



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Is Church Attendance Part of the “New Normal”?

“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” (Romans 10:9-10)

It is a sign of our sinful nature that we are always looking for excuses not to go to church. There are the common excuses we all use, like I’m too tired, its too nice outside, I have a lot of things to get done... common excuses, yes, but not valid. The bigger problem is when we start to question the need to go to church at all. During this epidemic, it is far too easy to succumb to the temptation that church isn’t really necessary, as long as I believe in my heart. But that’s not something Jesus ever taught. That suggestion comes from our sinful nature and the evil one.

Being a member of a congregation is not like having a membership to the country club. It means to be united by a public confession of faith in the teachings (doctrines) of the apostolic church. That means gathering with the saints around the Means of Grace (Word and Sacraments) both to receive God’s gifts for us and to support and uplift one another. Key to belonging to a congregation is to put yourself under the care of a pastor, an undershepherd of Christ, who will teach you, pray for you, hear your confession and absolve your sins and bring you the gifts of God. St. Paul described the office of pastor like this: **“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”** (1 Cor 4:1) A pastor needs to know the members of his flock in order to serve them well. He is not a hired hand nor is he the CEO of a company. He is both a servant and a teacher, vocations aimed at others.

As members of a congregation, you are called to confess Christ before men, both through corporate worship and through evangelism. There is no such thing as a private Christian. You can’t have a football team with one member, nor an army with one soldier. Being a Christian is a team sport and that means coming together to bear one another’s burdens as well as sharing in the joys of life. We should know the members of our congregation like family, because in God’s eyes we are family. We are adopted children of God and thus, true siblings to each other.

We are living through unusual times, but this is not exactly uncharted territory. There have been many plagues in the past and will be again in the future. There have been natural disasters, wars and rebellions, and even *pleasant* distractions that lure us away from church. Each family has to do what they must for now, but we can never let the idea that *church isn’t necessary* become the “new normal”. We don’t have to go to church; We get to go to church. We get to gather together in the presence of the Triune God in the Divine Service, when heaven comes down and touches earth, to be enlivened by His gifts and bound together as one. All this we confess, each and every time we gather in His holy name.



Newsletter Notices

We ask that you submit you newsletter notices for September by Thursday, August 20th. The final print will be done on Monday, August 24, to print on Tuesday, so any late notices will not be added if submitted after the 20th.

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:
secretary@bethstj.org
Dual Parish Website:
www.Stjbeth.org



The mission Statement for Quilts of Valor is “To cover service members and veterans touched by War with comfort and healing Quilts of Valor.”

They are specifically made patriotic quilts dedicated to the service of veterans and given to them to show our gratitude.

Nationwide, there have been 250,000 quilts awarded and just recently started in our area.

This year, three individuals in our congregation have been selected.



Tami Schopp, Senior Airman, US Air Force. 1991-1997. Tami served in the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot AFB. There, she maintained security systems around the flight line and weapons storage areas.



Ron Hahn, Airman Second Class, US Air Force, 1962-1966. Ron served as a Nuclear Weapons Technician on the Reentry vehicle of the Titan II missiles housed in underground silos in Arizona.



Pastor Schopp, Captain , US Army, 1991-2013. Pastor Schopp served as a tank Mechanic at Ft Riley, a Combat Engineer in the ND, MN, AND Ak National Guard, and as an Infantry Officer in the MT and IN National Guard serving two Deployments in support of combat operation in Iraq



Support for Law Enforcement: Events over the past several weeks have been particularly difficult on our nation's police officers. They serve in an honorable vocation and the actions of some are affecting them all. We have reached out to our local police departments (Edgar PD, Stratford PD, Athens PD, Colby-Abbotsford PD) with letters of support and encouragement. We asked that the youth of both congregations draw pictures of police officers helping people and/or write letters of thanks. Adults, too, were encouraged to write letters thanking them for doing their jobs. Pastor delivered the packets with these letters to the police chiefs of the four departments in the last week of June.

Thank you from the Athens Police Department

Pastor Schopp,
I went through the letters and notes of appreciation and would like to sincerely thank you and your congregation for this thoughtful act. It was truly an uplifting experience that I will be sure to share with my officers. Please let your congregation know how nice it was for them to take the time to make a difference.

Respectfully,
Chief Aaron Stencil
Athens Police Department

Thank you from the Stratford Police Department

To the members of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church and Rev. Schopp,
Thank you so much for thinking about us and taking the time to send the kind notes! I shared them all with my officers and my family. I am very fortunate to be working in a community like Stratford and Marathon County

As I watch the terrible news unfold in our country and see what my brothers and sisters are going through in cities throughout, I pray hard for them. Men and women that choose to go into a career in law enforcement are very special people that truly want to help their communities. The way that law enforcement is being portrayed in our media today is not accurate. They lump us all together after witnessing the actions of a few officers. If they did that with certain groups of people, the media would be

called "racist", but since it is "just" police officers, it is okay and just in their minds.

We do understand our role in this. A few of our "bad apples" helped create this current situation. The good ones are staying on the job and will try to correct these negative perceptions. We will continue to serve our communities and help all that ask for it. We will strive for perfection, knowing full well we will never achieve it.

Our country has a strong history of going through bad times and coming out stronger on the other end. I can only pray that this is one of these times. Some want to erase our history. Why? So we forget our mistakes? In law enforcement, we learn from our mistakes and train so that we don't repeat them. That is our promise to you! To always serve you with honesty and integrity!

Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for thinking about us. May God bless you all.

