

Message from Pastor

I was installed as the pastor of Bethlehem and St. John Ev. Lutheran Churches on June 9, 2019 after a vacancy of eight months. In an effort to shore up the banks of our Lutheran confessions and practice, several changes were implemented over the course of 2019. These include, but are not limited to:

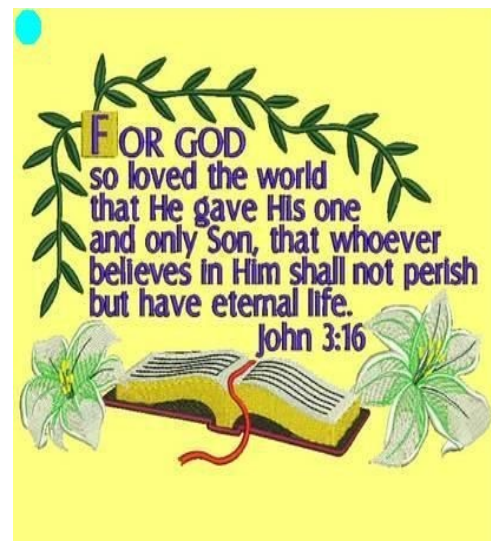
1. Committing to visiting all of the shut-ins each month.
2. Scheduling an adult education class called "Christian Foundations" to be held once a year at each church. The first was held at Bethlehem from Sept – Dec 2019 and the next will be held at St. John beginning Feb 13.
3. Restarting the Confirmation Class after the hiatus, with a renewed emphasis on memory work and individual readiness and less on specific timetables.
4. Introducing several orders of worship from the Lutheran Service Book which had either not been used in some years or had never been introduced.
5. Introducing a Dual Parish Reformation Celebration, to alternate between the two congregations each October. The first was held at St. John on Oct 27, 2019 and attendance was 48 (with members of both congregations).
6. Encouraging Council members to use Church 360 in the course of their official duties.
7. Introducing a study of the Book of Concord to the monthly Elders Meeting.
8. Introducing e-giving at both congregations
9. Introducing weekly communion with the beginning of Advent, Dec. 1, 2019.

The Elders and I have been working since last summer to identify delinquent members and encourage them to either return to church or transfer to their nearest LCMS congregation if they have moved. Keeping the membership roles up to date is not only a matter of honesty, but it is necessary since lapsed members can prevent a quorum from being reached during important decisions by the Voters' Assembly. Many of these have not been in church for several years.

The Elders and I will continue to address this situation over the coming months. Understand that the goal is always to bring about repentance and bring all to Christ. We want all members to be in church, where God pours out His gifts through the Means of Grace. But allowing people who refuse to come to church, who refuse to gather with their fellow Christians, who despise preaching and God's Word, to remain on the membership role is dishonest. Worse than that, it gives a poor witness to God's Word. Even if someone is removed from membership, they are always welcome to return. "As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live". (Ezekiel 33:11)

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February 2020



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

233500 County Road E

Milan, Wisconsin 54411

Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Chad Schopp

Pastors Office Hours @ BETH. Tues. 9am-5pm

Pastors Cell: 715-680-8117

Pastors Email: cschopp@protonmail.com

St. John "High Steeple" Lutheran Church

119415 Huckleberry Road

Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.

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

Dual Parish Email: secreary@bethstj.org

Dual Parish Website: www.bethstj.org

Traci Pehlke: webmaster@bethstj.org

Looking forward, I have invited our high school aged youth to attend the Higher Things conference in Grand Rapids this coming July. Higher Things is an organization run by confessional Lutheran pastors to teach and encourage our youth to “Dare to Be Lutheran”. There are four conferences each year, with two usually held in the Midwest. I have taught at a Higher Things conference in the past and will do so again in the future. Please consider encouraging your own children and grandchildren to attend.

Giving this year has been sporadic, which is one of the reasons for implementing e-giving. It will not be mandatory, just one of the ways in which you can give. You can set it up to give twice a month (or whatever frequency you choose) and it will be done automatically, even if you are on vacation or forget your checkbook. I encourage you all to examine your own giving. The examples we have from Scripture are instructive: The Hebrews were required to tithe (that is, give 10%) for the maintenance of the tabernacle and the support of the priesthood. The New Testament witness is that some Christians sold all they had and gave it to the church (Acts 4:32-37). Since we have been given greater gifts than the Hebrews through our Baptism, it is fitting that we should respond to God’s grace in a manner greater than them. For Christians, 10% is not the maximum but the starting point for giving. If you don’t think you can give 10% this year, start with a lower amount, then increase it each year by 1%. As you give more each year, you will find that you are not struggling to make ends meet, but in fact

don’t even miss it. This was my own experience when I first started tithing years ago. I urge you to reexamine your priorities and prayerfully consider giving regularly and proportionally to support the church. We should not be motivated by fear, for God provides all good things to His children. As St. Paul wrote, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7) We are to trust in His promises, confident that He will continue to pour out His blessings upon us.

