



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

The annual season of Lent begins this month as it always does, with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This year, that falls on February 14th once again (the last time it did that was 2018). Lent – which comes from the Latin word for “spring” – lasts for 40 days in addition to each of the Sundays, and encourages us to understand this important truth, as Christians we are a people in exile here in this world. Like the words of the favorite hymn declare, “I am but a stranger here, heaven is my home,” Lent helps us to come to this realization.

We are wandering far from our true home, and so the beginning of repentance during Lent isn’t just the terror that one finds in wandering around as a stranger in a strange land. The beginning of repentance is always homesickness which the Holy Spirit stirs up inside of us to make us long for our true home. Here at Church, in the Lord’s House, we are sometimes given a glimpse of our true homeland in a way that we experience nowhere else. As the Holy Spirit stirs up our hunger for our true home inside of us, we begin to understand how much we want to be where we truly belong. We ache for our true home. We long for it.

For Christians, home means being in Communion with the Holy Trinity and in the company of His holy angels and with all of His redeemed saints. The season of Lent teaches us to acknowledge and confess just how much we’ve settled down in this land of our exile, and to realize just how comfortable we have become here. We live as though this is where we belong, and this is where we should be. The Lord confronts us to understand what lengths each of us will go through to ignore the desire that He wants us to have to return to our true home, and to realize that no matter how hard we try, it never works.

Everything about the Church’s existence stirs this homesickness in us. Through the readings from God’s Word, the liturgies of our worship, and the richness in our hymns, the Christian Church seeks to help us to develop the ache and longing for what we can never fully have on this side of heaven, a true home. Even in the Lord’s Supper, when heaven meets earth for a brief period at the altar, it is not fully given to us. But all of these stir the ache for our true home and prod the desire to grow because we begin to realize that this is what we long for, to become one with Christ; for His life to be our life; His joy to become ours; and for His peace to be given to us. No, these brief tastes are never quite enough to satisfy our longing. But they are enough to assure us that we have a true home, and to help us to not be willing to ever settle for anything less than what God has blessed us with and called us to. – *Until next month, Pr. M.*

(This article was inspired by an essay written by Pastor William Weedon the author of Celebrating The Saints from Concordia Publishing House.)



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:

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



What About . . . The Bible

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible continues to be the best selling book of all time. Throughout the ages, the Bible has provided inspiration, comfort and guidance to those who have read it. But is the Bible merely an inspirational book? It is this, but so much more!

The Bible continues to be the best selling book of all time. Throughout the ages, the Bible has provided inspiration, comfort and guidance to those who have read it. But is the Bible merely an inspirational book? It is this, but so much more! Let's spend a few moments reviewing some important truths about the Bible. What is the Bible? The word "Bible" is from a Greek word that means "book." What is this "good book"? That question has a two-part answer.

First, the Bible is actually a collection of books—66 of them to be exact—from the first book, Genesis, to the last, Revelation. These books cover thousands of years and were written in either Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek. There are many different kinds of writing in the Bible: historical narrative, prophecy, poetry, speeches, letters and so on. From a merely human perspective, there is no question that the Bible is a masterpiece of literature.

Second, the much more important answer to the question, "What is the Bible?" is this: The Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is the collection of the thoughts—even the very words—that God gave to the authors of the Biblical books. The Bible is a gift God has given to His church. It is not a collection of ancient fables and myths. The Bible is the sure and certain means that God The Holy Spirit uses to communicate God's Word to us today.

How did we receive the Bible?

The Bible itself explains how we received it. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). We read elsewhere that, "Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:21).

Because people knew that the Bible was the actual Word of God, it was copied and re-copied with painstaking care and attention to detail, letter by letter, word by word. Though today we no longer possess the actual, original text of the Bible, we can be certain that the Holy Spirit has preserved the Word of God for us. Careful study of the many thousands of copies of the New Testament reveals that though there are minor differences between the various copies, there is no place where any key teaching of the Bible is contradicted.

