



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Pastors do a lot of reading. It's a part of who we are, and as our Easter celebration continues this month, I wanted to share with you this great Easter story. I hope you enjoy reading it for the first time as much as I enjoyed discovering it for the first time a few years ago! – Pr. M.

“Once upon a time (a real time, mind you, not an imagined one), there was a wolf. He was a fat old thing. You see, he had it pretty easy. Whenever he wanted to eat, he only had to walk to the door of his cave and look at the sheep that fed right outside. He'd eye this one or that one. Then he'd go after it, and with a pretty minimal struggle he'd bring the sheep down and eat away. And the more that he ate, the bigger he grew, and the bigger he grew, the hungrier he got. He was a wicked old thing; sometimes he'd just poke his head out the door and howl. All the sheep began to shiver at the very sound of him. He'd chuckle to himself, ‘Yes, you better be afraid, you stupid sheep, because one of these days I am going to eat you, and it won't be pleasant. Oh no, it won't. Ha! Ha!’ This big, bad wolf had a name that the sheep feared. They had only to think of his name and they'd get wobbly on their knees and some would faint outright. His name, you see, was Death. And Death was always hungry and never satisfied. He was always eating sheep and always wanting more. And he stank. The very smell of him was worse than his name or his howl. He was altogether dreadful, let me tell you! He was in charge, and all the sheep knew it.

“There came a day when he was feeling hungrier than usual. He poked his head out the cave door to roar and he couldn't believe his eyes. Why, right there in front of his door, on his very doorstep almost, was the fattest, the juiciest sheep he'd ever laid his eyes on. The effrontery of it! He drew in the air to fill his vast lungs and then he let out a stone-splitting howl. All the other sheep in the vicinity turned tail and ran. They were afraid – all but the sheep that still grazed just outside his cave. That sheep paid him no heed at all. Kept on eating, just like it hadn't even heard him. The wolf was getting mad now. He came bounding out the door and right up to that impertinent animal. Again he sucked the air into his lungs, and this time he breathed out right in the sheep's face. The sheep looked up and blinked as the hideous odor of decay was blasted in its face. Totally unconcerned, the sheep blinked and then stared.

“Now the wolf was getting himself into quite a tizzy. ‘Don't you know who I am?’ he snarled. The sheep looked at him and said, ‘Yes. I know.’ Calm, at peace even. The other sheep began to creep back at a distance to watch. They couldn't believe what they were witnessing. ‘Well,’ snarled the wolf, ‘aren't you afraid?’ The sheep looked Death, that old wolf, right in the eyes and said, ‘Of you? You have got to be kidding!’ Now the wolf was so livid with anger that he spoke low and menacing, ‘You're in for it, lamb chops. You are not going to have it easy. I'm going to take you out slow and painfully.’ There was a moment of silence and



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

Sunday School 9am -

Sun. Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sun. Bible Study at 11:45am

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey

Pastors Office Hours: M, W, T:

9am to 5pm

Pastors Number:

715-352-2888

Or 715-330-5599

Not a cell phone .

Please leave a message

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.Stjbethorg

Message from Pastor Continued from page 1.....

then the sheep said, 'I know.'

"The other sheep had all been watching because they'd never heard anything like this before. But the moment that the wolf pounced, they scarcely dared to hope – but it was just possible that, this once, the wolf wasn't going to get his way. But their hopes were dashed. It was an awful and ugly sight. The wolf chowed down. It was slow and painful, just like he said. And in the end, there was nothing left. He turned his rude face, red with blood, to the other sheep, and he belched. They turned tail and ran, knowing that he'd be back for them one day soon.

"As the wolf went back to his cave, he took out a toothpick and cleaned his teeth and he thought that he'd never tasted a sheep that was quite so good before. Nothing tough about that meat. It was tender and rich and really altogether satisfying. The thought hit him with surprise. It was almost as though his insatiable hunger had actually been quenched for once. The thought was a little disturbing. Well, no matter, he thought. And off he went to bed.

"When the morning came, the wolf wasn't feeling quite himself. It was almost as though he were getting a bit of a stomachache. Such a thing never happened. He always woke up ravenous and went off to start eating first thing in the morning, at least a dozen or so sheep before the dew was off the grass. But not this morning. His stomach *was* grumbling. By noon, he was feeling more than discomfort. He was feeling positively ill. He who had brought such pain on those poor sheep was getting a taste of pain himself – and it was most unpleasant. He kept thinking back to that impertinent sheep he had eaten yesterday afternoon, the one that had tasted so strangely good. Could it actually have been poisoned or something? It wasn't long before he stopped thinking altogether. The pain was just too great. He rolled around on the floor of his den and howled and yammered.

"The sheep heard the sound and didn't quite know what to make of it all. They crept cautiously nearer and nearer to the door of his house and turned their heads listening. What could it mean?

"It was sometime in the dark of the night that the wolf let out a shuddering howl. Something was alive and moving inside his own gullet. Something that pushed and poked and prodded until with a sudden burst, the gullet was punctured and a hole ripped open. And something, rather, someone stepped right out through the hole, right out of the massive stinking stomach. The wolf felt like it was dying. And I suppose in a way he was.

