



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Speak the Word without Fear

“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” (Philippians 1:12-14)

Paul wrote his letter to the church in Philippi while in prison. He was by this time an old man and has spent decades preaching and teaching about Jesus and the forgiveness of sins won by Him for all. He had endured much since his conversion: Beatings, stoning, a shipwreck and several imprisonments. Under arrest once again, he wrote to the Christians in Philippi to encourage them to stand firm and to live out Christian lives of purity and love. He doesn't blame God for his hardships and doesn't have a pity party because he is in prison again and facing death. When Jesus took his sight in Damascus and then three days later opened his eyes, *they stayed open* and Saul, now named Paul, saw things differently. He saw that God used all of his trials, including his imprisonment, to advance the Gospel of Jesus. Members of the Imperial Guard were assigned to watch Paul and he used their many hours together to teach them about the Son of God. At the end of this letter, Paul even sends greetings from some of those converted Roman guards, writing **“All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.”** (Phil 4:22) Paul harbored no ill will against them for simply fulfilling their vocations. Rather, he used his time in prison to share the Good News with them, leading some to come to faith in the Triune God. These guards would take news of Christ back home with them, spreading the Gospel even farther through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul saw all of this with eyes of faith: Everything that was happening to him was according to God's plan and for His glory. And Paul was happy for it.

We must look at our lives with the eyes of faith. God isn't only present in the happy moments, but also in those times when it seems like everything is going wrong and we are alone. God wants us to endure and to use every opportunity to “advance the Gospel”, to share the wonders of Christ with everyone we meet, including those who hate us. Those pastors who heard of Paul's imprisonment were emboldened by his perseverance and strove even more **“speak the word without fear.”** (v.14) We, too, should do the same. No matter what happens, we know that God will not leave us and His grace will never fail us. Whatever danger or persecution befalls us, God will turn it to His purpose: Let us heed Paul's example to the Philippians: **“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way”** (Phil 3:14-15).



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:
www.Stjbeth.org

History

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Over the years, hundreds of books chronicling the Synod's rich history have been written. One of the most comprehensive is *Zion on the Mississippi*.

The First President

The Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther (Oct. 25, 1811 – May 7, 1887) served as the first president of the church body. As a young pastor, Walther joined the Saxon Germans who immigrated to the United States in 1839, and, at only 27 years old, he was the leader of the group that settled in Perry County, Mo.

Founded in 1847

The roots of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod trace back to 1847, when Saxon and other German immigrants established a new church body in America, seeking the freedom to practice and follow confessional Lutheranism.

Initial members, which included 12 pastors representing 14 congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York and Ohio, signed the church body's constitution on April 26, 1847, at First Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, Ill.

Originally named The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, the name was shortened to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1947 on the occasion of our 100th anniversary.

Dr. Walther played a key role in the founding of the LCMS in 1847, and he served as the church body's first president, holding office from 1847 to 1850 and again from 1864 to 1878.

Walther presided over the young Synod, leading its growth through the years of the great migration of German immigrants. He served as president of Concordia Seminary from 1850 to 1887, and he was editor of *Der Lutheraner*, a leading magazine of the day that reached Confessional Lutherans across the country.

Today, Walther is revered as the leading Lutheran theologian of his time, and he's fondly known as the "Father of the Missouri Synod."

Agnus Day by James Wetzstein



BIBLE PASSAGE — I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." But what is the divine reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

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

September Birthdays

Bethlehem

Anderson, Mona	9/1
Buss, Shirley	9/1
Johnson, James	9/1
Underwood, Elaine	9/1
Graun, Cynthia	9/5
Freimund, James	9/6
Weiler, Brenda	9/6
Wittlinger, Judith	9/6
Kosik, Aleah	9/6
Wittlinger, Verlyn	9/16
Kosik, Aleah	9/16
Thomas, Lane	9/18
Thurman, Beth	9/21
VanLuven, Ashley	9/21
Carlson, Lydia	9/24
Schafer, Loretta	9/24
Underwood, Brigitte	9/24
Kilty, Carston	9/25
Kirchner, Wyatt	9/26
Kunze, Philip	9/26
Parker, Deana	9/27
Pastor Schopp	9/30

