

The Dual-Parish Review



Message from Pastor

January 2020

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New Church Policy: Only Sinners Welcome!

Okay, so the title above is a little misleading. This is not a new policy at all. It is what the Church has always been about, since our Lord first walked the dusty roads of Israel and called a bunch of ordinary men – sinners all – to follow and serve Him. What has changed is how American pop-Christianity understands sin.

There are two main errors permeating Christian churches in this country. The first is found in the Mainline churches, those that often make the news for their “progressives” views. They teach that sin is not a problem, that what God outlines for us in His revealed Word is nothing more than ancient prejudices. In these churches, the only sins are those against political correctness, against the whims of society. They are built on shifting sand. As St. Paul wrote, **“If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”** (Galatians 1:9-10)

The other error is found among ostensibly Bible-believing Christians. This error is that now that they have been saved, they are no longer sinners. This may sound far-fetched, but I know this from first hand experience. My wife and I were not raised Lutheran. We were married in a Baptist church. I heard not only from the members but from the pastor himself that they were no longer sinners. How could they believe this? Through self-delusion. The doctrine at work there is often called Once Saved-Always Saved (OSAS) and it teaches that if you fall from grace – if you ever sin – it means you were never elect in the first place and cannot be saved. So they whistle past the graveyard, pretending they are all sinless. But God’s Word says differently: **“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”** (1 John 1:8)

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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 LCMS”

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



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Message from Pastor - continued from page 1

Scripture is very clear about our standing before God: We are born enemies of God. We do not love Him nor do we seek to please Him. We flee from Him and defy Him at every turn. And yet, as a loving father with a rebellious teenager, He is patient and continually tries to bring us back to Him.

“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Romans 5:10-11)

Sinners are not only welcome in church, there is literally no other type of person in church. Church-goers are not “better people” by virtue of going to church; we are simply honest about who we are. We come to church not to prove anything to God, but to receive His gifts, the most important being forgiveness. In Christ we are daily renewed so that not only are we sinners, we are also saints, made holy by the atonement of Christ. There is no sin too great for Him, no stain that cannot be washed out by His blood. Come, sinners. Come hear what God really thinks of you. He thinks you are worth His only-begotten Son.

Safely Back in Prague

Cindy Zirbel Wrucke

I returned to Prague the latter half of November and have been quickly readjusting to life in the mission field. As I look back at my home service, I am grateful for the opportunity to visit with so many of you. You welcomed me warmly and shared my passion for reaching the Czechs with the Gospel. You promised to support me with prayers and financial gifts, and I am so grateful for your support. As my time went on in the states, more presentations were added to an already full schedule. I sincerely apologize

if I was unable to personally visit with you or your church during this trip. I plan to be back for another home service within the next three years and will do my best to honor your invitations. Thanks again for your tremendous support and walking with me on this mission journey!

This month, we remember the angel sharing the good news with the shepherds: “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’” Luke 2:10-11 (ESV) -

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term

or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

To support the LCMS through the work of Cindy Zirbel Wrucke, you may send a tax deductible gift and make checks payable to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mark checks “Wrucke-Czech Republic Support.”

Or, you can make checks payable and send to: Mission Central 40718 Highway E16 Mapleton, IA 51034-7105 Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/wrucke.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: • Fluency in the Czech language. • Strong leadership in the Czech Lutheran church in Prague, the ECAVvCR. • The Czechs to know about the real baby Jesus, born to be their Savior.

GIVE THANKS FOR: • Safe travels back to Prague. • New Together In Mission (TIM) congregations, St. John, Pickerel, WI and Shepherd of the Hills, Onalaska, WI. • All of the individual donors who support the mission work in the Czech Republic.

PRAISE GOD FOR: • The birth of our Savior,

Bethlehem

Unto Us a Child is Born !

