



# The Dual-Parish Review

## Message from Pastor

I have always loved to read, especially fiction. It doesn't matter how long a particular book might be, if it's one that catches my interest then I will take as much time as I can to enjoy reading it. In fact, I'll savor it as much as I can. I can't even begin to tell you how many novels I've read and re-read over the years, but my list of favorite authors continues to grow along with the list of the books that I've read. Authors such as Tom Clancy, Vince Flynn, Bernard Cornwell, and Jeff Shaara have provided me and millions of other people with many hours of reading enjoyment with their stories of espionage, historical battles, and adventures.

A lesser known author but one who I have found enjoyable is Dr. Paul L. Maier. Dr. Maier is a pastor in our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and has also been a professor of history at Western Michigan University. He has written several books including some novels that I've enjoyed as well. Surprisingly, two of his novels that I have re-read often at this time of the year have helped me gain a new understanding of the Passion of Our Lord, Jesus.

One of the books is called *Pontius Pilate* and the other is called *A Skeleton In God's Closet*. The first one, *Pontius Pilate*, is what Maier calls "the documented historical novel," because there is not enough historical material for a full biography of the man who presided over the trial of Jesus of Nazareth, and there is too much to write something that is pure fiction. The novel uses the historical records that we have to tell some of the back story of the Roman Governor who would ultimately permit the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. In doing so, it shines some significant light on the pressures that were being applied to Pilate by the Jewish leadership as they stirred up the crowds outside of the governor's palace in Jerusalem. That pressure was used to push Pilate to give them their way. If you ever wondered why Pontius Pilate seemed to cave so easily at the trial of Jesus, this book helps to answer that question as well as some others. It's well worth your time to read.

The second book, *A Skeleton In God's Closet*, is a different kind of story. It takes some historical facts, and uses them to create a work of fiction that falls into the category of "What If?" Dr. Maier begins the book by introducing his main character for what will become three novels, Dr. Jonathan Weber. This character is a Harvard professor who is taking a sabbatical leave from teaching to join an archeological dig in Israel with a friend and mentor who tells him that he may have discovered the home of the Old Testament prophet and judge, Samuel. Jonathan joins the dig, and makes an incredible discovery of what seems to be the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, the man who buried Jesus on Good Friday. That alone would have been a major



**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.Stjbethorg

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

VanDerLeest, Ryan	3/01
Wolff, Perry	3/07
Witucki, Alan	3/08
Rodman, Cindy	3/12
Murkowski, George	3/13
Schulz, Micah	3/17
Wolff, Rhonda	3/17
Thompson, Michael	3/18
Schulz, Kaleb	3/20
Pehlke, Nicholas	3/21
Koepke, Mark	3/22
Streit, Margene	3/22
Held, Oscar	3/23
Mathey, Timothy	3/26
Hartwig, Ben	3/29
Werner, DuWayne	3/29
Apfelbeck, Kristina	3/30

Becker, Daniel	3/01
Kunze, Melanie	3/01
Gumz, Alexis	3/02
Gumz, Dawn	3/09
Niemi, Lois	3/11
Reinhart, Blake	3/12
Schmitt, Alan	3/12
Cook, Christina	3/13
Weiler, Amber	3/15
Solchenberger, Donna	3/17
Bender, Tayler	3/18
Gumz, Susan	3/19
Wittlinger, Darlene	3/19
Strack, Emanuel	3/20
Thielman, Bradley	3/21
Thurman Braxton	3/21
Timothy Mathey	3/26
Empey, Roger	3/27
Schreiber, Brittany	3/27
Parker, Scott	3/30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Wade & Raegene Rodman	3/15
Doris & Peter Scherr	3/31

## Message from Pastor Continued....

discovery, but further digging and searching leads to the conclusion that the body might just be Jesus, Himself!

Paul Maier's imagination and historical expertise tell a great story that I've enjoyed over and over again, but they have also helped to give me a new appreciation of the importance of the bodily resurrection of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. The first couple of times that I read *A Skeleton In God's Closet*, I had to keep reminding myself that what I was reading was a fictional story made up by the author.

As we come through another Lenten season this month and observe Christ's Passion once again, consider picking up one or both of these novels (available in the church library or to borrow from my personal collection). You won't be disappointed by Dr. Maier's writing, and you too might gain a new appreciation for the great truth of Christianity, that Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Amen! *Until next month – Pr. M.*



**Bethlehem March 2, 2024 at 1100am. Stop the Bleed** will be offered. This is a 1 hour class on managing emergency bleeding. Topics covered include use of dressings, compression and tourniquet. Anyone and everyone is welcome. There is a sign up in the back of both churches. We need a fairly accurate number so they know how many instructors to send. There is no cost to the class.

