



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

THE LION AND THE LAMB

Many of you have heard the old saying that “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” For the most part it refers to the weather of this month of transition. Winter is supposed to be winding down and coming to its end, and spring is set to begin by the end of the month. At least that’s what is supposed to happen according to that old saying.

Here in Northern Wisconsin that old saying doesn’t seem to have much truth to it most years, and as I sit here writing today that’s pretty much the truth. We had a string of nice days in February. Most of the snow and ice had melted to minimal levels, and the weather was fairly mild for this time of year. But as I write today, the 23rd of February, we just endured the snow storm of Ash Wednesday, and we’re back to the days of cold weather, winter coats, boots, and shoveling snow. After all, this is Northern Wisconsin, and we all know too well that winter can always strike again in these next couple of months.

That’s the reality of life here as far as the weather goes. No matter how bad Spring fever might hit you early in the year, there’s always the chance of a late season freeze to put a quick end to the nice temperatures. There’s always a chance to go backwards, to end up right back where we were in the middle of January or the end of February.

Your faith-life can be the same way. You identify a particular sin in your life that is causing a constant struggle for you. Let’s say it’s something that you don’t think is all that big of a deal, like misusing God’s name as the Second Commandment forbids. So you decide that you’re going to make more of an effort to eliminate that sin from your life during this season of Lent. For the first day or two your efforts seem to make a difference. You catch yourself from blurting out an exasperated, “God damn!” like you knew you did too often, and you don’t even say, “Oh God!” as much as you normally do.

You start to feel pretty good about yourself, but then something happens at work or home and sure enough you slip up. It’s just one time though so you become more vigilant about it. You put a swear jar into place, and decide to pay in a dollar every time you catch yourself breaking the Second Commandment. That seems to help for a few more days, but then you start having to pay into the till more than you care to admit, especially when you remember that thinking it is just as bad as saying it out loud. By the time the jar is half-full you realize that the progress you thought you had made wasn’t all that good, and you have to face the fact that you’ve gone right back to where you were when you started this whole thing.

You’re discouraged. You’re disgusted with yourself and you give up. What’s the point anyway? It’s not that big of a deal. It’s not as though you’re a serial killer or a thief. You’re a pretty good person overall, and it’s something that everyone is guilty of anyway. You’re right back to where you were when you started this whole thing. You’re at the mercy of a lion.

Continued ...pg.2



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 Number:

Land Line # 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, T, W, T, F

9am to 5pm

Pastors Number:

715-352-2888

Or Land Line # 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

Pastors Message continued.....

In the book of Revelation, Jesus is portrayed as two kinds of animals which fit nicely into that old saying for the month of March. The most commonly known one is Jesus as the Lamb of God, but the other one is Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah who has conquered. Conquered what? The sins of the world – including yours, the death of the body – including yours, and power of the devil. This Lion is powerful, and He can be dangerous to those who are His enemies. But thankfully this Lion is also merciful and gentle as a Lamb to those who fear Him and have faith in Him.

As the season of Lent draws to a close, we will see Jesus going to His cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, but His work doesn't end there. He will rise when the next month begins, as the powerful and victorious Lion of the tribe of Judah who has defeated all of His enemies and ours, especially those enemies that keep dragging us back into their clutches, sin, death, and the devil. They are no match for this Lion who went out like a Lamb. Amen. Until next month when the Lion rises! – Pr. M.

St. John Church Council Meeting

February 14, 2023

Doug Brown opened the meeting with Anna Koepke, Mel Niemann, Kay Christiansen, Jeff Werner, Stephan Schneider, Rev. M. Mathey, and Sharon Niemann.

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept, seconded and passed.

Pastor's report included the reminder of Ash Wednesday being next week with services being at Milan at 1:30 and St. John at 7pm, communion will be served. Shut in visits are up to date. Wis. Valley High School is seeking a board of directors member from our congregation as we are a supporter. March 13th is the response date. Several candidates were mentioned and will be asked to consider this opportunity.

Directory photos will be taken the week of May 15th.

Elders reported that they continue to work on policies.

Outreach reported that they will organize a float for the Edgar parade again this year. This is June 18th and the Chimes have agreed to play. Sign is progressing and blood drive here will be announced as soon as details are finalized.