Thank you to everyone who donated Poinsettias this Christmas Season, the church is Beautiful. God's Blessings in 2020, Marlene

	Loved Ones
Verlyn, Judy Wittlinger	Loved Ones
Galen, Marlene Schreiber	Loved Ones
Joanne Luther	Loved Ones
Ed, Brenda Schmidt, family	Loved Ones
Darlene Wittlinger	Loved Ones
Russ, Shirley Buss	Loved Ones
Joshua, Jill Penk, family	Loved Ones'
Richard, Lois Niemi	Loved Ones
Adam, Marya Viegut	Loved Ones
Shane, Patti Hammel, family	Loved Ones
Virgil, Brigitte Underwood	Loved Ones
Clarence, Arlette Molthen	Friends
C.W.I.A.	Celebration
Ladies Aid	Celebration
Randy, Sandy Reynolds	Wedding Anniversary
Del, Michelle Schwarting	
Alan, Lori Schmitt	
Danny, Dorean Freimund	
Dave, Kathy Singstock	In Honor of Joanne Luther
Dave, Kathy Singstock	In Honor of Ed, Brenda Schmidt

Bethlehem Newly Elected Officers:

Elder -	Aaron Totzke
Trustee -	Jason McKee Joshua Bernt
Board of Ed -	Taylor Bernt Cheyanne Kilty Jane Becker
Outreach -	Amy Broeske

St. John

Volunteers to Shovel: The Church Council is looking for volunteers to do some cleanup shoveling on Sunday mornings, by the entrances, car port, cemetery entrance by the parish hall, etc. If you would be willing to help contact a Trustee, Mike Thompson, or Pete VanDerLeest.

LWML Updates: Giving Tuesday was an amazing success. This was a National Mite effort to donate toward mites on or before December 3rd and the first \$20,00 would be matched. The donations totaled \$37,720 and with the match came to \$57,720.

Also, more grants were paid on the National level. The Lutheran Bible Translators were paid \$97,00 and Down Town Lincoln, Neb. Received \$50,000 for their outreach program. To follow more on the work of

the LWML just check in at www.lwml.org/mission or pick up their quarterly magazine complete with devotions and news around the country and our own district.

Our local group meets next for devotions and fellowship at 1:30pm January, 9th in the all purpose room at St. John. Please come and join us.

Newly Elected Officers:

St. John's Newly Elected Church Officers for 2020-2022 are as follows -

2 Elders: Lloyd Schultz, Peter VanDerLeest,
Board of Education - Traci Pehlke

Trustee - Ryan VanDerLeest

Outreach - Cathy Schneider

Treasurer - Kay Christiansen

Recording Secretary - Sharon Niemann

They will be installed on Sunday, January 5th

Poinsettias Donated: Unto Us a Child is Born !

Thank all who donated Poinsettias.

God's Blessings this Christmas Season

Paul Reinhart: In Memory of Joann

Mel, Sharon Niemann: In Celebration

Mae Morien

Roger, Sharon Ballerstein: Celebration

Arabella Syring: In Memory of Rueben Syring

Ladies Aid In Celebration

Greta Marshall: In Memory of Larry Marshall

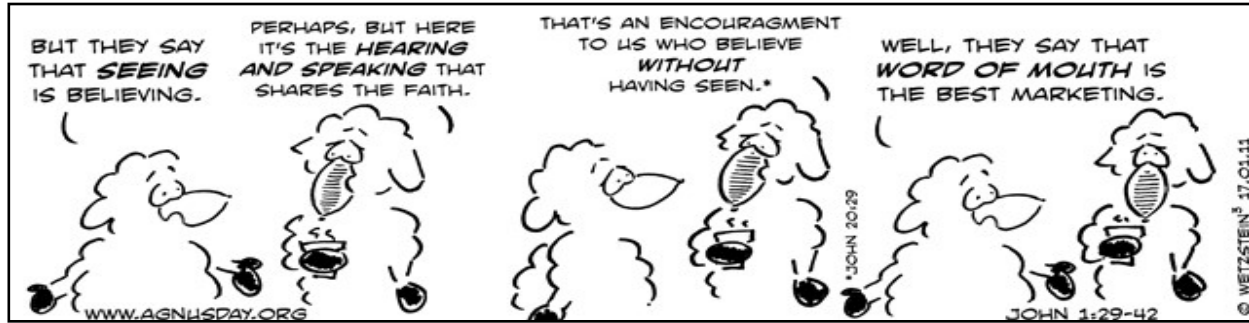
For All

Newsletter Delivery Options: We are looking at cutting the cost for mailing newsletters. If you are presently getting your newsletter mailed to you, but are coming to church regularly please consider picking up your newsletter in your church mailbox. Or if you have an email we could send it to please contact the office.

