



# The Dual-Parish Review

## Message from Pastor

It's almost impossible to miss how the world around us tries to push the start of the so-called "Christmas Season" to an earlier and earlier time each year. Retail businesses begin selling decorations as early as the middle of October or even the end of September, and as December 25<sup>th</sup> gets closer and closer their shouts of "Sale! Sale!" get more and more shrill. The Hallmark Channel begins their annual Christmas movie marathon at the beginning of November with nonstop Hallmark movies that have little to do with the actual reason for Christmas, and they can't seem to resist pushing that back a little bit each year with some of those same movies shown just before October ends or even previewed a bit for a special "Christmas in July" event. The radio stations begin broadcasting their collections of old and new Christmas songs on Thanksgiving night most years, and our old friends in the church of The Salvation Army begin placing their red kettles out a couple of weeks before that.

For a world that wants nothing to do with Christianity and that does its best to push it out of the public square, this incessant need to "get into 'the Christmas Spirit'" (whatever that is) earlier every year is puzzling to say the least. Attempts have been made year after year to do the same thing with Easter, but it never seems to reach the fever pitch that Christmas does. Maybe it's because of the happy feelings and nostalgia that are associated with it. Maybe the anticipation of getting newer and better stuff appeals to our innate and greedy desire to get more and more things. Maybe the time of year itself is the explanation as the shorter days and lower temperatures encourage people to seek after something that will make them feel better.

In reality it's probably a combination of all three of these reasons which ultimately find their basis in humanity's sinful nature. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that it's sinful to enjoy the season or to watch the movies or listen to the music, and I'm not saying that we shouldn't begin to prepare for Christmas. In fact, that's what the season of Advent is all about, preparing for the Christmas celebration, but as Christians we are called and encouraged to be preparing for Christmas in a Christian way.

Advent (which we get from the Latin word, *adventus*, which means "coming") is the season that prepares us for Christmas as it focuses on a progression from darkness to light. During this season we anticipate the second coming of Jesus, and we prepare to celebrate His first coming as the very Light of the world that pierces the darkness of sin. Christians prepare together for this special celebration with special times of prayer and devotion. (*This year you can join us at St. John at 1:30pm or at Bethlehem at 7:00pm. Hope we see you there, and be sure to look into one or more of the different ways to use this year's special Advent devotions from the Higher Things Lutheran youth organization.*)

History shows us that the season of Advent has been a part of the Christian calendar year since 550 AD. We believe that when Christians come together to worship here on earth we are joining together with not just the people sitting in the pews, but with the believers in Christ who have lived throughout all of human history. When you pray the Lord's Prayer, you are joining with the apostles who were first taught those words by Jesus Himself. When you kneel at the communion rail it is not just you and God, but you join together with Christian believers from all of history, and from all over the world. You join with "...all of the company of heaven" to receive the gifts of God. And when you join with us here on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday mornings during this Advent season you will participate once again in the longing prayer of the Church throughout all of human history to say, "Amen. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen!"

December  
JOY  
to the world  
2022

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. Michael Mathey

Pastors Office Hours @ BETH.

Tues. 9am-5pm

Pastors Number:

715-330-5599

Pastors Email:

lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

Office Secretary Email:

secretary@stjbeth.org

St. John "High Steeple"

Lutheran Church

119415 Huckleberry Road

Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Sun. Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sun. Bible Study at 11:45am

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey

Pastors Office Hours: M, W, T, F:

9am to 5pm

Pastors Number:

715-352-2888

Or 715-330-5599

Pastors Email:

lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

Sec. Office Hours: M, T, W, F:

1pm to 4pm

Dual Parish Office:

715-352-2888

Office Secretary Email:

secretary@stjbeth.org

Dual Parish Website:

www.Stjbeth.org

## **St John Council Meeting**

**Nov. 15, 2022**

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Attending were Doug Brown, Kay Christiansen, Sharon Niemann, Mel Niemann, Anna Koepke, Stephan Schnieder, Pastor Mathey, and Jeff Werner.

Pastor's report included that catechism class was starting at Bethlehem on the 16'th. This would continue until the first of the year when it would be held at St John. Services will be held at both churches for Thanksgiving and Advent begins on Nov. 30'th. Pastor introduced a group that could help us as a congregation protect our legal standing in our belief system through our church document. This would protect us from law suits. More information will be available in the future.

Elders are looking into specific policies for weddings, funerals, and the use of our facilities. They are concerned with the legal issues that could be coming up as well. Pete is working on the cry room monitor and sound for the services. We may need a new TV installed to view the service.

