



The Dual-Parish Review

July 
2020

Message from Pastor

Who tracked this good soil into church?

[Jesus said], "Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:18-23)

A common refrain I am hearing both from members and from other pastors is "What if people don't come back to church when all this is over?" This virus is not unique. There have been many calamities both natural and manmade that have caused people to stop going to church for a while. But in the past fifty years there has arisen the Church Growth Movement, which seeks to increase the size of a church by any means necessary. The focus is solely on numbers, not on doctrine, not on fidelity to God's Word and certainly not to our Lutheran Confessions. As long as a given congregation is increasing in size, no matter what shenanigans they pull to make that happen, they are considered "successful", and any decrease is seen as failure.

But that is not at all the way Jesus sees things. In fact, He warned His disciples against this view many times. The Parable of the Sower (or better, the Parable of the Soils) explains this clearly. Some who hear the word do not receive it at all because the devil works hard to lead them astray. Some receive the Word eagerly but are quick to fall away at the slightest trouble in their life. These are the seeds cast on the rock path, those who have no depth of soil and are quickly scorched by the sun. The third type of soil is that choked with weeds and thorns, when the world leads them astray and strangles their faith with other cares.

The last type, the good soil, is where the Word of God takes root and flourishes, producing abundant fruit. This is not to be understood as three types of people who *don't* come to church and one type that does. No, these four types of soil are found in every congregation as well as outside of it. We often cannot tell which type of soil we are dealing with until they bear fruit... or don't. But unlike the hardworking farmers in our congregations, Jesus instructs us to be careless sowers, casting our seed wide. We aren't supposed to try to determine where the good soil is nor be stingy with our application of seed. We are simply to sow.

So will people come back to church? That's the wrong question. Am I sharing the Good News of Jesus with everyone? Am I loving and forgiving others as God bids me to do? Do we continue to gather in worship around the Means of Grace that God provides for us? That is really the only thing we need to concern ourselves with because we know that God will take care of the growth and He will bring in His harvest in due time.

Take Notice

In August we will resume delivering the newsletters to members who have chosen to receive them in their church mailboxes.

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:
 stjbeth.org

For All

Return to Regular Services in July



At the June Council meetings, both congregations decided to open up worship attendance beginning in July. This means there will be no restrictions on the number of people in attendance and you no longer need to call ahead to sign up (just when we got you all trained...). We will still practice the recommended spacing by using every other pew, limiting the number of people at each communion table to six people, and will be sanitizing the common surfaces after each service. The virus has not gone away

and there may never be a vaccine, so each person must determine how they are going to live with this in a prudent but fearless way. We are not authorized to be afraid. Jesus said, “**Fear not**” (Matt 10:31) and that applies to every situation in our lives, big or small.

With the services opened up, this means we can reduce the number of services and go back to our normal worship times. So starting Sunday, July 5 the services will be:

8:00am at Bethlehem
10:30am at St. John

We will continue to record the services for the website throughout the summer, so if you are not comfortable coming back to church right now, or if you yourself get sick, you can continue to hear the Word of God with us.

Home Visits on Request

We have members of both congregations who have not been able to come to church or received visits from the pastor since March. Some of these members who are in institutions (nursing homes, memory care centers, assisted living facilities) which are in lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Some are members have self-isolated because they have preexisting medical conditions which place them in the high risk category for the virus.

If you are in the second group (self-isolating) and would like a visit from Pastor Schopp, he is absolutely willing to come see you as long as you understand that he is not virus-proof. If you would like to schedule a visit, call him directly at 715-680-8117.

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 are going to reach out to our local police departments (Edgar PD, Stratford PD, Athens PD, Colby-Abbotsford PD) with letters of support and encouragement. We ask that the youth of both congregations draw pictures of police officers helping people and/or write letters of thanks. Adults, too, are encouraged to write letters thanking them for doing their jobs. You can place the completed pictures/letters in Pastor Schopp’s box at church. He will deliver packets of these letters to the police chiefs of the four departments in the last week of June.

VBS Cancelled at both Congregations

The Church Councils of both congregations met in early June and decided to cancel Vacation Bible School this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are many resources on our new website (stjbeth.org) for families that can help you teach your children every week. Normal Sunday School is projected to begin in September after Labor Day.

