



# The Dual-Parish Review

## From the Pastor's Desk

An anniversary can be something for us to celebrate if it reminds us of a joyful event, or it can be something for us to dread as we remember an event in life that was painful. A wedding anniversary is a joyful occasion as long as the husband and wife are still together, but if the relationship has ended because of divorce or death, then the wedding anniversary can become a painful day. Looking at our history as a nation can bring up a number of different anniversaries, including our annual observance of 9/11, when our country was shocked by the brutal terrorist attacks against us. For those of us who were witnesses of that event, September 11<sup>th</sup> will always be a day for us to remember.

As many of you know, last month was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my ordination into the Office of the Holy Ministry, the day that I became a pastor. I was honored and humbled that our congregations took the time to celebrate that personal milestone in my life, and I thank everyone for the gifts and congratulations that I received. You'll never know how much all of you mean to me, and I can say that I know something of what St. Paul meant when he wrote in I Timothy, "I thank Him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He judged me faithful, appointing me to His service,...and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

But there is another Anniversary that is being observed this year, that most people aren't aware of, and that is the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that great statement of the Christian Faith, the Nicene Creed. In the year 325, a false doctrine was being spread by a man named Arius. He taught that Jesus was a created being who then in turn created the world as we know it. This made Jesus either a separate god altogether, or a being who was inferior to the one true God. He denied that Jesus was truly God, and that called into question how Jesus could have saved the world if He wasn't truly God. This false teaching rocked the Christian Church to its core.

To respond to this dangerous teaching, the first Christian Emperor, Constantine, summoned all of the Christian bishops to the First Ecumenical Council in the city of Nicaea. Because Christianity was outlawed prior to Emperor Constantine taking the throne, this was the first time that the regional leaders of the Christian Churches were able to gather together in such a public way. With the legalization of Christianity, the leaders of the various churches could now gather together to address issues such as the false teachings of Arius. The Council and its work went on for several years, and each of the Christian bishops who participated left their mark in various ways, including a legend that says St. Nicholas of Myra (who is the inspiration for the legend of Santa Claus) actually punched Arius in the face in a moment of frustration!

The ultimate result of this First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea however, was the adoption of one of the three Ecumenical (which means "whole inhabited world") Creeds of Christianity, the Nicene Creed. This creed, or confession of faith, took a stand against the Arian teaching that the world was made and saved by someone different from God. It declares that the world was made and redeemed by God by the work of His Son, and it affirms the unity between the Son and the Father as well as the Holy Spirit (although the section on the Holy Spirit was expanded on later at the Council of Constantinople in 381).

As we continue through this year of the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nicene Creed, we can and should continue to give thanks to our Triune God for guarding and preserving His Christian Church throughout its long history, just as we continue to give Him thanks for all of His other blessings, especially Anniversaries! – *until next month!*  
*Pr. M.*



## 2025

**Bethlehem**

**Lutheran Church**

233500 County Road E  
Milan, Wisconsin 54411

**Sun. Worship at 8:00 am**  
**Sun. Bible Study at 9:15 am**  
**Sunday School at 9:15 am**

**Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey**

Pastors Number:  
715-352-2888 Or 715-330-5599

**Not a cell phone.**  
**Please leave a message**

Pastors Email:  
lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

**St. John "High Steeple"**

**Lutheran Church**

119415 Huckleberry Road  
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

**Sun. Worship at 10:30 am**  
**Sunday School at 9:15 am**  
**Sun. Bible Study at 11:45 am**

**Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey**

Pastors Number:  
715-352-2888 Or 715-330-5599

**Not a cell phone.**  
**Please leave a message**

Pastors Email:  
lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

**Dual Parish Office:**  
715-352-2888

Email: secretary@stjbeth.org  
Dual Parish Secretary Hours:  
Tues.—Fri 9 am—12 pm

Dual Parish Website:  
www.stjbeth.org



### Bethlehem

Shirley Buss	9/01
James Johnson	9/01
Pastor Mathey	9/01
Cynthia Graun	9/05
James Freimund	9/06
Brenda Weiler	9/06
Judith Wittlinger	9/06
Madelyn Yessa	9/07
Raeynn Kunze	9/12
Aleah Kosik	9/16
Verlyn Wittlinger	9/16
Pearse Schumacher	9/18
Lane Thomas	9/18
Ashley Kunze	9/21
Beth Thurman	9/21
Lydia Carlson	9/24
Loretta Schafer	9/24
Brigette Underwood	9/24
Carston Kilty	9/25
Wyatt Kirchner	9/26
Philip Kunze	9/26
Deana Parker	9/27

