



## Message from Pastor

### The Glory of the LORD Has Been Revealed

*“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*

*A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” – Isaiah 40:1-5*

This reading from Isaiah is appointed for the Second Sunday in Advent and is one of several prophecies of the Christ given to Isaiah 600 years before He was born. During Isaiah’s day, Israel was in a shambles: The invading armies had conquered the kingdom of Judah and taken many people into captivity in Babylon, in what is today Iraq. Despite being warned by God to repent of their idolatry and wickedness, the Israelites continued to live as if God did not exist, as if He had not rescued their fathers and blessed their nation. Then came God’s judgement in the form of a foreign army. It looked hopeless. Their fortified cities had fallen, their armies routed, and even the Temple in Jerusalem was plundered, the holy things of God taken away. For both those who were led off as prisoners and those who remained, it seemed as if God had forgotten them completely, that they were forever cut off from His mercy and love.

But they were not. Amidst all of this, God provided the short-term promise that He would restore His nation and the long-term promise that He would send the Messiah to pardon the sins of all. This selection from Isaiah 40 is part of Handel’s *Messiah*, the magnificent work composed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century which is often played during Advent and Christmastide. It speaks of comfort for those who are afflicted, pardon and peace for those who seem far from either. The comfort is found in the sure promise of God to reveal Himself to mankind through His Anointed One who will bring forgiveness for our sins and gather up His lambs into His arms. The defeated and captive Israelites looked forward to the day when the glory of the LORD would be revealed to them, when they would behold Him with their own eyes.

That day has come to pass. In a year full of many trials, we must never lose sight of the fact that God did come in the flesh, that He has revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus. The promises given through Isaiah and the other prophets were fulfilled and we have received the blessings that the captives of Judah longed for: We have been reconciled to the Father and are blessed through His Son. God is not far off and He has not forgotten us. He continues to care for us, to tend to His sheep as the Good Shepherd, no matter what the world throws at us. Like the captivity in Babylon, our trials will not last forever. Rejoice in the fulfilled promises of our faithful God and take comfort, for the Messiah is and was and ever more shall be.



## December 2020

### 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:  
wwwStjbeth.org



## **November 10, 2020 Council Meeting**

The meeting began with Pastor Schopp leading with a prayer. Present were Jeff Werner, Cathy Schneider, Stephan Schneider, Ronda Durke, Kay Christiansen, Mike Thompson, Pastor Schopp and Sharon Niemann.

Stephan led the meeting in Doug's absence. Prior minutes had been approved by the council prior to being published in the monthly newsletter.

**Pastor's report** included the official acts of the funeral of Genevieve Bandle and transfers of Ray and Samantha Yessa to Bethlehem Lutheran/ Milan. Thanksgiving Service will be Sunday Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am, Deer Hunter Service is Wed. Nov. 18 at 7:30. Midweek Advent services will begin Wed, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at **7:30pm** and Christmas morning service will be on Friday, Dec. 25 at 10:30**am**.

Pastor announced that he was nominated to be circuit visitor and that will be decided at the Circuit Forum this coming Sunday.

**Elders report** was that they were ready to submit the list of inactive names for the special meeting called for Nov. 15 after services. They continue to study the Book of Concord.

Outreach committee is continuing to work on a church sign that can be seen from highway 97.

**Treasurers' report** was given –The October shortfall was \$2,488.41, which brings our year-to-date deficit to \$13, 275.00, this deficit is from internal borrowing from restricted funds. Past money owed to the pastor when he voluntarily gave up salary to help make us meet expenses has nearly been completely repaid. The option for e-giving is being used by more members and there are no charges when someone chooses uses **ACH direct giving** . Tami Schopp is our “go-to” technical person for help in getting set up on that program if it is your choice.

**Finance Committee** still needs two counters for 2021. Please consider this volunteer position.

**Trustees** have been working on the men's bathroom, car port flickering light and septic tank issues. The projector is ready to be used in the parish hall and windows will be winterized in that area.

All reports were approved.