Multiple Zone - LWML Fund Raiser Pie and Ice cream Social

St. John is heading up a Pie & Ice Cream Social with the help of other Zone members at Athens Park on Friday, July 17 serving from 4pm to 9pm. Also, on the menu is a BBQ sandwich Plate with chips and a pickle, homemade pies, ice cream, and root beer floats, Yum, Yum. Come and enjoy free music in the park and help support our LWML 2023 Convention and Missions.

Bethlehem

Elders Meeting Monday, July 13 6:00pm

Council Meeting Monday, July 13 7:00pm

Quarterly Voters Meeting Sunday, July 19 after worship

Bethlehem Out-Reach New Update!

The Brewers will roll over the money paid in 2020 to the 2021 season. We also will receive a 10% discount. They will also give us a free seat upgrade from our location paid in 2020.

Those who signed up this year will have first chance for 2021 season. We will contact everyone when we schedule next years games. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. God’s Blessings, Marlene, Jolene & Amy.

St. John

Elders Meeting Tuesday, July 14 6:00pm

Council Meeting Tuesday, July 14 7:00pm

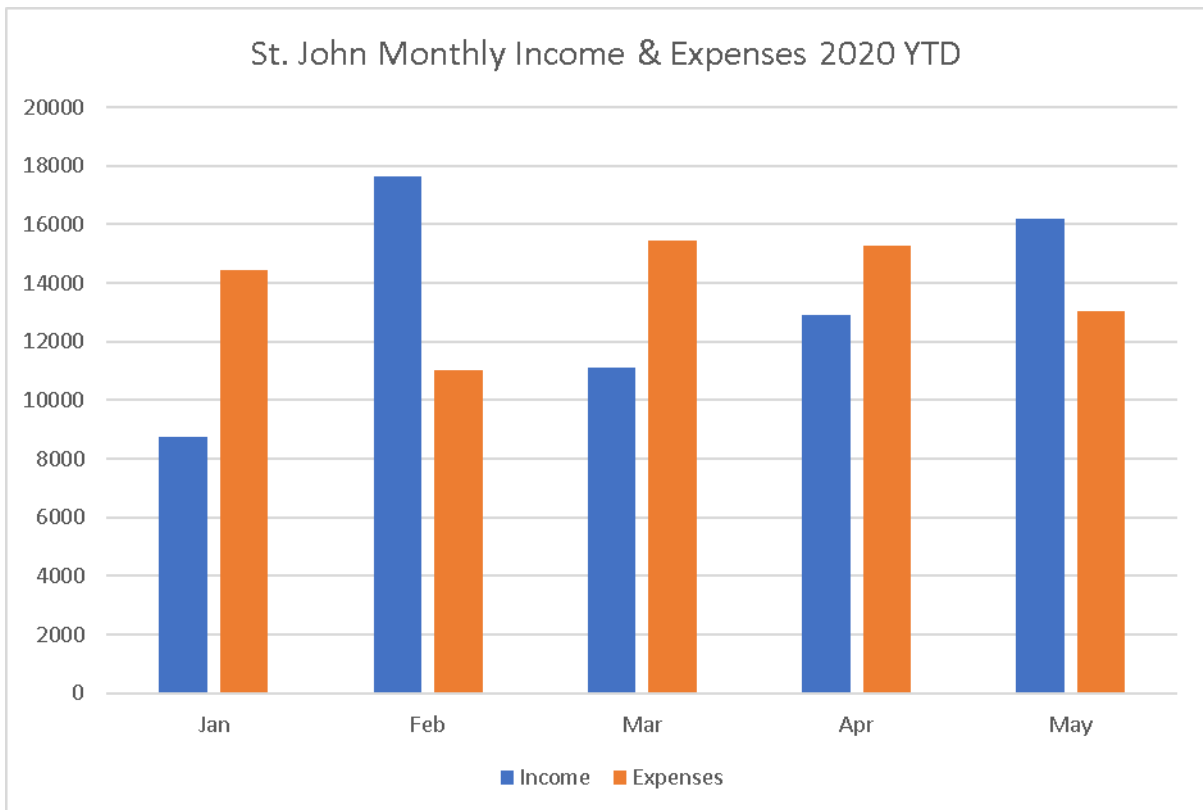
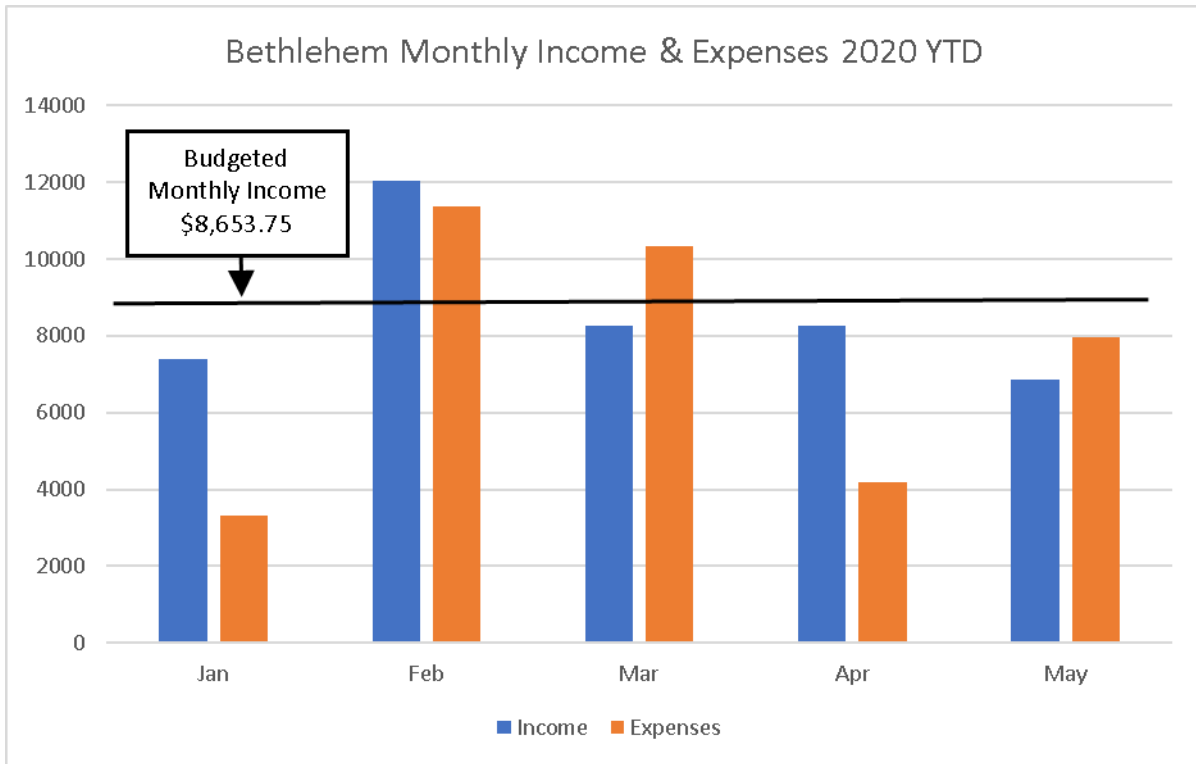
Quarterly Voters Meeting Sunday, July 19 after worship