"The figure that stepped out of the wolf's belly was totally unknown to the wolf. Why, it looked like a shepherd. He'd heard of such a critter but had never actually met one. With a staff in His hand, He walked around and stood facing the wolf. And He began to laugh. He laughed, and His laughter burst open the door of the wolf's house. He laughed, and the sheep were filled with bewilderment, wondering what was going on in there. He laughed, and He looked the wolf right in the eye.

"So, you don't recognize Me, old foe? It was I who ate outside your house three days ago. 'Twas I that you promised would die horribly, and how you kept your promise. But what do you propose to do about Me now?'

"You?' The wolf gasped. The voice was the same; he recognized it. This shepherd was indeed the sheep whom he had swallowed down. 'You. But how? Oh, the pain!' The shepherd smiled and said, 'Well, I think you're pretty harmless now, My friend. Go on and try to eat some of My sheep. I promise you that as fast as you swallow them down I will lead them right out through the hole I made in your stomach. And then you'll never be able to touch them again! Ha!'

"The wolf howled in fear and anger and rage, but there was nothing he could do. The Shepherd had tricked him, fooled him good! And the shepherd then stepped outside the door and called the sheep together. They knew His voice too. They'd heard it before. They stood before the Lamb who had become the Shepherd, and they listened as He told them what would happen to them. 'You'll die too. He'll come out in a few days and be hungrier than ever. He'll swallow you down. But don't worry. I punched a hole right through his belly, and I promise you I'll bring you out again.'

"Once upon a time, and the time was about two thousand years ago, but the promise still holds: 'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.' Let the old wolf howl and snarl all he will. We know about the hole in his stomach. We know about the Sheep who is the Shepherd – our risen and reigning Lord, our Good Shepherd."

**This story was taken from the book Celebrating The Saints (pg. 270-273), by William C. Weedon, published by Concordia Publishing House, 2016.*



What About . . .

The Apostles' Creed

What does it mean to confess the Christian faith?

There is nothing more sure or certain in this life than the word and promise of God. With the words of the Apostles' Creed, Christians through the ages have responded to God's Word to them. With the Psalmist we pray, "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall confess your praise" (Ps. 51:15). The word "creed" comes from the Latin word, "credo," which means, "I believe." To "confess" means to make a declaration of what one believes. When we confess the faith of the Christian church in the words of the Apostles' Creed, we are confessing our belief in who the Holy Trinity is, and what God has done for us. Each section, or article, of the Apostles' Creed speaks about the work of one of the persons of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each article of the Apostles' Creed is our opportunity to speak back to God, and to each other, the mighty deeds of the Holy Trinity by which He has created us, by which He has redeemed us, and by which He keeps us in the one true faith until life eternal. This is a very important dimension of our faith and worship of God.

What do we confess about God the Father?

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

We all believe in one true God, maker of the earth and heaven. "Our Father," he would have us say; children's place to us has given. He has pledged always to feed us; body, soul, to keep, to nourish. Through all evil he will lead us, guards us well that we may flourish. He cares for us by day and night and governs all things by his might.

That there is a god is a truth known to all human beings simply from the very existence of all things. This is called the natural knowledge of God. There is nothing very remarkable about believing that there is a god. Only a fool says, "there is no god" (Ps. 53:1). The real issue is not that people believe in no god, but that they are tempted to believe in a god who is not the one, true God. Or, that they are tempted to put in the place of the true God, "gods" of our culture, like money, success, popularity or pleasure.

The first article of the Apostles' Creed declares that Christians believe, teach and confess that the one, true god is none other than the One who has made the heavens and the earth, and everything in them. But more than that, He is our Father who provides and cares for us as a father cares for his beloved children.

We believe that He has made us and has given us all the good things we have in this life. This He has done purely out of the love He has for us as our Father.

He not only gives us life, He also defends us, guards us, and protects us during this life, so that we will join Him in heaven for all eternity. There is nothing in us that makes us worthy of the good things God gives us. It is all from His love as a father. How glorious it is to know that the same God who created heaven and earth also created each one of us and cares for us personally.

What do we confess about God the Son?

"I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead."

We all believe in Christ, His Son, whom as Lord we are addressing, of equal Godhead, throne, and might, source of every grace and blessing. Born of Mary, virgin mother, by the power of the Spirit, made true man, our human brother through whom sonship we inherit; He, crucified for sinful men, through God's power rose to life again.

We are able to believe that God is our Father, because of what His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, came into this world to do: to live perfectly in our place, to suffer and die to pay for the sin of the world, and then to rise victorious over humanity's most ancient and most evil enemies: sin, death and the devil. Jesus Christ, the second person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God from all eternity, was born of the Virgin Mary, to offer up to the Father His precious body and blood for the forgiveness of the sins of the world. Through this sacrifice, the Son of God won for us reconciliation and peace with God, a peace that had been shattered by sin, both the original sin common to all human beings and the sin that is unique to each of us. At the Father's command, Christ came into this world to do all this for us so that we would be His very own by faith, serving Him and living for Him. Our hope is in the One who rose from the grave and now lives as our Savior for all eternity. How about the Apostles' Creed? blessed we are to have been brought to the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and that in Him we have the full and free forgiveness of all of our sins and the promise of eternal life forever with Him in heaven.

