



The Dual-Parish Review

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

1 Samuel 17:1-19; Acts 26:1-23

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. (Small Catechism) In the Name T of Jesus. Amen. In today’s Old Testament reading, the Philistines and the Israelites are lined up for battle, with a valley between them. The Philistines stood strong with their champion, Goliath of Gath, in front, taunting the Israelite army, so much so that Saul and all Israel “were dismayed and greatly afraid” (1 Samuel 17:11). Israel had no such giant champion. At the end of the reading, David, the shepherd boy, arrives, not even to save the day but to deliver bread and cheese to his brothers and the commander of the army. And there, God does something extraordinary with what is ordinary. David defeats Goliath. In the Lord’s Supper, God takes something ordinary and makes it extraordinary. Sometimes, we Lutherans are like the Israelites, lined up for battle. A large portion of modern evangelical Christianity says that there’s no benefit, no Gift given to those who partake of the Lord’s Supper. They say that the Lord’s Supper is just bread and wine, symbols that represent the Body and Blood of Jesus in a meal that we eat merely to remember His sacrifice at Calvary. There’s a huge valley between them and us. Now, we’re not literally lined up for battle, certainly not against fellow Christians. But we are lined up for battle against the devil who takes every opportunity to diminish Christ, steal you away from Him and His Gifts, and leave you in doubt about His love for you. In the midst of your doubt and fear, God brings His Word and promise. Dr. Luther rejoiced in the words of Christ: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Faith clings to the promise of Jesus. Faith receives exactly what Jesus promises—forgiveness, life, and salvation. The Sacrament of the Altar may appear weak and insignificant. It may not make sense at all that in it, God gives you Gifts of eternal significance. But when you’re lined up for battle against the devil, the world, and your own sinful flesh, the Lord stands ready to strengthen you in this holy meal with His divine Gifts. Even when you’re at your weakest in the fight, the Son of David comes with the provision of His Body and Blood, by which He defeated sin, death, and the devil for you. He sends you forth, not in fear and doubt, but strengthened in His certain victory over death. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

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2024

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

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.Stjbeth.org

St, John Council Meeting July 9, 2024

Pastor Mathey opened with prayer. Attending were Kay Christiansen, Linda Mueller, Mike Thompson, Jeff Werner, Dean Pehlke, Steve Schneider, Jeff Werner, Rev. Mathey, Mel Niemann, and Sharon Niemann.

Minutes were reviewed, scholarship applications were defined in further detail and this will be presented by the board of education at the voters meeting on the 21st. Minutes were approved after this discussion.

Pastor began his report with a few highlights of the youth trip to Higher Things. A presentation from the youth will be coming up in the near future. Watch for details. Pastor will be on vacation and Pastor Owen will preach on the 14th. District convention will be in June of 2025. We need to come up with nominations for District President and other officers.

Elders had no report.

Outreach information was passed along that we have one time grants available from North Wisconsin District for projects. U.A.C. on our church signs and information stands for Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

Board of Ed. reminds us of our VBS in July 22-26. A joint meeting of both congregation's board of educations will be coming up in August.

Treasurer reported that bills are coming in now for the parsonage renovation and it is too early to have any totals. \$745 was donated to the congregation for those renovations by the LWML from their thrift sale. The audit of the 2023 books is complete without corrections.

Trustees report was that the insulation was done on the parsonage. One big window is needed to be set into the house yet. Careful use of caulk and tape are in place that all will be tight and waterproof when completed. No new water leaks around the sanctuary this raining season.

Finance Committee reported that all is well.

Cemetery committee gave the repair report. Marshfield monument came out and gave a detailed estimate on the straightening needed for 9 stones. These were all set in the 1930's originally. The total estimate is \$4830. With weather conditions being so wet; nothing can be done by them in 2024 due to the work already planned. Mel did offer to do the small stones on his own as time permits as they can easily be done by hand. We would just have a concrete base to provide depending on the shape of the bottom of those stones. It was suggested that he also check out Medford Monument Company.

