



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

The Peace of Jesus

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.”

– John 20:19-21

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

What a wondrous thing to think about... Christ Jesus appearing in the locked room with the disciples. To be clear, Jesus didn't climb up to the second story window, as John Calvin and other poor theologians have claimed. He appeared miraculously, using the power He always had but refused to use. In the days of His earthly life and ministry, Jesus walked like everyone else, no shortcuts... if you don't count walking across the Sea of Galilee a shortcut. Jesus did not make the upper room His first stop on that resurrection Sunday; it was actually His third. First He appeared to Mary Magdalene at the tomb and then to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Finally, toward evening He appeared to the other disciples, taking that divine shortcut from Emmaus to Jerusalem in the blink of an eye. Locked doors and inaccessible windows are no match for Him who defeated death.

The first words Jesus spoke to them were, **“Peace be with you.”** (v.19) What a strange thing to say after being dead for a couple of days. After suffering on the cross and dying the death of a criminal, and bearing all the divine wrath we deserve, Jesus' first concern upon seeing His followers was *their* well-being. He didn't scold them for abandoning Him in His hour of need. He didn't chew them out for hiding for days in confusion and fear. He teleported Himself among them in that locked room and said exactly what they needed to hear. In fact, the second thing He said to them was the same as the first: **“Peace be with you.”** If somebody repeats something, we ought to pay attention.

What is this peace that Jesus spoke of? It is not “Peace on earth” in the worldly sense. It did not mean an end of all wars and hatred and violence, at least not yet. The peace that Jesus brings is seed of all those other kinds of peace, but the seed is the important part. St. Paul explained just what kind of peace it is we have: **“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** (Romans 5:1) That is the peace that Christ Jesus earned on the cross for us and that was the peace He came to proclaim to His disciples, the peace He bestowed with His Word and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on them. No more must we live in fear of our sinfulness. No more do we remain shackled to our sin, dragging that ball and chain behind us like a prisoner doing hard time. Jesus broke that chain and set us free. As He told His disciples, **“if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”** (John 8:36)

As free people of Christ let us use our freedom to serve others and worship God rightly, putting our trust in Him and His promises. Fear? That's a thing of the past, like that shackle and that chain. Jesus was victorious over death and the devil and He brings us true peace, the peace that radiates from Him throughout all heaven and earth.



Alleluia
He is
Risen

Newsletter

2021

Bethlehem

Lutheran Church

233500 County Road E
Milan, Wisconsin 54411
Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study at 9:15 am
Pastor: Rev. Chad Schopp
Pastors Office Hours @ BETH.
Mon. 9am-5pm
Pastors Cell: 715-680-8117
Pastors Email:
cschopp@protonmail.com
Office Secretary Email:
secretary@stjbeth.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: T, 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@stjbethstj.org
Dual Parish Website:
wwwstjbeth.org

BACKGROUND

Nearly two centuries ago, those who would eventually form The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) came to the United States seeking the religious freedom guaranteed in our nation’s Constitution. Today, the religious freedom they sought is eroding amid continuous assault. That’s why the LCMS is establishing the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., the very epicenter of where a compelling Christian witness will be needed most in years to come.

PURPOSE

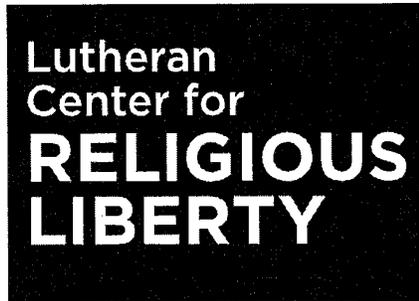
1. **Engage** federal and state officials and other partners through advocacy and networking;
2. **Educate** future generations about serving God through vocations in government, law, and public policy; and
3. **Connect** with Lutherans involved in government affairs. Where the government, the culture and faith conflict, Lutherans can and must speak up and out in support of religious liberty.

