



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Pastors do a lot of reading. It's a part of who we are, and as our Easter celebration continues this month, I wanted to share with you this great Easter story. I hope you enjoy reading it for the first time as much as I enjoyed discovering it for the first time a few years ago! – Pr. M.

“Once upon a time (a real time, mind you, not an imagined one), there was a wolf. He was a fat old thing. You see, he had it pretty easy. Whenever he wanted to eat, he only had to walk to the door of his cave and look at the sheep that fed right outside. He'd eye this one or that one. Then he'd go after it, and with a pretty minimal struggle he'd bring the sheep down and eat away. And the more that he ate, the bigger he grew, and the bigger he grew, the hungrier he got. He was a wicked old thing; sometimes he'd just poke his head out the door and howl. All the sheep began to shiver at the very sound of him. He'd chuckle to himself, 'Yes, you better be afraid, you stupid sheep, because one of these days I am going to eat you, and it won't be pleasant. Oh no, it won't. Ha! Ha!' This big, bad wolf had a name that the sheep feared. They had only to think of his name and they'd get wobbly on their knees and some would faint outright. His name, you see, was Death. And Death was always hungry and never satisfied. He was always eating sheep and always wanting more. And he stank. The very smell of him was worse than his name or his howl. He was altogether dreadful, let me tell you! He was in charge, and all the sheep knew it.

“There came a day when he was feeling hungrier than usual. He poked his head out the cave door to roar and he couldn't believe his eyes. Why, right there in front of his door, on his very doorstep almost, was the fattest, the juiciest sheep he'd ever laid his eyes on. The effrontery of it! He drew in the air to fill his vast lungs and then he let out a stone-splitting howl. All the other sheep in the vicinity turned tail and ran. They were afraid – all but the sheep that still grazed just outside his cave. That sheep paid him no heed at all. Kept on eating, just like it hadn't even heard him. The wolf was getting mad now. He came bounding out the door and right up to that impertinent animal. Again he sucked the air into his lungs, and this time he breathed out right in the sheep's face. The sheep looked up and blinked as the hideous odor of decay was blasted in its face. Totally unconcerned, the sheep blinked and then stared.

“Now the wolf was getting himself into quite a tizzy. 'Don't you know who I am?' he snarled. The sheep looked at him and said, 'Yes. I know.' Calm, at peace even. The other sheep began to creep back at a distance to watch. They couldn't believe what they were witnessing. 'Well,' snarled the wolf, 'aren't you afraid?' The sheep looked Death, that old wolf, right in the eyes and said, 'Of you? You have got to be kidding!' Now the wolf was so livid with anger that he spoke low and menacing, 'You're in for it, lamb chops. You are not going to have it easy. I'm going to take you out slow and painfully.' There was a moment of silence and then the sheep said, 'I know.'

“The other sheep had all been watching because they'd never heard anything like this before. But the moment that the wolf pounced, they scarcely dared to hope – but it was just possible that, this once, the wolf wasn't going to get his way. But their hopes were dashed. It was an awful and ugly sight. The wolf chowed down.



MAY 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

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

Message from Pastor

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It was slow and painful, just like he said. And in the end, there was nothing left. He turned his rude face, red with blood, to the other sheep, and he belched. They turned tail and ran, knowing that he'd be back for them one day soon.

"As the wolf went back to his cave, he took out a toothpick and cleaned his teeth and he thought that he'd never tasted a sheep that was quite so good before. Nothing tough about that meat. It was tender and rich and really altogether satisfying. The thought hit him with surprise. It was almost as though his insatiable hunger had actually been quenched for once. The thought was a little disturbing. Well, no matter, he thought. And off he went to bed.

"When the morning came, the wolf wasn't feeling quite himself. It was almost as though he were getting a bit of a stomachache. Such a thing never happened. He always woke up ravenous and went off to start eating first thing in the morning, at least a dozen or so sheep before the dew was off the grass. But not this morning. His stomach was grumbling. By noon, he was feeling more than discomfort. He was feeling positively ill. He who had brought such pain on those poor sheep was getting a taste of pain himself – and it was most unpleasant. He kept thinking back to that impertinent sheep he had eaten yesterday afternoon, the one that had tasted so strangely good. Could it actually have been poisoned or something? It wasn't long before he stopped thinking altogether. The pain was just too great. He rolled around on the floor of his den and howled and yammered.

