



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Once again we've made it to the joyful season of Easter in the Church Year. In reality, Easter is something that we Christians celebrate every Sunday, but the season of Easter begins with the culmination of Holy Week on Easter Sunday morning. In recognition of the importance of Easter, Christians decided that just one Sunday wasn't enough to celebrate our Lord's victory over death and the grave. One Sunday just wasn't enough to celebrate something as glorious as Christ rising from the tomb and removing the fear of our own death, and so seven weeks were designated for the Festival of Easter, a tradition that we still hold to today in the Lutheran Church. Why seven weeks? Because the number 7 is one of completeness in the Scriptures.

But seven isn't the only number that comes into focus during this time of Easter. Because 40 days after Easter Sunday, we add to our Easter celebrations with the Ascension of Our Lord to His Father's right hand in heaven. The Book of Acts describes the event in the very first verses. Jesus appeared to His disciples at various times across this 40 day time frame. He spoke to them about His Kingdom, and about the promised coming of the Holy Spirit, the Helper. During their last conversation with Him, the disciples asked Jesus if it was then that He would restore the Kingdom to Israel. They still didn't understand the full scope of what had happened in the Lord's death and resurrection. Jesus told them that it was not for them to know times and seasons that the Father has established. Instead, He had work for them to do. He promised that He would pour out on them His Holy Spirit and in the Spirit's power they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth.

Then, as they looked on, He was lifted up into the sky until a cloud hid Him from their sight. As they stood there staring into the sky, maybe with tears in their eyes, two angels appeared to them, dressed in white, of course. Acts 1:11 tells us their message to the disciples this time, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."

With this event the long wait of the Christian Church began. The disciples, expecting Jesus to return in their lifetime, would instead die before this promise of Christ's return was fulfilled. Generation after generation has been brought up in the Christian faith, and each one has been succeeded by the next one, and still the people of Christ wait. Living in these End Times, we wait because we know that He who has kept His every other promise to us will not fail to keep the promise of His final appearing. Meanwhile, we live as a community of faith in what is not seen, but what we know to be true. Jesus sits enthroned at the Father's right hand, filling all things with Himself and waiting with us for the Father to signal the moment of His joyous return. And while we no longer see Him face to face in this world, we know that He is truly with His Church to the end of the age just as He said that He would be. He is here. He comes to us hidden in, with, and under His Means of Grace, the Word and the Sacraments. His Ascension did not take Him far from us, but it brought heaven nearer to us. "Behold, I am with you always," He promised.

In the Church, the paschal candle stands lit in front of the altar for almost the entire Easter season. When we observe the Ascension of Jesus, it will be extinguished once again and only lit again for a baptism or a funeral. Even so, the visible presence of Christ has been moved from us into His invisible presence in His Word and Sacraments. When we celebrate His Ascension to His throne at the Father's right hand, we join together with the Christian Church throughout the ages in the long wait for Jesus' final appearing, even as we are comforted by His promises and His constant presence among us. – *until next month, Pr. M.*



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
Sunday School 9am -
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.Stjbethorg

St. John Quarterly Voters Meeting

April 21, 2024

Twenty-two members signed in for rollcall and Pastor Mathey opened with prayer. Linda Mueller called the meeting to order. Previous meetings minutes were approved.

Pastor reported an average attendance at the Lenten services of about 40 people. Confirmation will take place on May 19th., Pentecost Sunday this year. This will also be first communion for Kelly Mathey, grade seven. Pastor announced that Bethlehem will also not allow advertising of Thrivent within their church facilities. This is due to Thrivent's stand on LGBTQ and gender selection by individuals. May 9th will be our Ascension Day Celebration service.

Elders had no report.

Outreach reported that the Planning and Zoning meeting on this past Thursday was attended by Mel, Brad Wendtland, and Scott Dahlke together with our Planning and Zoning official. It was determined that the distance from the highway 97 was fine. The distance off of Huckleberry may be allowed and the officials at Planning and Zoning will determine if a variance will be issued. For now, everything should remain as it is.

Doug reported on other Outreach business. The float is being planned with a new theme in mind. There is going to be a Brewer's bus trip to the ball game. Motion was made to allow start up funds to be put on the church credit card for the event. It was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report was given. Weekly given is down from budget by over \$1500 each week. Bills are being paid. Motion was made to move the balance shown in the negative for the church sign from the restricted funds. Motion was seconded. The sign is paid for and that is a false number. Motion passed.

Board of Ed. Reported that Higher Things youth gathering is coming up June 24-28. Money is being raised through fund raising and that has been going well.

Sunday School will break for the summer on May 19. VBS dates this year are July 22 – 26.

Milestone gifts, books, bibles, catechisms, devotion books given to the students, confirmands, and graduates all come out of the education budget.

Finance Committee reported all was well.

Reports were accepted.

Currents Business: Pete reported on the bids he had gotten so far on the repairs for the parsonage. They include: windows, insulation, siding, air conditioning, and this is looking to be a rough estimate at \$70,000 if we do much of the work ourselves. A new house with similar square feet will run today at about \$340,000. Work is being planned for July when Pastor would be on vacation.

The AED is installed. Laminated maps of exits, AED, and trauma kit placement are ready for placement. Let Steve Schneider know if you have suggestions for their permanent locations.

No new Business

Motion was made to adjourn and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sharon Niemann recording secretary

What's Happening



The STJ—Sunday School will be hosting a Reception/Brunch for our High School Graduates on May 5th 9:30 to 10:15am.

Quilts and Devotional Books will be presented to Lillian Pehlke, Ethan Telschow, Natalie Thompson and we share a graduate with Bethlehem Tim Mathey.



Confirmation

Confirmation & First Communion will be on Sunday, May 19th.

The confirmands are :
Benjamin Hartwig, Delayna Noller,
Colin Pehlke and from
Bethlehem Evan Strack.

First Communion
Kelly Mathey

Save the Date

Cheers to 93 Years!!

Mae Morien is turning 93!

Help us celebrate her Birthday!

When: On Saturday, June 8th—11-3pm

Where: W301N6559 Lilian Dr

Hartland, WI 53029

Light Lunch will be provided

Please no gifts, BUT, a clearly written memory and picture would be great!

We will be making a memory binder for her to go through at her leisure.

Upcoming EVENTS



Fundraiser For Higher Things Youth Conference:

We will be hosting another event in the near future. Watch for more news in the Church Bulletin.



The LWML is having it's annual plant sale and set up is May 15'th. I will be picking up your donations that morning by 10am here at the carport entrance.

We can use all kinds of plants and trees that you may be finding in your yard and are ready to thin out and share for missions. We do accept house plants too. Please label all your plants as best you can. The proceeds go 100% to North Wisconsin LWML mission projects. The sale is at the Unity Community Hall May 16-18 9am-5pm. just off of highway 13. Thank you for all your help.

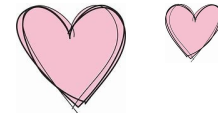
If you have any questions please contact Sharon Niemann 715-352-2087.



A Bus Trip to a Brewers Game is in the planning watch for more details in the Church Bulletin



Weiler, Austin	5/02	Wolff, Jordon	5/01	Matt & Mindy Graun	5/08
Hammel, Shane	5/03	Littleton, Cade	5/02	Richard & Lois Niemi	5/29
Reinhart, Ryan	5/03	Telschow, Delores	5/08	Bruce & Doris Wussow	5/3
Bernt, Croix	5/04	VanDerLeest, Eleanor	5/10	Matt, Tabitha Hartwig	5/9
Yessa, Ivy Mae	5/04	Held, Sloan	5/13	Jayne & Victoria Myszka	5/11
Johnson, Wendy	5/05	Spindler, Phyllis	5/13	Larry & Sandy Hartwig	5/17
Ortman, Barbara	5/06	Noller, Emma	5/16	Larry & Jennifer Noller	5/28
Graun, Matthew	5/07	Mielke Jr., Edward	5/17		
Luther, Joanne	5/07	VanDerLeest, Les	5/17		
Neumann, Michael	5/10	Hamann, Edwin	5/18		
Schreiber, Bart	5/10	Telschow, Ethan	5/18		
Empey, Judy	5/12	Syring, Darla	5/22		
Viegut, Taygen	5/12	Hartwig, Samuel	5/26		
Hammel, Ashton	5/17	Mortvedt, Dawn	5/27		
Schwarting, Michelle	5/17	Reinhart, Paul	5/28		
Thomas, Matthew	5/18				
Weiler, Bruce	5/18				
Dassow, Vicki	5/20				
Klimpke, Alex	5/20				
Johnson, Braiden	5/21				
Bender, Brenten	5/22				
Bernt, Erin	5/23				
Cornelius, Natasha	5/25				
Kilty, Leighton	5/28				
Broeske, Amy	5/31				
Klimpke, Jonathon	5/31				
VanLuven, Marcus	5/31				