### **Old Business:**

**After surveying the congregation, the Council decided to move the parish hall cross to the narthex by the handicap restroom.** Mike Thompson will supervise this. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

### **New Business:**

The sacristy update work needs a project manager. First of all, we need a project development that could be presented to the congregation. This could then be discussed. Added to, subtracted from, tweaked and decided if and when and how we want to do this. This person would get the bids, line up the work and keep the congregation informed as work is progressing. The goal is to make altar guild and their needs right off the chancel. Pastor could also get what is needed when he needs it. If anyone feels that they could take on this project; please see Pastor Schopp or Doug Brown.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectively Submitted, Sharon Niemann

# Liturgy Parts

LCMS Worship

## Kyrie

In this world of sin and death, Christians have plenty of opportunities to join in the brief, yet all-encompassing prayer of the Kyrie: “Lord, have mercy.”

All around us we see the results of hatred, envy, lust, and greed. Surely, the world is in need of God’s mercy. It’s no wonder that the church, in her worship, pleads before God on behalf of the whole world. It’s a prayer that no one else is going pray.

Yet, when we cry out, “Lord, have mercy,” there is confidence in our voices because we know that God is indeed merciful. He desires to bring relief to the suffering that is all around us.

Our prayer may not always bring an immediate response — at least, not the response that we are seeking — but even then, we commend ourselves and the whole world to a merciful God.

Like the confession of sins, however, our cry for mercy will be silenced in heaven. There we will see the results of God’s mercy, as before the throne and in front of the Lamb will stand all the redeemed — not one of them worthy of the honor.

## Hymn of Praise

On the night of Jesus’ birth, the angels let loose their earth-shattering song of praise: “Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

On that specific occasion, their praise gave utterance to the good news that the Son of God had come in the flesh. Heaven had come down to earth! And ever since, the Church has continued to rejoice in this miracle of our salvation.

The opening words of the Gloria in Excelsis are followed by a hymn of praise to the Triune God. One can imagine the faithful singing these words in heaven: “We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.”

Our focus is on the incarnate Son of God, the only-begotten Son, the Lamb of God, and only Son of the Father. And if that isn’t enough to name this One who is the object of our worship and praise, twice we sing, “you take away the sin of the world.”

There it is, the heart and substance of the Christian faith. In heaven we will be gathered around the throne and the Lamb, confessing that He alone is holy, He alone is the Lord.

In more recent times, the Lutheran Church in North America has made a significant contribution to the church’s liturgy through the alternate Hymn of Praise, “This is the Feast.”

Drawing directly from the description of heaven in the Revelation to St. John, our voices are joined to that heavenly throng as we sing with them:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12)

## Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

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



**BIBLE PASSAGE** — When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. — *The Name of Jesus*

## Bethlehem

### Birthdays

Kilty, Sutton	12/02
McKee, Tammi	12/06
Geisking, Louise	12/09
Denzine, Kurt	12/10
Schwarting, Justin	12/12
Kunze, Rosie	12/13
Kirchner, Elizabeth	12/14
Bernt, Joshua	12/16
Neumann, Megan	12/17
Neumann, Marilee	12/18
Geisking, Justin	12/28
Thomas, Janessa	12/28
Woodward, Denney	12/29
Kirchner, Galen	12/30

### Anniversaries

Clarence & Arlette Molthen	12/2
Matthew & Janessa Thomas	12/15
Randy & Sandra Reynolds	12/23



## St. John

### Birthdays

Myszka, Samantha	12/01
Myszka, Valerie	12/01
Schneider, Stephan	12/01
Telschow, Audrey	12/01
Ulrick, James	12/02
Durkee Jr., James	12/04
Noller, Delayna	12/05
Koepke, Emma	12/08
Syring, Amanda	12/09
Rodman, Raegene	12/11
Hamann, Theodora	12/15
Heise, Holly	12/14
Myszka, Victoria	12/20
Niemann, Karissa	12/20

### Anniversaries

Albert & Miriam Wolff	12/12
Ryan & Samantha VanDerLeest	12/15
Stephan & Catherine Schneider	12/26



**Bethlehem's New Storage Shed:** The new shed will house their lawn mower, picnic tables, parade trailer, etc. All these items were stored at many different locations. This building will enable Bethlehem to have all these items on site.