Michelle Schwarting

**St. John Sunday School: Hearts for Jesus: Sunday School Mission** for Feb, March and April. This year the Hearts for Jesus is our own North Wisconsin District "Labor of Love" collection to help with Pastors school debt. Special envelopes will be available for you to send your personal donation, otherwise put it an envelope marked Sunday School.

## St John Council Meeting

February 13, 2024

Seven were in attendance at the Council Meeting of February 13, 2024. They were Linda Mueller, Jeff Werner, Bud Mortvedt, Steve Schneider, Mel & Sharon Niemann, and Pastor Mathey.

Linda called the meeting to order and Pastor opened with a prayer.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Jan. minutes.

Pastor gave his report reviewing the Lenten schedule for the coming weeks. Afternoon services will be on Wednesdays at 1:30 at St. John and evenings will be at 7:00 at Bethlehem. The adult Bible class will be a series that is planned to be ending the week before Holy Week. Confirmation will be on May 19, Pentecost Sunday. Right now, it looks like there should be 2 confirmands.

Elders had no report.

Outreach reported that the sign is planned to be moved further into the field in April or when weather permits.

Treasurer sent word that all bills are paid and up to date.

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

Unfinished business: the photo directory will be scheduled for April 18-20 if Bethlehem agrees and the photographer has the date still open for us.

Training sessions for CPR will be held in Bethlehem on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Also “Stop the Bleed” will be a training session in Bethlehem on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Watch for more announcements on these workshops.

New business: After discussion; we found the statements put out by Thrivent on their website, no longer follow Christian values. This is demonstrated in their Strengthened by Diversity Report, and is found on their website under the “About Us” tab. On page three. Thrivent supports whatever your “**chosen identities**” may be. On page six, it shows that they have established a **Pride Network** to “help increase awareness and acceptance of the LGBTQ and community “

In response to this and after the Thrivent report was reviewed by the elders, the motion was made that we here at St John will no longer accept anymore of Thrivent advertising, T-shirts, stationary and the like to be used in any way. If members choose to apply for Cards or Thrivent choice dollars that is up to the individual but we will not use any of their advertising at any of our events. Motion was seconded and passed.

Motion was made to cancel the meeting for March being as there is no pressing business. It was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Niemann Recording Secretary

# Buckets O' Blarney



## Trivia Contest Fundraiser



**FRIDAY**  
**March 15, 2024**

St. John Lutheran Church-High Steeple  
119415 Huckleberry Rd, Edgar

Doors open 5:30p  
Trivia begins 6:00p

Call 715-216-6634  
for ticket reservation.

Cost \$10 each

or

Table of 8 for \$70



**Appetizers**

**Desserts**

**Beverages**

**Silent Auction!**

**Prizes available!**

All proceeds go toward sending our Youth to the Higher Things Youth Conference in June.



Buckets of Blarney Trivia Night is coming up on Friday, March 15th. The youth heading to Higher Things this summer are asking for your help in spreading the word about the upcoming trivia night and also have some ways you can be involved.

**You can spread the word by:**

1. Coming to Bucket's of Blarney Trivia Night Fundraiser!
2. Inviting your friends and neighbors to attend.
3. Give the flyer on the other side to someone to share the news.
4. Hang this flyer up somewhere it will be seen by others.



**You can be involved by:**

1. Praying for our event to have a good turnout.
2. Attending the event and bringing a friend or two or three....
3. Donating something to be included in our Silent Auction
4. Volunteering to help with setting up for the event or cleaning up after.
5. Volunteering to be an answer judge for the event...yes you will be explained how to do the job!
6. Thanking our youth and their families for all their hard work!

We appreciate all of you for your support in whatever way you choose!

**What else is happening?**

**BAKE SALE!!!**

Palm Sunday, March 24th

Delicious goodies will be on sale at both Bethlehem and St. John.

If you would like to help the youth with a yummy donation, please bring it to church to be included.

Please plan on getting some goodies to take home for your Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations!

**REMINDER:**

**Youth Bible Class is ongoing!**

Classes held:

- ◆ 1st and 3rd Sundays at St John at 9:15AM in the Fireside Room
- ◆ 2nd and 4th Sundays at Bethlehem at 9:15AM

Celebrating the Season of

# LENT



Read  
Write  
Explore  
Create  
Pray  
Reflect  
Learn!