"The sheep heard the sound and didn't quite know what to make or it all. They crept cautiously nearer and nearer to the door of his house and turned their heads listening. What could it mean?

"It was sometime in the dark of the night that the wolf let out a shuddering howl. Something was alive and moving inside his own gullet. Something that pushed and poked and prodded until with a sudden burst, the gullet was punctured and a hole ripped open. And something, rather, someone stepped right out through the hole, right out of the massive stinking stomach. The wolf felt like it was dying. And I suppose in a way he was.

"The figure that stepped out of the wolf's belly was totally unknown to the wolf. Why, it looked like a shepherd. He'd heard of such a critter but had never actually met one. With a staff in His hand, He walked around and stood facing the wolf. And He began to laugh. He laughed, and His laughter burst open the door of the wolf's house. He laughed, and the sheep were filled with bewilderment, wondering what was going on in there. He laughed, and He looked the wolf right in the eye.

"So, you don't recognize Me, old foe? It was I who ate outside your house three days ago. 'Twas I that you promised would die horribly, and how you kept your promise. But what do you propose to do about Me now?"

"You?" The wolf gasped. The voice was the same; he recognized it. This shepherd was indeed the sheep whom he had swallowed down. 'You. But how? Oh, the pain!' The shepherd smiled and said, 'Well, I think you're pretty harmless now, My friend. Go on and try to eat some of My sheep. I promise you that as fast as you swallow them down I will lead them right out through the hole I made in your stomach. And then you'll never be able to touch them again! Ha!'

"The wolf howled in fear and anger and rage, but there was nothing he could do. The Shepherd had tricked him, fooled him good! And the shepherd then stepped outside the door and called the sheep together. They knew His voice too. They'd heard it before. They stood before the Lamb who had become the Shepherd, and they listened as He told them what would happen to them. 'You'll die too. He'll come out in a few days and be hungrier than ever. He'll swallow you down. But don't worry. I punched a hole right through his belly, and I promise you I'll bring you out again.'

"Once upon a time, and the time was about two thousand years ago, but the promise still holds: 'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.' Let the old wolf howl and snarl all he will. We know about the hole in his stomach. We know about the Sheep who is the Shepherd – our risen and reigning Lord, our Good Shepherd."

**This story was taken from the book Celebrating The Saints (pg. 270-273), by William C. Weedon, published by Concordia Publishing House, 2016.*

St. John Council Meeting

April 18, 2023

Attending were Doug Brown, Pastor Mathey, Kay Christiansen, Stephan Schneider, Jeff Werner, Traci Pehlke, Mel and Sharon Niemann.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Pastor reported that he will be in Camp Luther May 3-5, as a chaperone for his daughter's class. He will be available by phone at that time. May 8 & 9 is the Pastor's conference. Confirmation classes end May 24'th.

June 22'nd, Mt Olive is hosting an "emergency planning for churches" event. More information will be coming on this topic.

Mission grants, from the District, are available for a one time project. Should we decide to do something that we need funding; this would be an option.

Elders had no new report.

Outreach reported that signup for the bus continues for the Brewers trip on Aug. 23'rd.

The team is exploring a sound system for the chime choir to be used on the float for the Edgar parade.

Board of Ed. Reported that Sunday School will go into May and that is when their board will meet to plan the details of VBS. The VBS date is July 24 – 28.

Treasurer's report was given. Our bills are paid, but there is a shortfall in the budget each week.

Trustee committee forwarded a bid on the steeple repair needing to be done. More information will be available at the voter's meeting. The insulation for the parsonage and window repair is also in the repair list.

Financial and Cemetery committees had no reports.

All reports were approved.

Old business: Kelly Yessa volunteered to be our Wisconsin Valley representative to their board of directors. She was unanimously approved to be our representative. Thank you, Kelly.

