



# The Dual-Parish Review

## Message from Pastor

As I write my article for this month's newsletter, midweek LifeLight Bible Study on the Book of Revelation has passed its midway point. As the participants of this study have learned, the final book of the Bible tells us many things about our world both for today and for the future. But the most important event that we are told about is the Advent of our Lord, Jesus. Not His first Advent, but His second one.

As the Church Year comes to its close at the end of November, the Christian Church turns its liturgical focus to the return of our Savior to bring this world to its end, and to restore it to the perfect state that God originally created it to be. The Book of Revelation gives us several incredible descriptions of what that will be like, even as we come to realize that we can hardly imagine it with our limited and sinful human minds. The seventh chapter of the book though, tells us about an incredible gathering of people before the Throne of God, so many that no one can count them. It is the gathering of All Christian Saints to celebrate what the Lamb of God has done for us with His sacrificial work.

The first day of November – All Saints' Day – is when Christians throughout the world will celebrate this great multitude once again, and a number of congregations, such as ours, will also celebrate it on the next closest Sunday to that day. It is a special celebration to give thanks to our Lord God for the faith that He has generously given to so many people throughout history. Pastor and author, William Weedon, in his book *Celebrating The Saints* describes this particular festival for us with these words, "With overflowing joy, the Church of Jesus Christ celebrates the Feast of All Saints' Day..."

"The joy of this particular feast is in its celebration of the unity of the Church Triumphant (the saints gathered already into [eternal] rest) and the Church Militant (the present and future Church that struggles still under daily crosses). Together, both constitute but one communion, one fellowship.

"They are the crowd... a vast multitude beyond human numbering and calculation. What makes them one is what they have received from the Lord: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Their sins are forgiven and they hold the palm of victory He has placed in their hand.

"If you look at the crowd, you can [tell] that some were among earth's famous and powerful. Most were quite unknown to history. There are some black, some white, and every color of the flesh of humanity. Some were very wealthy on earth; most quite poor. Some spoke this language, others that. They come from every nation and tribe. What is most captivating about them, however, isn't their diversity; it's the unity of their attention. They aren't paying the least bit of attention to themselves. They are united in their gaze upon the Lamb on His throne, the Lord Jesus Christ victorious in His sacrifice of love. And therein lies the secret to becoming part of that crowd. You do so not by squeezing in and trying to imitate the look of astonishment and awe upon their faces. Rather you share their blessedness by joining in what they are so fixated upon: Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself to become what they were (a child of man) in order to lift them up to become what He is (children of God)." – *until next month! Pr. M.*



**Bethlehem**

**Lutheran Church**

23350 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

**John Quarterly Voters Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**October 22, 2023**

21 members signed in and the meeting was called to order by Stephan Schneider in Doug Brown's absence. Pastor opened with a prayer. The previous quarterly meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor reported that the outdoor worship went well and that more would be done in the future. Confirmation has resumed on Wednesday nights. Bible study has had good attendance using Concordia's Life Light Revelation. Advent services are being planned. There will be three Wednesday evening Advent services at St. John with afternoon services at Bethlehem. Christmas eve falls on a Sunday this year so there will be regular morning services that day and an evening Christmas Eve service. Reformation will be celebrated next Sunday and All Saint's the following Sunday. Attended a pastor's conference about Holy Communion and the life of the congregation and came back with good ideas.

**Elder's Report:** Stephan Schneider reported that he met with the Deputy Sheriff regarding safety of our facility. The deputy said that in case of an armed intruder, it would be best to have only one open entrance during events. Also, that security cameras should be at all entrances. The Safety Committee will be looking into this. Several members attended the Defending Religious Freedom conference. The focus of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty is to make sure that church and state are separate and to make sure that religious freedom stays free.

**Outreach:** No report

**Parish Board of Education**

**Youth:** First event the end of August had 9 kids. Sunday youth Bible study has 7 kids between St. John and Bethlehem. An event is planned for 10/27/23 and on 10/29/23 there will be a meeting to discuss attending the Higher Things Youth Gathering in 2024.