Created by:  
Class with Crowley

## KIDS IN WORSHIP

### What is “Lent”?

Lent is a season of the Church Year that lasts six weeks. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter Sunday. During these six weeks we look forward to Good Friday, the day our Lord died on the cross to pay for our sins, and to Easter Sunday, the day He rose from the dead to prove it!

### How can I remember to think about Jesus during Lent?

You can give up something you enjoy during Lent. You might see your parents give up their morning coffee. Maybe your brother or sister has decided not to eat candy during Lent. Every time you think about doing what you gave up for Lent, it will remind you of what Jesus gave up for you — His life! Blessings to you as you experience the wonderful journey of Lent!

Parents: We encourage you to help your child decide on something in their life that they can give up during Lent. Be sure to give up something too. Being their example and companion on this journey makes a big difference sacrifice, so that, dead to sin, we may rise to new life in Christ, in whom death has died.



## What About . . . The Bible

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Why is the Bible so important?

Someone may say, “The Bible is important to me because it tells me what to do” and another person might say, “The old stories remind me of my childhood” or “The Bible is a guide book for daily living.” These answers all have a grain of truth, but they miss the real reason why the Bible is so important: It is the sure and certain source for knowing who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us.

Jesus said, “The Scriptures testify about me” (John 5:39). The main message of the Bible is the good news of God’s work to reconcile the world to Himself through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Throughout Old and New Testaments, the central message of the Scripture is the account of how God was in the world preparing it to receive His Son and then what His Son did when He was here. It also tells how the church received this glorious message of salvation, and how it grew and spread throughout the known world. Luther once compared the Bible to the swaddling clothes the baby Jesus was wrapped in. Thus the Bible is Christ-centered.

Our Lord Jesus said, “If you remain in my Word, truly you are my disciples” (John 8:31). The divine authority and reliability of the Bible does not rest on the persons God used to write the Bible, nor on the endorsement of the Bible by the church, but rests entirely on the fact that it is the Word of the Lord. How do we know this? This confession of the Bible’s complete authority is part of the certainty of the faith God gives to us as a gift. Real human beings were given real words from God to write down. As our Lord Jesus Christ was both true God and true man, so the Bible is truly the Word of God and also the writing of human beings. Even as our Lord Jesus took on human flesh free from sin and error, so God used human beings to provide a written revelation of Himself that is free from error. Thus, we be-

lieve that the Bible is both incapable of error (infallible) and free from error (inerrant). The Bible has a very important distinction one needs to keep in mind in order to understand the Bible correctly: the difference between Law and Gospel. The Bible reveals God’s perfect holiness and righteousness, and His expectation of perfection. His Law, summarized best in the Ten Commandments, reveals our sinful rebellion and our inability to save ourselves. The Gospel is the joyful news that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us complete forgiveness from our sins through His life, death and resurrection for us. The proper distinction between Law and Gospel is the key to understanding the Bible correctly.

The most important message of the Bible is not the Law of God. The Bible is not merely a collection of principles for daily living. The Bible is not a textbook that answers every possible question we may have. Nor for that matter is the Bible a book that predicts every last detail about the future. The central and most important teaching in the Bible is the Gospel, the good news of God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the message that predominates throughout the Bible, from Old Testament to New Testament. Thus the Bible is Gospel-centered.

We know that the Bible was not given merely for the sake of itself. We are not saved because we own a Bible. We are saved by our Lord Jesus Christ, who is revealed in the Bible. We believe the Bible because it is the Lord’s Word. We believe in Him, thus we believe His Word to be true. We receive what He has given. He has given us the Scriptures. Thus, the Bible is the foundation and touchstone for everything that the church believes, teaches, confesses and practices. Why? Because the Bible is the inspired, Christ-centered and Gospel-centered Word of the Lord

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

**Next Month** we continue with “How do we use the Bible ?



# Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

## March 2024

March 3

### "Included in Such Company"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The more you listen to the life of Jesus, the more you admire Him and the more grateful you are to be included in His company. (Mark 10:43-45)

March 10

### "All Bets Are Off"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Jesus engages his opponents in a battle of wits and

wins—for us. (Mark 11)