**Bethlehem Soup Sale:** Accepting take-out orders only. The Soup Sale will be on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. featuring Chicken Dumpling, Chili, and Cheesy Broccoli, Cauliflower. Cost \$7.00 a Quart. **You must pre order.** Orders may be placed with Dorean Freimund @ 715-680-0078 from Tuesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be sign- up sheets at both churches to order if you prefer and you can pick up your soup on Friday, after 2pm or Saturday, Dec.12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6pm.

**Bethlehem members:** Would you like to be added to the Lutheran Witness mailing list? This is at no charge to you. If you would like to receive, please put your name and address in Lucy's mailbox by Dec.10<sup>th</sup>. Thanks Lucy Geisking.

**Bethlehem Christmas Poinsettias:** There are sign up sheets in the narthex for anyone who would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in celebration of the Christmas season. The cost is \$10.00 each. The last day to order will be December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks payable to Abbotsford School District and give your check to Marlene Schreiber.

**Bethlehem - Elected Officers** will be installed on Sunday, December 20.

President - Phil Carlson  
Secretary - Marya Viegut  
Treasurer - Bart Schreiber  
Financial Secretary - Tammi McKee  
Board of Elders - Aaron Totzke  
Scott Parker  
Phil Kunze  
Trustees - Kevin Kosik  
Jason McKee  
Joshua Bernt  
Board of Education - Tayler Bender  
Cheyanne Kilty  
Jane Becker  
Brittany Schreiber  
Outreach - Marlene Schreiber  
Amy Broeske  
Michelle Schwarting





**St. John New Mission Project:** St. John Sunday School, along with the Lutheran Laymen’s League, will begin using a vacant Sunday School room as a packing station for school kits.

Plans are to start this as soon as we can order the school bags/back packs. A Thrivent Action Team will also be assisting with this project.

We will also be able to send gently used school supplies to the schools in the United States. As you go about your Advent/Christmas cleaning check this list and bring your new or used items to the box in the church hallway entrance.

The list of school supplies needed are:

- Pencils, pens, rulers, crayons, washable markers, color pencils, spiral notebooks-wide rule, construction paper, erasers, folders, glue bottles, glue sticks, protractors and backpacks. Remember gently used supplies are welcome.
- Notebooks can have a few pages, plain pens and pencils please.

**St. John LWML Rally:** was held October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Rescheduled from Spring.

Some Missions supported that Day were:

- “Twiddle Muffs” for Bethesda Lutheran Communities.
- Hannah Center, Marshfield - paper products, deterrent etc. plus cash donations.
- 29 Quilts to a church on Cedar Rapids, Iowa “Derecho” storm aftermath.
- “Mites” remitted to NW District LWML were \$ 212.00
- Our LWML Sunday , October 11<sup>th</sup> Mite collection was \$144.74.

**St. John - Elected Officers** will be installed on Sunday, December 20.

- President - Douglas Brown
- Elders - Peter VanDerLeest  
Lloyd Schultz  
Aaron Niemann  
Roger Ballerstein  
Steve Schneider
- Treasurer - Kay Christiansen
- Secretary - Sharon Niemann
- Trustee - Mike Thompson  
Ryan VanDerLeest  
Anna Koepke
- Financial Secretary - Jeff Werner
- Board of Education - Ronda Durkee  
Elizabeth Marshall  
Traci Pehlke
- Outreach - Mel Niemann, Doris Scherr  
Cathy Schneider



**St. John LWML:** There will be no LWML meeting in December or Church Christmas party. We encourage everyone to attend the Advent Services and use this as your celebration for December.

**Christmas Cards.** The LWML has new Christmas cards available this year. Be sure to check out the new selection. Reasonable prices that all have a scripture message.

**St. John Christmas Poinsettias:** There are sign up sheets in the narthex for anyone who would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in celebration of the Christmas season. The cost is \$10.00 each. The last day to order will be December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks payable to Abbotsford School District and give your check to Sharon Ballerstein.

**LWR Quilts** - In October we reported that containers of quilts were blown up in a Beirut harbor.

A follow up on this story - Rising from the ashes : an update on quilts and kits caught in the Beirut explosion.

