



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Where Moth and Rust Destroy

“Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.” – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Stewardship is a difficult thing for pastors to teach, and not for the reasons you might think. Yes, some pastors hide from the topic because it makes people bristle and there are always snide comments like “The church is all about money.” But of course, those comments come from people who condemn themselves. They love neither Christ nor His Church.

No, the real reason teaching about stewardship is so difficult is that more often than not pastors are preaching to the choir. That is, those who faithfully attend worship and Bible Study are already the ones supporting the Church and sharing the Gospel both here and abroad. Those who most need to repent of their selfishness are those who rarely come to church – unless there is an emergency. They are quite happy laying up **“treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal”** (Matt 6:19). They want all the toys that their neighbors have, all the luxuries they see on Instagram, all the diversions and idols that can be shipped to their house in two days or less.

Supporting the Church is not optional. It is required of Christians and always has been, not as a matter of earning salvation – for Christ alone did that – but of subjugating our sinful flesh and learning to trust in God who provides for all. St. Paul wrote, **“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”** (2 Cor 9:6-7)

In his book Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis had this to say about supporting the Church:

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc, is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.”

We know the Church is important for our lives, for our children’s lives, and for the lives of those who do not yet know Christ. We must never take our local congregation for granted, lest it become one of those empty church buildings we see all around us. During this season of repentance, let us examine ourselves and repent of every idol that we cling to, especially those that are dear to our hearts. Anything that close to your heart is in danger of pushing Jesus to the side.

March



2021

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.
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

St. John Church Council Minutes

Council Minutes February 9, 2021

The meeting opened with prayer and present were Doug Brown, Kay Christansen, Stephan Schneider, Cathy Schneider, Mike Thompson, Jeff Werner, Pastor Schopp, and Sharon Niemann.

Minutes were read and approved from the last meeting with the correction of the Feb. 14 date for the milestones presentations for the students in Sunday School.

Pastor's report included the funeral of Doris Bornowski being planned for family only on Feb. 13, due to the pandemic. Christian's foundation class begins this Thursday at 6pm here at St. John. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17th. Services that day, and throughout Lent, will be at St. John at 1:30pm and at Bethlehem at 7:30pm.

Elder's report was a few highlights from the Reporter newspaper about the Right To Life Conference coming up in March.

Outreach has the blood drive coming up Feb. 27 here at St. John.

Board of Ed. No report

Treasurers Report showed a shortfall of \$2031.55 for the month in offerings below the expenses for the month.

Finance Committee reports a full team of counters. All individual giving reports were given out or mailed at this time.

Trustees report that maintenance work continues as needed. The icy parking lot is being salted in the worst areas and sanding is being explored.

All reports were accepted.

Old Business: Audit committee of Stacy VanHoy, Nancy Witucki, and Doug Brown reviewed the treasurer's books and found them to be complete and in order.

New Business: Synodical positions are open for nominations and the application and information is posted on the bulletin board.

Easter Services were talked about and suggestions were made to accommodate higher numbers of people. Watch for the times determined for each congregation. Endowment funds and their usefulness for a congregation with an old historical building, like ours, was discussed.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary

Liturgy Parts

LCMS Worship

What do the parts of the liturgy mean?

Offertory

“What shall I render to the Lord?” Truth is, we have nothing to render him. We brought nothing into this world, and we will take nothing with us when we depart.

As Jesus so poignantly tells us, our treasures are already stored up for us in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). There is, however, an offering that we do make, both now in our worship and one day in heaven itself. It is the sacrifice of thanksgiving as we call on the name of the Lord (Ps. 116:17).

In the Apology to the Augsburg Confession (Article 24), this eucharistic sacrifice is carefully distinguished from the propitiatory sacrifice of Christ. The sacrifice for sins belongs to him alone.

Every time we try to grab that honor for ourselves, we come up short — very short. But when we recognize our rightful place — that we are on the receiving end of God's merciful goodness — then the sacrifice of thanksgiving cannot help but pour forth from our lips as we give our thanks to the One who gave everything for us.

The giving of our firstfruits, whether it is money or possessions, time or talents, is also a part of this sacrifice of thanksgiving. Our mouths cannot remain separated from the rest of our bodies. If the thanksgiving is flowing from our lips, then it will also find expression in the giving of our very selves for the sake of Christ and the neighbor.

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.

Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

John 3:14-21



BIBLE PASSAGE — [Jesus said] “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Bethlehem

Birthdays

Becker, Daniel	3/1
Kunze, Melanie	3/1
Gumz, Alexis	3/2
VanLuven, Sarah	3/2
Gumz, Dawn	3/9
Niemi, Lois	3/11
Schopp, Tami	3/12
Cook, Christina	3/13
Weiler, Amber	3/15
Solchenberger, Donna	3/17
Bender, Tayler	3/18
Gumz, Susan	3/19
Wittlinger, Darlene	3/19
Thielman, Bradley	3/21
Thurman Braxton	3/21
Empey, Roger	3/27
Schreiber, Brittany	3/27
Parker, Scott	3/30
Schmitt, Alan	3/30

Anniversaries

None

St. John

Birthdays

VanDerLeest, Ryan	3/01
Wolff, Perry	3/07
Schopp, Tami	3/12
Murkowski, George	3/13
Schulz, Micah	3/17
Wolff, Rhonda	3/17
Thompson, Michael	3/18
Schulz, Kaleb	3/20
Pehlke, Nicholas	3/21
Koepke, Mark	3/22
Streit, Margene	3/22
Werner, DuWayne	3/29
Apfelbeck, Kristina	3/30

Anniversaries

Wade & Raegene Rodman	3/15
Doris & Peter Scherr	3/31

Baptism



Shey Matthew Thomas
 Son of Matt & Janessa Thomas
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Born - 10/26/2020
 Baptized - 02/13/2021

In loving memory



Dorothy Sprotte - Called to Glory on
 Friday, Feb. 5th.
 Funeral was Friday, Feb. 12th.
 At Bethlehem Lutheran



Doris Bornowski - Called to Glory on
 Saturday, Feb. 6th.
 Funeral was Saturday, Feb. 13th.
 At St. John Lutheran

Rueben Schafer - Called to Glory
 Thursday, Feb. 18th
 Funeral at Zion Lutheran, Colby
 Sat., Feb. 27th.

Remember in our Prayers

The family of Werner Mathis, brother of
 Anna Koepke, who died Thursday, Feb. 18

Elizabeth Kirchner	BETH
Wyatt Kirchner	BETH
Megan Nueman	BETH
Let Ebben	BETH
Joe Cornelius	BETH

Thank You: I would like to thank everyone, from both churches, who sent me cards for my 90th Birthday. And also the Sunday School children who made me cards. It made my day!

Gods Blessings to All !!

Leta Ebben



St. John are at 1:30pm
 Bethlehem are at 7:30pm.

The LCMS and COVID-19 Vaccines: Facts and Considerations

COVID-19 Vaccines and Abortion

- Reliable information on the sourcing and testing of COVID-19 vaccines from the pro-life researchers of the Charlotte Lozier Institute may be found at lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/.
- According to the Lozier Institute, the current FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna) do not use aborted human fetal tissue in the design, development or production of the vaccines.^{1,2}
- The current FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines have been tested using human fetal cell lines (as are many other medicines, such as the MMR and polio vaccines, as well as treatments for HIV, Parkinson’s and diabetes), but the vaccines themselves do not contain any aborted fetal cells.
- Many remaining COVID-19 vaccines in development do use human fetal cell lines and are therefore considered “ethically controversial” (for instance, the UK-approved Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine as well as the one from Janssen/Johnson & Johnson).

COVID-19 Vaccines and the Synod

- The Synod in convention has repeatedly adopted resolutions supporting the sanctity of human life and opposing abortion (e.g., 2019 Resolution 3-02A, 2010 Resolution 6-02A, 2007 Resolution 6-02, 2004 Resolution 6-04).
- The Synod in convention has not officially adopted a resolution concerning the use of vaccines developed from or tested using fetal cell lines.
- The absence of an official Synod stance does not impact an individual’s ability to seek a religious or personal belief exemption from vaccine requirements. In many states, religious exemptions from vaccine requirements can be obtained by individuals on the basis of conscientious objection.
- Complete consensus does not exist in the pro-life community at-large on the reception of vaccines developed from or tested using fetal cell lines (e.g., the debates within Roman Catholic circles).⁴
- The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has published no report or opinion on vaccines. It has discussed the possibility of addressing it pursuant to 2019 Resolution 11-01A (“To Give Guidance and Encourage Action on Beginning-of-Life Issues”), but work on that has not begun.

What We Can Say

- The Synod remains steadfastly committed to the sanctity of human life and supportive of those institutions and individuals advocating for the unborn.
- Genuine concerns for life exist on both sides of the COVID-19 vaccination question: concern for the use of aborted fetal cells in the design, development, production and testing of vaccines, as well as concern for the physical well-being of one’s neighbor endangered by the virus.
- There is no official Synod position on the use of COVID-19 vaccines (as such positions are ordinarily expressed through a resolution of the Synod in convention).• Christians should respect the consciences of one another on a question where Scripture and the Synod have not spoken expressly.
- Members of the Synod and Synod congregations are encouraged to:
 - Educate themselves about the vaccines;
 - Consult with trusted health care providers, clergy and those who may be impacted by their decision; and
 - Act on the basis of informed conscience as to receiving the vaccine.