May 19th. 2024

Benjamin Hartwig

Delayna Noller

Colin Pehlke

Evan Strack



May 19th, 2024

Kelly Mathey

Last Day

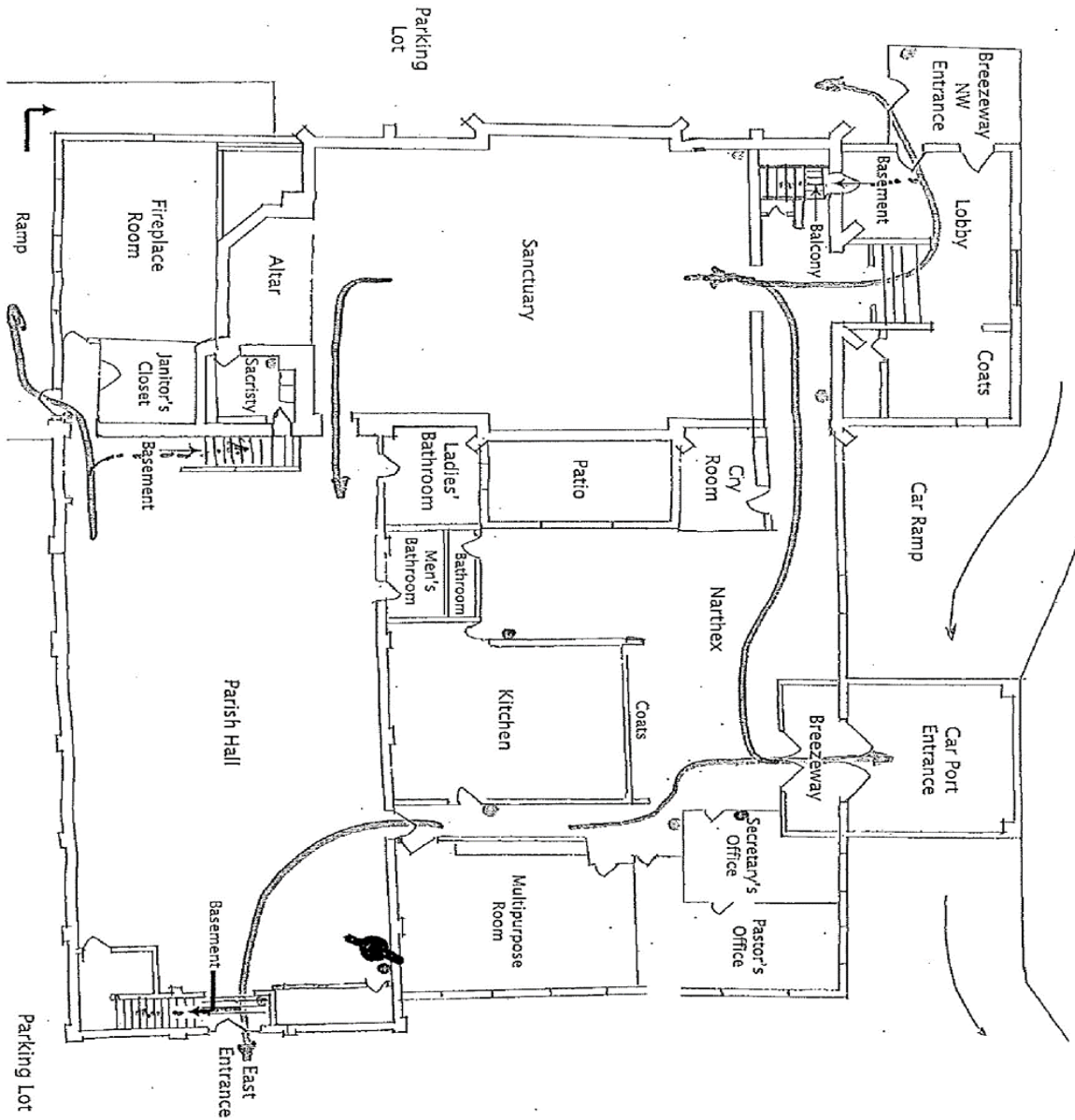




Pentecost Sunday, May, 19th is also the last day of Sunday School.



