



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

“This is my body.” Such a familiar statement to any faithful Christian, especially to us Lutherans. These are words of promise and hope. They are words of power that deliver exactly what they say when spoken in the context of The Lord’s Supper, the body of Christ to and for you. On the night that He was betrayed, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ used these words to make a new covenant that He sealed with His own Body and Blood “...for the forgiveness of sins.” With these words of Jesus we are given new life.

But as with all good things in God’s Creation, we have taken the gift of these words, and have turned them into something corrupted, sinful, and warped. “This is my body,” has become a rallying cry for what Pope John Paul II first called “a culture of death.” This January Christians from all over the country will once again descend on Washington D. C. to march in support of Life Issues. January is chosen because it was in that month that the tragic Supreme Court decision known as *Roe v. Wade* legalized access to abortion on demand, a decision that opened the flood gates to so many other issues of Life which we as Christians continue to stand against, even with the overturning of that fateful decision.

“This is my body,” a woman says, and she is allowed to have the new life and body growing within her killed for the sake of convenience. “This is my body,” says the man suffering from a painful illness, and now multiple states allow that person to demand medical assistance to commit suicide. “This is my body,” a person says to justify any one of a number of other sinful and corrupted actions in order to put themselves first and foremost in all things, actions that will ultimately lead them to death in both their body and their spirit.

But we know better. Our bodies and our lives are not our own. They have been bought and paid for by the Body and Blood of Christ. His body was the payment that was made to redeem our bodies and lives from eternal death. The Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, Rev. Michael Salemink writes, “Legislative decrees do not form the foundation for our faith. Judicial decisions do not forge our confession. Neither do philosophical principles nor emotional intensity nor cultural consensus. These forces, as well as all our convictions and conduct, follow from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Jesus has earned the authority He exercises. He entered into death for us and rose alive again, victorious over it. He reserves for Himself the privilege of providing life, and the responsibility for deciding death...Life always arrives as His gift – in His time and on His terms... God’s love furnishes each human life with equal and infinite value. His work of creating in His image...proclaims all human beings special. His labor of redeeming...proves all human beings precious. His activity of calling...pronounces all human beings priceless. His grace – not one’s age or appearance or origin or actions or abilities, or any lack thereof – provides sanctity and significance...God never gives up, and neither do His people, particularly wherever the devil’s deceptions use death as a solution to suffering...

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2024

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

St. John Council Meeting

December 12, 2023

Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.

Steve Schneider called the meeting to order. Members present were Kay Christiansen, Dean Pehlke, Stephen Schneider, Jeff Werner, Anna Koepke, Mel Niemann and Sharon Niemann.

Pastor's report included the Christmas service times that have been published. Confirmation classes will shift locations with the calendar year coming to a close. Jan. 21'st will be Life Sunday. Jan. 14 will be installation of officers.

Elders reported that the National March for Life will be Jan 19. Steve also reviewed the safety meeting's concerns and possible plans coming in the new year.

Outreach reported that work is continuing on trying to get an approved location for the church sign.

Motion was made and seconded that Mel Niemann should continue on this project until the problem is resolved.

Board of Ed reported that the Childrens program will be on the 21's at 6pm with cookies and ice cream to follow.

Treasurer reported that the income is continuing to lag behind budget; but we are keeping up with the current bills.

Finance Committee will need a couple of people for the new year.

Trustees reported that the handicap bathroom door, in the narthex, has been adjusted. It is now very easy to open. There are new LED lights in the kitchen. If there are any problems with the kitchen lights; please contact the trustees.

Motion was made and seconded to accept all reports.

Old business. None

New business. None

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

St. John Lutheran - Special Voter's Meeting

December 17, 2023

35 voters attended the meeting and Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.

Doug Brown thanked everyone for supporting him during his time of being president these past 6 years. The call for nominations for President of the Seminary of Fort Wayne was read. Chad Schopp was nominated on behalf of our congregation. The motion was made and seconded. The paperwork will be sent in this week.

The ballots for officers were distributed to all the voters. The results are as follows:

Chairman- Linda Mueller

Elder- Aaron Niemann, Lloyd Schultz

Trustee- Bud Mortvedt

Outreach- Doug Brown

Board of Ed- Lisa Thompson

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded . We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Message from Pastor continued....

“We do not deal in anger, accusations, comparing or competing. Instead, we declare unconditional love and forgiveness. We demonstrate Gospel gratitude, gladness, and anticipation. And we treat both our life and our neighbor’s as a privilege to us and a special treasure to God. Nothing can endanger or impair our worth or anyone else’s.”

As the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* approaches once again – even though it is no longer the law of the land – we need to remember and remind others that any life at any stage – from conception until the body draws its very last breath – is a precious gift from God. We need to trust in the will of God knowing that He is working for the good of those who love Him and that His timing is perfect, even when we can’t begin to imagine how that can be so. And we most certainly need to trust in the promise of God that we belong to Him, and that He will never leave us or forsake us. He has bought and paid for each of us at the cost of His own Son, and He has looked at each of His children whom He has given life and because of Christ’s sacrifice He declares, “This is my body. This life belongs to me.” Amen. *Until next month – Pr. M. Mathey*

Frequently Asked Questions

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod answers frequently asked questions about its beliefs and positions

QUESTION: Can you explain Epiphany? Also, when was the Circumcision of our Lord?

ANSWER: Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of "who" Jesus is: both true God and man.