Board of Ed will have their next meeting on Feb. 24th.

Treasurer's report was given and the income is down for January. We need to pick up on this in order to meet the monthly goal of \$2945. So far expenses are being met.

Finance committee needs one more counter. See Jeff.

All reports were approved.

No Old Business.

New Business.

Dual Parish thrift sale will be set up May 1 & 2. Sale 3,4,5,&6 Clean up is the 8th and the council approved this activity. See Arlette Molthen or Janice Brown if you have questions.

April Voters meeting will be moved to April 23^d and Council meeting to April 18th.

Meeting closed with a prayer.

Sharon Niemann - Recording Secretary



March Birthdays

Bethlehem

Birthdays

Becker, Daniel	3/1
Kunze, Melanie	3/1
Gumz, Alexis	3/2
Gumz, Dawn	3/9
Niemi, Lois	3/11
Rinehart, Blake	3/12
Cook, Christina	3/13
Weiler, Amber	3/15
Solchenberger, Donna	3/17
Bender, Tayler	3/18
Gumz, Susan	3/19
Wittlinger, Darlene	3/19
Strack, Emanuel	3/20
Thielman, Bradley	3/21
Thurman Braxton	3/21
Timothy Mathey	3/26

St. John

Birthdays

VanDerLeest, Ryan	3/01
Wolff, Perry	3/07
Murkowski, George	3/13
Schulz, Micah	3/17
Wolff, Rhonda	3/17
Thompson, Michael	3/18
Schulz, Kaleb	3/20
Pehlke, Nicholas	3/21
Koepke, Mark	3/22
Streit, Margene	3/22
Held, Oscar	3/23
Mathey, Timothy	3/26
Hartwig, Ben	3/29
Werner, DuWayne	3/29
Apfelbeck, Kristina	3/30

Anniversaries

Wade & Raegene Rodman	3/15
Doris & Peter Scherr	3/31



Miessner is now residing at

NEWS

Lenten Services

March; Wed. 1, 8, 15,
22, 30, April, Wed. 5.
Beth: 1:30pm



Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School is reorganizing its Board of Directors. As an Association congregation of the High School, St. John is able to have a representative sit on the Board which will begin meeting this coming May. The terms for the different members are 1 year, 2 years, or 3 years. If you are interested in representing St. John Lutheran Church on the Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School Board of Directors, please speak with Pastor Mathey or Doug Brown by March 13th.

Selma Miessner is now residing at:
Athenian Assisted Living Room 305.
716 Caroline St. Athens WI - 54411

Plastic Bags – Arlette Molthen is asking everyone to save their plastic bags. There is a great need for the mats for the Ukrainians.

Lutheran Hour Ministries Report: Rose Bowl Parade: the Lutheran Hour float "A New Day with JESUS" won the Tournament of Roses Director Award This year. Sub Sale for the Lutheran Hour We had 250.00 Thrivent card to help pay for the sandwich ingredients. We totaled \$908.00 We sent \$500.00 to the Lutheran Hour and the balance to Trinity, Spencer for local broadcast of the Lutheran Hour. Thank you to all who helped make and deliver the subs.

Bethlehem Palm Sunday Breakfast * Everyone is cordially invited for breakfast & fellowship immediately following the service on Palm Sunday April 2.



LEN



What are you giving up for Lent? Are you sure that's a good idea?

Giving up things for Lent is a long-standing tradition in the Western Church. Doing so is

generally understood to help us prepare for observing and celebrating Easter through experience some kind of suffering through deprivation. While there is nothing wrong with giving up things for Lent and in some ways it can be a valuable spiritual discipline, for many people the practice has devolved into a work of personal suffering through which they expect to better understand the sufferings of Christ.

How silly of us to think that denying ourselves chocolate for forty days or going without our morning boost of caffeine for a season even begins to approach the least of Jesus' sufferings for us. We've moved far away from the purpose and substance of Lent by the insignificant things we're willing to give up.

While no one is certain about how the practice of giving up things for Lent began or what the motives were of those who first observed Lent in this way, we can certainly see how giving up things for Lent has come to be practiced in our culture.