FUNCTIONS

- › Educate and inform
- › Advocate and network
- › Strategize and defend
- › Communicate and share

SERVICES

1. Inform and educate others about pertinent laws, bills, court cases and other venues related to religious liberty, one-man/one-woman marriage and the sanctity of life.
2. Engage in and build contact with other Lutherans, like-minded partners and federal and state officials through advocacy and other approaches.
3. Provide resources for and information on defensive legal strategies and protections.
4. Speak boldly and winsomely — through publications and communications — about the orthodox Lutheran view on cultural issues and in keeping with the doctrine and teachings of the LCMS.



The mission of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty is to ignite and fuel a uniquely Lutheran response to increasing intrusions, limitations and challenges by the government in the realm of the Church while educating, encouraging and equipping LCMS members and organizations to take informed action in support of marriage, life and religious liberty.

ADVANTAGES

- The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty will:
- › Provide information on impending legislation, government infringement and other matters of concern to the LCMS members.
 - › Create a direct LCMS presence in the nation’s capitol and in proximity to other Lutherans and like-minded partners, helping to build coalitions and accomplishing more together than alone.
 - › Provide a venue to facilitate the engagement of Lutheran youth in the public square as well as encourage vocations in government service or politics.

GOALS

- › Offer input, information, education, advice and resources regarding three primary areas of focus in the public square: marriage, life and religious liberty.
- › Actively engage in discussions, establish partnerships and work collaboratively, as appropriate, with individuals and groups in Washington, D.C.

ITEMS OF NOTE

- › The corporation will carry out its work as a separately incorporated, 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit corporation.
- › The corporation will carefully maintain allowable lobbying activity to be within permissible IRS limits.

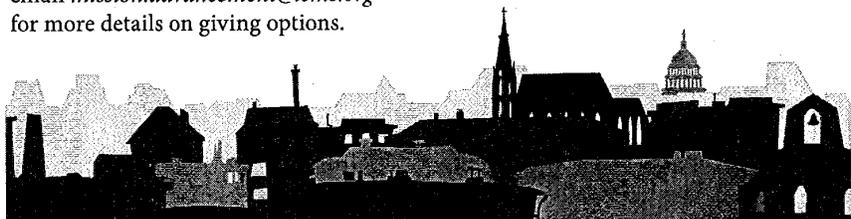
MAKE AN INVESTMENT

LCMS Mission Advancement stands ready to support your intent as a Christian steward to defend our religious liberty. Mail checks, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*, to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 Attention: Campaigns & Special Initiatives
 1333 S. Kirkwood Road
 St. Louis, MO 63122

* On the memo line of the check or in an accompanying note, write "LCRL" or "Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty."

Have questions?
 Call us at 888-930-4438 or email mission.advancement@lcms.org for more details on giving options.



NM00&MKXXXH00

Liturgy Parts

LCMS Worship

What do the parts of the liturgy mean?

Sanctus

If any part of the service has been recognized as providing a glimpse of heaven, it's the Sanctus: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of your glory."

This is the eternal song of the angels who hover over the throne of God in the vision of heaven that was given to Isaiah (Is. 6:1-4). Such was the splendor of their song that the very foundations of the threshold of the temple trembled at the sound.

At first glance, these words appear to be out of place at this point in the service. Nevertheless, the reality is that there is nothing in this entire world that compares with the miracle of Jesus' bodily presence to feed his people.

In this meal God is breaking into our world to give us life. No wonder our repeated cry is "Hosanna in the highest," for what is more needed in this dying world than the Lord's salvation?

The second half of the Sanctus contains a statement as bold as the first. Here we have our own little Palm Sunday. Just as the crowds cried out to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, so do we declare, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mt. 21:9; Ps. 118:26).

Heaven continues to break into our world as Jesus, our humble king, comes riding into our midst in the Lord's name. This confession in the Sanctus of Jesus' real presence is so significant that

Luther proposed moving the Sanctus after the Words of Institution in order to highlight the reality of the words we sing.

Words of Our Lord

Among many Christians, the words of Jesus that we often refer to as the Words of Institution are nothing more than an historical report: this is what Jesus did and what he said. Period.

We have been blessed to know, however, that these words mean much more. They do what they say.

According to the command of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper not as a mere meal of remembrance but as a Sacrament by which Jesus himself comes to us. We don't transport ourselves back in time; rather, he comes to us and brings heaven down to earth for our benefit.

Of course, in heaven we won't receive the Lord's Supper. There we will have Jesus — the Bread of heaven — in all his fullness. But for now, as we wait for his return, he establishes his own beachhead in our sin-infested world, coming as our defender and deliverer, offering his own body and blood as the medicine of immortality.

Here we find strength for the journey as Christ dwells in us and we in him. And the more we partake of this sacred food, the greater our desire becomes to be with Christ forever.

In the words of Thomas Aquinas' great eucharistic hymn:

O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see:
May what we thirst for soon our portion be:
To gaze on Thee unveiled, and see Thy face,
The vision of Thy glory, and Thy grace.
(*Lutheran Service Book*, 640)

Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

Matthew 2:1-12



Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

— The Resurrection of Our Lord

St. John Church Council Minutes

Church Council 3.9.21

Meeting opened with prayer. Present were Doug Brown, Kay Christiansen, Stephan Schneider, Cathy Schneider, Mike Thompson, Jeff Werner, Pastor Schopp, Ronda Durkee, Melvin Niemann, and Sharon Niemann.

Minutes were read and approved from the last meeting.

Pastor' report was given and the highlights were a review of the Holy Week service times: Palm Sunday 1:30pm, Maundy Thursday 1:30, Good Friday 1:30. Bethlehem will meet on the same days at 7:30pm.

Easter Sunday will be St John at 6am, Bethlehem at 8am, and St John at 10:30am.

Last Confirmation class will be April 28. Pastor will be on vacation May 4 – 12 with Rev Moldenhauer providing pulpit supply.

Thursday, May 13 is Ascension of Our Lord worship service at 7 pm.

Outreach Reported that 22 units of blood was donated at the blood drive. Website continues to be used. 18 people visited it in the last 7 days and 107 people used the website in the past month.

Board of Education reported the palms will be handed out on Palm Sunday. No Sunday School on Easter and May 16'th will be the last day of class.

Treasurer's report indicated that receipts were up to budget for the month of February. This did not repay the shortfall of previous months. Our checkbook shows a -\$5514, which is part of the money used from restricted funds.

Cemetery Committee reported that they are not able to tell exactly what needs to be repaired until the frost is out of the ground. There will be a few stone to straighten and they are hopeful that they may be able to do them on their own.

Trustee report focused on the alternative plans for replacement of the parish hall windows. Research is ongoing.

Motion was made and seconded to accepted for all reports.

Old business:

From the Annual Report it is added that gifts and fund raising paid for the chimes used by bell choir. The financial report did not have a line for those funds raised and donations made for their purchase.

New business:

Water heater in the parsonage is acting up and will need attention. Trustees will check this out. It may also look at a water softener to extend the life of the whole water system and appliances.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer,

Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary

Bethlehem

Birthdays

Carlson, Robin	4/05
Geisking, Thomas	4/05
Graun, Kimberly	4/05
Gumz, Jolene	4/06
Weiler, April	4/07
Klimpke, William	4/09
Viegut, Marya	4/13
Thurman, Bentley	4/14
Thielman, Brooks	4/15
Denzin, Bruce	4/18
Schmidt, Brenda	4/19
Schmidt, Derek	4/19
Thielman, Jase	4/21
Cook, Caelyn	4/27
Cook, Calliegh	4/27
Cornelius, Joseph	4/27
Kunze, Nathan	4/28

Anniversaries

Troy & Cheyanne Kilty	4/10
Galen & Elizabeth Kirchner	4/12
Brentin & Tayler Bender	4/23