### St. John

Roger Ballerstein	9/01
Pastor Mathey	9/01
Melvin Niemann	9/02
Amara Schreier	9/03
Kay Schulz	9/06
Caylee Weiler	9/06
Doris Wussow	9/07
Carrie Callies	9/09
Lincoln Ellis	9/10
Benjamin Syring	9/12
Kent Kunkel	9/13
Chayse Held	9/17
Carolyn Hahn	9/19
Sharon Ballerstein	9/20
Colin Pehlke	9/26
Dennis Punke	9/26
Sharon Niemann	9/28
Walter Streit	9/28
Kaysley Niemann	9/30

### September Schedule

#### Bethlehem

9/7	Kelly Mathey
9/14	Bailey Schreiber
9/21	Kylee Johnson
9/28	Aubree Kirschner

#### St. John

9/7	Lauryn Hartwig
9/14	Christian Pehlke
9/21	Cale Koch
9/28	Lexie Noller

### September Greeter

#### Schedule Bethlehem

9/7	Brentin & Taylor Bender Family
9/14	Duwayne & Susan Gumz
9/21	Adam & Marya Viegut
9/28	Deana & Scott Parker



### Bethlehem

Adam & Marya Viegut	9/6
Randy & Christina Cook	9/13
Bart & Brittany Schreiber	9/22
Joseph & Gloria Cornelius	9/25
Dale & Nancy Ploeckelman	9/25
Kyle & Ashley Kunze	9/26

### St. John

Alan & Nancy Witucki	9/3
Dale & Sue Karl	9/9
Amanda & Jerod Kopplin	9/16
Edward & Jill Mielke	9/15
Roger & Phyllis Spindler	9/15
Neal & Anna Koepke	9/16
Thomas & Lisa Wussow	9/29

Dear congregations,

I am so happy to have been able to celebrate my graduation/confirmation with all of you. Thank you for all the gifts and blessings that you have given me. I look forward to continuing my path in my faith with all of you supporting me! Thank you!

Kelly A. Mathey

### **Harvest Supper Oct. 4th 2025**

Harvest Supper is October 4, 2025. The sign up sheets for donations and volunteer jobs will be placed in the carport by September 7th. Please sign up early for jobs and donations. Any questions can be directed to Nancy Witucki or Mary Schultz. Thank you.



**Space is still available for the bus trip.**

### **Christmas in the Dells Dinner Show**

**on Saturday, November 15, 2025.**

**Cost is \$105.00 per person.**

**Contact Marlene ASAP at 715-383-0259**

### **Upcoming Event:**

Blood Drive at St. John  
on Saturday, October  
18th from 8 am to  
noon.

### **Safety Committee / Concealed Carry**

With the recent insurance change at St. John there is an opportunity for training. This training is for anyone who is or would choose to use concealed carry. If you participate in the training our liability insurance would now cover you.

For more information contact  
Linda Mueller.

**Zone 10 LWML reporting on the Brat Fry and Pie Sale which took place on July 18, 2025. Proceeds from the sale will going to North WI District LWML Mites for \$1723.46 and Lutheran Hour Local Broadcast for \$200.00. Thank you to all who worked and donated.**



**October Newsletter Items:** All calendar dates and times, and announcements are due to the office secretary no later than **Wednesday, September 24th.** Please leave a note, voicemail or send an email. Printing date will be September 25<sup>th</sup>. So the newsletters can be in the church and home mailboxes before the 1st.

## **ALL AREA YOUTH**

**Please join us  
for any activities  
listed!**

Any questions?  
Contact Deb Mathey  
715-216-6634  
lcmsdcedeb@gmail.com

### **SEPTEMBER DATES**

Sept 7th 4:00pm Youth Group  
Kickoff  
At Pastor Mathey's House  
Food & FUN!  
Sept 17th Info meeting for  
Higher Things 2026  
Conference

For continuing info,  
watch our FaceBook page or  
sign up for our monthly newsletter via email!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
233500 County Rd E  
Athens, WI 54411

# **YOUTH NEWS**

**Youth Bible Class for  
grades 9-12.**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY!!**

**Beginning Sept 10, 2025**

**6:00PM**

**St John High Steeple**

**Fireside Room**

### **Coming in OCT**

OCT 4th Help with Harvest Dinner  
St John High Steeple  
Mid Oct Paintball outing  
Oct 26 Registration for  
Higher Things  
due to Deb

St John High Steeple Lutheran Church  
119415 Huckleberry Rd  
Edgar, WI 54426

**Pastor's Mathey's House is next door.**



## **First Annual Dual Parish Sunday School Rally Picnic**

**When:** September 14th at 12:30

**Where:** Milan Ball Diamond

**What:** A potluck followed by a family friendly game of kickball. Hosted by the Dual Board of Education. Let's kick off the Sunday School year! Check out the next page for details.



