



## *Message from Pastor*

[Jesus said] “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

It has been difficult to write my article this month, not because of what is going on with the COVID-19 virus, but because of the almost daily changes. The news corporations are vying for the title of “most alarmist” and folks are left with figuring out what is really going on. A reporter for the New York Times actually wrote “If you aren’t panicked, you aren’t taking this seriously enough.” Since when is panic the answer to anything?

Fear is the dominate mood in this country. Fear of the unknown, fear of the virus, fear of death and fear of want. Members of both congregations have already been laid off and even more face that possibility. Based upon the latest state emergency order published just a few hours ago, these restrictions will continue until April 24, 2020. There will undoubtedly be more orders in the coming weeks, perhaps more strict, perhaps more lenient. Through all of this, remember the words of our Lord to His disciples on the night He was to be arrested: “**I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.**” (John 16:33)

We, as Baptized, redeemed, forgiven Christians, have an important role to play in this crisis, but our role is no different today than it was a month ago, or a year ago, or a millennia ago. We are to act as mirrors, reflecting the light of Christ into the world. As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, “**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven**” (Mt 5:16). We are not to hide the light of Christ no matter what calamity befalls us or our community. We are not to retreat, thinking only of ourselves. It is precisely in these times of fear and hopelessness that we should be shining with the hope of Christ Jesus our Savior, who conquered sin, death and the devil for us. We do not fear death, because He has conquered it for us. We are the light on the hill in a world of darkness. Shine with His love, so that others may have the peace we have.

We are not cancelling services. The sermons are on the website and we are working on putting recordings of the service on the website as well. Sharon has put together a list of alternate sources, depending on what media you have access to. If you are sick, stay home. If you have a job to do, do it. Communicate with your Elder and other members so we know if you need help. Remain in prayer, confident that He will not forsake you, because you are His.



## **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. Chad Schopp**  
Pastors Office Hours @ BETH.  
Tues. 9am-5pm  
Pastors Cell: 715-680-8117  
Pastors Email:  
cschopp@protonmail.com  
Office Secretary Email:  
secretary@bethstj.org

## **St. John “High Steeple” Lutheran Church**

119415 Huckleberry Road  
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426  
**Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday Bible Study at 11:45am**  
**Pastor: Rev. Chad Schopp**  
Pastors Office Hours: M, W, T, F:  
9am to 5pm  
Pastors Cell: 715-680-8117  
Pastors Email:  
cschopp@protonmail.com  
Sec. Office Hours: M, T, W, F:  
1pm to 4pm  
Dual Parish Office:  
715-352-2888  
Office Secretary Email:  
secreary@bethstj.org  
Dual Parish Website:  
ww.bethstj.org  
Traci Pehlke:  
webmaster@bethstj.org

## Letters from our Church Presidents

### **Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Phil Carlson, President**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Bethlehem Church,

A special meeting on March 19, 2020 was held between Pastor Schopp. And the President and Elders regarding COVID19 and its effect on our church and our church functions. The following is a list of the topics and decision outcome:

- 1) Council meetings will be held as currently scheduled, Next meeting April 13, 2020. This is subject to change if our situation calls for it.
- 2) Quarterly Voters Meeting will also remain as scheduled on April 19, 2020. This will also be discussed by the Council and potentially be changed if in the best interest of the church.
- 3) Worship services will be held at its normal scheduled time and location. Every member is asked to act in a way that is consistent with their personal feelings and comfort level. The State of Wisconsin has issued rules regarding COVID19. These rules have been added to and changed sometimes daily. In the process of spreading God's word we will do our best to comply with the rules and remain faithful to God's word By:
  - 1) Alternating attendance by members on an every other week basis.
  - 2) Publish the service and Sermon on our website weekly,
  - 3) Cancel the Post service classes to make room for possibly adding another service time to keep our groups smaller.
- 4) If Pastor were to become ill with the COVID19; services will be held by the Elders and President.
- 5) Nonessential church functions (i.e. Sunday School, Confirmation, Christian Foundation Class and other classes, including VBS) will be cancelled and or postponed.
- 6) Other events (i.e. LWML/Ladies Aid meetings will be reviewed and cancelled if need be on a monthly basis. Outreach Events will be cancelled or postponed on a case by case basis.

Pastor Schopp has requested, due to the concerns of COVID19 and the financial hardship that a number of our members now face, that his salary be cut immediately by 15% for the next three months to help share the burden our members face. The 15% will be kept track of separately and used for the church as needed. Pastor Schopp made it clear he and his family do not expect this to be repaid. This offer was discussed at great length and after much deliberation was agreed upon. His duties and commitments to the church will not change although they may have to fluctuate to accommodate this ever changing situation.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this entire situation do not hesitate to address them with the Pastor, President, or the Elders. **Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”** Your input is greatly appreciated.