On the Festival of Epiphany, Jan. 6, we hear the reading of the visit of the wise men (Matt. 2:1-12). In that event, these foreigners bowed down in acknowledgment that this infant was indeed the Christ, the Son of God.

The Sunday after Epiphany we hear the story of the Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17). Here, God the Father confirms this man standing in the water is His beloved Son. The following Sunday we hear the story of the changing of water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11). Through this event, Jesus revealed his glory and his disciples put their faith in him.

According to Jewish law, all males were circumcised on the eighth day – one week after their birth. We don't know the actual birth date of Jesus so we don't know the day of His circumcision either.

But since we have set aside a date for observing His birth, Dec. 25, we then set aside Jan. 1 (eight days later) as the date for the naming and circumcision of Jesus (Luke 2:21). The significance of this day is that our Savior began His long ministry of submitting Himself to the Law in our place.

Also, this was the first shedding of His blood, and points, in a small way, to the ultimate shedding of His blood on the cross.



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT:

Greetings!

It is with sadness that I share with you a tragedy that took place in our District over the weekend.

There was an accident on Highway 10 near Weuyuawega that killed four young people; the stepchildren of our brother Pastor Kurt Schilling who serves Emmaus Lutheran Church (Town of Lind) which is about 5 miles south of Waupaca.

Two of the children were in their 20's and the other two 14 and 9; part of the Weyauwega-Fremont School District. Reports state that they were returning home about 9:00 pm Saturday night when a pickup truck traveling in the wrong direction hit them head on. The driver of the pickup truck was in critical condition and has been arrested for drunk driving.

Circuit Visitor Jeffrey Smiles and myself have been in contact with Pastor Schilling and the leaders of Emmaus. The family of Emmaus has established a Go Fund Me account to assist Pastor Schilling and his wife with funeral expenses and setting up a memorial. If you are interested in assisting the family, go to GoFundMe;#1 Fundraising Platform for Crowdfunding and search for 'Gonzalez children'. and search for 'Gonzalez children'.

Donations may also be sent to:

Emmaus Lutheran Church
c/o Pastor Kurt Schilling
N180 County Rd A
Waupaca, WI 54981

May God be with Pastor Schilling and his family.
Lord have mercy!
Rev. Dr. Dwayne M. Lueck

Greetings from Wisconsin Orphan Grain Train.

We are blessed to be able to provide much needed food and clothing to many living in poverty throughout the world, but we cannot do it without all of you. Your generosity continually provides much needed items. We currently have a great need for new or gently used baby and children's shoes, boots, and clothing. Please drop off your donations at a packing station near you. Thank you and God's Blessings. Your gifts help share the love of Christ to many.

Lutheran Layman's League will be hosted by St. John on January 14th 1:00pm. Pot- Blessed meal with devotion, Bible study and meeting to follow.
The Presentation topic will be a Circuit wide collection of Childrens clothes, etc. for the Orphan Grain Train.

Installation of New Church Officers will be on Sunday January 14th. This includes all new officers and current officers .

St. John Finance Committee is looking for two people willing help out with counting money. This is on a scheduled Sunday basis not every Sunday.

Schultz, Mary	1/07
Karl, Dale	1/16
Marshall, Elizabeth	1/16
Yessa, Kelly	1/17
Brown, Douglas	1/22
Yessa, John	1/22
Koch, Cole	1/24
VanDerLeest, Sam	1/25
Niemann, Hawkins	1/28
Mortvedt, Bud	1/30



Hammel, Patricia	1/07
Molthen, Arlette	1/10
Underwood, Virgil	1/11
Carlson, Luke	1/14
Graun, Thomas	1/14
Yessa, Ray	1/15
Kilty, Braxton	1/19
Carlson, Philip	1/21
Kosik, Isaac	1/24
Freimund, Dorean	1/25
Schmidt, Luke	1/28
Ebben, Leta	1/29
Venzke, Thomas	1/29
Hammel, Olivia	1/30
Kilty, Troy	1/31



Bruce & Jolene Gumz 1/12



Bethlehem LWML/Ladies Aid is having a Christmas meeting-Party for all members on January 3rd 2024 at 6:30pm at the home of Shirley Buss (NE corners of C&H F & Fence Rd.

Initials of
 A-M bring a main dish
 N-Z salad or dessert
 Everyone is asked to bring a White Elephant gift of \$5.00 Please RSVP by January 1st
 Shirley— 715-654-5291
 Arlette —715-223-6060

LifeLight Bible Study

We will resume the LifeLight Studies on Tuesday January 16th at Bethlehem at 11:00am

And

On Thursday January 18th at 7:00pm at St. John



St. John Sunday School children has a "Christ Giving Tree" in the lower [down the steps] entry way. Gifts will be distributed on Epiphany-January 6th. Our children also looked at the word **BE-HOLD**. We found that there is no one word in the English language that says this. It means "Pay careful attention to what follows. This is important" Look, See, Listen.

St. John Sunday School: Sunday School will be doing Lutherans for Life for their Mission project, We will have **Pennies for Life** and a door collection on **Life Sunday**. We will deliver the Giving Tree gifts at Epiphany .





Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

January 7

"As We Forgive"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't.

(Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

January 14

"How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler explains why it's not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice.

(Matthew 18:27)

January 21

"The Battleground of Forgiveness"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Psalm 32:1)

January 28

"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

(Psalm 103:11-12)

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



*Where
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light
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