**Bethlehem and St. John Sunday School**  
will be starting on September 14th



**Confirmation Classes and Youth Group will resume at St. John on Wednesday, September 10th at 6pm.**



**Installation of Sunday School Staff on September 14th**



### **BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS -**

Sunday school will start September 14 with Sunday school after the church service followed by our joint Sunday School Kickoff Rally at the Milan ball diamond. Everyone of all ages is invited to attend, join us for potluck and kickball starting at 12:30 (meat and buns will be provided, see insert for more details). We are still in need of Sunday school teachers, please prayerfully consider volunteering to teach Sunday School. If interested, please reach out to Patti, Tammi or Janessa if you are willing to teach or help.



**Time To Sign Up For LifeLight!** If you'd like to join the LifeLight Bible Study this fall, sign-up sheets are now posted. You can join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at St. John or Thursday mornings at 10:30am at Bethlehem. We will be studying the Book of Hebrews this Fall, and classes will begin on September 17th and 18th. There is a special price of \$10 for your book this session! Please consider joining us for this in-depth study of God's Word!





Sunday School Rally  
&  
Kickball Game

*You're  
Invited!*

*Come join Bethlehem and St. John's Sunday School  
for a Rally, Food and Kickball games*



**WHERE: MILAN BALL DIAMOND**

**WHEN : SEPTEMBER 14TH**

**TIME:**

**RALLY @ 12:30 PM**

**LUNCH @ 1 PM - 2P.M**

**KICKBALL: 2 P.M -3 P.M**

*Please bring a Dish to pass*

# St. John Church Council Meeting

Aug. 12, 2025

Linda Mueller called the meeting to order. Attending were Jeff Werner, Dani Seibert, Pastor Mathey, Dean Pehlke, Mike Thompson, Mel Niemann, Sharon Niemann, and Linda Mueller.

Minutes were reviewed and accepted. Pastor's report was given. Confirmation class will begin on Sept. 10'th with 3 in first year class, and 6 in years 2 and 3. Life Light adult class will begin on the 17'th here at St John and on the 18'th at Bethlehem. One wedding is on the calendar for 2026 and that is Dannielle Schoenrock and Kaleb Schulz. Pastor thanks everyone for the anniversary gift in honor of his ordination.

Elders had no report.

Board of Ed. VBS sent in just over \$3200 in missions and with the Thrivent match of another 50% that makes \$4900 for help in the flooded areas of Texas. The 14'th is the Sunday School rally day and there will be a kickball game and potluck at Milan Baseball Diamond.

Treasurer's report was given; but we are behind budget in our weekly given and need to step that up by the end of the year and heating season.

Cemetery has a few small stones that are crooked again due to the wet weather. To be worked on.

Motion was made and accepted to approve all reports.

Business in progress:

Sanctuary refresh contract was made available to the council and the contact from Church Interiors was on the phone to answer all the details questions as it was reviewed. One third of the total cost of the project was needed to be put on the calendar with the company and this check was written after the motion was made and seconded to move forward with the project. Our time frame for doing the project looks like winter and should take about 4 weeks of work. We need to get a licensed electrician to install the lights.

New business:

The elders brought forward the motion that the proceeds from the Harvest dinner should go toward the renovation with the usual 15% off the top going to missions.

A motion to adjourn was accepted and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Contracts were signed.

Respectively submitted, Sharon Niemann      Recording Secretary



## Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

September 7

### "Dying, We Live"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
God's love finds His people in the wilderness, the place where God gives bread from heaven, water from a rock, and streams in the desert.  
(Numbers 14:19-20)

September 14

### "It's All on God; It's All on Us"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A paradox doesn't make sense, mathematically. But it can be an accurate description of real-life experience. (Deuteronomy 1:31)

September 21

### "Someone Worth Having"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
We lost God's name along the way, but God found us and gave us the Name by which we can know Him: Jesus--"God saves."  
(Numbers 6:27)

September 28

### "On the Way, Already Home"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
God made us to move--toward Him in faith and toward our neighbor in love.  
(Numbers 9:18)

### 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.

### 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.

#### 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)**



You probably know that after God freed His Old Testament people from slavery in Egypt, the people wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. But do you know why they had to wander for so long, or what they were doing during those years? The answers are in the Book of Numbers.

We just completed a four-part series on the Book of Numbers with Dr. Reed Lesing, author of the new book *Hope in the Wilderness: Practical Insights from the Book of Numbers*. Go to [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org) to listen.





## North Wisconsin District Adult Gathering

Make plans now to attend the NWD Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Registration & morning refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. with the program from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Devotions will be led by District President, Rev. Timothy Shoup. Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Dan Paavola, will share a message based on his book, *Our Way Home: A Journey through the Lord's Prayer*. Rev. Paavola currently serves as the pastor of River of Life Lutheran Church in Saukville, Wisconsin. Previously, Dan taught theology at Concordia University Wisconsin full time for 28 years and continues to teach at Concordia as Professor Emeritus. The \$35 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, and a catered lunch. Registration deadline is September 26th. Registration forms are available in the narthex and on the NWD homepage at [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org) under 'Events and Info'.

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



*Where  
the  
Light  
of  
Jesus  
Christ  
Always  
Shines*