The news evolving out of Beirut following the deadly explosion of August 4<sup>th</sup> has had many of our heads whirling in the last couple of months. As many of you know, three containers of quilts and kits were in the port awaiting customs clearance on the day of the blast. On the morning of August 26<sup>th</sup>, we received an urgent update from our partner, Anera: they had ben given access to the port, and against all odds, the containers were intact!! Following this incredible news, LWR staff held their breath until the quilts and kits could be assessed for damage.

Finally, we learned on September 22<sup>nd</sup> that despite the magnitude of the blast, the seal of the containers containing the LWR Mission Quilts and Kits was not broken. The placement in the port, inside a concrete storage building and surrounded by other shipping containers’ protected the containers enough to prevent chemical contamination.

We give thanks to God that the love of hundreds of Lutheran congregations contained in this shipment will be able to be shared with more than 24,000 of our neighbors in Beirut and across the country of Lebanon - Many refugees from across the region, and now also those affected by the blast in the heart of Beirut. From the ashes of this crisis rises a beautiful ray of hope; your love, intact and powerful, in just the right place, at just the right time.

## What is the Helping Hands Fund?



Newer members of St. John might not be aware that there is an emergency fund available to help both members and non-members with various needs. Funding comes from both a line item in the budget and from specific contributions from members. In the past the Helping Hands Fund has helped purchase medications, pay for clothing for someone to start a new job, helped when appliances died and other human care needs. We do not disclose the names of those we help and there is no paper trail. If you know someone who needs assistance with paying a bill or has other critical needs, you can talk directly to Pastor Schopp, the Head Elder Steve Schneider, or Head of the Altar Guild Caroline Hahn. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please annotate "Helping Hands Fund" on the check or envelope.

## Christmastide & Epiphany Food Drive



We all know that it has been a tough year and many people have lost their jobs as a result of lockdowns and COVID-19. While food pantries tend to do okay in December, by January many of them are empty. St. John will be collecting food through the month of December and early January to help restock the food pantries in Athens, Stratford and Edgar. We are looking for shelf-stable food, hygiene products, paper products, etc. Look for the donation box in the narthex.

## Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Services



Both congregations will have a candlelight service on Christmas Eve featuring singing by the Sunday School children. The service at St. John will be at 6:30pm and the service at Bethlehem will be at 8:30pm. On Christmas morning we will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord at the normal worship times of 8:00am at Bethlehem and 10:30am at St. John.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Season of giving

Saturday  
January

# 2

9 AM – 1 PM


Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy meal  
and drink plenty of water before  
donating.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**119415 Huckleberry Rd. Edgar**

The SARS COV-2 antibody test, AKA COVID-19 Antibody Test (CAT), will be performed on all blood donations as part of our standard testing.

PROMOTION:  
Everyone who signs in to donate receives  
a \$10 e-gift card.

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED:  
Call 877-232-4376 or visit <https://bit.ly/StJohns121>  
Or call Cathy Schneider at 715-687-3227



## Winter Hat and Scarves Mission:

Thank you to all who participated in making hats and scarves Cathy Schneider, Marge Streit, Anna Koepke, and Tami Schopp, and to Linda and Greg Mueller who supplied us with a Thrivent Card for the yarn. We sent out 116 items to the Open Door to hand out to anyone in need. Thank you to all.  
Sharon Ballerstein





# Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

## December 6

### "Seek My Face"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We sometimes hear the voice before we see the face that goes with it. Seek God's face where you hear God's Word. (Daniel)

## December 13

### "The Prophet's Paradox "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends.

(Daniel: 10, 11 and 12)

## December 20

### "Experience God "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ.

(John 1:1-18)

## December 27

### "Welcome to the Family!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

The book of Galatians gives us a glimpse inside the family of God. It describes the Christian family as one that stands firm in Christ's freedom, walks united in the Spirit, and bears one another's burdens in love.

(Galatians 4:4-7)

## Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcasts

Lutheran Hour Ministries - God has called all lay-people 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!