St. John

Ballerstein, Roger	9/1
Niemann, Melvin	9/2
Schulz, Kay	9/6
Weiler, Caylee	9/6
Wussow, Doris	9/7
Callies, Carrie	9/9
Ellis, Lincoln	9/10
Syring, Benjamin	9/12
Kunkel, Kent	9/13
Weiler, Cody	9/13
Heiden, Karen	9/15
Held, Chayse	9/17
Hahn, Carolyn	9/19
Ballerstein, Sharon	9/20
Wendtland, Spencer	9/20
Pehlke, Colin	9/26
Punke, Dennis	9/26
Niemann, Sharon	9/28
Streit, Walter	9/28
Wendtland, Sandra	9/29
Niemann, Kaysley	9/30
Pastor Schopp	9/30

September Anniversaries

Bethlehem

Jesse, Haley Anderson	9/5
Adam & Marya Viegut	9/6
Randy & Christina Cook	9/13
Russell & Janna Barkow	9/15
Bart & Brittany Schreiber	9/22
Joseph & Gloria Cornelius	9/25
Dale & Nancy Ploeckelman	9/25

St. John

James & Dorinda Durkee Jr.	9/2
Dale & Sue Karl	9/9
Daniel & Jill Koerner	9/10
Bill & Marge Streit	9/13
Edward & Jill Mielke	9/15
Roger & Phyllis Spindler	9/15
Neal & Anna Koepke	9/16
Jared & Kayleigh Reis	9/19
Thomas & Lisa Wussow	9/29

ALL

Looking for volunteers to knit or crochet hats and or scarves that will be offered to the homeless of Marathon County. Thrivent has given us a \$250.00 card to purchase yarn so we will supply you with the yarn. If you are interested in helping contact Sharon at the church office at 715- 352-2888 or at home at 715-352-2754 so we can arrange to get you the yarn. We plan on delivery around the end of October

Stjbeth.org website: Take the time to check out the church website, many new things have been added.

Go to the website click on Resources, then click on any of the resources on the menu with different topics at the top (How We Serve, News, Social Issues, Worship, etc.).

Bethlehem

Bethlehem Sunday School is still in need of two more Sunday school teachers. Similar to last year, we are having two teachers per class so this is only a "part time" commitment. Also, Sunday School will begin September 13th and will be held following service. Any questions or interest, please contact Bart or Brittany Schreiber. Thank you

There will be a "Celebration of Life" for Danny Freimund from 12:00 pm to 4:00pm, Saturday, September 12 at the Dorchester Park.

St. John

St. John Sunday School material will be provided for the students to be worked on at home with their parents, questions contact Mary Schultz.

Harvest Supper October 3, 2020 4:00pm to 6:30-pm.

We will be serving the same menu, there will be no dining hall; **pickup or delivery only. Pick up Encouraged, especially when you give out tickets.** Delivery available to Athens, Edgar, Stratford and limited in Marathon.

Watch for more information, and when tickets will be available to give out.

Workers are needed to assemble meals, for kitchen help, and to prepare vegetables. Sign up sheets will be available soon in the narthex on the library table with spots that need to be filled.

The "Open Door" The Jail Ministry of Marathon County sends a huge "Thank You" to our church. The clothing they receive will be offered to people released from jail and all the homeless people of Marathon County at no cost. The clothes aid in helping them get jobs, etc. They also sent a thank you to the delivery people.

Several LWML members got together and decided to do a brat fry and pie sale to help out the 2023 LWML National Convention to be held in Milwaukee. We are a part of that host committee along with South Wisconsin, Indiana, and others. In all, we had people from 7 different societies helping with work and donations. That made \$2064 in profits for the LWML.

Many thanks to all who helped bake and cut pies here at St. John. Thanks to all of you who bought pie at our sale the Sunday after. God knows no boundaries that man makes up when there are limits set upon us. All praise to Him.



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

September 6

"Jesus in the House"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Messy prayers, loud tables, open doors-three signs of a spiritually vibrant household.

(Luke 19:1-10)

September 13

"Fireplace Spirituality"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Our relationship with God is not something to "set and forget" like a thermostat.