Quilting: The Bethlehem- St. John Quilters will start on Tuesday Jan. 7th, 2020 at St. John in the Fireplace Room. 9 to noon. We gather to put quilts together for LWR, OGT, and many other places where comfort, warmth and love are needed. As we stitch we are blessed to give thanks!! Call Janice Brown 715-352-3056 or Joanne Luther 715-223-3410.

Local Events

Free Blood Pressure Screening: Held monthly every 2nd Monday of the month from 9-11am at Starks Floral in Edgar, starting Monday, January 13, 2020. No registration necessary. Education support provided by a registered nurse.



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

BIBLE PASSAGE — The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

January 5
"Mercy In This Dojo"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 New Series
 (Genesis 37)

January 19
"Unforgettable"
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy
 New Series
 (Genesis 40:1-23)

January 12
"People are Treasure"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 New Series (Genesis 39)

January 26
"TBD"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 New Series

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





January Birthdays

Bethlehem

Clausen, Paul	1/2
Hammel, Patricia	1/7
Anderson, Keagan	1/8
Molthen, Arlette	1/10
Underwood, Virgil	1/11
Carlson, Luke	1/14
Graun, Thomas	1/14
Kilty, Braxton	1/19
Carlson, Philip	1/21
Marier, Melody	1/21
Reynolds, Randy	1/22
Denzine, Bryan	1/23
Kosik, Isaac	1/24
Freimund, Dorean	1/25
Schmidt, Luke	1/28
Ebben, Leta	1/29
Venzke, Thomas	1/29
Hammel, Olivia	1/30
Kilty, Troy	1/31
Venzke, Brandon	1/31

St. John

Koch, James	1/4
Wussow, Jennifer	1/5
Yessa, Raymond	1/5
Schultz, Mary	1/7
Karl, Julie	1/11
Krebsbach, June	1/13
Karl, Dale	1/16
Marshall, Elizabeth	1/16
Yessa, Kelly	1/17
Schafer, Matthew	1/19
Brown, Douglas	1/22
Yessa, John	1/22
Koch, Cole	1/24
VanDerLeest, Sam	1/25
Heise, Paul	1/29
Mortvedt, Bud	1/30



January Anniversaries

Bethlehem

Bruce & Jolene Gumz 1/12

St. John



January Service Schedule

Bethlehem

Greeters

1/5	Troy, Cheyanne Kilty
1/12	Jason, Tammi McKee
1/19	Bruce, Jolene Gumz
1/26	Clarence, Arlette Molthen

Elders

1/5	Del Schwarting
1/12	Aaron Totzke
1/19	Scott Parker
1/26	Del Schwarting

St. John

Greeters

1/5	Doug Brown, Dennis Punke
1/12	Nadine, Carrie Callies
1/19	Kay Christiansen, Ronda, Isabelle Durkee
1/26	Roger, Sharon Ballerstein

Elder

Steve Schneider

Acolytes

1/5	Aaron Gumz
1/12	Braiden Johnson
1/19	Megan Kosik
1/26	Ashton Hammel

Techs

1/5	Alexis Gumz
1/12	Tammi McKee
1/19	Lydia Carlson
1/26	Isaac Hammel

Acolytes

1/5	Nicholas Pehlke
1/12	Micah Schulz
1/19	Maryn Schafer
1/26	Lillian Pehlke

Ushers

1/5	Pete VanDerLeest Jared Reis
1/12	Pete VanDerLeest Dennis Punke
1/19	Pete VanDerLeest Paul Reinhart
1/26	Pete VanDerLeest Mike Thompson