Motion was made to approve all reports, seconded and passed.

Old business: Church directory dates available yet this year are Nov. 25, 26, & 27. Milan liked those at **their meeting and we decided that they would be as good.**

New business: Joint worship service is being planned for Aug 11th here at St John. We will provide the meat.

In the future, we will need to renovate the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary and chancel of the church building. In order to prepare, we thought it beneficial to search out information on financing. Bill Jordan will be available to attend the quarterly voter's meeting. He will give us interest rates and payment options that will help us make decisions when the time comes to renovate.

The wet weather has been a good test for the repairs done in the last year. We have no new leaks coming in the steeple area at this time.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Sharon Niemann Recording Secretary

St. John's VBS 2024 Recap



DIGGING INTO THE APOSTLES' CREED

We had over 20 children ranging in ages 3 through those going into 6th grade. We had a wonderful group of about 12 youth helpers, and about 20 adult workers. We enjoyed fellow-

ship, great bible stories, digging into the Apostle's Creed and studying the trinity, activities, wonderful snacks, fun crafts, singing, and a lot of fun. It is wonderful to see everyone working together, enjoying the craziness of all the children, and sharing God's love with the youngsters.

During our Bible lessons, we dug into only one Bible story - Jesus' Baptism. This gave the children (and grown-ups!) an opportunity to really examine how the Trinity is shown in this example. Opening devotions used different scripture readings further to teach us about each person of the Trinity.

Mission Fundraisers

This year we collected food for local area food pantries; Athens, Edgar, and Stratford. We collected **224 Food Items** during the week and the kids and staff delivered the grocery bags to the 3 local Circle of Joy drop offs at VBS closing on Friday. We focused on items needed the most: Canned Meats: (Chicken, Ham, Tuna, Spam) Canned Pasta with Meat, Canned Fruit, Cereal. All Non-perishable items were accepted.

Our second mission was "Let the Children Come to Me" mission project, sponsored by the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Our children's mission offerings will help the Lutheran Heritage Foundation to write and publish Sunday school materials in the Thai, Khmer and other languages of Southeast Asia, giving these children the opportunity to learn who Jesus is and what He did for them. An offering of just \$2 provides Sunday school lessons for one child for one year.

We collected a total for the Week: \$ 2,255.05

This will provide Sunday School for 1127 children for one year!!!!

We closed VBS with an evening church service on Friday, followed by a picnic style supper in the parish hall. The kids enjoyed showing off their new songs to families and friends.

Praise be to God! Thank you to all the children and families that made this possible.

Traci Pehlke VBS Director



Bethlehem Birthdays

Gumz, DuWayne	8/08
McKee, Jason	8/08
Bender, Bayden	8/09
Venzke, Dennis	8/15
Schreiber, Bailey	8/16
Kunze, Tammy	8/23
Geisking, Jeffrey	8/26
Ballerstein, Lynn	8/27
Schumacher, Posie	8/29
VanLuven, Amber	8/29
Sprotte, Wallace	8/31

St. John Birthdays

VanDerLeest, Peter	8/04
Wussow, Bruce	8/06
Koepke, Tyler	8/07
Schneider, Michael	8/08
Koch, Cade	8/08
Schafer, Sandra	8/10
Mielke, Jill	8/14
VanHoy, Mark	8/14
Mueller, Ross	8/18
Rohde, Mike	8/19
Schneider, Christ	8/20
Noller, Lexie	8/22
Schafer, Maryn	8/25
Diedrich, Phyllis	8/27
Koch, Cale	8/27

Dual- Parish Joint Service and Picnic'

August 11, 2024, Hosted by St. John. Divine Service will be in the Sanctuary, picnic lunch served in the Parish Hall and we will have seating outside weather permitting. St. John will be providing the main entree, 2 kinds of meat, potato's, mac & cheese, and buns and the beverages. Bethlehem is asked to bring salads and deserts. Hoping to see everyone there!