Respectfully, Chief Timothy Miller
Stratford Police Department

Thank You from Edgar Police Department

Rev. Schopp and Parishioners,

I am writing to thank you for your kind words in the letters you and your parishioners provided the Police Department. It is support from people and organizations like you that make this job worthwhile during this era of policing. I cannot express enough the gratitude the police department has for your support. We at the police department strive to treat each individual with respect no matter what the situation may be. We are here to help in anyway possible and are always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to the best of our abilities.

If anyone ever has any questions or needs anything please feel free to reach out to the police department at the number listed above. (715-352-2964)

Sincerely,
Chief Tyler Geske
Edgar Police Department Badge #510

Agnus Day by James WetzsteinDay



Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

August 2

"Christ's Resurrection Makes Everything New"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann
August Archives

August 9

"Over The Darkness, God Hover"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer
August Archives

August 16

"A Wrong Comparison"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Wallace Schulz
August Archives

August 23

"Fear And Faith"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:
Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
August Archives

August 30

"It's Not Over 'till Jesus Says It's Over"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
August Archives

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 Website: lhm.org/covid-19/ Has special video messages of encouragement from Dr. Michael Zeigler. Messages of Faith and Hope in these difficult and confusing times.

Lutheran Missouri Synod Website Offers:

[Audio Bible](#) ~ [LCMS Media and Digital Tools](#) ~ [The Lutheran Church ...](#)

Type in <https://www.lcms.org/resources/multimedia/audio-bible>

Online Bibles. **Bible.is**. Read, **listen**, and see the **Bible** in 1,675 languages.

Other options from **Bible.is**:

Download free:

- **Audio Bible Apps**
- **Deaf Bible**
- **Listen to the Bible** through iTunes radio.
All from Faith Comes By Hearing.
Available for Apple or Android phones.

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.

August Birthdays

Bethlehem

Anderson, Parker
Freimund, Diane
Anderson, Colton
Gumz, DuWayne
McKee, Jason
Bender, Bayden
Buss, Chester
Venzke, Dennis
Schreiber, Bailey
Harder, Madilyn
Kunze, Tammy
Anderson, Haley
Geisking, Jeffrey
Ballerstein, Lynn
VanLuven, Amber
Sprotte, Wally

St. John

Anderson, Parker	8/6	VanDerLeest, Peter	8/4
Freimund, Diane	8/7	Wussow, Bruce	8/6
Anderson, Colton	8/6	Koepke, Tyler	8/7
Gumz, DuWayne	8/8	Koch, Cade	8/8
McKee, Jason	8/8	Schneider, Michael	8/8
Bender, Bayden	8/9	Schafer, Sandra	8/10
Buss, Chester	8/11	Umnus, Lois	8/10
Venzke, Dennis	8/15	Mielke, Jill	8/14
Schreiber, Bailey	8/16	VanHoy, Mark	8/14
Harder, Madilyn	8/23	Wussow, Marissa	8/14
Kunze, Tammy	8/23	Mueller, Ross	8/18
Anderson, Haley	8/25	Schneider, Chris	8/20
Geisking, Jeffrey	8/26	Murkowski, James	8/21
Ballerstein, Lynn	8/27	Noller, Lexie	8/22
VanLuven, Amber	8/29	Wussow, Derek	8/24
Sprotte, Wally	8/31	Schafer, Maryn	8/25
		Koch, Cale	8/27
		Diedrich, Phyllis	8/27
		Mroczenksi, Chloe	8/31

August Anniversaries

Bethlehem

Wallace & Dorothy Sprotte	8/3	53 yrs.
Robert & Kena Strack	8/5	14 yrs.
Cory, Amy Broeske	8/9	27 yrs.
DuWayne & Susan Gumz	8/16	40 yrs.
Jason & Tammi McKee	8/17	18 yrs.
Rueben & Loretta Schafer	8/27	1 5 yrs.

St. John

Pastor, Tami Schopp	8/5	25 yrs
James & Judy Ulrick	8/6	16 yrs
George & Char Murkowski	8/11	47 yrs.
Peter & Lisa Kroening	8/12	31 yrs
Derek & Crystal Wendtland	8/16	18 yrs
Peter & Patricia VanDerLeest	8/20	37 yrs
Paul & Holly Heise	8/24	24 yrs.
Ray, Samantha Yessa	8/24	1 yr
Greg & Linda Mueller	8/25	36 yrs
Troy & Kelly Wussow	8/29	33 yrs

All:

Mailing address for Paul Heise: If you would like to send letters of encouragement to Paul & Holly Heise (members of St. John) while Paul is at the seminary in Fort Wayne, you may send them to his mailbox at the seminary, which will remain the same for the next two years.

Paul Heise
Box #285
Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton St
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Sunday Morning Bible Studies: will start up again in September.

Pastor will be out of town Friday, August 12th until Wednesday, August 12 to attend their son's wedding.

NWD LWML Pie Social: LWML – North Wisconsin District fund raiser is moved to Aug. 7, at Dorchester corners. Brat fry with pie and ice cream. Carry outs only. Serving from 11 - 6. This is a District wide event.



"Contractors removed the old chimney from St. John as part of their job tuck-pointing the brick in early July."

Bethlehem

Taylor & Brentin Bender were blessed with a healthy baby girl, Treyslyn Phoebe, on Saturday, July 25.

St. John:

2020 VBS: Do to the Covid 19 Pandemic VBS is canceled for this year . We are checking with CPH for online options.

Parades: All parades are cancelled.