What do we confess about the Holy Spirit?

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

We all confess the Holy Ghost, who grants comfort, grace, and power. He, with the Father and the Son, robes us for the triumph hour, keeps the Church, his own creation, in true unity of the spirit; here forgiveness and salvation come to us through Jesus' merit. The body risen, we then shall be in life with God eternally. Amen.

What's Happening?



Lutheran Layman's League Spring Rally will be held at St. John on April 7th, 2024. A Pot-Blessed meal will start the afternoon at 1:00 P.M. Followed by devotion, Bible Study [Rev Shorey] Beverages & BBQ will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

LWML Spring Rally: St. John will also be hosting the LWML Spring Rally on April 11, 2024. 8:30 to 9:00 A.M. registration. Devotions, Bible Study, Orphan Grain Train presentation and business meeting. Rally concludes with lunch.

Annual Thrift Sale Bethlehem and St. John May 1,2,3 and 4 - 9 to 5 Please bring items after April 14. No large furniture or electronics. Set up after services on Sunday April 28, Monday & Tuesday April 29 and 30th. For more information and to sign up to help contact Arlette Molthen 715-223-6060 or Janice Brown 715-219-1970/ Posters are available to post where ever you wish. Bethlehem and St. John members will be able to shop after services on Sunday May 6th. Clean up, pack up and deliver will be done on Monday May 7th at 9:00 A.M. All help appreciated!



The youth attending Higher Things will be holding a Chili Feed. **Sunday, April 14th.** Serving will be from 12:30PM-2:00PM at St. John in the Fellowship Hall.

Chili, toppings, desserts and beverages will be served. **FREE WILL OFFERING** will be taken. If you would like to contribute chili, please let Deb know so we make sure to have a space for your dish.

EVERYONE come and enjoy food and fellowship!

Bethlehem and St. John: Voters meetings will be Sunday, April 21st.

Bethlehem Sunday School Update:

As the Sunday School year is winding down, the children want to share with the congregation some exciting things coming up before the end of the Sunday School year.

The mission project for the last quarter of Sunday School is Sleep in Heavenly Peace. It's a national organization with a chapter in Spencer that provides beds for children ages 3 to 17 who do not have beds to sleep on. The cost to build each bed is \$250. Monetary donations of any size are welcomed, as well as bedding. They accept twin size bedding including mattress pads, pillows, sheets sets and comforters. The bed in a bag sets work well. We will be using the money collected to either purchase items or donate to put towards the building of the beds. This is an opportunity for EVERYONE, not just the Sunday School, to participate in sharing with those in need. There will be donation boxes set up in church for children/families to bring items for this cause through April. The Sunday School children will also be making one or more tie blankets to donate.

Camp Luther registration is now open. This is an exciting opportunity for kids of all ages. There are many opportunities available starting with the Kinder-camp program for ages 4-7 through high school as well as family camps. They do have an Every Kid to Camp program that provides kids with the opportunity to attend camp for the first time at no cost to the family. Their goal is that every child is given the opportunity to attend one of the summer camp programs before they graduate high school. The only qualification for being part of the program is that the recipient has never attended one of Camp Luther's summer camp programs before. If you are interested in this program, please contact me and I can get further information. Also, our congregation has budgeted money to assist children from the congregation with expenses for attending camp. This is an unforgettable experience for kids.

**The last day of Sunday School will be May 12, the children will be singing during church. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you, Patti Hammel (715-613-6319)

Geisking, Tom	4/05
Graun, Kimberly	4/05
Gumz, Jolene	4/06
Weiler, April	4/07
Viegut, Marya	4/13
Thurman, Bentley	4/14
Thielman, Brooks	4/15
Kunze, Hudson Jay	4/15
Denzin, Bruce	4/18
Thielman, Jase	4/21
Cook, Caelyn	4/27
Cook, Calliegh	4/27
Cornelius, Joseph	4/27
Kunze, Nathan	4/28
Murkowski, Joe	4/07
Witucki, Matthew	4/07
Marcis, Charles	4/07
Thompson, Lisa	4/14
VanHoy, Carson	4/19
Callies, Nadine	4/19
Pehlke, Marcus	4/22
Hamann, Dale	4/26
Thompson, Alex	4/27



Troy & Cheyanne Kilty	4/10
Galen & Elizabeth Kirchner	4/12
Brentin & Tayler Bender	4/23
Roger & Sharon Ballerstein	4/29



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

April 7
"Raise the Flag"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Learn how the followers of Christ are raising God's flag in the world.
(Acts 1:1-11)

April 14
"Breathe In, Breathe Out"
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez
The Holy Spirit breathes life into the Church and

the Church breathes that life out to the world, with the love of Christ. (Acts 2:42-47)

April 21
"More Than He Bargained For"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect.
(Acts 3:6)

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. 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.

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please let Deb
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**Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches
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