To Our St. John's Family:

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and kind words over the last three years. They have been tough years, but knowing you had all of us in your prayers has really helped. We know God works in his time and own way, but it has still been hard and a lot to learn to accept and deal with.

We would like to especially thank Pastor Mathey for his time and help whenever we needed him. It meant so much to all of us knowing he was there to help, give hugs and support when needed. His kind words at the funerals for Mom and James are so cherished. His calm in the rainstorm at the burials for Mom, Dad and James was exceptional. He persevered without missing a step. I truly don't know what we would do without you!

I know we will continue to lean on our church family and that you will be there to lean on. This means so much to all of us. It is with your support that makes the hard days seem easier. Thank you again for your love and support.
The Durkee Family



Bethlehem

Robert & Kena Strack	8/5
Cory & Amy Broeske	8/9
DuWayne & Sue Gumz	8/16
Jason & Tammi McKee	8/17
Ray & Samantha Yessa	8/24

St. John

James & Judy Ulrick	8/6
George & Char Murkowski	8/11
Peter & Lisa Kroening	8/12
Pete & Patricih VanDerLeest	8/20



Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

August 4

"Jesus' Resurrection: God's Public Guarantee"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz](#)
Archives August: A crucified Savior, a resurrected, living Lord: the public guarantee of God, at work in the world for you.
(1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

August 11

"God's Peacemakers for a Troubled World"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz](#)
Archives August: Don't let anger, disagreement, and stress damage your relationships. Hear how God changes troublemakers into peacemakers.
(Philippians 4:4-13)

August 18

"The Child Glad to Be Born"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer](#)
Archives August: The Child Who wanted to be born can make you glad to be alive! That joy for living comes when you hear His story.
(Luke 2)

August 25

"When the Monsters Come"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer](#)
Archives August: We can never be too vigilant against the devil's attacks but in Christ we can always be confident that the victory is ours.
(Job 40:15-41:34)

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!

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

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.




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.



2024~stjbeth.org

To Reserve the Fellowship Hall or Schedule an Activity call the Church Office at 715-352-2888

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 No Meeting STJ: LWML	2	3
4 BETH Worship 8:00am w/Holy Communion STJ Worship 10:30am w/Holy Communion	5 STJ: Bethesda 10am -1pm	6	7 Beth: No LWML-Ladies Aid in August. Joint Board of Ed meeting planned for Aug 7 at 6:00pm at Bethlehem church.	8 BETH: Bethesda 10am-1pm	9	10
11 Dual Parish Picnic At St. John Worship Service 10:00am Meal and Fellowship presentation on the Youth trip to Higher Things	12 BETH: Elders 6:00pm BETH: Council 7:00 pm	13 STJ: Elders 6:00 pm	14 Beth: Bethesda 10am - 1pm	15	16	17
18 BETH Worship 8:00am w/Holy Communion STJ Worship 10:30am w/Holy Communion	19 STJ: Bethesda 10am -1pm	20	21	22 BETH: Bethesda 10am-	23	24
25 BETH Worship 8:00am w/Holy Communion STJ Worship 10:30am w/Holy Communion	26 Sept. items for newsletter due	27	28	29	30	31
		Please Take Note The Office Secretary Email Has Changed New Email is - secretary@stjbeth.org		Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey 715-352-2888 after hours 715-330-5599 Do not text - not a cell # Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. - 1:00pm to 4:00pm Office Phone: 715-352-2888 Office Email: Secretary@stjbeth.org		Bethlehem Lutheran 233500 County Road E Milan, WI 54411 715-654-5436 St. John Lutheran "High Steeple" 119415 Huckleberry Rd. Edgar, WI 54426 715-352-2888

Dual Parish



Picnic

and

Church Service

August 11, 2024

Hosted by St. John.

Divine Service will be in the Sanctuary, picnic lunch served in the Parish Hall and we will have seating outside weather permitting. St. John will be providing the main entree, 2 kinds of meat, potato's, mac & cheese, and buns and the beverages. Bethlehem is asked to bring salads and desserts. Hoping to see everyone there!

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



*Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*