



# The Dual-Parish Review

## Message from Pastor

### God's Strange Math

*“So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.”*

– Acts 10:34-35

He is Risen!

God shows no partiality. That simple statement can cause either dread or joy, depending on the person. It can cause dread among those who think they have no need of God, His Church, or His Christ. It can and should cause concern among those who think they “did the church thing” long enough and now are fine ignoring God. They wrongly think they have banked up enough merits with God and so He has to show them special treatment both now and on the day of judgment. *“Don’t you know who I am? Don’t you know how much money I used to make or how many big, fat checks I wrote to the church?”* They have been counting on getting special treatment, as if God were the maitre d’ at a fancy restaurant and they could slip him a \$20 for a nice table by the fireplace. But they get no partiality from Him. They are treated just like everyone else. We are reminded of the sins of Eli the priest. He did not correct his wicked sons and so they all received punishment, even though they were priests. It seems this impartiality thing has a longer history than we imagine.

But for those who fear God and do what is right, for those who trust in the sacrifice of Christ Jesus and long to receive God’s gifts in the Divine Service, there is nothing but joy in that statement. God shows no partiality against me. He does not hold my rebellious teenage years against me. His love for me is not tainted by all of those years of selfish living, when I cared only about accumulating wealth and having everything my way. He does not rescind His promise to me when I stumble along the narrow path and find myself wallowing in the ditch, my besetting sins hanging around my neck like an albatross. God shows me no partiality and treats me like His own child, like His Son in fact.

No matter our background, race, nationality, sex or even mental ability, God treats us all the same. Which is to say, He wants us to come to Him in humility the way a dutiful child approaches a parent. With respect and love, expecting that our failures will not be held against us and the love of the Father will always be greater than His displeasure.

God shows no partiality, but instead shows mercy. Abundant mercy. To the poor man and to the wealthy, to the pregnant teenager and to the widow, to the convicted felon and to the mayor. All are equal in His eyes, because of what Jesus did for each of them. Jesus took each person’s bill and signed His own name to it, taking that blackened invoice on Himself. Because Christ Jesus died for everyone, everyone is valuable in God’s eyes. Everyone is priceless. It is a strange kind of accounting, making the worthless valuable. But God’s math shows us His boundless love and teaches us to love and serve others the way He does.

He is Risen, indeed!



## 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 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

## Church Council April 13, 2021

Present were Doug Brown, Mike Thompson, Cathy Schneider, Sharon Niemann, Kay Christiansen, Jeff Werner, Pastor Schopp, and Stephan Schneider.

Pastor Schopp opened with a prayer.

Doug called the meeting to order and read the minutes from the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were no additions or corrections so they were approved as read.

Pastor gave his report and there was the first communion of Mica Schulz on March 28<sup>th</sup> and baptism of Elijah Reis on April 4<sup>th</sup>. LERT training has been put on hold as our district trainer has to be recertified. This is Pastor Weden from Stevens Point and he hopes to complete this by the end of April. Our training will be moved to mid - June. The cost will run \$25-\$35 for the badges that are issued upon completion of the training.

Pastor is on vacation May 4-12 with Pastor Moldenhauer as pulpit supply. Thursday, May 13 will be the funeral for Ronald Werner at 11am. There cannot be a luncheon at the church afterward because of the ongoing thrift sale during that week.

Thursday, 7 pm is Ascension Of Our Lord service at St. John only.

Nursing homes have opened up for some visitation and Pastor was able to visit Audrey Telschow and Mary Hamann in the past month.

Judith Cohen has asked to be removed from membership, since she had decided to become Roman Catholic. This will be brought to the voters' assembly for formal approval.

Elder's Continue study the book of Concord.

Outreach reported the last blood drive was very successful. And we will alternate with Bethlehem in hosting the blood drives to increase participation. Inquiries are coming in on both the Edgar Parade and Steam Show. They will be discussed at the quarterly voters' meeting. The issue at large is whether we will have enough people to do these events.

