

The Dual-Parish Record Review

Message from Pastor

With the arrival of September comes the return of many things in our lives. For those of us with kids at home comes the return of school days and activities. By the time you receive this newsletter my own kids will have been in school for about a week or so, and fall sports are well underway. The unofficial end of summer comes with the return of the Labor Day weekend, the last long weekend until November for most people. And here at St. John and Bethlehem it also means the return of Sunday School and Bible Study.

But with the return of what's been done before there are also some differences. Bethlehem will be using a different Sunday School curriculum from Concordia Publishing House this year. Both congregations will once again offer a 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!

Along with the different classes that are available for our younger members, there are opportunities for adults as well. After each Sunday worship there is time to gather for Bible Study with pastor. Both congregations began an extended review of Luther's Small Catechism last fall, and we will continue with that into this fall. When we began our break in the spring, both congregations were finishing up with the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, and we will continue classes from where we left off. Anyone can join us at any time! It isn't necessary to have attended in the past in order to be fed by God's Word!

Along with Sunday morning classes, pastor will offer a new opportunity at both congregations for you to learn what God has to say in His Word. Beginning on September 20th at 7pm (at St. John) and the 21st at 11am (at Bethlehem) is a new Bible Study series called *LifeLight*. This series is an in-depth study of Bible books and topics that takes place in 9-week courses. Concordia Publishing House writes about it, "The goal of *LifeLight* is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture...Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ." The first book that we will look at in this new study is the last book of the bible, the Book of Revelation. There will be a cost of \$12 for the study book (If you want to attend, but this cost is a problem talk with pastor about it.). Many people have a lot of anxiety and confusion about this final book of God's Word, and this study will help you to understand it a lot better. It's not as scary or confusing as you think!

One of the biggest mistakes that any Christian makes is to decide that Bible Study isn't important or that they don't need it. The devil and the world around us are constantly trying to draw us away from God's Word and to confuse and warp our understanding of it. The best defense against these attacks is prayer and time together studying what God has to say to us in His timeless Word. Don't neglect the feeding of your soul with regular study of His Word! There's always something for everyone to learn in Bible Study, and you might be surprised by what that is! – *until next time! mjm*



Bethlehem

Lutheran Church

233500 County Road E

Milan, Wisconsin 54411

Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m.

Sun. Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey

Pastors Office Hours @ BETH.

Tues. 9am-5pm

Pastors Number:

Pastors Email:

lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

Office Secretary Email:

secretary@stjbeth.org

St. John "High Steeple"

Lutheran Church

119415 Huckleberry Road

Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Sun. School 9:15am -10:15am

Sun. Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sun. Bible Study at 11:45am

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey

Pastors Office Hours: M, W, T:

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

Rev. Michael Mathey
St. John Lutheran Church
119451 Huckleberry Rd.
Edgar WI 54426

August 14, 2023

Dear Pastor Mathey,

Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Christ in South Texas!

Yesterday before the start of our worship service, I had the pleasure of relaying to our folks the news we received from Larry Hartwig about your congregation's VBS collections of \$3,326 (in five days!) to support our Lutheran Braille Workers production here at Zion Lutheran Church (zionalamo.online/LBW). It was certainly a "Yay, God!" moment as the picture of Larry's adorable granddaughters holding the over-sized check popped up on the large screen monitor!

We very much appreciate the efforts of your VBS coordinator, Tracy Pehlke, as well as the generosity of the children, adult volunteers, and congregation members whose donations will help to offset production and shipping costs.

As a Lutheran pastor, I'd had only a passing familiarity with LBW until one afternoon in March 2021. During a visit to a local non-denominational mission church to drop off donated items, the pastor's wife told me of a 20-year young lady; blind from birth who had asked her if there was such thing as a Braille Bible. I went back to my office and made a call to LBW and within a month she began receiving book after book from both Testaments (in both Spanish and English).

When I got this firsthand look at how God worked through LBW and it's partner congregation, my heart was moved and I began to wonder aloud whether such a little outpost as ours in Alamo could get more involved...

We learned quickly from our initial conversations with LBW of the great demand for large-print material and the huge backlog of requests waiting to be filled. In the Rio Grande Vally alone there are approximately 40,000 people who are legally to fully blind, and many more who are visually impaired. A year and a half after my initial phone call about a Braille Bible, we officially became partners with LBW and Ministry Production Center #327 for large-print Bibles became a reality in October 2022. One full Bible costs approximately \$165 to produce and is shipped in three boxes at no cost to the recipient. And though we are located in South Texas (about 7 miles north of the Rio Grande River), this ministry effort is as much global as it is local—our very first Bible was sent to Nigeria!