Outreach team continues to record the services and put them on the websight. The next blood drive is Dec. 28 here. Watch for a date and time for the all church caroling.

Treasurer gave a report that reflected health insurance paid to cover 3 months at once. So that gave us an extremely high expense total; but it was a "one time" catch up expense. All bills are current.

Trustees reported that doorbells are in at both main doors. Christmas bags will be made up for the Children's program on the 18'th of Dec. If you wish to contribute to the cost of them; please give the money to Anna Koepke or Ryan VanDerLeest.

Finance Committee reports that they will need 2 counters for next year.

All reports were approved.

Old Business: The board made a recommendation that we hire the Alliance Defending Freedom for one year to review our church documents in order to prevent legal problems. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

A surge protector is being researched for the organ.

New Business: A check was received from the Adam Hoppenworth family as a thankyou in response to our help with the Levi fund. It will be used to help in childrens' ministry or helping hands as we see the need. Action to be taken in the Dec. meeting. Thank you note was sent back to the family.

Motion was made to get a new computer for the treasurer. Dean has been unable to deal with the problems. Second and passed. Old one will be cleaned and passed on to finance.

We will look for someone to act as leader for the church directory. This person will search companies and consider making one on our own. Notice will be put in the bulletin.

Motion to adjourn. Closed with The Lord's Prayer,

Sharon Niemann Recording Secretary



## December Birthdays

Kilty, Sutton	12/02
Miles, Sequoia	12/04
Bunkelman, Sheri	12/06
McKee, Tammi	12/06
Geisking, Lucy	12/09
Denzine, Kurt	12/10
Schwarting, Justin	12/12
Kunze, Rosie	12/13
Kirchner, Elizabeth	12/14
Bernt, Joshua	12/16
Neumann, Marnie	12/18
Kelly Mathey	12/18
Rinehart, Karleigh	12/21
Geisking, Justin	12/28
Thomas, Janessa	12/28
Kirchner, Galen	12/30
Myszka, Samantha	12/01
Myszka, Valerie	12/01
Schneider, Stephan	12/01
Telschow, Audrey	12/01
Ulrick, James	12/02
Durkee Jr., James	12/04
Noller, Delayna	12/05
Koepke, Emma	12/08
Hartwig, Lauryn	12/09
Syring, Amanda	12/09
Rodman, Raegene	12/11
Hamann, Theodora	12/15
Koepke, Steven	12/18
Mathey, Kelly	12/18
Myszka, Victoria	12/20



Clarence & Arlette Molthen	12/02
Matthew, Janessa Thomas	12/19
Randy & Sandra Reynolds	12/23
Albert & Miriam Wolff	12/12
Ryan & Sam VanDerLeest	12/15
Stephan & Cathy Schneider	12/26



## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Bethlehem: Soup Supper & Craft and Bake Sale and Live Nativity:** Saturday, December 10th 4pm to 7:30pm is our Soup Supper (eat in ) and Live Nativity, be sure to invite your family, neighbors and friends to come join us for the evening.

**Bethlehem Soup Sale:** If you wish to order soup from the Soup Supper there are order sheets in the narthex. Order by December 4th. Or call Dorean Freimund at 715-680-0078. You can pick up your soup the day of the Soup Supper on December 10th from 9am to 7pm

**Bethlehem Sunday School Children's Christmas Service,** entitled "To Us A Child Is Born", will be held **Sunday, December 18th, immediately following the 8am Service.** After the children's service, a breakfast will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Bethlehem Sunday School:** There will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1.

**Bethlehem CWIA:** CWIA has received a new selection of greeting cards and Christmas cards. Please check them out, there is a great selection for everyone.

**Church Photo Directory:** We are looking for a volunteer to head with and work on organizing a new Photo Directory. If interested please contact the Deb Mathey



**St. John Children's Christmas Program,** will be on Sunday, December 18 at 6:30 at St John's.

Practice for any interested children will be on Sundays at 9:15-10:15 am, Nov 27, Dec 4, Dec 11, and Dec 18. Parts will be handed out to students on Sunday, November 27. Friends and family are encouraged to participate! Thank you.

**Have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!**

**Note:** There will be no Sunday School on Dec 25 and Jan 1, 2023 We will have class again on Jan 8, 2023.

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

Continued...

**St. John Christmas Bags for Children:** If you would like to donate money for the Children's Christmas Bags give it one of the Trustees. Ryan VanDerLeest or Anna Koepke.