Treasurer reported that for the first quarter our giving is above our needs and we are headed in the right direction. Currently, we average \$ 3,622.08 per Sunday and we need \$3,186 to meet our budget. Pastor will show graphs at the quarterly meeting to reflect where we stand in the finances.

Finance Committees will count after the quarterly meeting. No problems with the volunteers working on this team. It is going very well.

Trustees reported that the water heater needed some repairs and they were done. The need for a water softener is apparent. A large household one would accommodate the whole parsonage and the limited use at the church. An estimate of less than \$1000 would be ballpark and could be installed by the trustees themselves. Further discussion will take place at the voter's meeting. Water use being monitored was also discussed.

Cemetery committee will evaluate the work needed after the spring dry up.

**Old Business.** The trustees will hang the picture from the narthex in the fireplace room as they see fit.

**New Business.** Outreach will designate Mel Niemann to call Mike Butt about the Edgar Parade. Pastor noted that we are in partnership with our circuit for the LERT training.

Front half of the pews will be opened up for all pews to be used. Motion was made, second and passed.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Sharon Niemann - Recording Secretary

# St. John Voters Meeting Minutes

## Quarterly Voters Meeting April 18, 2021

Twenty nine people signed the attendance sheet and the meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Schopp.

Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved.

**Pastor's report** gave average monthly attendance numbers for January was 44, February was 38, and March was 55. Midweek Lenten services at 1:30 averaged 22. Holy Week was Maundy Thursday 26, Good Friday 79, Easter Sunrise 28, and Easter 10:30am 85. Giving increased over the past couple of months that we have brought in enough to meet the monthly obligations and start replenishing the restricted funds that we had borrowed from over the last year.

Christian Foundation class finished up on April 15. From both congregations, there were 12 students in attendance. Confirmation class will conclude on Wednesday, April 28 and Sunday School will end on May 16.

LERT training for our circuit will happen sometime in mid-June as our trainer had to get recertified.

**Elder's report** mentioned their study of the Book of Concord. The website will continue to carry the service. From this Sunday forward; the front half of the church will have open seating. No ropes will be in place marking social distance spaces in this part of the church. We will continue to not use the side pews and only half of the back pews.

**Outreach** reported that the past blood drive was a success. From here forward we will alternate with Bethlehem in hosting these events. May 1 is at Bethlehem, August 21 is at Bethlehem, October 23 is here at St. John, and Dec. 18 is at Milan. The June/July slot could not be filled because the blood center had not available times open.

A billboard is still being explored for *support of Pro Life*, Edgar Parade will have a St John presence with some kind of float. What we are able to do will depend on how many people sign up a willingness to help. The signup sheet was put out at the Voter's meeting and will be out for the next few weeks. The Steam Show Club asked us if we could work the gates as we had in the past. Again, this will depend on how many people we have willing to work. Pete VanDerLeest will head up the dual parish volunteers and he figures that we need 40 people to do the job. That sign up sheet is there as well.

**Board of Ed.** Reported that Sunday School went about in a variety of ways this year. Materials were given face to face, delivered, and mailed out to those who were not able to attend. For the summer, they are planning a Vacation Bible School. It will be in late July *or* early August.

**Treasurer** reported an improvement in our financial picture. We took in a weekly average of \$3,622.58. Our budget required \$3,186 per week. The reports have been reworked to make them easier to read and follow. These simple changes made it so much easier to follow along with the report.

**Trustees** reported that LED bulbs continue to be replacing the regular light bulbs in all areas of the church and parsonage. The light bill reflects a good savings. The parsonage water heater was repaired and is working as it should. The trustees will be looking into a standard larger home size water softener. The savings in repairs and appliances will more that pay for itself and we are looking at under a \$1000 and something that we can install ourselves.

**Financial committee** had no report.

**Cemetery committee** will check on the stones as soon as the lawn dries up.

Motion was made and seconded to accept all reports.