Again, nobody in any way shape or form is expecting any member to act in any way contrary to their personal feelings and comfort level regarding COVID19. **1Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you”**. Your relationship with God is the most important aspect of this entire situation. The good Lord works in mysterious ways. It is not our place to understand. It is our duty to remain faithful and trust in the Lord. **Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”**

God Bless,

President and Elders of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Milan

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church - Douglas Brown, President

Hello friends, family and neighbors,

It was just a short time ago that we as a congregation celebrated our 150th anniversary. Now we have to start living with some new challenges, starting with the fear of the unknown: A virus that we don't much about. Our congregation is going to start recording the service and making it available online. The sermons and bulletins are also available online in PDF format (written). I know that not everyone has an internet connection, but we will get the recorded service to as many as we can.

The April voters meeting will be pushed back to June at the earliest. We will mail out reports and ballots should we need to vote on something sooner than that. Very soon e-giving will be available (maybe this week) and it will be a good option for many of us to continue to support our congregation. Tough and trying times are nothing new. Our parents and grandparents went through wars, the Depression, small pox and polio. Matthew 6:34 reads, **“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own..”** Please keep praying for a speedy end to this crisis. Stay healthy and care for one another.

Douglas Brown  
Congregation President  
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

## Holy Week:



### Palm Sunday:

BETH: 8:00am

STJ: 10:30am

### Maundy Thursday:

STJ: 1:30pm

BETH: 7:30pm

### Good Friday:

STJ: 1:30pm

BETH: 7:30pm

### Easter Sunday:

BETH: Easter Worship 8:00 am

STJ: Easter Worship 10:30am

## For All

**Webmaster:** Please send any updates, events, pictures, and changes concerning the website information to Traci Pehlke at [webmaster@bethstj.org](mailto:webmaster@bethstj.org).

### Bethlehem ~ St. John Annual Thrift Sale:

Due to the present situation with the COVID-19 the thrift sales for end of April are going to be postponed until a later time. **Please do not bring your sale items to church** until we find out if and when we could reschedule .

## Bethlehem

**Quarterly Voters Meeting:** Sunday, April 19 postponed.

## St. John

**LWML Spring Rally:** The Rally has been canceled at St. John future date to be determined..

**St John Sunday School** will be celebrating Palm Sunday with a processional of Palms on Sunday, April 5th, 2020.

**St. John Outreach - Operation Care Package for our troops.** Thank you to all who donated items, what a great verity to send to the troops. Anyone who donated, in order to complete the needed documentation for this project, please fill in the Thrivent Sign In Sheet in the Narthex. We mailed 122 pounds of snacks out to the troops.

### Urgent Need For Face Masks:

Can you sew? Are you staying home and need a DIY project? Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation is collecting donations of sewn face

masks to alleviate the national shortage during the COVID-19 outbreak. If you or someone you know is able, please consider sewing face masks for patients at Marshfield Clinic Health System. Sewn masks will help alleviate the shortage and will be distributed to patients to help provide a protective barrier, so that medical-grade N95 masks may be conserved for our health care providers.

Instructions to sew masks can be found in the photos included with this post. Use clean fabric only. If you have extra elastic, please consider donating that as well if you are unable to sew masks yourself. If you cannot get elastic, we will accept masks with ties. \*\*\*If you cannot get elastic, we will accept masks with ties. Updated 3/22\*\*\*  
Please share this need with your family and friends!

You can find the pattern on the web through the Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation site. We have printed patterns and instructions at the church office. Contact Sharon and she will get a copy to you. These masks are not used by the medical staff, they are given to patients in order to save the supply of Medical Grade masks for the hospital staff. If you would like to make masks Cathy Schneider will deliverer them to the Marshfield Hospital.

### Cancelled and or Postponed Events

#### St. John:

**St. John LWML** Cancelled until further notice.  
**St. Johns Easter Breakfast** Cancelled

**LWML Spring Rally** St. John - LWML Spring Rally, is postponed

**Sunday School** Done for the year

**The Quarterly Voters Meeting** is postponed until June.

**Pastors** Continued Education at Fort Wayne Postponed.

**Bethesda Volunteers:** Bethesda has closed the Thrift Store, all scheduled to work hours are cancelled until further notice.

