



# The Dual-Parish Review

## Message from Pastor

### Properly Busy

First, I want to thank everyone for their help and support while my family and I endured the coronavirus and necessary quarantine. My first symptoms subsided quickly, but then a few days later I was hit again. God humbles those who need to be humbled. I added a few days to my quarantine because Tami & Brayden were a few days behind me and it seemed prudent not to accidentally carry the virus to church. This week we emerge from our cocoons, eager to spread our wings... or at least go to the grocery store, get a haircut, etc.

In short, there is a lot we haven't been able to do and now we have to catch up. I cancelled every meeting, class and shut-in appointment on my schedule for two weeks, but those things don't just evaporate like October frost on the sidewalk. I need to fit the missed things in with all of the other things on my schedule. To top it all off, things will start to ramp up at the end of this month, with deer season opening, Thanksgiving and – most certainly not least – the start of Advent on Sunday, Nov. 29. Sometimes people ask if pastors dread the busy times (Advent and Lent) and perhaps some do. I actually prefer them. Yes, I am a little strange and feel a bit lost when I don't have five things to do. Some of you are like that as well. But the reason I like Advent and Lent isn't because they are simply full of activity. It is because they are **properly busy**, focused on what is truly important.

Paul warned the church in Thessalonica against idleness and selfishness, saying **“we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.”** (2 Thes 3:11). There apparently were people in the congregation acting like mooches, sponging off others but giving the appearance of being “too busy to work”. We are all to support ourselves, to earn our own way so that we can then be of help to others. We are to use our time wisely on the things that matter, not being busy for the sake of looking busy, not filling up our time with fruitless endeavors and selfish pursuits. Advent helps us do that. Advent is not pre-Christmas. It is about the coming of the Christ into the world for us sinners. He came once to usher in a new age of reconciliation with God by dying on the cross. And He will come again to inaugurate the final age, the renewal of the universe and us along with it. An age of peace and holiness, when we will live in the presence of the Living God just as Adam and Eve once did.

So as we approach this Advent season, remember what it is we are waiting for: We aren't waiting for Jesus to be born. He already did that. We are waiting for the consummation of all of God's promises to the prophets and evangelists. We are waiting for the return of our Lord. When you are expecting a special guest, you know what you should be busy doing: Preparing. This should be our focus each day, not just four weeks out of the year. Going about the work God has given us so, helping others, making peace with those we are in conflict with, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus as if His arrival were right around the corner. Because it is.

# November



# 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

It was decided that from here forward, each month, the council minutes would be published in the newsletter following the meeting.

The council met Tuesday, Oct. 13'th, at 7pm. with Doug Brown opening the meeting, Present were Pastor Schopp, Stephan Schneider, Cathy Schneider, Ronda Durkee, Jeff Werner, Mel Niemann, and Sharon Niemann.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. Stephan gave a summary of the last meeting business.

**Pastor gave his report** and the major topics will be reviewed at the voters meeting. We did nominate Pastor Shawn Andersen, Pastor of St Peter Lutheran Church / Dorchester as circuit visitor. Discussion of Thanksgiving Services determined that to limit number; we would celebrate Thanksgiving on the 22'nd of November, the Sunday before that Thursday. This would protect our need to distance and limit visitors during the time of the new mandates for Covid 19.

**Elder's** reported that a list of delinquent members will be handed out at the voter's meeting on Oct. 18'th. Then, a special voter's meeting would be on November 15'th to take care of the list. In the mean time, each member on the list will be contacted one last time to offer every opportunity to consider their options.

**Outreach** team reported that the blood drive, Oct. 24 already had 6 appointments reserved. Complete sanitation of the parish hall will be done after the event. Information has been gathered on the legal options that we have for putting a sign down off of the corner of Huckleberry and Highway 97. These look to be in the range of \$1000 for a plain 1ft X 8ft arrow. To a 2ft X 4ft sign for \$3000. This is what Stratford Sign has proposed so far.

**Harvest Dinner** Numbers are in: We served 440meals, 30 partials and received \$5106 in donations. 70 people worked for the event. Expenses were \$1252.91 and that leaves a balance of \$3853.09 in profits.

**Treasurer's** report was reviewed as printed. We are showing a need for about \$1000 per month short fall over the last 12 months. (The blessing of having restricted funds that we are able to borrow from have helped greatly. This is how we started the past year and have not gone farther behind.)

Finance committee needs two volunteers for 2021. Please see Jeff, If, you are able to help with the counting.

Pastor read notes left by the **trustees**. Work has been done on the tanks, Projector is here and it is installed; we just need an electrician to complete the work to get rid of the extension cord. Church Mutual, our property insurance company is offering a free "water leak and pipe freezing" monitor. We just need to ask for it. The trustees are asked to do this as soon as they can.

All reports were approved.

In order to continue the adult Bible Class, a large screen projector needed to be installed to allow for social distancing. The only room available for this to continue is the parish hall and the large west wall. After much thoughtful discussion it was decided to move the cross to a prominent place in the building. In the next few weeks, there will be several options marked with paper cutouts to represent where that cross may be placed. Change is always hard; but this may give us a way to honor a gift to this congregation from the laborers for Christ in an even more special way.

We know blessings will come out of this crazy, awkward, scary, Covid time, but God promises all even this will be worked to our good.

Elders offered to place paper options up; so we will watch for these in the next few weeks. Make your suggestions known to the trustees and elders.

One alternative had been to put a big screen in front of the cross and we just felt that would not honor the gift like we wished it be done.

Hearing no more business, meeting was adjourned.

Sharon Niemann,  
Recording Secretary

# Liturgy Parts

LCMS Worship

## Confession and Absolution

We can indeed approach God with confidence. And yet, because we stand on this side of our Lord's final return, we still have with us the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. We have not yet faced the final judgment.

And so, with sin still working in us, the condemnation of God's Law must still confront us, lest we have any delusions that we might have something to boast of before our mighty Judge.

Above all else, Confession and Absolution keep us honest — honest with ourselves and honest before God. The act of confession is not some work that we lay before the Father's throne; rather, it is the simple acknowledgment that God's Word is true and right and that when we measure ourselves against its demands, we come up short.

God's Word says "you shall not give false testimony," but in truth we have lied and gossiped and slandered. And so, the Christian confesses: "Lord, Your Word is true; I have sinned."

There are three basic ways to handle sin and guilt. One is to ignore or minimize them. We've all been tempted in that direction more than a few times. Isn't that, after all, what our sinful human nature is all about?

Another way is to institutionalize them, especially the guilt part. After all, if you can keep people feeling just guilty

enough, you will keep them coming back for more.

The third way is to give sin and guilt their proper due, and then to silence them. That is the way of God's absolution. With his forgiveness, our sin is removed from us as far as the east is from the west.

Christians know that, but they also need to hear it often. We need to be reminded that those familiar words, "I forgive you all your sins," are not just some impersonal announcement. They say what they mean and accomplish what they promise. Jesus himself said to his disciples that the sins they forgive are forgiven (John 20:23).

The last and greatest absolution that will ever be spoken to us will be at the last judgment. In the final pages of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S. Lewis provides a marvelous description of this event.

As each individual comes before Aslan — the lion who is Lewis' figure for Christ — one of two things happens: either the person gazes directly into Aslan's face and recognizes his forgiving countenance, or, upon seeing the lion's stern demeanor, passes into his long shadow, forever to be separated from Christ.

In the Confession and Absolution we are being readied for our appearance before Christ on the Last Day. And hidden behind those comforting words that our sins are forgiven is the invitation, "Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34).

When our Lord speaks those words to us at the Last Day, Confession and Absolution as we know it will cease, for we will then bask in the eternal absolution of the Lamb.

## Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

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



**BIBLE PASSAGE** — When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. — *All Saints Day*

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



## November Birthdays

### Bethlehem

Becker, Jane	11/5
Thielman, Ashley	11/7
Sprotte, Dorothy	11/8
Hammel, Isaac	11/9
Schreiber, Marlene	11/11
Schmitt, Lori	11/12
Fehrenbach, Hannah	11/16
VanLuven, Halie	11/23
Cooper, Linda	11/24
Broeske, Cory	11/26

### St. John

Martha Rodman	11/2
Savannah Koepke	11/3
Lloyd Schultz	11/3
Nancy Witucki	11/3

Lucas Koepke	11/5
Ronda Durkee	11/9
Amber Kroening	11/9
Meaghan Telschow	11/10
Karl Heiden	11/13
Peter Kroening	11/17
Roger Spindler	11/18
John Schafer	11/20
Aaron Niemann	11/21
Lindsey Wussow	11/21
Suzanne Gehrke	11/23
Rodney Held	11/23
Myszka, Izabella	11/23
Anna Koepke	11/24
Judy Ulrick	11/25
Larry Noller	11/27
Ron Hahn	11/28
Katie Wussow	11/28
Brad Wendtland	11/29

## November Anniversaries

### Bethlehem

Alan & Lori Schmitt 11/6

### St. John

Lloyd & Mary Schultz	11/14
Stan Sharon Szymanski	11/14
John & Kelly Yessa	11/15
Jonathan & Kay Schulz	11/16
Melvin & Sharon Niemann	11/28

## Bethlehem

**Bethlehem will have a special Voters' Assembly** on Sunday, November 15 after the service to remove delinquent members from the rolls.

**Bethlehem has decided to cancel the Live Nativity** this year but will continue with the Soup Sale, accepting take-out orders only. The Soup Sale will be on Saturday, December 12th. Orders may be placed with (need info) from Tuesday, December 1 to Wednesday, December 9th.

**Bethlehem Christmas Program:** Program plans will be announced soon.

**7th Annual Christmas Wreath Sale.** Sign up sheets are available at both churches from November 1 to November 22. Delivery Date will be November 29 after services at both churches. We appreciate your support. Money earned will be put toward improvements at our church. Due to Covid 19 if you are more confident in calling your order in by phone call Arlette Molthen @715-223-3946 or Lois @715-654-5614.

## St. John

**St. John will have a special Voters' Assembly** on Sunday, November 15 after the service to remove delinquent members from the rolls.

### Finance Report:

Donations	\$5,106.00
Expenses	
Meat	724.75
Potatoes	286.00
Rolls	94.50
Groceries	41.12
Supplies	39.40
	<u>77.14</u>
	<u>-\$1,252.91</u>
Total after expenses	\$3,853.09

**2020 "Living Generously"** T-Shirts are on a table in the Parish Hall. Enjoy adding these coral ones to your collection. Colossians 3:12-17

### Versiti Blood Drive on October 24 Report -

The blood drive on Saturday, October 24, was as successful as it could be in the middle of flu and COVID season. Twelve people were able to donate. If everyone who intended to donate had donated, we would have had over 20 people donate. Versiti has the ability for people to sign up to donate online. There were at least 4 donors that signed up themselves that were outside our congregation. We have scheduled our next blood drive for Saturday, January 2 from 9:00 to 1:00. Hopefully we will get more people for that one. Thanks to all that came.

Cathy Schneider, Outreach Committee



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The easiest way to set it up is through our website ([www.stjbeth.org](http://www.stjbeth.org))  
Under each congregation's tab is a link for e-giving. You can set it up for automatic giving at the interval you desire (weekly, monthly, etc.). If you still have questions, each congregation has someone you can ask:

Bethlehem:  
Tammi McKee

St John:  
Tami Schopp

## **Smart PHONE Instructions to give via GivePlus**

1. Find Play Store App
2. Search for GivePlus - it will come up as GivePlus Vanco Payment Solutions
3. Install the App
4. Search for Zip Code 54426 for St. John and 54411 for Bethlehem
5. Choose the respective church

### **For a one time gift**

1. Choose Give Now
2. Click on the Plus sign in the yellow circle in the lower right hand corner
3. Fund = General Operating (this is already filled in)
4. Frequency = One Time (this is already filled in)
5. Enter the amount you wasn't to give
6. In upper right hand corner, click on arrow pointing to the right'
7. Follow the prompts on how you want to pay

### **For a recurring gift**

1. Choose Create Account (or sign in if you already have an account)
2. Follow the prompts
3. Sign In
4. Click on the Plus sign in the yellow circle in the lower right hand corner
5. Fund = General Operating (this is already filled in)
6. Follow the prompts

### **Home Computer Instructions to give via GivePlus**

Go to the church website at [bethstj.org](http://bethstj.org)  
Go to the church you want to give to  
Click on the GivePlus Button  
Follow the prompts

If you need any help,

Bethlehem contact Tami McKee at 715-630-5181 or email @ [jwtkmckee@gmail.com](mailto:jwtkmckee@gmail.com)

St. John contact Tami Schopp at 715-680-8119 or email @ [tamischopp@protonmail.com](mailto:tamischopp@protonmail.com)



# LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

People Of Christ With A Message Of Hope



## Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

November 1  
**"Some People Never Change?"**  
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 Some people never change. Most people do. With God, all people can.  
 (Daniel: 4)

November 8  
**"Tied into the Same Lifeline "**  
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 Humble pie is on the menu at an ill-fated feast.  
 (Daniel 5)

November 15  
**"Bigger"**  
 Guest Speaker: Pastor Gerard Bolling  
 Big problems call for faith in an even bigger God. Pastor Gerard Bolling tells how the God Who is bigger than our problems works through us to bring bigger

blessings to the people around us.  
 (Daniel 6)

November 22  
**"Politics in Perspective"**  
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 Political turmoil is nothing new and political security is only temporary. We can't escape politics. However, Dr. Michael Zeigler offers good news of a kingdom that cannot be overthrown and will never pass away.  
 (Daniel 7:1-14)

November 29  
**"Magnum Opus"**  
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 (Daniel 8:27)

## Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcasts

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)

## Lutheran Hour Ministries -

God has called all laypeople 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.

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.



Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)