**Old Business:** We need volunteers for the thrift sale. The dates are May 6-15 and workers are needed for putting things out for the sale. The signup sheet is out in the Narthex. Please note that we are doing this with Bethlehem and each church has assigned alternating days to work.

### **New Business:**

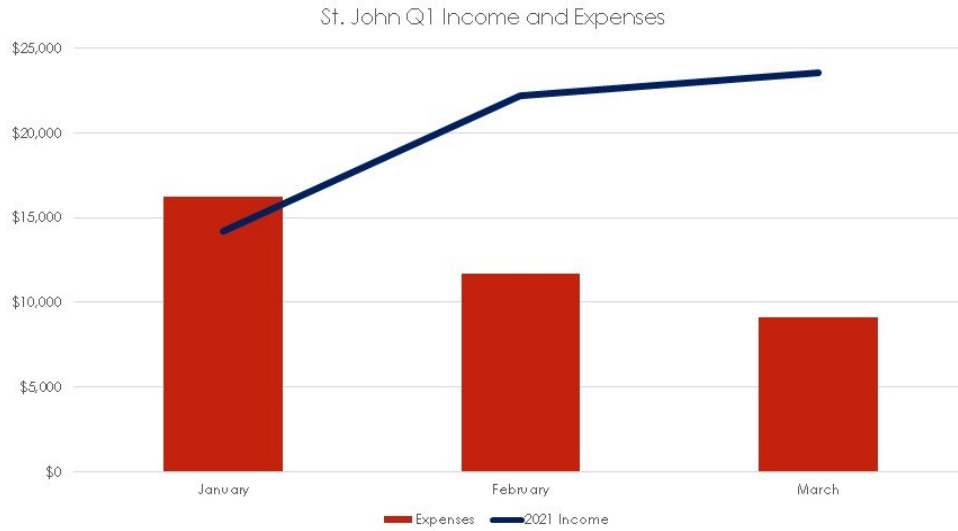
Motion was made to publish the minutes for the quarterly voters meeting in the newsletter. Second and passed.

Edgar Parade and Steam show workers signup sheets will be in the Narthex.

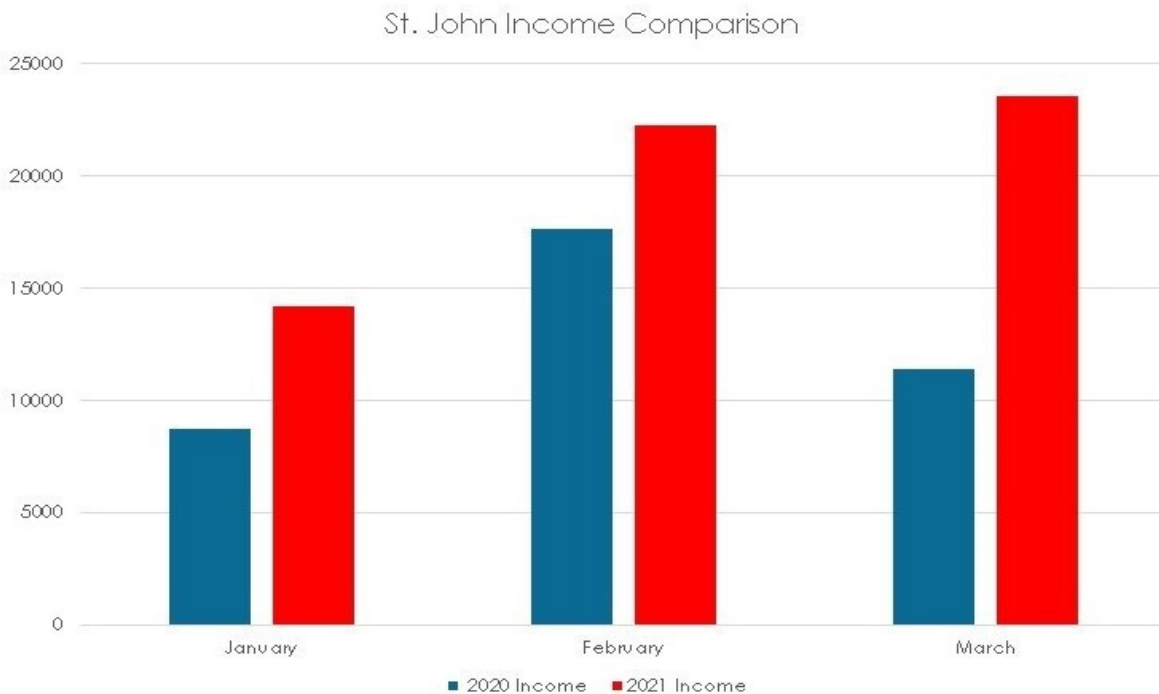
Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Niemann