For Your Information:

A map of all the safety devices in our church and there location:



-  Fire Extinguishers
-  Escape Routes
-  First Aid Kit
-  AED - automated external defibrillator



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

May 5

"Rejoicing On the Way"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes
God empowers His people to share the Gospel with those they meet along the way. (Acts 8:28-39)

May 12

"Unforecastable"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Acts 9:31)

May 19

"Waiting, But Not Alone"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge
Jesus leaves His followers waiting for Him to return but He promises they will not be left alone. (Acts 2:1-21)

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

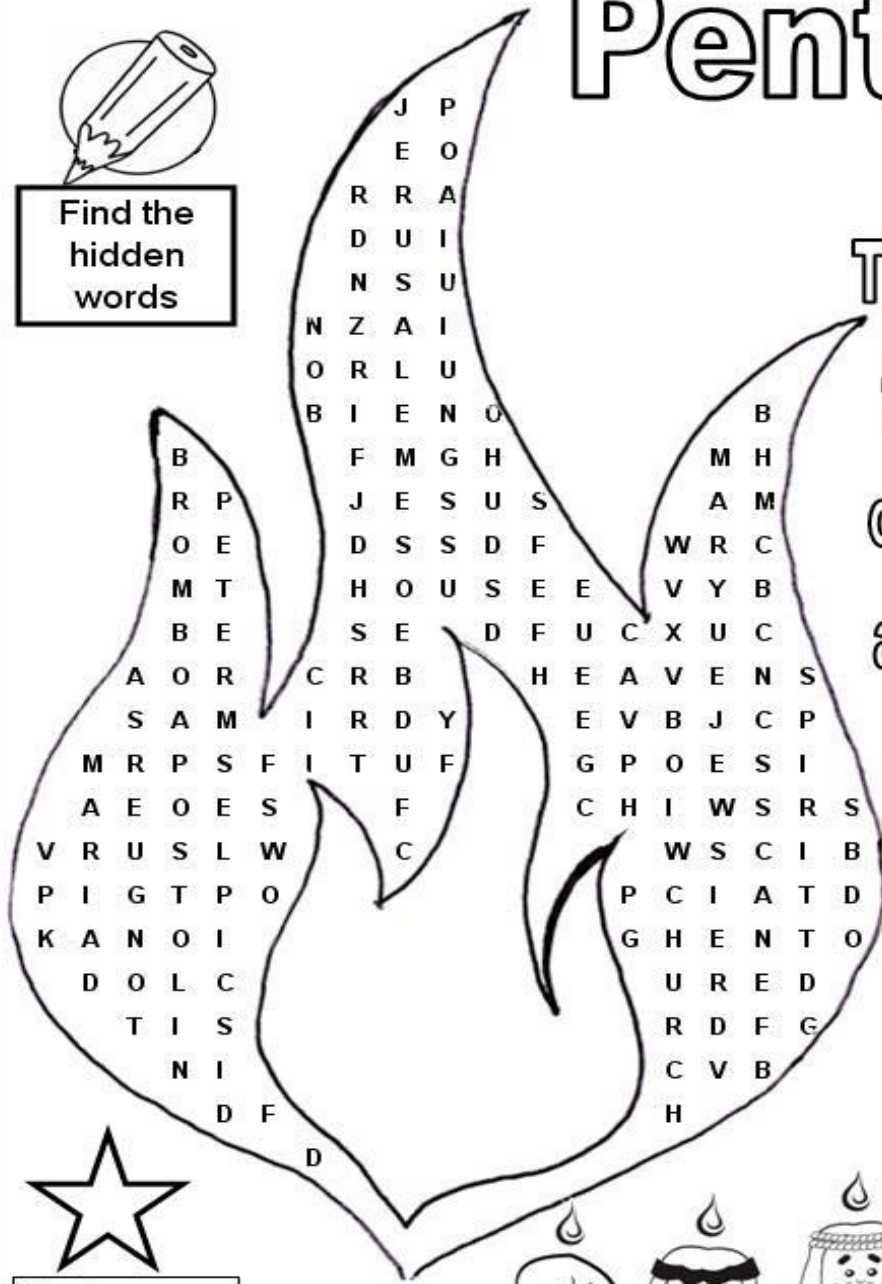
Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Jeff Schwarz.



Pentecost



Find the hidden words



Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

Acts 2:3

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- Wind
- Heaven
- House
- Tongues
- Fire
- Spirit
- Jews
- Jerusalem
- Peter
- Jesus
- Wine
- Disciples
- Mary
- Church



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



*Where
the
light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*