New business: A letter came from the Wisconsin Valley High School asking for auction items to be donated to their fundraiser. They should be at the high school by May 1. This is an annual event and you may want to plan for next year.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer,

Sharon Niemann



Shane Hammel 5/03
 Ian Rinehart 5/03
 Croix Martin Bernt, 5/04
 Wendy Johnson 5/05
 Barbara Ortman 5/06
 Matthew Graun, 5/07
 Joanne Luther 5/07
 Michael Neumann 5/10
 Bart Schreiber 5/10
 Judy Empey 5/12
 Taygen Viegut 5/12
 Ashton Hammel 5/17
 Michelle Schwarting 5/17
 Matthew Thomas 5/18
 Vicki Dassow 5/20
 Brentin Bender 5/22
 Erin Bernt 5/23
 NatashaCornelius 5/25
 Leighton Kilty 5/28
 Amy Broeske 5/31

Jordon Wolff 5/01
 Cade Littleton 5/02
 Ethel Durkee 5/03
 Delores Telschow 5/08
 Eleanor VanDerLeest 5/05
 VanDerLeest, Eleanor 5/10
 SloanHeld 5/13
 Phyllis Spindler 5/13
 Emma Noller 5/16
 Ed Mielke 5/17
 Les VanDerLeest 5/17
 Edwin Hamann, 5/18
 Ethan Telschow 5/18
 Darla Syring 5/22
 Kara Schara 5/26
 Samuel Hartwig, 5/27
 Dawn Mortvedt 5/27
 Paul Reinhart 5/28



Richard & Lois Niemi 5/29
 Bruce & Doris Wussow 5/03
 Jayme & Victoria Myszka 5/11
 Larry & Jennifer Noller 5/28



OUR Church Directory is in the works!

We want you to be included!

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK-IN TIMES</u>
Mon	May 15th	1:00 pm thru 8:00pm
Tues	May 16th	1:00 pm thru 8:00pm
Wed	May 17th	1:00 pm thru 8:00pm
Thur.	May 18th	1:00 pm thru 8:00pm
Fri	May 19th	11:00am thru 6:00pm

WAYS TO SCHEDULE YOUR SESSION:

1:)Come to the Sign-up Table before and/or after services.

2:)Call Deb Mathey @ 715-216-6634

(please leave a message if she doesn't answer with your name and a number to call you back; she will call you as soon as she can.)

3:)Scan the QR Code Below and schedule your own time:



Indoor and outdoor plants will be gathered together for sale at Christ, Abbotsford. May 18 - 20. We offer them for sale for a free will mite donation for missions. Should the weather be bad; we will hold it the following weekend. All donations are welcome; especially perennials.

Thank you, the LWML of Zone 10
 Bonnie Weideman,
 Sharon Niemann
 Kay Schwalenberg Zone 10 of-

Any questions? Call Deb or touch base with her on Sunday's!



Trinity Athen's and St. John Youth

Mission Trip to
Niagara Falls, NY

St. John has four youth, Ben H, Lillian, Nicholas, and Colin, and two adults, Dean Pehlke and Michael Rhode, that will be going with Trinity Athens's Youth Group to Niagara Falls, NY this June on a mission trip. Leaving Athens on Saturday, June 17th at 8:00 AM, they will be heading to Tallmadge Lutheran Church in Tallmadge, OH. There they will visit Pastor Andy's church, sleeping overnight, and attending Sunday morning worship. After that, they will be back on the road to Niagara Falls, arriving at the Youth Works site on Sunday afternoon. They will be working throughout the week departing Niagara Falls, Friday and returning back to Athens on Saturday June 24th.

The group will come alongside existing organizations to meet ongoing needs through food and clothing distribution, home repair projects, community beautification projects, and youth programming at a local community center. After the service day, you'll learn more about the community by participating in Evening Activities where you'll experience some of the hardships of those living in poverty, visit the beauty of the Falls and share a time of fellowship with partners and community members. Youth Works has been serving in Niagara Falls since 2003.

Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale: On Easter Sunday St. John youth served delicious homemade cinnamon rolls and beverages. There was a total free will offering of \$274 given. The donations will be going to the youth group for their mission trip to Niagara Falls this summer. Thanks everyone for your generosity and support.

St. John Helping Hands: Our helping hands ministry is available to help with needs, anonymously, to our congregation members. If in need call the church office or Carolyn Hahn for help or for more information. (715)223-7052



When: Wednesday, August 23rd
Game:

Time: 1: 0pm Brewers vs Twins

Where: Milwaukee

Cost: \$75 to reserve your spot
Price includes ticket, charter bus, and a sack lunch. We will be stopping to eat on the way home and that is not included in price. It is at your expense.

Contact and pay: Stacey VanHoy @ stacey61917@yahoo.com or 715-506-0207 to reserve your spot.

St. John/Bethlehem have first option to reserve before this is opened to the public in a few weeks.



Annual Bethlehem & St. John Thrift Sale

May 3-4-5-6. No large furniture. No electronics. Note: We will be setting up after April 29 Rev. DuWayne Schneider committal service. For more information contact Judy Wittlinger or Janice Brown 715-219-1970



Volunteers Needed for Thrift Sale. We could still use a few more people to help, if you are able to work please signup in the narthex, as a sheet is available with list of times. Or call Judy or Janice to check what times are in need of helpers. Thank You.



Bethlehem Sunday School Update

The last day of Sunday School will be May 21.

If you are interested in sending your child/children to Camp Luther, there is information in the narthex. Please check it out.

St. John Sunday School Update

St. John Sunday School will break for the summer. May 21 will be our last session. Plan to sing for the worship service



**Save the date for
St. John VBS.
Monday, July 24
- Friday the 28th,
9:00am - noon.**

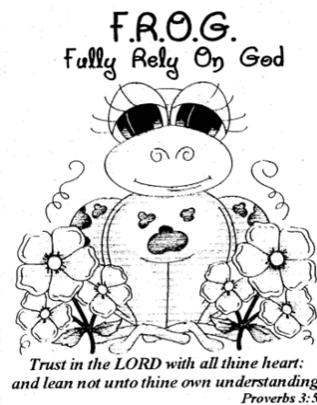
Registration will be open for ages 3 through those going into 6th grade. We are very flexible with student ages, older children are welcome as VBS students or as VBS youth volunteers. Come along with us as we grow in our faith, have fellowship, sing songs, construct crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and more. Join us! Cannot wait to see you there!

St. John VBS: We are looking for VOLUNTEERS! We are getting ready for a great VBS. Would you prayerfully consider serving at VBS? If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Call Traci Pehlke at 715-352-2269, or email traci.p@pca-it.com **for more information.**

Bethlehem VBS News:

Mark your calendar- Vacation Bible School will be on July 10th & July 11th from 4:30p -7:00 p.m. (a light lunch will be served at 4:30p). This year's theme is FROG (Fully Rely On God). Everyone is welcome – bring a classmate, a neighbor, a friend.

We are always appreciative of anyone who may be able to volunteer to help in any way, and are looking for-



someone to coordinate VBS. If interested please contact

Aaron, Gloria or Patti. Following Sunday School on April 16 there will be a meeting with the Board of Education ,

parents and anyone interested in helping out.



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

May 7 "Sojourn"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Prosperity preachers promise health, wealth, and happiness--but that's not what Christians should expect.
(1 Peter 2:11-12)

May 14 "Reason to Hope"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(1 Peter 3:15)

May 21 "TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

May 28 "A Timely Invitation"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe
(John 7:37-39)

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.

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	23		8
Feb.	5		30		30		22
	19	May	7	Aug.	20	Nov.	5
	26		14		27		19
Mar.	12		21	Sep.	10	Dec.	10
	19		28				17
	26						24

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

He is Risen





Photo Dates

For Bethlehem and

St. John

Monday, May 15th thru

Thursday, May 18th

From 1:00pm to 8:00pm

Or Friday, May 19th from

1:00pm to 6:00pm.

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



*Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*