1 For this and other information on the use of fetal cell lines in relation to COVID-19 vaccines, see lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/. The two cell lines pertinent to COVID-19 vaccines — HEK-293 and PER.C6 — were developed by a Dutch scientist from separate abortions that occurred in 1972 and 1985, respectively, though these abortions were not undertaken for the purpose of medical research. On this, see “Human Cell Strains in Vaccine Development,” The History of Vaccines, last modified Jan. 10, 2018, historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/human-cell-strains-vaccine-development. See also Meredith Wadman, “Abortion Opponents Protest COVID-19 Vaccines’ Use of Fetal Cells,” Science, June 5, 2020, [sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/abortion-opponents-protest-covid-19-vaccines-use-fetal-cells](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/abortion-opponents-protest-covid-19-vaccines-use-fetal-cells). 2 Some objections have been raised within Roman Catholic circles to the status of the Moderna vaccine. See Stacy Trasancos, “Measuring Moderna’s COVID-19 Vaccine: Now’s the Time to Press Hard for Ethical Options,” National Catholic Register, Nov. 20, 2020, [ncregister.com/news/measuring-moderna-s-covid-19-vaccine-now-s-the-time-to-press-hard-for-ethical-options](https://www.ncregister.com/news/measuring-moderna-s-covid-19-vaccine-now-s-the-time-to-press-hard-for-ethical-options). 3 See Ivan Couronne, “How Fetal Cells from the 1970s Power Medical Innovation Today,” Medical Xpress, Oct. 20, 2020, [medicalxpress.com/news/2020-10-fetal-cells-1970s-power-medical.html](https://www.medicalxpress.com/news/2020-10-fetal-cells-1970s-power-medical.html). See also Carina Storrs, “How Exactly Fetal Tissue Is Used for Medicine,” CNN, Dec. 8, 2017, [cnn.com/2015/07/17/health/fetal-tissue-explainer/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2015/07/17/health/fetal-tissue-explainer/index.html). 4 “Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses,” Immunization Action Coalition, June 9, 2005, immunize.org/talking-about-vaccines/vaticandocument.htm. “Conscience Exemption for Vaccines Based on Fetal Tissue from Abortions,” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, last modified April 2015, [usccb.org/resources/PL%20Secretariat%20Vaccines-Conscience-Exemption-updated-April-2015_0.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/PL%20Secretariat%20Vaccines-Conscience-Exemption-updated-April-2015_0.pdf). See also the recent discussion in the National Review: Isaac Schorr, “The Facts about the COVID Vaccines and Fetal Cell Lines,” National Review, Dec. 20, 2020, [nationalreview.com/2020/12/the-facts-about-the-pfizer-and-moderna-vaccines-and-fetal-cell-lines/](https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/12/the-facts-about-the-pfizer-and-moderna-vaccines-and-fetal-cell-lines/)

Laborers For Christ to cease operations in June



Laborers For Christ (LFC) volunteers work at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Claremore, Okla., in 2018. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has announced that the LFC program will discontinue operations on June 30, 2021. (LCEF)

Laborers For Christ (LFC), a ministry of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), will discontinue operations on June 30, 2021, the conclusion of LCEF's fiscal year.

The decision comes after an extensive, 18-month review of the LFC program. A Sept. 16 LCEF press release stated, "This review revealed a number of critical issues impacting LFC operations, including a steady decline in available opportunities, increasing logistical and regulatory challenges and a marked shift in the needs of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries we serve."

The press release said that current and pending LFC projects that have been contracted will be completed, with work possibly continuing after June 30, 2021.

Begun in 1980 as a ministry of the LCMS Rocky Mountain District, LFC operations were taken up by the LCMS Mission Board in 1985 and later by the LCMS Foundation. In 2003, LFC activities were transferred to LCEF.

Over its 40-year history, LFC has completed more than 800 construction and renovation projects in service to LCMS congregations, schools and other ministries. During this time, hundreds of men and women answered the call to serve. The LCEF announcement highlighted these volunteers' dedication and faithfulness, which have "been a blessing to so many ... [and] left an indelible mark upon the mission and ministry of the LCMS."

"The church has been blessed through the faithful work of Laborers For Christ for decades," said the Rev. Bart Day, LCEF president and CEO. "We remember and celebrate the men and women who used their gifts and abilities to expand the footprint of the church.

"As the work now comes to an end, we thank God for all that has been accomplished. LCEF will consider new opportunities to serve the church in the future. As opportunities change, so must LCEF and the services we provide. We will honor the past and build the future, always growing ministry opportunities."

Plans are currently underway for a celebration in early 2021 of LFC and its history of service to the church. Questions may be directed to Joe Russo, LCEF's senior vice-president for Marketing, at joe.russo@lcef.org.



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

March 7

"A Place to Belong"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Mark 11: 1-26)

March 14

"All Bets Are Off"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Mark 12: 13-34)

March 21

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Mark)

March 28

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Mark)

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.

Lutheran Hour 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 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.



Issues, Etc.

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org



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 Church
News

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Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines