1/30
Kilty, Troy	1/31

## St. John

### Birthdays

Schultz, Mary	1/07
Krebsbach, June	1/13
Marshall, Elizabeth	1/16
Yessa, Kelly	1/17
Brown, Douglas	1/22
Yessa, John	1/22
Koch, Cole	1/24
VanDerLeest, Sam	1/25
Koch, Keven	1/29
Mortvedt, Bud	1/30

# Look What's Happening

**A Very Sincere "Thank You"** to everyone who has remembered our family with cards and gifts over the past several weeks. Your love and generosity mean more to us than you will ever know! May the Lord's blessings continue to be with you as we celebrate the Greatest Gift that we will ever receive, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! - The Mathey Family

**Installation of Officers** will be on Sunday, January 8th at both churches.

**Caroling to Shut Ins** on Saturday, January 7, 2023. We will meet at church at 12:30 and then caravan to locations. Questions? Ask Cathy Schneider or Pete VanDerLeest.

**CANCELLED** Versiti blood drive scheduled for 12/29/2022 was cancelled due to lack of staff. Looking into options for next blood drive at St. John. Bethlehem will have their next blood drive on 2/23/2023 from 4:00-7:00pm.

**Confirmation Classes** resume on Wednesday, Jan. 4th at 6pm at St. John

### **Sunday School news for St. John:**

As we start 2023--we are continuing our giving tree for defraying the cost of Greta Marshall' hospital bed. If you haven't already taken a gift box from the tree; please consider one or more from you and your family. We are very pleased with our gifts for the Ukraine refugee children. We had to empty the box already, look around your room and your house and bring toys or clothes to share.

January always brings "**Pennies for Life**" collection jar. Put in one penny for each year of your life. Amazing there are always a lot of 1 \$ bills in the jar. Some of us are getting close to that or we think so. The other event we host is a door collection for "Lutherans for Life" on Life Sunday Jan. 22,2023 Our Sunday School also does a special lesson on that Sunday. On Jan 8th we will do the Bible account of the Wise Men. Jan 15 we will do the Baptism of our Lord and celebrate all our students Baptisms.

### **Lutheran Laymens League:**

The LLL (Lutheran Laymen League~~anyone welcome) gathering will be held at Athenian Assisted Living in Athens, south end of Caroline St~(enter at set of doors with the over-hang) on Jan. 8th.

Come at 12:30am to mingle with residents while they eat dessert that will be provided or 12:45amto watch the This is the Life DVD or 1pm for opening with Pastor Shorey, meeting to follow.

You may want to eat a sandwich on your way as there will be NO pot-blessed meal this time.



# Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

## January 1 "Out of Egypt"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

"Out of Egypt I called my son." With these words the Gospel of Matthew reveals the rich and interconnected history of the young nation, Israel, and the young Savior, Jesus. Follow them on their journeys to discover the true Israel and what He means to your life today.  
(Matthew 2:13-23)

## January 8 "Gifted"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What if we learned to see this world and everyone in it as gifts from God?  
(Colossians 1:16)

## January 15 "Gifts to Share"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A body of water becomes stagnant when there is no outflow. The same could be said of us.  
(Colossians 1:29)

## January 22 "Whatever You Do"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge  
The mundane just isn't mundane when seen through heaven's eyes.  
(Colossians 3:17-21)

### 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!

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](http://www...lhm.org) or download the free App @ [LHM.ORG/APPS](http://LHM.ORG/APPS)

### 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/](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.



**Issues, Etc.**  
Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

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.



**Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches**  
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*Where  
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