Ronald Macdonald House Charities:

Thank you for your donation. Donations and community support are critical to our organization and allow us to continue our mission of keeping families close to their sick child. Thank you for supporting our mission of keeping families close. If you would like, you can read the entire letter posted on the bulletin board by the all purpose rooms.

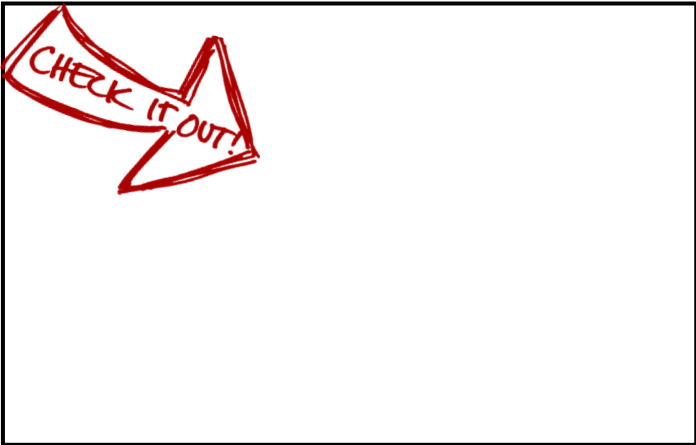
Wisconsin Valley High School News:

A SMALL SCHOOL WITH BIG OPPORTUNITIES! WI Valley Lutheran's first day of classes for the 2020-2021 school year will be Thursday, August 20th and we are planning to open with face-to-face classes in the school building. If you are curious about what The Valley has to offer your student(s) academically, socially, spiritually, and through co-curricular activities, now is the time to give us a call and plan a visit! We encourage families to get their enrollment applications in early to help us with class scheduling. The 2020-2021 enrollment applications can be found on our website at www.wvlhs.org, or give us a call and come out to pick up the forms. Please call Jamie Wehrs in the school office at 715-693-2693 or email jwehrs@wvlhs.org.



NEW

Have you checked out the stjbeth.org website?
Click on **Resources**
There are free materials and resources for families and children as well as adults.
Since there is no VBS this year feel free to print off the activity sheets and help them make a prayer chain.



Birthdays



St. John

Anniversaries



Bethlehem

Bethlehem

- Kara Schwarting 7/2
- Aaron Gumz 7/6
- Hannah Schmidt 7/9
- Beth Kosik 7/10
- Ray Carlson 7/16
- Robert Denzine 7/19
- Evan Krebsbach 7/24
- Debbie Orth 7/25
- Rebekah Anderson 7/27
- Jesse Anderson 7/30

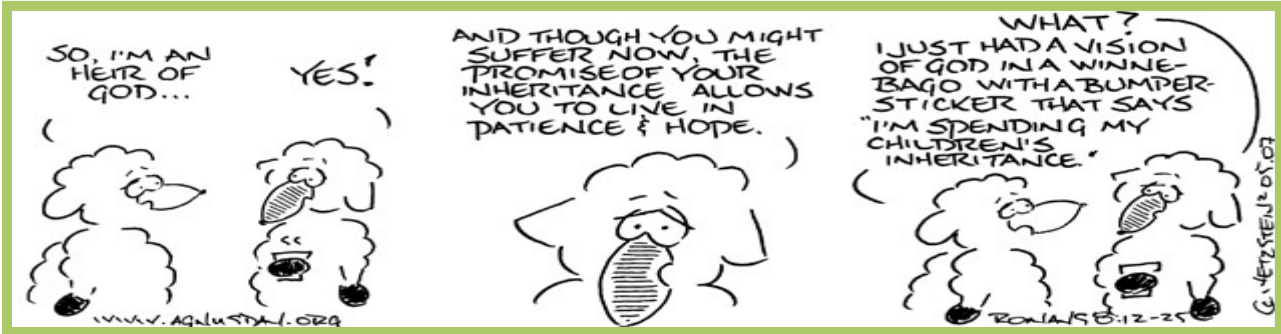
- Derek Wendtland 7/1
- Timothy Koch 7/3
- Kari Serwe 7/7
- Kelly Wussow 7/7
- Jayne Myszka 7/11
- Dean Pehlke 7/11
- Emily Schulz 7/11
- James Streit 7/11
- Jamie Weiler 7/13
- Gary Wendtland 7/14
- Jonathon Wussow 7/15
- David Telschow 7/17
- Stephanie Karl 7/18
- Patricia VanDerLeest 7/24
- Randy Krebsbach 7/27

- Joshua, Erin Bernt 7/7
- Virgil, Brigitte Underwood 7/26
- Galen, Marlene Schreiber 7/22

St. John

- James Sr., Ethel Durkee 7/8
- Bud, Dawn Mortvedt 7/28
- Randy, June Krebsbach 7/24
- Randy, Darla Syring 7/27
- Kevin, Kaitlin Koch 7/20
- Todd, Tara Stack 7/27

Agnus Day by James Wetzstein



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

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

July 5

"Unhelmed"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Are you living in the reality of life as it is right now, life as it will be, or somewhere in between?

(Matt 6:1-18)

July 12

"Perfection Welcomes Failure"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's perfect standards are exceeded only by His perfect patience and forgiveness.

(Matt 6:19-34) July 19

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

New Series Matt. Sermon on the Mount

July 26

"Christ Makes Everything New"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

New Series Matt. Sermon on the Mount

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.

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://ww.lcms.org/resources/multimedia/audio-bible>

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

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



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.