My family has been warmly welcomed to Wisconsin and it has been a joy to serve you these past eight months. My vocabulary has been expanded (flowage, stop-and-go light, Chequamegon, popple) and we are discovering the joys and nuances of cheese and sausage. As we continue to walk together let us remember the letter to the Hebrews:

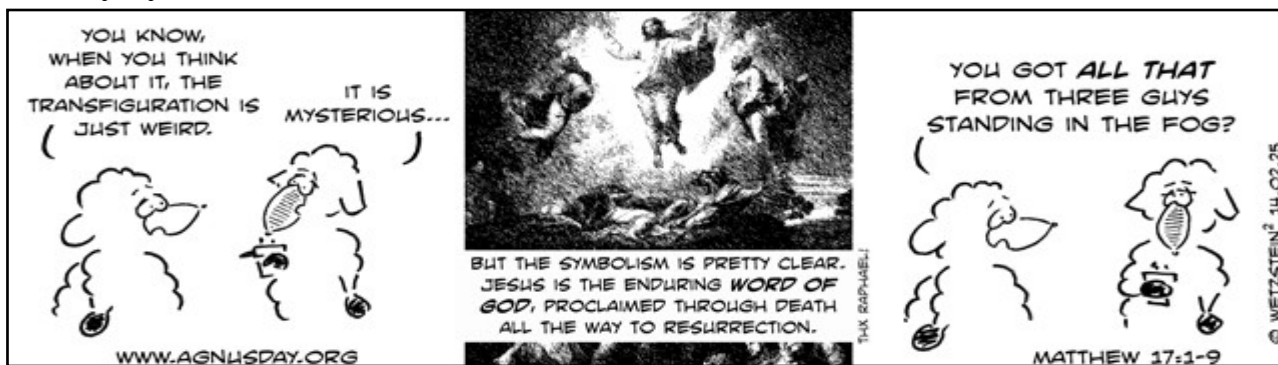
“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Schopp

Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

Matthew 17:1-9



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

BIBLE PASSAGE — Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
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Spencer, Wisconsin 54479
715-659-4006
trinity.spencer.wi@gmail.com

January 8, 2020

Dear Pastor and Church Council:

For many years the fund started back in 1988 by Trinity to sponsor the Sunday broadcasts of the Lutheran Hour over Marshfield station WDLB 1450AM at 8:00am held steady. We had many people who would annually sponsor a broadcast, so the fund itself did not need to be used very much. As the years have gone by, these faithful sponsors have gone on to their reward and there have not been enough others to replace them.

We are asking if your congregants would like to help with this worthwhile mission. I am sure that your congregation has members who listen to the broadcasts every Sunday, as well as others in the area who are receiving the message of salvation through Christ, many of whom are in nursing homes and other shut-ins.

We have 22 dates that are not taken yet for 2020. The cost for a Sunday broadcast is currently \$94.00, which has not changed since 2005. Your members can call Trinity, Spencer at 715-659-4006 to request a date. Sponsorships can be made in memory of a loved one's birthdate or date of being called to their eternal home, for a wedding anniversary or a birthday, for blessings received, or for no reason at all, and may also be split between 2 sponsors for different reasons. Sponsors receive credit mention at the open and close of the broadcast.

We will also take undesignated gifts in any amount. If you could find it in your hearts and your budgets to send a donation, we can continue the broadcasts and re-build the fund. Remember the fund also when you work on your budgets in the coming year(s).

Please pray for the continuation of this mission and remind the people in your congregations of this chance to help spread the Word of God to others.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

May the Lord bless you always,

Bonnie Beyreis
Lutheran Hour Coordinator



The Church of the Lutheran Hour

The council and the voters of St. John Lutheran Church and Bethlehem have approved sponsoring a Sunday and if any family would like to help we encourage you to do so.

For All

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

Lenten Services Schedule:

St. John Lenten Services will be at 1:30pm
Bethlehem Lenten Services will be at 7:30pm
Ash Wednesday February, 26.
Week 2: Wednesday, March 4
Week 3: Wednesday, March 11
Week 4: Wednesday, March 18
Week 5: Wednesday, March 26
Week 6: Wednesday, April 1
Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, March 9
 Good Friday, March 10
Easter Sunday Services are
Bethlehem 8:00am
Easter Breakfast at St. John 8 to 10am
St. John 10:30am

Christian Foundations Class: Pastor Schopp will be teaching a 10 week class on the basics of the Christian faith at St. John starting Thursday, February 13 at 6:00pm to 7:30pm and ending April 16. We encourage you to take an invitation from the narthex to share with a friend, co-worker or family member who does not have a church home. Members are also welcome to attend if they desire a refresher and could even attend *with a friend* to help them feel at ease. Please RSVP with Pastor Schopp (cschopp@protonmail.com) or Sharon Ballerstein (secretary@bethstj.org) so we can ensure we have enough materials on hand.