## 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.

### Station City, State Freq. Day Time

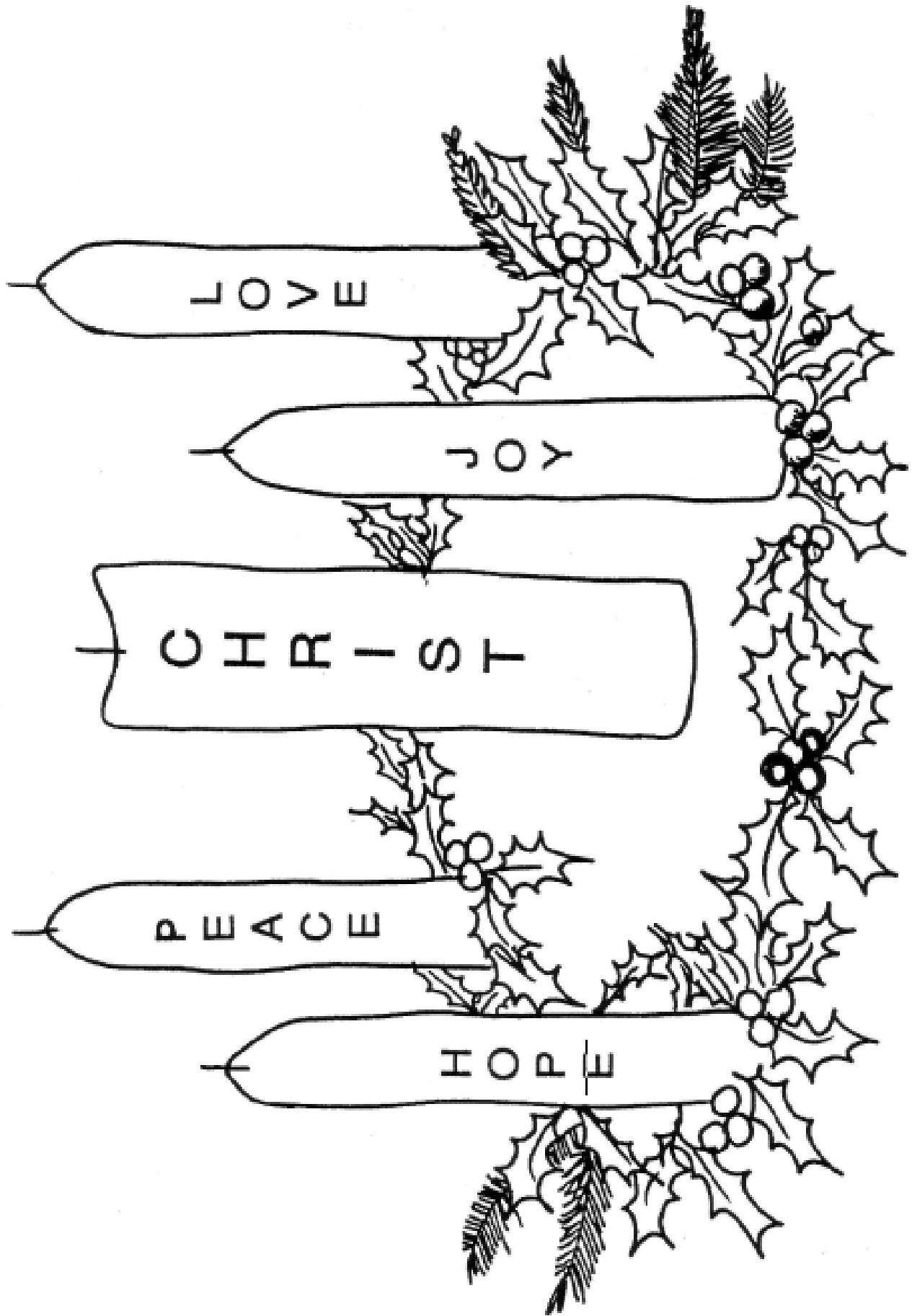
WDLB	Marshfield, WI	1450 AM	Sun	8:00am
WRVM	Marshfield, WI	91.3 FM	Sun	10:00am
WRVM	Medford, WI	98.7 FM	Sun	10:00am
WRVM	Wausau, WI	101.3 FM	Sun	10:00am
WSAU	Wausau, WI	550 AM	Sun	8:30am
WSAU	Wausau, WI	99.9 FM	Sun	8:30am
WAXX	Altoona, WI	104.5 FM	Sun	6:30am

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. 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.





**Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches**  
**119415 Huckleberry Road**  
**Edgar, Wisconsin 54426**



*Where  
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