**Sunday School:** On 10/29/23, Sunday school will celebrate Reformation Sunday. On 12/3/23, milestone gifts will be given to the children from the congregation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kay Christiansen reviewed the income and expenses. We are doing okay as expenses are down as well as giving. We continue to fall short of the income needed to meet budget.

**Trustee's Report:** Ryan VanDerLeest reported that they met with the Fire Extinguisher service and received recommendations to upgrade extinguishers, which will be done over the next 5 years. Outside lights should be done by the time of Advent services. The pest control company reduced our bill by \$100 and told us to donate it to our congregation. The suggestion was made to post a map of the facility that showed exits, fire extinguishers, etc. which will be done by the Safety Committee.

**Financial Committee:** Jeff Werner reported that they are counting money during the week when they have large amounts of money, like the Harvest Supper and Christmas services. This is less stressful for the counters. With the new year coming, some counters' terms will be up and more volunteers will be needed.

**Cemetery Committee:** Reminder to get all decorations off of the cemetery by 11/1/23. Still need 2 more people on the committee.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Harvest Supper:** Nancy Witucki reported that God heard our prayers and blessed us with a successful 2023 Harvest Supper. Despite our lack of phone service in the church office Monday and Tuesday and slim manpower throughout the day Saturday, our 52 volunteers prepared and served 432 meals for our community, Senior Living homes and homebound. This meal is appreciated by all. People look forward to it each fall. The need for extra strong workers to help move roasters is still a challenge for us. Our crew had to help in multiple areas in order to fill in where needed. Again, extra strong workers are a must for this event to continue.

Generous congregation and community support brought in donations of \$4942 plus a \$250 Thrivent card. Our expenses totaled \$2042.90. \$3149.10 will be donated to a Christian nonprofit organization.

After hearing the report, a motion was made and seconded to donate the proceeds to “Labor of Love.” This initiative with the LCMS North Wisconsin District is a fund used to reduce the debt of NWD called workers.

**Location of the new church sign on Highway 97 and Huckleberry:** Discussion about the sign being in an illegal spot. Marathon County Planning and Zoning has been contacted and has not come out yet to look at it. A motion was made and seconded to direct the Church Council to direct the sign committee to correct the sign location.

## **New Business**

**Elections for new board members:** This will be done at a Special Voter’s meeting in the future.

**Budget:** Discussion points below regarding the Building & Grounds area of the budget.

**Chancel renovation project:** Motion made and seconded to table this until a committee is formed to gather information and present it to the voters. Motion made to remove this item from the budget.

**Parsonage siding, windows, insulation:** New estimates were received and air conditioning will be added to the work. The amount to do this work would be \$77,000. Motion made and seconded to update amount in the budget.

**Other changes to the repairs/maintenance – church:** All items were removed from this section except Boiler Repair (\$800) and Incidental Repairs/Maintenance (\$2000). Motion made and seconded to update this in the budget.

### **New item amounts:**

Repairs/Maintenance – Church – \$2,800.00

Repairs/Maintenance – Parsonage – \$79,000.00

Total Building and Grounds – \$108,765.00

Motion made and seconded to accept the new budget.

**Chancel renovation project Committee:** Ryan VanDerLeest, Cathy Schneider, Lloyd Schultz, Pastor Mathey

**Adjournment:** Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

**Closing prayer:** Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**All Occasion Card:** Bethlehem CWIA has a very nice selection of All Occasion and Christmas cards available to purchase. Cost is \$6.00 a box. Stop and check them out, they all have scripture text.

**St. John Harvest Supper:** God heard our prayers and blessed us with a successful 2023 Harvest Supper. Despite our lack of phone service in the church office Monday and Tuesday and slim manpower throughout the day Saturday, our 52 volunteers prepared and served 432 meals for our community, Senior Living homes and home-bound. This meal is appreciated by all. People look forward to it each fall. The need for extra strong workers to help move roasters until 6pm is still a challenge for us. Our crew had to help in multiple areas in order to fill in where needed. Again, extra strong workers are a must for this event to continue.

Generous congregation and community support brought in donations of \$4942 plus a \$250 Thrivent card. Our expenses totaled \$2042.90.

\$3150.00 will be donated to Labor of Love. To assist Pastors with their Student Loans.