# FIRST QUARTER INCOME & EXPENSES



# INCOME COMPARISON 2020 & 2021



# Liturgy Parts

## LCMS Worship

What do the parts of the liturgy mean?

### Agnus Dei

Turning again to the Revelation to St. John, at one point John sees a scroll in the right hand of the One who was sitting on the throne. A “strong angel” puts forth the challenge, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

Then, between the throne and the elders, the Lamb comes into view. Undoubtedly the most significant feature in John's description of this Lamb is that it is a lamb who appears to have been slain.

When we sing the Agnus Dei, “Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us,” we are preaching and praying all at once. It was, after all, with these very words that John the Baptizer pointed his disciples to Jesus (John 1:29, 36).

As we prepare to feast on the Lamb of our salvation, we do indeed proclaim him who gave his life for us. Here is the Lamb of God! Yet we also pray to him who is now present in his body and blood.

We pray for mercy, mercy from the One who showed the true depths of mercy and compassion as he was silently led to slaughter, dying like a lamb shorn of all its honor.

Returning one more time to the apostle John's vision of heaven, we later hear his description of the saints in white robes.

“Who are they?” John is asked. The answer: “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:13-14).

This is the blood of our redemption, the propitiatory sacrifice that was foreshadowed at the first Passover when the blood of the year-old lambs was sprinkled on the doorpost as a sign that blood had already been shed in that house.

In his Easter hymn, Martin Luther applies that incident to us, thus revealing our standing before the Father:

See, his blood now marks our door;  
Faith points to it;  
Death passes o'er,  
And Satan cannot harm us.  
(*Lutheran Service Book*, 458)

So it is at every celebration of the Lord's Supper. The blood of the Lamb is poured out for our drinking and his flesh for our eating. Clearly, God's mercy is shown, and his peace rests on us.

### Distribution

Try for a moment to picture the heavenly throng standing before the throne of God on the Last Day. The numbers will be staggering.

And yet, united as we all are to Christ, the Bridegroom, we will be one — his elect Bride. As the faithful make their way to the altar to feast on the Bread of Life in the distribution, they are given a glimpse of that holy Bride.

Oh yes, we see all of her warts and blemishes: the petty bickering over trivial matters, the deep disagreements on more weighty issues, and the painful ways in which we sometimes treat one another.

Yet, by our common confession of the truth, we are one in Christ. As Christ gives himself to us in this holy meal, he strengthens that unity and bids us love one another with a deep and abiding love. How can it be any other way, as we are sent from the table with the blessing to depart in peace?