**Bethlehem /ST. John Thrift Sale** will be postponed  
**Christian Foundation** Cancelled

#### Bethlehem:

**Confirmation** Cancelled

**Palm Sunday Breakfast** Cancelled.

**Bible Study** Sunday Bible Studies are cancelled until further notice.

**Sunday School** Done for the year

**LWML/Ladies Aid and CWIA** Cancelled until further notice.

**Bethesda Dates** Cancelled until further notice.



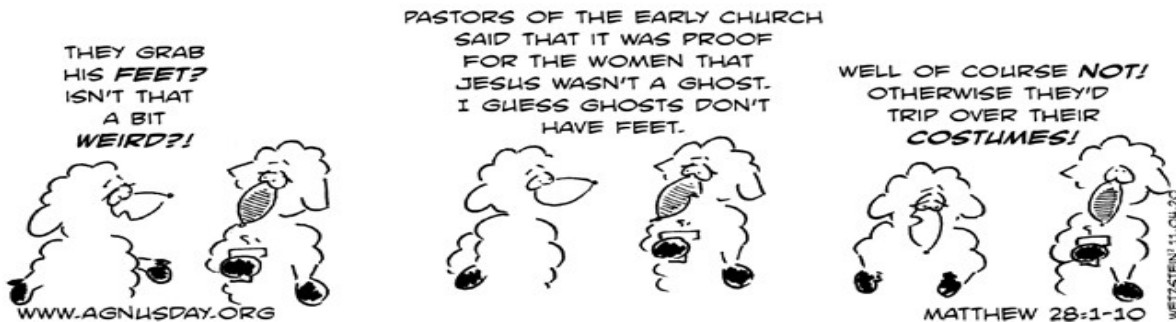
St. John Bell Choir wants to purchase chimes (Pictured below) the total budget would be \$2800. These are comparable to the big handbells at a fraction of the cost. To finance the project, the choir will sell “That’s My Pan Products” until the first of May. These are a variety of baking pans and Personalized Products made right in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Orders can be placed through any choir member. Brochures are on the display table in the parish hall at St Johns and in the Narthex at Bethlehem. Or online at “[thatsmypan.biz/StJohnHS](http://thatsmypan.biz/StJohnHS)” Shipping and handling will not be charged as we are set up to pick up at the factory and they will be delivered to the churches. Thank you in advance for your support. We have members in the choir of all ages and welcome new ringers at any time.



**St. John Game Night:** on Saturday, March 14, St. John held a family game night, with a potluck served at 5:30pm. After the potluck “Germany-style” board games, were played, as well as games for the younger children. The intent is to build a game library at the church so that families can check them out for a game night at home. Twenty seven people attended and a good time was had by all.



### Agnus Day by James Wetzstein



Agnus Day appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)

**BIBLE PASSAGE** — After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

— *Resurrection of Our Lord,*

# April Birthdays

## Bethlehem

Carlson, Robin	4/5
Geisking, Thomas	4/5
Graun, Kimberly	4/5
Gumz, Jolene	4/6
Weiler, April	4/7
Klimpke, William	4/9
Viegut, Marya	4/13
Thielman, Bentley	4/14
Thielman, Brocks	4/15
Denzin, Bruce	4/18
Schmidt, Brenda	4/19
Schmidt, Derek	4/19
Thielman, Jase	4/21
Cook, Caelynn	4/27
Cook, Calleigh	4/27
Cornelius, Joseph	4/27
Kunze, Nathan	4/28

## St. John

Wussow, Taylor	4/6
Marcus, Charles	4/7
Merritt, Pamela	4/7
Murkowski, Joseph	4/7
Witucki, Matthew	4/7
Schneider, Lian	4/9
Reis, Kayleigh	4/13
Thompson, Lisa	4/14
Koerner, Aaron	4/15
Callies, Nadine	4/19
Pehlke, Marcus	4/22
Bandle, Geneieve	4/24
Hamann, Dale	4/26
Thompson, Alex	4/27
Derfus, Abram	4/28
Pehlke, Lillian	4/28

## April Anniversaries

### Bethlehem

Troy & Cheyanne Kilty	4/10
Galen & Elizabeth Kirchner	4/12
Brentin & Tayler Bender	4/23

### St. John

Joe & Heather Murkowski	4/9
Roger & Sharon Ballerstein	4/29

# At-Home Worship Resources for You and Your Family

## Internet Resources:

**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!

**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.

## Radio Broadcasts



### Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

#### April 5

#### "There's Still Time"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad-or because they think they are very good. (Exodus 11-12)

#### April 19

#### "Rescue, Test, Rest"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 (Exodus 16)

#### April 12

#### "You Haven't Lost Me"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 (Exodus 14)

#### April 26

#### "TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler



### Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

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)



**Issues, Etc.**

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

## **Smart PHONE Instructions to give via GivePlus**

1. Find Play Store App
2. Search for GivePlus - it will come up as GivePlus Vanco Payment Solutions
3. Install the App
4. Search for Zip Code 54426 for St. John and 54411 for Bethlehem
5. Choose the respective church

### **For a one time gift**

1. Choose Give Now
2. Click on the Plus sign in the yellow circle in the lower right hand corner
3. Fund = General Operating (this is already filled in)
4. Frequency = One Time (this is already filled in)
5. Enter the amount you wasn't to give
6. In upper right hand corner, click on arrow pointing to the right'
7. Follow the prompts on how you want to pay

### **For a recurring gift**

1. Choose Create Account (or sign in if you already have an account)
2. Follow the prompts
3. Sign In
4. Click on the Plus sign in the yellow circle in the lower right hand corner
5. Fund = General Operating (this is already filled in)
6. Follow the prompts

## **Home Computer Instructions to give via GivePlus**

Go to the church website at [bethstj.org](http://bethstj.org)

Go to the church you want to give to

Click on the GivePlus Button

Follow the prompts

If you need any help, contact Tami Schopp at 715-680-8119 or [tamischopp@protonmail.com](mailto:tamischopp@protonmail.com)