

The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

**EVERY
ONE
HIS WITNESS**
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™

Back in February I wrote about the greatest gift that any of us has ever received, our Christian faith. Those words came to mind as I was listening to a recent song by country singer Blake Shelton about a close friend of his who had died. The song is a prayer to God because Blake isn't sure if his best friend is in heaven or not, and he's asking for God's mercy to "Let him in anyway" because he doesn't want to never see his best friend again. For any of us who have ever had family or friends that we've lost without knowing where they stand in faith, the words can hit hard. Ultimately though, they are words of love for a brother.

I was looking back to February, thinking about that song, and I wanted to remind you of what I wrote back then. "But there is one gift that we can give to the people in our lives that will show our love for them in a way that nothing else ever can. It is the most precious and valuable thing that any of us has – greater than any diamonds or gold – and it was given as a free gift to each and every one of us as well. I'm talking, of course, about our faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Ephesians 2 tells us, 'But God, being rich in mercy, *because of the great love with which he loved us*, even when we were dead in our trespasses, *made us alive together with Christ*—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. *And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God*, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.'

"There it is, the greatest gift that you have ever been given or that you will ever receive is spelled out in those verses from Ephesians. God's great love for you is shown in the giving of His Son, Jesus. In Him you are given faith by His grace so that you may have life everlasting. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest gift ever given to anyone, and God has given it to you with no strings attached. Talk about a precious gift of love!

"How can we ever thank Him for such a loving gift as this? That's the best part, you can thank Him for His gift of love by sharing that Gospel gift of Jesus with anyone and everyone in your life so that they can know His love also. What better gift can you give to your kids, your spouse, your relatives, or your friends than showing them the love of Jesus? There is nothing more precious or valuable, and there is nothing greater!"

I've repeated these words because in November a special workshop is going to be held in the Fellowship Hall at St. John to help you be better prepared to share the Gospel of Jesus with the people in your life. *Every One His Witness: Lutheran Evangelism* will be offered on Saturday, November 7th so that you can gain more insight into better ways to share this great gift of God's Love with those around you. Those who finish the training will have access to a wide and growing range of materials to help them share the Gospel in more specific settings along with the possibility to connect with others who are interested in sharing their thoughts and personal experiences in witnessing. There is information on sharing your faith with adult children who don't go to church anymore; with people who put their faith in science above all else; with members of the Mormon, the Muslim, and the Jewish religions, and several other specific groups of people. There are plans to add more resources as time goes on. Consider taking advantage of this great opportunity to join your brothers and sisters in Christ in learning how you can better share God's gift of Love with those around you. Watch for more details and sign-up sheets in the coming weeks! – *until next month, Pr. M.*



2026

**Bethlehem Lutheran
Church, LCMS**

233500 County Road E
Milan, Wisconsin 54411

Sunday Worship at 8:00 am

Sunday School at 9:15 am

Adult Bible Study at 9:15 am

**St. John Ev. Lutheran
Church, LCMS "High Steeple"**

119415 Huckleberry Road
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

Sunday School at 9:30am

Adult Bible Study at 11:45 am

Pastor Rev. Michael Mathey

Pastor's Office Hours: M—T

Pastor's Number: 715-352-2888

OR 715-330-5599

Not a cell phone.

Please leave a message

Pastors Email:

lcmsrevmike@gmail.com

Secretary Office Hours:

Tues. - Fri., 9 am - 12 pm

Dual Parish Office:

715-352-2888

Office Secretary Email:

secretary@stjbeth.org

Dual Parish Website:

www.Stjbeth.org

Facebook page: Bethlehem

Lutheran Church-Milan, WI & St.

John Lutheran Church-Edgar, WI



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bethlehem Birthdays

Shirely Buss	9/01
James Johnson	9/01
Pastor Mathey	9/01
Cynthia Graun	9/05
James Freimund	9/06
Brenda Weiler	9/06
Judith Wittlinger	9/06
Madelyn Yessa	9/07
Raelynn Kunze	9/12
Aleah Kosik	9/16
Verlyn Wittlinger	9/16
Pearse Schumacher	9/18
Lane Thomas	9/18
Ashley Kunze	9/21
Beth Thurman	9/21
Loretta Schafer	9/24
Brigette Underwood	9/24
Carston Kilty	9/25
Wyatt Kirchner	9/26
Philip Kunze	9/26
Deana Parker	9/27

Bethlehem Acolyte Schedule

Sept. 6 Kelly Mathey
 Sept. 13 Bailey Schrieber
 Sept. 20 Kylee Johnson
 Sept. 27 Aubree Kirschner

St. John Birthdays

Roger Ballerstein	9/01
Pastor Mathey	9/01
Melvin Niemann	9/02
Amara Schreier	9/03
Jennifer Noller	9/06
Kay Schulz	9/06
Caylee Weiler	9/06
Doris Wussow	9/07
Carrie Callies	9/09
Lincoln Ellis	9/10
Benjamin Syring	9/12
Kent Kunkel	9/13
Chayse Held	9/17
Carolyn Hahn	9/19
Sharon Ballerstein	9/20
Colin Pehlke	9/26
Dennis Punke	9/26
Sharon Niemann	9/28
Walter Streit	9/28
Kaysley Niemann	9/30