**GIVE BLOOD  
SAVE LIFE**

**Blood Drive:** at St. John on Wednesday, December 28th 9am to 1pm.

**St. John Sunday School** will again be doing a Christ- Giving Tree this year to help defray the cost of a hospital bed for Greta

Marshall (Elizabeth's daughter). The tree will have ornaments on with donations marked. The tree will e up in Advent and through the Christmas season.

**Advent Devotions:** There are Advent Devotion booklets available in the narthex of both churches, please take one or there are multiple ways to read and listen to reflections visit the website at [www.higherthings.org](http://www.higherthings.org) to read, listen to, or subscribe to Reflections each day.

## People we touched with the Harvest Supper

It started with the phone calls. I took many calls on Thursday, September 29. All callers were happy we were having the meal again. Many said they looked forward to it every year. One young woman called to order 6 meals. She apologized that she had 4 children and needed so many meals. I assured her that we were happy to provide them.

We stopped taking orders on Saturday morning but one gentleman would not be turned away easily. Lester, who was 92, called in the morning and was told we were sold out. Then he called a little later and got me on the phone. He explained that his wife was in the nursing home and that he would really appreciate a meal. He said he could drive up and get it. I assured him that we would deliver it. After he received his meal and ate it. He called back to let us know that it was wonderful. "So much meat!" "Homemade pie, because he can tell when it's homemade!" Thanked us again for serving him.

Mel and Sharon Niemann had the following

comments:

We met several interesting people when we made deliveries. First was a lady with a walker. Very slow moving. Obviously not able to drive. Asked if her bag could be put on her walker so she could scoot it to her table. Amazingly grateful.

Then, we met another gal who could not lift her bag with 2 meals in it and asked if we would just put it in the kitchen for her. Again, so grateful and generous with their support.

Deliveries are a real eye opener as to how some people live and get around so poorly. It helps us see how truly blessed we are.

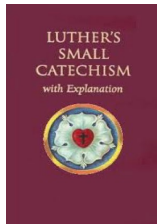
We learned that the deliveries were so important as many that got the meals would never have been able to come to our church for a dinner. So, when we get discouraged thinking that we didn't do it well enough, we need to remember that we are spreading the love of Jesus by providing for those less fortunate. This is why we do it.

Cathy Schneider

Delivery Coordinator



### **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: The Third Part**



*How can water do such great things?*  
Certainly not just water, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which \_\_\_\_\_ this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism.

But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a \_\_\_\_\_ water, rich in grace, and a washing of the rebirth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of \_\_\_\_\_ and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." *Titus 3:5-8*

### **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: The Fourth Part**

*What does such baptizing with water indicate?*

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and \_\_\_\_\_ be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should \_\_\_\_\_ emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

*Where is this written?*

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore \_\_\_\_\_ with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new \_\_\_\_\_." *Romans 6:4*

## **Agnus Day by James Wetzstein**

**Luke 2:15-21**



**BIBLE PASSAGE** — When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

**LIFE QUOTES** "As sure as Christmas will come again on December 25, our Lord will come again. As we look forward to the Last Day, let's dress for the occasion, putting on godliness and repentance. Let's celebrate everything He did the first time He came to assure us of our home of righteousness. Let's be spiritually awake and alert for His coming again, knowing that we will enjoy God's perfect paradise, our eternal home." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church,*

## Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule



December 4

### "Paradise Restored"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
If God is love, what are we to make of His wrath?  
(Isaiah 11:1-10)

December 11

### "Beauty We Can't See"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
We often feel our need for God's presence only when we see what it looks like when He's absent.  
(Isaiah 28:5)

December 18

### "Gestures of Hope"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Dr. Michael Zeigler shows how even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way, by God's grace.  
(Isaiah 7:14)

December 25

### "A Shoot from the Stump"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A shoot springs forth from the stump of Jesse. Is it a sign of hope--or a threat?  
(Isaiah 11:1)

## 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

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 and produced



Bethlehem: Soup Supper  
Craft , Bake Sale and  
Live Nativity:



Saturday, December 10th 4pm to 7:30pm

Soup Supper (eat in ) and

Live Nativity

Be sure to invite your family, neighbors,  
and friends to come join us  
for the evening.

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



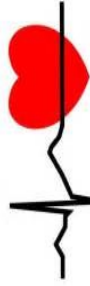
Where  
the  
Light  
of  
Jesus  
Christ  
Always  
Shines

**Be**

**SHARE THE GIFT**

**A**

**OF LIFE.**



*Love, give, live.*

**Hero**

**St. John "High Steeple"**

**119415 Huckleberry Road, Edgar**

**Is sponsoring**

**a blood drive on**

**Wednesday, December 28, 2022**

**9:00am to 1:00pm**