Our English Bibles are translations from the original languages. When we use reliable translations, we can be sure that we have the true Word of God. Whatever the Word of God is in Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek, it is also the Word of God in English, or in any other language, as long as the translation is faithful to the original languages. Reliable translations include the King James Version, the New King James Version, the old Revised Standard Version, the New International Version and the New American Standard Bible.

— Dr. A. L. Barry President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Next Month we continue with "Why is the Bible so important?"



Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday

February 14th

Lenten Services at

St. John - Wednesday

Afternoon at 1:30 pm

and

Bethlehem - Wednesday

Evening at 7:00pm



Dan & Sue Gehrke 2/1

Daniel & Jane Becker 2/17

Miessner, Selma	2/02	Strack, Robert	2/03
Syring, Arabella	2/04	Bernt, Graeclyn	2/03
Thompson, Kassidy	2/05	Kosik, Kevin	2/9
Rohde, Sue	2/10	Penk, Jill	2/12
Schreier, Kelsey	2/11	Braison Bender	2/15
Syring, Randall	2/12	Schymuacher, Paxton	2/17
Murkowski, Charlotte	2/16	Schmidt, Olivia	2/18
Schneider, Catherine	2/21	Denzine, Shawn	2/19
Hartwig, Sandy	2/26	Schwarting, Delbert	2/20
Wendtland, Dakota	2/26	Venzke, Wanda	2/20
Wolff, Miriam	2/28	Debra Mathey	2/20
Mathey, Deb	2/29	Strack, Maria	2/28



St. John Council Minutes January 8, 2024

Pastor Mathey joined nine people for council. They were Doug Brown, Linda Mueller, Kay Christiansen, Dean Pehlke, Stephen Schneider, Jeff Werner, Anna Koepke, Mel and Sharon Niemann. Pastor opened with prayer.

Minutes from December were accepted as printed.

Pastor's report {was that attendance for Advent and Christmas services was steady. Feb. 14 is Ash Wednesday. Afternoon service will be here at St. John and in the evening at Bethlehem. Lighthouse Bible Study begins at Bethlehem on Tuesdays and on Thursday evenings at St. John. The first session will be Jan. 16, and we will study 1Corinthians.

Elders offered no report.

Outreach reported progress on the sign location. After Spring thaw, we should be able to move the sign into the field just eight feet to meet planning and zoning requirements.

Board of Education had no report.

Treasurer's report was given. A full detail report will be ready for the quarterly meeting on the 21st.

Finance Committee needs a few people to fill the roster for 2024. See Jeff to find more information.

Trustees send report that LED lights are now in the men's bathroom and the in floor heat is working in the cry room and in the men's bathroom.

Motion was made and seconded to accept all reports.

Old business: The AED is purchased. It needs to be installed and signs need to go up for location. The next safety meeting is Tuesday, January 23'rd.

New business: It is time for the annual audit. Linda will appoint that committee.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

St. John Quarterly Voters Meeting

January 21, 2024

President Linda Mueller called the meeting to order and Pastor Mathey opened with prayer. Eighteen members signed in the roll call. Minutes from the last quarterly meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pastor Mathey gave his report on the past Advent season. Attendance for the afternoon services averaged about 15 people and the evening services averaged 25 – 30 people. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14. Lent services will be at 1:30 at St. John. Evenings will be at 7 pm at Bethlehem. The theme will be the Ten Commandments. Confirmation is now meeting at Bethlehem at 6 pm on Wednesdays. Elders reported that the website is being kept current. In case of the need to cancel a church service; be sure to check the answering machine, the website, and local radio stations.

Outreach gave an update on the church sign. It will be moved into the field about 7 feet to meet planning and zoning rules. The owner of the field has agreed to do this since the men removed fence posts that have been along the fence line.

Board of Ed had no report.

Treasurers' report reminded us that all bills are current. We are getting 4% interest on the \$50,000 in the LCEF. Renewal date is in February. The Motion was made and seconded to leave it in there for another year. Motion passed.

Trustees reported that the plastic will go up on the windows in the parish hall windows since it has gotten colder now. The next project to be done will be the parsonage. Pete VanDerLeest will head up the renovation.