As the demand for Braille and large print Bibles continue to grow, we're doing our best to help LBW keep up the pace—please keep us in your prayers!

God is Good!! We certainly see His hand in this unexpected gift through the love of our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin. I know I speak for our production center coordinator, Sandra Addison, as well as all of the volunteers and our entire congregation, when I say we give thanks with grateful hearts!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Rev. E.B. Holschuh, Pastor

St. John Council

August 15, 2023

Attending were Pastor Mathey, Doug Brown, Steve Schneider, Kay Christiansen, Nancy Witucki, Jeff Werner, Ryan Van DerLeest, Sharon Niemann, and Mel Niemann.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pastor's report included a summary of the service in the park. Approximately 60-70 people attended.

Sept. 20'th is the first session of the weekly adult Bible study on the Life Light series. It will be at St. John at 7pm and the first topic will be Revelations. Each member is asked to pay \$12 their own book.

Sept 16'th is the wedding here at St John of Amanda Syring and Jarod Kopplin.

Oct. 2-4 is Pastor's conference.

Outreach reported that the Brewers trip bus is full with 2 people on a waiting list.

Board of Ed reported on VBS. See her printed report also in the newsletter. An excellent turnout of volunteers and students led to an amazing collection of hygiene kits and \$3326 was sent to Alamo, Texas for the Braille workers packing center to produce 20 Bibles for the seeing impaired.

Treasurers Report indicated that we are in a summer slump of giving. We average \$2365 per week and need \$2900 to meet our budget.

Financial committee is going well.

Trustees reported that the steeple repair work is done and came in under budget. The next priority is the parsonage windows and insulation. They are looking for bids. They continue to update the lighting to LED in the Sunday School area.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve all reports.

Old Business- none

New Business- Nancy Witucki asked for approval to hold the annual harvest dinner on October 7'th. The Council approved and encouraged this activity.

Motion was made to adjourn.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer,

Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary

ST. John VBS 2023 Recap

At River of Life VBS, we looked into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and learned about their Lord and His saving work in their lives. There were two concurrent themes, Water and God's plan of salvation and how Christ -the Living Water- is being proclaimed to people who are thirsty for the Gospel in faraway lands. Students traveled to 5 countries: Caribbean, Baltic States, Russia, Africa, and Asia. In each country they learned about the life-sustaining waters in that place as they discovered how the Living Water quenches eternal thirst. We started in Genesis with creation, then Noah and the flood, parting of the Red Sea, Jonah, and ended with Jesus' baptism. All the bible accounts focused on the new life that is ours through the God's holy water.

We had about 30 children ranging in ages 3 through those going into 6th grade. We had a wonderful group of about 13 youth helpers, and 20 adult workers. We enjoyed fellowship, great bible stories and activities, wonderful snacks, fun crafts, singing, and a lot of fun. It is wonderful to see everyone working together, enjoying the craziness of all the children, and sharing God's love with the youngsters.

Mission Fundraisers

We collected for The Orphan Grain Train's hygiene kits. These kits contain basic cleanliness items and are shipped to help victims of natural disasters and to families in need around the world.

We have completed over 80 Hygiene Kits!

This year we are also raised money for the Lutheran Braille Workers. This organization assists a number of other organizations in providing the Gospel via braille, specialized large print, and audio formats. The LBW gives the bibles to those organizations for free, which means every penny we raise will directly benefit those in need!

Total donation for the week: \$3,326

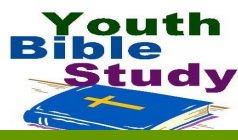
We closed VBS with an evening church service on Friday, followed by a picnic style supper in the parish hall. The kids enjoyed showing off their new songs for families and friends.

Praise be to God! Thank you to all . Traci Pehlke VBS Director



St. John Sunday School Rally Day !
Sept. 10th Parents, Grandparents
and students! 9:15 A.M.
Installation of staff will be during the
Divine Service. See you there!

Bethlehem Sunday School will start
Sunday, Sept. 10th at 9:15am
Installation of Staff during Service



In addition to the Sunday Morning Bible Study at Bethlehem and St. John there will be a Dual Adult Bible Study: Join us for LifeLight, a new Bible Study series beginning on Sept. 20 at 7pm at St. John and on Sept. 21 at 11am at Bethlehem. We will begin by examining the Book of Revelation. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet for whichever class time and place you want to be a part of (purple for evenings at St. John & white for mornings at Bethlehem). The cost of the study book is \$12 per participant.

Both congregations will offer a 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!



Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty(LCR): Did you know that The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has appeared three times in front of the Supreme Court of the United States and that each time the Court has ruled in favor of the LCMS? You are invited to learn more about these cases and other important Religious Liberty cases decided by the Supreme Court in a new booklet available from the LCRL at www.LCRLFreedom.org

NWD Adult Gathering – October 17th, 2023 Defending our Religious Liberties - Make plans now to attend the NWD Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Weston. Registration and morning refreshments begin at 9:30am with the program from 10am – 2:30pm. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Devotions will be led by Dr. Dwayne Lueck, president of the North Wisconsin District. Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of Synod's Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) and speaker emeritus for the Lutheran Hour, will share the message "Defending our Religious Liberty as People of Faith." The cost is \$30 which includes morning refreshments, program & lunch. Registration deadline is October 2nd. An offering will be collected at the event to support the Lutheran Center Religious Liberty. Registration forms are available in the narthex and on the NWD homepage at www.nwdlcms.org under 'Events and Info'

Our Harvest Supper is set for October 7th. This is a congregational mission event for us to reach out to our surrounding community (especially homebound and senior living) and provide a visit and deliver a home cooked meal. Please contact neighbors, friends and anyone whom you think would appreciate this meal. Then consider how you can best serve the Lord by volunteering your time or gifts to this event. Volunteer and donation sheets are on the table in the Narthex. Grocery items and cash donations for meat are encouraged from all our members as well as everyone's prayers! All are welcome to come, socialize and participate in the St John's Mission Harvest Supper. Let's join together to do the Lord's work.

Anyone who can help lift heavy roasters of meat, vegetables and potatoes onto carts

Bethlehem is looking to start up a Safety Committee. This would include topics such as safety during church worship and activities, health emergencies during worship or church activities, and disaster response for church and the community. Anyone interested is invited to a meeting at Bethlehem Wed 9/6/23 at 700pm. Any questions can be directed to Michelle or Del Schwarting or Pastor Mathey.

Dual Adult Bible Study: Join us for LifeLight, a new Bible Study series beginning on Sept. 20 at 7pm at St. John and on Sept. 21 at 11am at Bethlehem. We will begin by examining the Book of Revelation. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet for whichever class time and place you want to be a part of (purple for evenings at St.

Happy Birthday

Ballerstein, Roger	9/01	Buss, Shirley	9/01
Pastor Mathey	9/01	Johnson, James	9/01
Niemann, Melvin	9/02	Pastor Mathey	9/01
Schulz, Kay	9/06	Graun, Cynthia	9/05
Weiler, Caylee	9/06	Freimund, James	9/06
Wussow, Doris	9/07	Weiler, Brenda	9/06
Callies, Carrie	9/09	Wittlinger, Judy	9/06
Ellis, Lincoln	9/10	Kosik, Aleah	9/06
Syring, Benjamin	9/12	Yessa, Madelyn	9/07
Kunkel, Kent	9/13	Kunze, Raelynn	9/12
Held, Chayse	9/17	Wittlinger, Vern	9/16
Hahn, Carolyn	9/19	Kosik, Aleah	9/16
Ballerstein, Sharon	9/20	Thomas, Lane	9/18
Wendtland, Spencer	9/20	Schumacher, Pearse	9/18
Pehlke, Colin	9/26	Kunze, Ashley	9/21
Punke, Dennis	9/26	Thurman, Beth	9/21
Niemann, Sharon	9/28	Carlson, Lydia	9/24
Streit, Walter	9/28	Schafer, Loretta	9/24
Wendtland, Sandra	9/29	Underwood, Brigette	9/24
		Kilty, Carston	9/25
		Kirchner, Wyatt	9/26
		Kunze, Philip	9/26
		Parker, Deana	9/27

Life Thoughts

In Christ God embraced and befriended hearts and bodies ruined by sin. He allowed neither disabilities nor disobedience to separate anyone from His love (Luke 14:1-4). This forgiveness heals us to share the same gracious kingdom with the ones right in front of us who struggle with impairment and iniquity (Luke 14:12-14). Prayer: Extend Your kingdom, Lord Jesus, through me to those who are broken like I am. Amen

Happy Anniversary

Adam & Marya Viegut	9/06
Randy & Christina Cook	9/13
Bart & Brittany Schreiber	9/22
Joe & Gloria Cornelius	9/25
Dale & Nancy Ploeckelman	9/25

James & Dorinda Durkee	9/02
Alan & Nancy Witucki	9/03
Dale & Sue Karl	9/09
Daniel & Jill Koerner	9/10
Bill & Marge Streit	9/13
Edward & Jill Mielke	9/15
Roger & Phyllis Spindler	9/15
Neal & Anna Koepke	9/16



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

September 3

"Entryway"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The Psalms are God's words, given to us as an entryway into His presence. (Psalm 26:8)