Far from being a time of solemn reflection and repentance, the beginning of Lent has turned into another excuse for people to engage in excess. Now, without the disciplines of fasting, self-denial, and prayer that followed, people revel in consuming all the things that were once prohibited during Lent — and much, much more. Mardi Gras (and its various regional adaptations) has become a celebrated cultural event that shows more of what the American character has become than our half-hearted observances of Lent.

By giving up things for Lent in the ways that we do, we've made this holy season into one more instance of our self-absorption. Like the New Year's Resolutions that we made just a few weeks ago, our commitment to observing Lent sacrificially is momentary and fleeting. We have a sense of what is good for us and what we must do in order to improve ourselves or our circumstances, but we lack the resolve to see our way through the self-denial that it takes to make the needed change an effective part of our lives. What we give up for Lent is often as petty and insignificant as what we resolve for New Year's — and ends up just as broken and meaningless.

Isn't it time for us to put an end to our empty observances of Lent? Are we ready for a serious go at journeying through Lent in a way that brings us to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christ's atoning work? If so, perhaps we should stop giving up things for Lent and use this sacred time to take up things instead.

The things that we should aim to take up during Lent are those things that we've let fall by the wayside as we've lived our lives at the breakneck speed of our culture. It might include taking up a daily devotion or taking up the practice of meditative prayer. If we've been away from the gathering of God's people in worship, we could take up participating in the Divine Service on Sundays as well as the mid-week Lenten services.

What a difference Lent could be for us and make in us if we would take up reading God's Word daily, intentionally speaking the Gospel to one person a week, showing the love of Christ to the poor and needy through acts of mercy, or listening to recorded sermons or Bible studies.

Whatever we might take up for Lent, we should remember that, above all, taking up things for Lent in a meaningful way inevitably results in hearing the clear call of Jesus to take up our crosses daily. Taking up our crosses involves looking beyond our self-interests, desires, and pious actions (including giving up things for Lent) and finding joy, peace, security, and purpose — those things that are so glaringly absent in our culture — in the realization of what Jesus gave up and took up for us.

Take up something edifying for Lent and discover joy that giving up earthly things for a few weeks can never approach.

Questions to consider:

- *What might I take up for Lent that would help me grow in faith and love?*
 - *How can either taking up something for Lent or giving up something for Lent open doors for me to share God's Word with people in my life? How might it get in the way of it?*
- In what ways can I use the season of Lent to be a witness of Christ to people who are caught up in the excesses of our culture?*

Author: Mark Wood



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

March 5

"An Arresting Encounter"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A devoutly religious person has an arresting encounter with Jesus and learns what it means to be "born again."

(John 3:16)

March 12

"Thirsting for Life"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

Jesus gives living water to those who are spiritually dehydrated.

(John 4)

March 19

"Bad Karma vs. Good Creator"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When bad things happen in our lives, is it "bad karma" or--an opportunity for our good Creator to be doing a greater work?

(John 9:3)

March 26

"Is God Missing in Action?"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

Is God "missing in action?" Not if we see things from God's eternal perspective.

(John 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 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 or download the free App @ LHM.ORG/APPS

Sponsorship Hours for Lutheran Hour

The following dates are available for 2023 for the sponsorship of The Lutheran Hour over WDLB-450AM/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.

Jan.	15	Apr.	2	July	9	Oct.	1
			29		9		8
Feb.	5		30		30		22
	19	May	7	Aug.	20	Nov.	5
	26		14		27		19
Mar.	12		21	Sep.	10	Dec.	10
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Easter Word Search

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- ANGELS
- APOSTLES
- BETRAYAL
- BLOOD
- CALVARY
- CROSS
- CROWN OF THORNS
- CRUCIFIXION
- DARKNESS
- DEATH
- EARTHQUAKE
- EASTER
- GOLGOTHA
- HIGH PRIEST
- JESUS CHRIST
- JOSEPH
- JUDAS ISCARIOT
- KING
- LAMB

- MARY
- NAILS
- PASSOVER
- PIECES OF SILVER
- PIERCED
- PILATE
- RESURRECTION
- ROBE
- ROMANS
- SACRIFICE
- SIMON OF CYRENE
- SOLDIERS
- SON OF GOD
- SPEAR
- STONE
- TEMPLE
- THIEVES
- THREE DAYS
- TOMB

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



*Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*