Confirmation: The following students were confirmed Sunday, January 26 after receiving instruction in the Christian faith and the doctrines of the Lutheran Church and being examined by Pastor Schopp:

Ashton Hammel (Bethlehem)
Lillian Pehlke (St. John)
Ethan Telschow (St. John)
Natalie Thompson (St. John)

Let us remember the confirmands in our prayers and encourage them to grow in the faith through regular worship and continued study of God's Word

Bethlehem

On Saturday, Feb. 8, Bethlehem will host a family game night, with a potluck to be served at 5:30pm. The Outreach will provide the main entree, we ask that you bring a dish to share. After the potluck, we have games starting from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. These are "Germany-style" board games, intended for ages 10 and up. We will also have games available 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.

St. John

Mission trip opportunity: August 11-14, 2020 to Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Neb. and Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. See the LWML **Mission Tidings** available on NWD LWML website nwdlwml.org or find a copy with any LWML member or extras are on the table in the hall entrance way of the Sanctuary.

Future Events

Free Blood Pressure Screening: Held monthly every 2nd Monday of the month from 9-11am at Starks Floral in Edgar. No registration necessary. Education support provided by a registered nurse.

Bethlehem and St. John Thrift Sales will be coming up in April and May. You are asked not to bring your treasures until after Easter. The first sale will be with Rummaging around Stratford April 30 to May 2. Then Edgar Sales May 14-16.

Steam Show Volunteers: As you plan for your summer vacations or trips keep in mind that we will once again be needing volunteers to work the Steam Show August 28 to the 30.

February Service Schedule

February Birthdays

Bethlehem

Strack, Robert	2/3
Kosik, Kevin	2/9
Penk, Jill	2/12
Venzke, Rick	2/12
Bender, Braison	2/15
Mulderink, Keith	2/17
Schumacher, Paxton	2/17
Venzke, Brian	2/17
Bernt, Graecyn	2/18
Schmidt, Olivia	2/18
Denzine, Shawn	2/19
Schwarting, Delbert	2/20
Venzke, Wanda	2/20
Barkow, Janna	2/26
Strack, Kena	2/28

St. John

Martens, Virgene	2/1
Krenz, Julie	2/2
Miessner, Selma	2/2
Syring, Arabella	2/4
Thompson, Cassidy	2/5
Punke, Andrew	2/6
Reis, Jared	2/8
Mueller, Greg	2/9
VanDerLeest, Kelsey	2/11
Syring, Randall	2/12
Murkowski, Char	2/16
Werner, Eunice	2/20
Schneider, Catherine	2/21
Mueller, Hannah	2/23
Wendtland, Dakota	2/26
Wolff, Miriam	2/28

February Anniversaries

Bethlehem

Larry & Linda Cooper Jr.	2/7
Kevin & Beth Kosik	2/14
Daniel & Jane Becker	2/17

St. John

Dan, Sue Gehrke	2/1
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Bethlehem

Greeters

2/2	Keven, Beth Kosik
2/9	Tom, Cindy Graun
2/16	Richard, Lois Niemi
2/23	Wally, Dorothy Sprotte
2/26	Ash Wed. Volunteer

Elders

2/2	Aaron Totzke
2/9	Scott Parker
2/16	Del Schwarting
2/23	Aaron Totzke
2/26	Ash Wed. Scott Parker

Acolytes

2/2	Aaron Gumz
2/9	Braiden Johnson
2/16	Megan Kosik
2/23	Ashton Hammel
2/26	Elder

Techs

2/2	Luke Carlson
2/9	Olivia Hammel
2/16	Randy Reynolds
2/23	Brenda Weiler
2/26	Ashton Hammel

St. John

Greeters

2/2	Phyllis Diedrich, Martha Rodman
2/9	Ron, Carolyn Hahn
2/16	Paul, Holly Heise
2/23	Volunteer
2/26	Ash Wed. Volunteer

Elder

Dean Pehlke

Acolytes

2/2	Ethan Telschow
2/9	Natalie Thompson
2/16	Nicolaus Pehlke
2/23	Micah Schulz
2/26	Elder

Ushers

2/2	Paul Heise, Carrie Callies
2/9	Paul Heise, Bud Mortvedt
2/16	Paul Heise, Jared Reis
2/23	Paul Heise, Dennis Punke
2/26	Volunteer



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

February 2

"Gold Without Glitter"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Without the fire of the refiner's forge, there can be no glittering gold. And so it is with us. You are more precious to God than gold. But, like gold, you and I need refining.
(Genesis 42)

February 9

"Break Through the No-Go Zone"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Sometimes, the difference between then and now, between what used to be and

what is, comes in a single moment, a defining act. We call that a breakthrough.
(Genesis 43-45)

February 16

"Families and Joseph's Tears"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasy
(Genesis 50:15-26)

February 23

"Know-How"

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 or download the free App @ LHM.ORG/APPS