### **Planting Time**

**Plant three rows of Peas**

**Peace of Mind**

**Peace of heart**

**Peace of Soul**

**Plant four rows of Squash**

**Squash gossip**

**Squash indifference**

**Squash grumbling**

**Squash selfishness**

**No garden should be without turnips**

**Turnip for service when needed**

**Turnip to help one another**

**Turnip the mu-**

**Plant 4 rows of Lettuce**

**Lettuce be faithful**

**Lettuce be kind**

**Lettuce be happy**

**Lettuce really love one another**

**To conclude our garden we must have Thyme.**

**Thyme for fun**

**Thyme for rest**

**Thyme for others**

**Thyme for ourselves.**

**Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. We reap what we sow - you 'should' have a bountiful garden.**

**Author Unknown**



## Official Acts, Memorials, Transfers, New Members, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Monthly News

### Bethlehem

#### Birthdays

Weiler, Austin	5/2
Hammel, Shane	5/3
Bernt, Croix	5/4
Johnson, Wendy	5/5
Ortman, Barbara	5/6
Graun, Matthew	5/7
Luther, Joanne	5/7
Schopp, Brayden	5/7
Neumann, Michael	5/10
Schreiber, Bart	5/10
Empey, Judy	5/12
Reynolds, Sandra	5/12
Viegut, Taygen	5/12
Hammel, Ashton	5/17
Schwarting, Michelle	5/17
Thomas, Matthew	5/18
Weiler, Bruce	5/18
Dassow, Vicki	5/20
Klimpke, Alex	5/20
Johnson, Braiden	5/21
Bender, Brenten	5/22
Bernt, Erin	5/23
Woodward, Natasha	5/25
Kilty, Leighton	5/28
Broeske, Amy	5/31

#### Anniversaries

None

#### Pastor Schopp on Vacation:

Pastor Schopp and family will be on vacation from May, 41th to May 12th.

Pastor Moldenhauer will be guest Pastor on Sunday, May 9th.

Ron Werner Funeral will be at St. John on Thursday, May, 13th at 11am.

Rueben Schafer Interment will be at St. John cemetery on Sunday, May, 30 at 1:00pm.

### St. John

#### Birthdays

Wolff, Jordon	5/01
Durkee Sr., James	5/02
Littleton, Cade	5/02
Durkee, Ethel	5/03
Schopp, Brayden	5/07
Telschow, Delores	5/08
VanDerLeest, Eleanor	5/10
Spindler, Phyllis	5/13
Noller, Emma	5/16
Mielke Jr., Edward	5/17
VanDerLeest, Les	5/17
Hamann, Edwin	5/18
Telschow, Ethan	5/18
Syring, Darla	5/22
Mortvedt, Dawn	5/28

#### Anniversaries

Bruce & Doris Wussow	5/3 63yrs
Jayne & Victoria Myszka	5/11
Larry & Jennifer Noller Jr	5/28

Bethlehem: A Thank You letter from the Concordia Theological Seminary to the donation of \$500.00 from Bethlehem Outreach .  
 “ We at the Seminary would like to thank you for your recent contribution. Gifts, such as yours, allow us to provide the finest theological education to the future pastors, deaconesses, and missionaries who will serve the LCMS and our partner churches worldwide. I thank God for you and ask for your continued support. Together we partner in an essential mission of forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

Your servant in Christ,  
 Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr    President

Bethlehem is looking for a new **Sunday School Superintendent**, if you are interested contact Phil Carlson or Tayler Bender.

Blood Drives Scheduled for this year

Beth	May 1, 2021
St. John	June No date available
Beth	August 21, 2021
St. John	October 23, 2021
Beth	December 18, 2021

### Baptism

Elijah John Reis  
 Born March, 16 2021  
 Baptized Easter Sun., April 4 2021



### Rite of First Holy Communion

Micah Schulz  
 Sunday, March 28th 2021

### Funeral

Ron Werner  
 Rite of Christian Burial  
 Thursday, May 13 2021  
 Rueben Schafer Internment  
 Sunday, May 30th at 1:30pm

### Remember in our Prayers:

Debbie Orth	Beth
Megan Neumann	Beth
Letta Ebben	Beth
Mel Niemann	STJ

recuperating from knee replacement.

Phyllis Diedrich	STJ
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recuperating from a hip replacement.



## Monthly News continued:

**Edgar Steam Show:** St. John Voters have decided to work at the Edgar Steam Show, August 27<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup> this year, providing we have enough volunteers. In order to do this, we need 40 plus volunteers between Bethlehem and St. John members. If you wish to volunteer there is a sign up sheet at both churches in the narthex or you can call the church office at 715-352-2888.