(Acts 2:37-47)

September 20

"I Stand at the Door"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

New Series HOF

(Luke 24:13-35)

September 27

"Room at the Table"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

New Series HOF

(1 Peter 4)

Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcasts

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 and explore all of the ways you can hear God's Word, equip yourself in outreach, and provide Gospel-centered activities for the kids!

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

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.



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.

Lutherans respond after ‘derecho’ wind storm devastates Iowa cities and farms

blogs.lcms.org/2020/lutherans-respond-after-derecho-wind-storm-devastates-iowa-cities-and-farms

August 14, 2020



Damage to the roof of St. John's Lutheran Church, Keystone, Iowa. Part of the sanctuary roof blew off during the derecho wind storm that swept through the area on August 10. (Daniel Sanchez)

By Stacey Egger

On Monday, Aug. 10, a massive “derecho” wind storm tore through the Midwest, hitting thousands of square miles with winds of up to 112 mph. The storm took down trees and power lines, leveled corn crops, and cut off power and phone signal throughout a massive region spanning much of Iowa, and parts of Nebraska and Illinois.

The Rev. Andy Wright, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Keystone, Iowa, had walked from the church to the parsonage next door to eat lunch early Monday afternoon. Half an hour later, part of the sanctuary roof was gone.

“The tornado sirens went off, so we went down into the basement of the parsonage. You could hear the wind and things just breaking, all around you, for about 20 to 30 minutes straight. At first we thought a tornado was hitting. But it was not until the storm was starting to dissipate that I looked outside, and saw trees down all around our street, and then I looked back at the church, and my mouth just dropped open.”

Unlike a tornado, the hurricane-force winds that hit Keystone did not just devastate a mile-wide path, but a swath of the Midwest that stretched for miles and miles in every direction. In an area of hundreds of miles through eastern Iowa, a majority of standing trees were damaged in some way. Many homes were hit by trees or sustained wind damage. Central Lutheran School in Newhall, Iowa, lost a portion of its ceiling and roof, part of which crashed through the wall of a neighboring house. Power and phone signal were cut off to the whole

region for over a week, including major cities such as Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and the Quad Cities.

“We don’t know of any LCMS [Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod] churches in the area of Cedar Rapids that have power,” said Jason Koepnick, Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) chainsaw coordinator for the LCMS Iowa District East (IDE) on Wednesday afternoon. “I would say there are probably no trees left unharmed in the Linn County area. ... It is devastation everywhere. Power lines are down all over town. Most of the power poles are cracked, bent or on the ground.”

The power outages have caused not only communication blackouts, but food struggles for many of the affected residents, Koepnick said.

“The power has been off long enough that the food in the refrigerators has spoiled, and there’s very little food on the grocery store shelves, simply because a lot of the grocery stores didn’t have backup generators.”

As of Aug. 17, a week later, power in parts of those cities and most of the affected rural areas had not returned.



Fallen trees fill the back yard of a house in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (Melissa Burdock Trumpold)

‘It’s just gone’

St. John’s and Central Lutheran sustained damage that will need repairs, as did many other homes and businesses. One elderly member of St. John’s completely lost her home’s roof, which caved in on the kitchen and the living room, though she was unharmed.

But within St. John’s predominantly farming congregation, and in so many rural communities across Iowa, many lost much more.

“I have countless members who have basically lost everything on their farm,” said Wright. “They’ve lost their equipment, they’ve lost their grain bins, they’ve lost machine sheds, they’ve lost barns. ... And these fields that you drive by, you could not have driven on them and made them flatter — they’re just *flat*, the corn is

completely flattened. And you'll see fields of that, along with pieces of people's farm equipment, people's barns, silos, just laying out twisted in the middle of a field."

Things look similar in the semi-rural congregations Rothchild serves as a vacancy pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran in Garrison, and Zion Lutheran in Shellsburg.

"One of my members showed me where somebody else's grain bin had come through a field, hit against their house, knocked out the attic windows, and then flew around the house, and ended up in their back yard. The rural area is very devastated," Rothchild said.

"I don't think I went by a place out in the country that didn't have some damage, it was just a matter of how much. And given the fact that the price of corn has not been good for six or seven years, it was already a struggling farm economy for sure."

