

The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” – Matthew 16:16 – 19

This verse came to mind as I thought about what to write for this month’s article, especially the promise that Jesus makes to us that “...the gates of hell shall not prevail against...” His church. What incredible and promising words of comfort and power! But at the same time these words are also unnerving and frightening! Why? Because even as Jesus uses this time to assure His disciples – and us – that His Church will not be defeated, He is also telling us with these words that the enemies of God will most certainly try!

And they are trying, constantly. All it takes is to look around with the eyes of faith, and any Christian can see that things aren’t right. The church seems to be entering dark times. Evidence of religious persecution has always been obvious if you pay attention, but it was always somewhere else in the world. Today, instances of it have been seen closer and closer to home. If you don’t believe it, just look up the name Jack Phillips on the internet, and you’ll see the story of a man who understands that religious persecution in the United States is very much a real thing. Jack’s Colorado bakery has been dragged into legal battles over and over again by his state’s legal system, and one of his cases has even gone before the Supreme Court. This has all happened over a span of 10 years, so far, and it’s not the only example that one could find with just a little effort and research.

But no matter what the enemies of God may try and no matter how often they try, their efforts will, ultimately fail. Jesus assures us of this in the passage above from the Gospel of St. Matthew, and we find similar assurances all throughout the Scriptures. Another that comes to mind as I write for this month’s newsletter, is Psalm 46. Why does that come to mind? It was the inspiration for Luther’s famous hymn, “A Mighty Fortress,” which we’ll sing once again at the end of the month on Reformation Sunday.

When you find yourself regularly under attack, the protection of a Mighty Fortress is a great comfort. The solid walls are built to withstand whatever the enemy might throw at it. And as Luther and the Psalmist point out with their two respective texts, a Mighty Fortress is exactly what we find in our Triune God. When I had the privilege to go to Germany as part of a choir back in 2017, we sang an arrangement of this great hymn to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and that musical arrangement really brought forward the inspirational verse which we see repeated a few times throughout Psalm 46, “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress!”

God has provided us with all of the protection that we need in His Church and in His Word. No matter how much the world and the devils around us might rage, He stands by our side, and fights on our behalf. We have nothing to fear even as things seem to grow more bleak around us, for the gates of hell will not break the walls of our Mighty Fortress. “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress!” He will never be defeated, and He will never fail! Amen. – *until next month! Pr. M.*



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

LWML Celebration on Sunday (Oct. 15th)

“The King is Coming”, Psalm 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?



Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could

easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!

LWML Sunday is celebrated annually in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) churches. Come, join us on LWML Sunday on (Oct. 15th). Watch for more information about Lutheran Women in Mission, and become involved in reaching others with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ



BETH& STJ: LWML Sunday,
October 15th

LWML Mite Box will be available to collect your Mites.



Bethlehem Safety Meeting is Oct. 1st at 7:00pm. Anyone interested is welcome.

Rev Mark Schwarz has accepted the call to be the next pastor at Trinity, Athens. Pastor Mark will be installed at Trinity, Athens on Sunday, October 8th at 4:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bethlehem Outreach Bible Bingo Day on Sunday Oct.15th from 1:30-3:30pm. All are welcome. Come join the fun.

Bethlehem Outreach Reformation Sunday Brunch Oct. 29th after church. All are welcome.

St. John will celebrate The Reformation during Sunday School Oct. 29th.

Youth Bible Class: Both congregations will offer a Bible class for students in 7th grade through 12th grade which will alternate from place to place on Sundays. The first and third Sunday will have this class at St. John, and the second and fourth Sunday will offer it at Bethlehem. It will be led by Deb Mathey, and this class will also work in conjunction with the return of Youth Group times so that our younger members can have some fellowship time together. All of our students who are in the 7th grade and older are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



North & South Wisconsin LLL District Joint Convention

God engages the world in two ways, to preserve it and to save it. On Saturday, October 14 the North & South Wisconsin LLL District Joint Convention will feature the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) at Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 South Park Ave., Neenah, Wisconsin. You are invited to participate in "What is a Two Kingdom Church?" led by Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of LCRL.

The 3 sessions are:

- # 1 Two Kingdoms: One Mission & Foundation
- # 2 God at Work: A Two Kingdom Exercise in the American Context
- # 3 Set Free to Live Freely for Others: A Two Kingdom Engagement of the culture for the sake of the mission of the church

This is why the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty emerged, to engage our culture in His two ways. Two Kingdoms, yet ONE MISSION: To bless the world now and forever!

Doors open at 8:00 a.m. with the convention opening in worship at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$30.00 per person, which includes lunch. There is no registration fee for pastors to attend.

Last chance to reserve your spot for the joint convention. Registration deadline is October 9, 2023. Register today! For more information or questions contact Neal Schalow, No Wisconsin LLL DP by email at nschalow@juno.com; or Thomas Beineke, So Wisconsin LLL DP by email at tombeineke802@gmail.com. Mail your registration form and fees to Peggy



When is Reformation Day?

This public holiday is always celebrated on October 31st, except in Chile when it may be moved to a Friday depending on which day of the week it falls on.

History of Reformation Day

Reformation Day commemorates the day in 1517 when a German monk named Martin Luther (1483-1546) strode up to the church in Wittenburg and nailed his 95 'theses' (or propositions) to the church door.

Luther chose to do this on October 31st as he knew the church would be full on the next day for All Saints' Day.

Luther's intention when posting his theses was to highlight the practice of indulgences in the Roman Catholic Church. Indulgences were pardons from sin that could be bought, meaning that those who were rich enough could buy forgiveness for all manner of sins.

Luther had hoped that pinning his protestations would spark wider debate and harden public opinion against the practice.

However, so many people agreed with his ideas that they quickly spread across western Europe, helped by the recent invention of the printing press, leading to the religious revolt known as the Reformation.

The reformation led many Christians to break off from the Roman Catholic Church and establish new, independent churches of their own, such as the Lutheran Church.

The pivotal act would ultimately lead to the creation of the numerous Protestant denominations, so-called as they trace their theological lineage to this "protestation" of the Catholic Church.

Reformation Day was first celebrated in the Germanic region in the seventeenth century and between 1949 and 1967, Reformation Day was a national holiday in East Germany.



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

October 1

"The Way Through the Maze"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
When life becomes a bewildering maze, Jesus is our way through and our way out. (Psalm 25:4-5)

October 8

"Whatever and Wherever, Thank You, Lord!"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Keith Haberstock
"The Lord is my Shepherd..." That's how the 23rd Psalm begins. It goes on to describe the ways in which our Good Shepherd leads, comforts, and protects the sheep of His flock. Every line gives us a reason to be thankful. (Psalm 23)

October 15

"Help the World Rejoice"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Psalm 81)

October 22

"Matching Pace"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Psalm 96:13)

October 29

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

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.

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

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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Edgar, Wisconsin 54426
715-352-2888



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