St. John would like to enter a float in the Edgar Parade, Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> but, we will be needing volunteers to help pass out water. If you are able to help, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can call the office 715-352-2888

**St. John Budget News:** A special meeting of the Church Council budget committee was held on April 2021. The 2021 budget was reviewed and cuts were made in areas that were "wants" not "needs" of the church. This was done to bring our expenses into a more reasonable perspective. After these adjustments, our weekly giving needs are now \$2,660. 2021 giving has been off to an excellent start and if we can continue in this manner, we will be able to make great strides into building up the financial position of St. John's.

**St. John VBS:** 2021 VBS will be held July 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> more information to come!

**St. John Lawn Mowing:** We are in need of volunteers for lawn mowing!! The signup sheet with the 2021 lawn mowing schedule is on the library table in the narthex. Be sure to sign up now to get the week you want. If you wish, you can sign up with a group and arrange to have someone else mow. If you choose to sign up together with another person and pay someone else to mow we have a person who will mow at a reasonable price. Contact Pete VanDerLeest or Mike Thompson. Thank You.

**Mission plant sale for LWML** at Christ Lutheran. Abbotsford May 21 & 22. It will be held in the parking lot and all of Zone 10 societies are invited to donate and help with the

sale. Bring your house plants, perennials, and whatever extra plants that you have to the church before Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be taken to Abbotsford for you to be put in the sale. The sale will run from 9am-3pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. All proceeds will go the the LWML mite fund.

## **LERT Training for Our Circuit Churches :**

St. John will be hosting a LERT training for our circuit. The training will be scheduled for sometime in June. Date TBD. Sign up sheets will be posted at both churches when a date is announced. Please consider joining us. The cost will run \$25-\$35 for the badges that are issued upon completion of the training.

“There is an enormous need to have groups that are trained before a disaster strikes,” said the Rev. Ross Johnson, the LCMS Office of National Mission’s Disaster Response director. “You never know when a tragedy is going to happen, and there’s nothing more helpful when a tragedy happens than to have people trained and ready to go in at a moment’s notice.”

One of the ways in which the Synod enables LCMS districts and congregations to respond to crises is by building up their local response capacity through early training available year-round through LCMS Disaster Response.

“We offer a one-day course for LERT — Lutheran Early Response Team training — which is a 6- to 7-hour event normally done on a Saturday, and it focuses on what to do and what *not* to do when disaster strikes,” said Johnson. “Having trained disaster-response teams in place helps form a network of responders ready to go and makes it easier to [rapidly] deploy additional volunteers for disaster recovery.”

The only requirement is that LERT members must be LCMS Lutherans and at least 18 years old. There is no maximum age limitation,” said Johnson. “Not all work is physically demanding — teams also need members who can prepare meals, organize equipment and supplies, and people to organize human-care and spiritual-care committees to follow up with disaster victims by visiting them once the disaster

## Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

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



**BIBLE PASSAGE** — Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God. — Ascension of Our Lord



# Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

May 2

## "Laughed At"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Speaking out against the prevailing culture might prompt ridicule but it could also produce repentance.  
(Jonah 3)

May 9

## "Seriously?"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A preacher who gets upset when people take his message seriously--that's the story of Jonah.  
(Jonah 1-4)

May 16

## "Gain a Heart of Wisdom"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Pentecost  
(Psalm 90:12)

May 23

## "TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Ephesians Series

May 30

## "TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Trinity

## 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](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!

### Station City, State Freq. Day Time

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)

## 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](http://ToddWilken.com) and produced by [Jeff Schwarz](http://JeffSchwarz.com).





Thursday, May 6th thru Saturday noon, May 15th. No sale on Sunday May 9.

**NO LARGE FURNITURE ITEMS PLEASE** due to the large amount of donations for the Thrift Sale there is limited space available. If you have large items to donate call Arlette Molthen @ 715-223-6062 or Janice Brown @ 715-352-3056 to see if it is alright to bring them.

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



Where  
the  
Light  
of  
Jesus  
Christ  
Always  
Shines