The impact on these farmers is greater than just economic loss and the daunting prospect of rebuilding, Wright said.

"Dozens upon dozens of people [in my congregation], in a span of 20 to 30 minutes, everything that they've worked for for generations is gone. Thankfully most of them still have their houses, but most of the farms, it's just — it's gone.

"This is the stuff that they built with their hands, or they're looking at things that their grandparents built and handed down to them, who had nothing and built everything around them. ... So while they might have insurance on some of the crops and things like that, just to see that gone in an instant, what took generations to build — people are pretty shaken up and devastated by that," he said.

LERT teams work to rebuild lives

On Thursday morning, the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care Disaster Response, traveled to the affected area and met with local LCMS disaster response coordinators to help organize response plans.

Due to the widespread impact of the derecho, outside help will be particularly crucial. After a localized event like a tornado, neighboring towns can come together to aid the affected areas. But there is not a town or even a property in the path of the derecho that was not affected in some way.

"The whole middle belt of the district was hit," said the Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, president of the Iowa District East. "I've been 50 miles east, west, north and south, visiting our churches and pastors and schools. ... Dealing with the COVID situation, this storm — it's a test to our resolve."

LCMS LERT teams, which undergo chainsaw training, have been well-equipped to respond to the need of clearing countless downed trees from properties.

"If we had a thousand chainsaws, they could be kept busy," said the Rev. Dean Rothchild, the IDE disaster response coordinator, who has been helping to coordinate the response while dealing with his own home, which was hit by a falling tree and has a hole through the living room roof.

IDE LERT teams were on the ground doing emergency chainsaw work within an hour of the storm blowing through the Cedar Rapids area. Plans are underway for LERT teams and other volunteers from the Kansas, Missouri and Southern districts to respond as well.

LCMS Disaster Response will fund the lodging for these volunteers at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca near Solon, Iowa, and has provided funding for chainsaws, generators and other necessary gear and equipment. IDE will be able to cover affected LCMS congregations' insurance deductibles with funds left over from the 2008 Iowa flood disaster response.

“The collaborative Synod disaster response to the catastrophic damage in Iowa is wonderful to see,” said Johnson.

“LCMS Disaster Response, district leadership, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, LCMS congregations, Lutheran schools, Iowa LERT teams and chainsaw teams from multiple other districts are all working together to help the Iowans in the name of Christ as they are trying to rebuild their lives. We are helping an elderly family that was given a job estimate of over \$18,000 for tree removal. We are able to do all of this work free of charge to the people we serve.”

‘The promises of Christ ring true’

Monday's derecho and the ensuing power outages have added stress and strain to communities already affected economically and otherwise by the COVID-19 pandemic. But, Wright said, these losses have not caused the members of St. John's to despair.

As soon as the storm had passed through Keystone — although power and phone lines were completely out — Wright said that he was able to walk to many of his members' homes in their small community and check in with them in person.

“A lot of the members have been talking about how we see this driving us to Christ, to cling to His promises, especially this year with all this uncertainty. So it's been actually a really wonderful thing to see, just that groundedness of people not wanting to quickly doubt God, but rather asking, ‘How can we see Christ in this, pastor? And how can we help each other?’”

And those in the church, Wright pointed out, have the answers to these questions, even in moments when they have lost so much.

“The promises of Christ ring true during this time. ... Even as we see things laying around us, or even our church building with the roof ripped off, we know that God is our refuge and strength, and our ever-present help in trouble. And when you lose all these things that you know and love, it drives you to the cross, and to our Lord who has suffered in our place. And to see people confess that, as they're picking up pieces to their homes — we give thanks to God, and we bear one another's burdens as brothers and sisters in Christ — that's been wonderful to see in the midst of all of this destruction.”

To support the continued work of LCMS Disaster Response, please consider donating:

- Online at lcms.org/give/disaster.
- Via text (send keyword LCMSDISASTERS to 41444).
- By phone at 888-930-4438, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST.
- By check (make payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and write “for disaster response” on the memo line.)

Posted Aug. 14, 2020/Updated Aug. 18, 2020