**St. John Safety Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on November next safety meeting is scheduled for November 21st. at 7pm. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

**Cemetery Committee:**

All Cemetery Decorations must be removed by November 1st.

**Bethlehem Sunday School:** Mark your calendars, the Christmas program will be on December 17 following the church service with brunch being served after the program. Practice for the program will start in November. There will be no Sunday school on December 24 or December 31. A Sunday School update was sent out to families with a parent contact form included. Please return these forms so we have up to date contact information.

**St. John Sunday School** will be singing On November 5th, All Saints Day celebrated.

**Childrens Christmas Service** practice will be Nov 26. Children will be getting their parts and working on some Advent projects.

**Milestone Gifts** will be given out on December 3.

**Up Coming Services & Events**

**Advent Services**

**Wed. Nov. 6th, 13th, 20th**

Bethlehem 1:30pm

St. John Services 7pm

**Bethlehem Soup Supper,**

**Live Nativity**

**& Craft Sale**

**December 9th**

**4:00pm to 7:30pm**

**Eat In or Pre Order to pick up**

**St. John Christmas Program**

**December 20th @7pm**





Martha Rodman	11/02	Becker, Jane	11/05
Savannah Koepke	11/03	Thielman, Ashley	11/07
Lloyd Schultz	11/03	Hammel, Isaac	11/09
Nancy Witucki	11/03	Schreiber, Marlene	11/11
Lucas Koepke	11/05	Schmitt, Lori	11/12
Ronda Durkee	11/09	Fehrenbach, Hannah	11/16
Amber Kroening	11/09	VanLuven, Halie	11/23
Stacy VanHoy	11/09	Broeske, Cory	11/26
Peter Kroening	11/17		
John Schafer	11/20		
Aaron Niemann	11/21		
Suzanne Gehrke	11/23		
Held, Rodney	11/23		
Myszka, Izabella	11/23		
Anna Koepke	11/24		
Judy Ulrick	11/25		
Larry Noller	11/27		
Ron Hahn	11/28		
Brad Wendtland	11/29		



### Acolyte Schedule for November

#### Bethlehem:

Nov. 5th	Madalynn Johnson
Nov. 12th	Isaac Kosik
Nov. 19th	Bailey Schreiber
Nov. 26th	Caelyn Cook

#### St. John:

Nov. 5th	Lexi Noller
Nov. 12th	Christian Pehlke
Nov. 19th	Ben Hartwig
Nov. 23rd	Kelly Mathey (Thanksgiving Service)
Nov. 26th	Delayna Noller

Lloyd & Mary Schultz	11/14
Stan Sharon Szymanski	11/14
John & Kelly Yessa	11/15
Jonathan & Kay Schulz	11/16
Melvin & Sharon Niemann	11/28
Alan & Lori Schmitt	11/06



# Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

## November 5

### "Times of Mourning, Times of Blessing"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes  
We will all go through times of mourning, but we don't all necessarily face it the same way. (Matthew 5:4)

## November 12

### "Again and Again and Again"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Matthew 18:1-4)

## November 19

### "Until that Day"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook  
(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

## November 26

### "Loving Mercy"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy  
(Matthew 25:34-40)

## Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcasts



LUTHERAN HOUR  
MINISTRIES  
[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

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

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.

You are invited to the... *Bring A Friend!*  
**Bethlehem Soup Supper**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

233500 County Road E, Milan, Wisconsin

*(across from the Milan cemetery)*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 09, 4:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.**

**Soup Eat in 4pm to 7:30pm**

**Free will offering accepted**

**Craft And Bake Sale**

**10:00am to 7:30pm**

To Pre order soup for pick up  
call Dorean at 715-680-0078

Cost \$7.00 a quart

Pick up between 10am to 7:30pm

*In praise to God for the  
grace He has shown us,  
there will be no charge  
for the meal.*

*All Offerings  
go to Missions  
and the Facility*

*A Thrivent Action  
Team Project*

**Home Made Soups**

**Chicken Dumpling,**

**Chili,**

**Sauerkraut Chili,**



*Live Nativity*

Reaching Out with Jesus Christ

Building Our Community

Teaching All to Love and