March 17

### "The Strangest Request"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe  
(Genesis 22:1-14)

March 24

### "Repurposed Joy and Junk"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Mark 14:6)

March 31

### "TBD"

## 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](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!

### 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)**

## 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).

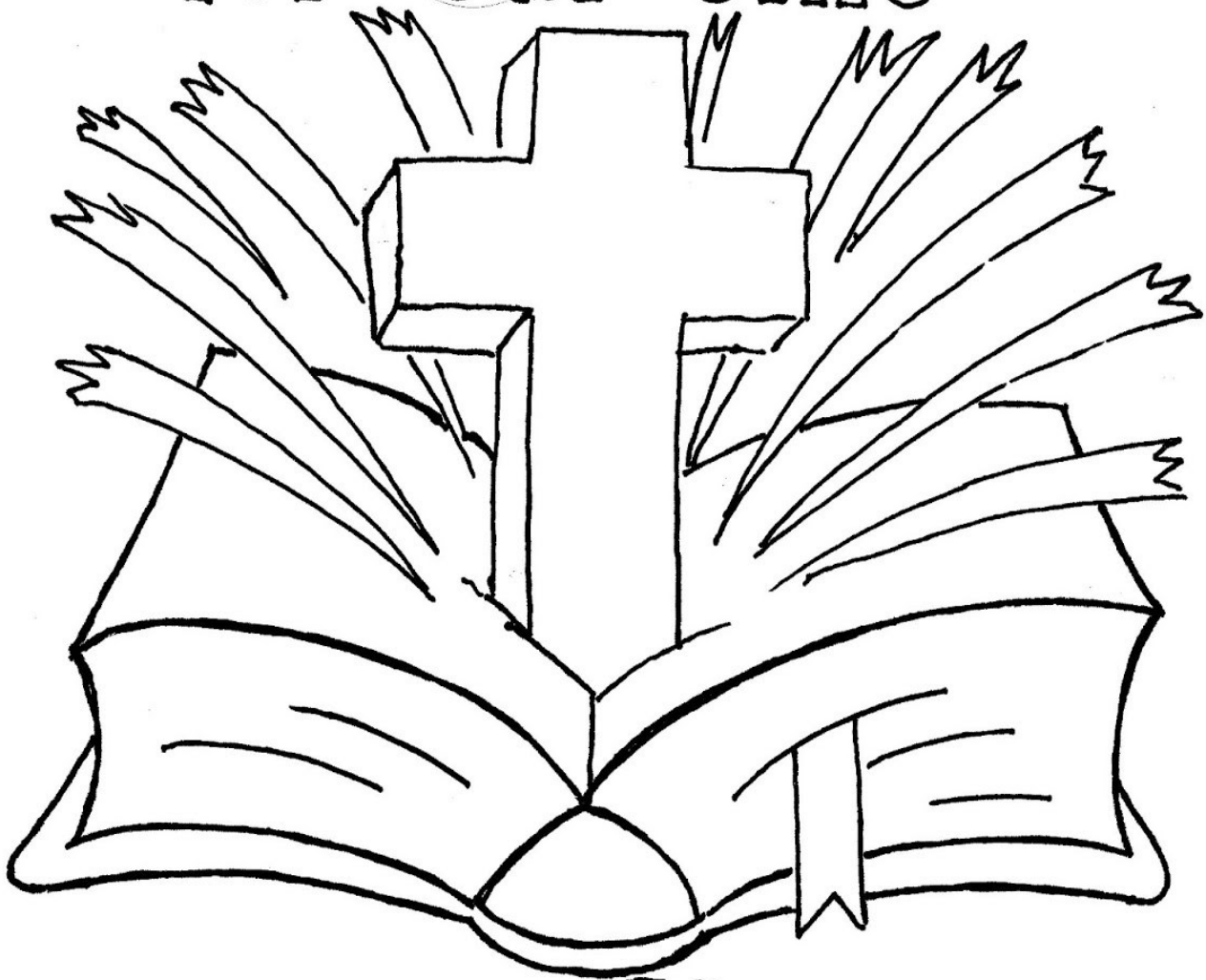
Moments of Comfort is an online video ministry of Worship Anew which speaks to the sufferings we face in this life with the comforting message of God's Word.

They have a list of archived programs listed on the site.



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.

Christ died  
for our sins



according  
to the scriptures

1 corinthians 15:3

© Adron  
'13





**Lenten Services Wed.**

**Feb. 14th to Wed. March 20th.**

St. John - Wed. at 1:30 pm

Bethlehem - Wed. at 7:00pm

**Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday March 24th**

Bethlehem 8:00am

St. John 10:30am

**Maundy Thursday March 28th**

**Good Friday March 29th**

St. John— at 1:30 pm Devotional Service

Bethlehem - 7:00pm Primary Service

**Easter Sunday March 31st**

Bethlehem 8:00am

St. John 10:30am

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



Where  
the  
light  
of  
Jesus  
Christ  
Always  
Shines