St. John

Birthdays

Wussow, Taylor	4/06
Marcus, Charles	4/07
Witucki, Matthew	4/07
Reis, Kayleigh	4/13
Thompson, Lisa	4/14
Callies, Nadine	4/19
Pehlke, Marcus	4/22
Hamann, Dale	4/26
Thompson, Alexander	4/27
Derfus (Wussow), Abram	4/28
Pehlke, Lillian	4/28

Anniversaries

Jim, Joanne Rathsack	4/27
Roger, Sharon Ballerstein	4/29

Baptism

Karleigh Norene Rinehart Parents: Josh and Stacy
Born: Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 Baptized: Saturday, 3/6/ 2021
At Bethlehem Lutheran

Remember in our Prayers

Elizabeth Kirchner	BETH	
Wyatt Kirchner	BETH	Jared, Kayleigh Reis STJ
Megan Nueman	BETH	and Elijah John Reis
Debbie Orth	BETH	Born 3/16/2021

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday (3/28): Bethlehem 8am / St. John 10:30am
Maundy Thursday (4/1): St. John 1:30pm / Bethlehem 7:30pm
Good Friday (4/2): St. John 1:30pm / Bethlehem 7:30pm
Easter Sunday (4/4) – The Resurrection of Our Lord
St. John – 6am (cinnamon rolls & coffee available before & after)
Bethlehem – 8am
St. John – 10:30am
(No Bible Study or Sunday School on Easter)

Dual Parish Events

Annual Thrift Sale: Bethlehem, St. John Thrift Sale will be held this year with extended hours. The sale starts on Thurs., May 6th and will go until Fri. May 15th. The sale will begin at 9am until 6pm every day put Sat. the 8th until 4pm and Sat. the 15th until noon. The sale is not open on Sunday May, 9th. Clean up will be Sat. May 15 after noon. You may start to bring your donated items to the **Parish Hall at St. John on Sat., April 24th**. Please put them on the side walls, no large electronics. If you need help getting things to the church call Arlette Molthen at 715-223-6066 or the church office at St. John for pickup. Proceeds will be divided between Bethlehem CWIA and LWML and St. John LWML. All remaining items will be donated to Humanitarian Aid.

LWML Spring Rally will be held on Sat., April 24 from 9-12 at Trinity, Medford.

Lutheran Laymen's League will meet at Trinity, Medford on Sunday, April 11th. We will begin at 1:30pm. with a devotion followed by a short business meeting and part of the DVD "This is the Life". No Lunch will be served.

Bethlehem

Blood Drive on Saturday, May 1 from 9am to 1pm
Or You can call 877-232-4376 to make an appointment.
Or visit bit.ly/Bethlehem51 to schedule an appt.

St. John

Christian Foundation Class

Held at St. John
Feb. 11th to April 22nd, on
Thursday evening at 6pm.





Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

April 4 **Easter Sunday**
"Fear...Like Onions, You Know?"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 Why end a good news story on a note of fear? St. Mark's Gospel wants us to see human fear as evidence that God is at work.
 (Mark 16)

April 11
"What It Means to Be a Family"
 Guest Speaker: Pastor Gerard Bolling
 Loving, caring, and sharing--it's what we do as God's family, His Church.
 (Acts 4:32-35)

April 18
"TBD"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

April 25
"TBD"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

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!

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.

Station City, State Freq. Day Time

<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Freq.</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
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.

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org

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.



Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches
119415 Huckleberry Road
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426
715-352-2888



*Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*

BLOOD DRIVE

Hope springs eternal

DONATE BLOOD

**Saturday
May
1
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233550 County Rd E, Milan

MORE INFORMATION:
Individuals who have received the COVID19 vaccine (either 1st or 2nd dose) must wait two days to donate. Day of vaccine is day zero.

Appointments encouraged. Please call 877-232-4376 or visit bit.ly/Bethlehem51 to schedule.

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

All donors will receive a Versiti swag gift.

For the safety of staff and donors masks are required.