September 10

"Not Just a Formality"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
After trust has been broken, forgiveness is more than a mere formality. (Psalm 32)

September 17

"The Problem of Praise"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Psalm 103)

September 24

"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

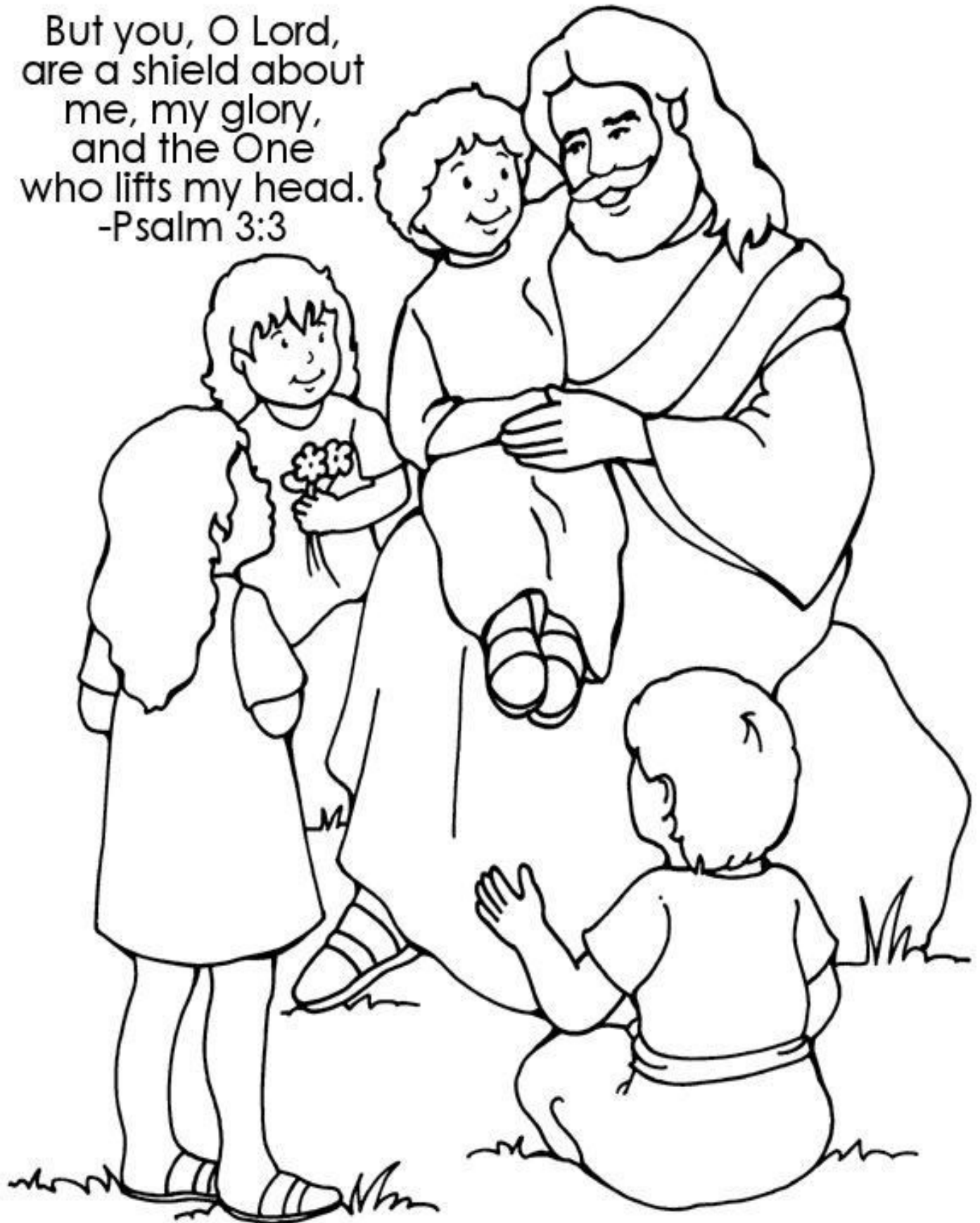


Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast.

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.

But you, O Lord,
are a shield about
me, my glory,
and the One
who lifts my head.
-Psalm 3:3



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



*Where
the
light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*



October 7, 2023

4:30 - 6:30PM

**ALL orders DELIVERY AND PICKUP
FREE Delivery Service is available in
Edgar, Athens, & Stratford**

To RESERVE FIRST 350 MEALS

**Call the church office M, Tu, W, or Fri
between 1pm and 4pm
orders must be in by 4pm**

Friday, October 6, 2023

715-352-2888