Finance committee reported that there is a need for two more counters to serve on the committee.

Cemetery committee had no report.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the reports. Motion was passed.

Old business: Safety committee will meet this coming Tuesday. There is a defibrillator purchased it is in the office. Thanks to Linda Mueller and the Ladies Aid. Coming up at the Spencer NTC, are two workshops that would do training on the CPR and AED. April 1 and April 13th.

New business: Pete VanDerLeest will head up the repairs of the parsonage. He will be seeking help as the work begins in summer.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded and passed.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Sharon Niemann—Recording Secretary

Update on the remaining dates still available to sponsor The Lutheran Hour over radio station WDLB-1450AM/98.7FM on Sunday mornings at 8:00am.

If anyone would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast? The sponsorship is \$94.00 for the half hour broadcast.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

In Christ,

Lisa Snorheim

Lutheran Hour Coordinator

March 10, 17 & 24

April 7

May 5, 12 & 26

June 9 & 30

July 14

August 18 & 25

September 1, 8 & 15

October 20

November 3, 10 & 17

Dec. 8, 15 & 22

Greeters At Bethlehem February 2024

- Feb. 4** Tom & Cindy Graub
- Feb. 11** Jason & Tammy McKee
- Feb. 18** Shane & Patti Hammel Family
- Feb. 25** Shirley Buss & Olivia Hammel

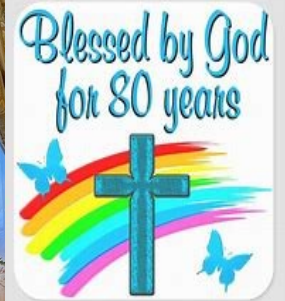
Bethlehem & St. John Acolyte Schedule February 2024

Bethlehem

- Feb. 4th** Bailey Schreiber
- Feb. 11th** Isaac Kosik
- Feb. 18th** Madalynn Johnson
- Feb, 25th** Aleah Kosik

St. John

- Feb. 4th** Lauryn Hartwig
- Feb. 11th** Lexie Noller
- Feb. 18th** Cale Koch
- Feb. 25th** Christian Pehlke



Thank You to everyone of my church family for the memorable celebration of my 80th birthday. Cupcakes were my plan but all of you made it a surprise of lunch, delicious cake and over 80 birthday cards. What a day! I spent many hours looking through and enjoying all the birthday greetings and gifts. A special thank you to all of our Sunday School children for their meaningful Birthday cards. Love and Prayers Mary

St. John LWML Ladies Aid/ Mission Guild will be meeting in Thursday Feb.8th at 1:30 pm.

Our church is hosting the LWML Spring Rally this April -- a planning meeting is needed.

Beth. & St. John Quilting New Quilting news for 2024—Quilting will be done on Mondays at 8:30am to noon. Come when you can. We have added the Dorchester Fire Dept this year.

St. John Sub Sale: Lutheran Hour Ministries will again be sponsoring a Sub Sandwich Event on Feb. 11, 2024. The proceeds after expenses will be given to the Lutheran Hour and Trinity, Spencer for their local broadcast of the Lutheran Hour. This Gospel message has been on the radio for over 90 years. It has now expanded into social media etc. Join us in ordering a sandwich to also celebrate your favorite football team as this event is on Super Bowl Sunday. Order a sandwich for someone living alone and for your family. Free will offering will be accepted



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

February 4

"Nature Abhors a Vacuum"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Ephesians 4:32)

February 11

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

February 18

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

February 25

"TBD"

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. John Nunes**

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.

PLEASE NOTE: If there is a need to cancel Church Services or Meetings due to bad weather, you can find out by checking waow.com (Channel 9) or wsaw.com (Channel 7). Every effort will also be made to change the message on St. John's answering machine as soon as possible, and please, if you are not comfortable with the weather conditions, be safe and stay home!



Lenten Services at

St. John - Wednesday

Afternoon at 1:30pm

Bethlehem - Wednesday

Evening at 7:00pm

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



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Shines*