Bethlehem Anniversaries

Adam & Marya Viegut	9/6
Randy & Christina Cook	9/13
Bart & Brittany Schreiber	9/22
Joseph & Gloria Cornelius	9/25
Dale & Nancy Ploeckelman	9/25
Kyle & Ashley Kunze	9/26

St. John Anniversaries

Alan & Nancy Witucki	9/3
Dale & Sue Karl	9/9
Amanda & Jerod Kopplin	9/16
Edward & Jill Mielke	9/15
Roger & Phyllis Spindler	9/15
Neal & Anna Koepke	9/16
Thomas & Lisa Wussow	9/29

Bethlehem Greeter Schedule

Sept. 6 Brentin, Taylor Bender & family
Sept. 13 Duwayne & Susan Gumz
Sept. 20 Adam & Marya Viegut
Sept. 27 Deana & Scott Parker

St. John Acolyte Schedule

Sept. 6 Isabelle Kramp
 Sept. 13 Lauryn Hartwig
 Sept. 20 Kassidy Thompson
 Sept. 27 Christian Pehlke

St. John's Harvest Supper is scheduled for October 3, 2026.

Annual Congregation Mission Event. Sign-up sheets are in the carport area. Tasks have been broken down, and time slots have been shortened.



So, ask "What Can I Do?"

1. Pray
2. Donate Items
3. Work

Any questions, contact Nancy Witucki at 715-352-7060 or Mary Schultz at 715-352-2603

Upcoming Dual Parish Meetings

- Dual Budget Meeting September 9 at 7pm at Bethlehem
- Dual Council Meeting September 17 at 7pm at Bethlehem
- Dual Parish Meeting October 11 at 7pm at St. John

*October Newsletter
deadline is
September 24th*

NWD Adult Gathering - October 12 in Eau Claire or October 13 in Weston

Plan now to join us at one of the two Adult Gatherings being offered this fall! The first will be held on Monday, October 12, at Peace, Eau Claire and the second will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at Mount Olive, Weston.

Rev. Dr. Brian Gauthier, from the LCMS Office of International Mission, will present a message on "Unpacking Lutheran Mission" as he helps us understand not only missions, but the LCMS impact around the world, and how you and your congregation can make an impact. The \$35 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, and a catered lunch. Registration deadline is September 25. Registration forms are available in the narthex and under Events and Info at nwdlcms.org.

To reserve the parish hall or schedule an activity at church call the church office.

September 2026

Beth: September 19 – Wedding

UPDATE 8/11/26 on the Financial aspect of the St. John Refresh Project

Renovation 2026 Expenses Totals

\$121,035.00	Church Interiors – Paint & Lights
\$ 4489.26	Rice's Floors
\$ 2284.65	Electrician
\$ 510.00	Mayer Upholstery
\$ 4188.00	Innovative Machine – Radiator covers
\$135,506.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$135,506.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$ 40,755.00	Deposit
\$ 51,984.57	Beginning Balance
\$ 34,562.31	2026 Donations
\$ 5205.03	Donations still needed



LWML North WI Zone 10 Fall Rally

Saturday, September 26, 2026 hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church at Green Grove, Colby

Registration and Brunch: 8:00 am to 8:30 am. Fee is \$5.00 and includes morning brunch, the cost of the speaker and materials

The Christian Life Bible Study topic is "To Hear or Not to Hear" presented by Annette Krause.

The "Gifts from the Heart" will be for the Concordia Theological Seminary, Food & Clothing Co-op in Fort Wayne, IN. We will be collecting items for their food pantry and of course monetary donations are welcome as well. Vicar Paul Mroczenski will give a presentation.

Please remember to bring your cancelled postage stamps, used eyeglasses, soft eyeglass cases and used Christian reading material for "Love Packages".

Monetary donations will be accepted for mites.

Directions to St. Paul at Green Grove, Colby, take Hwy 29 to the Curtiss overhead, south on Cty. E 2 1/2 miles, the church is on the east side of the road.

LCMS Health Ministry

September is a month of transition for many people. School is back in session, the weather cools and schedules naturally change pace. Fall is also a great time to re-engage in physical activity and exercise - whether indoors or outdoors. It may seem unusual to hear the church talk about exercise, but LCMS Health Ministry exists to promote a Christ-centered approach to health. Yes, even physical health! The church cares about health — spiritual, mental, physical — because our Lord cares for us in every bodily need. We confess that God creates, redeems and sanctifies our whole person: body and soul, mind and spirit (Gal. 2:20). As such, we are given the task to steward our bodies as members of the larger body — Christ's church (1 Cor. 6:19–20; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27)! For more information on LCMS Health Ministry, visit lcms.org/health.

LCMS Family Ministry

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

God has given us communities in our own families, in our church family and in other places as well. This verse reminds us of what a great blessing our church family is. In our culture, we often have Sunday morning as the only time that we see our church family. Our time together on Sunday morning is good and important, but we can also have a relationship with those in our church family beyond that time. Find ways with your family to build connections with other members of the congregation. You can talk to someone that you do not know well and encourage your children to do the same or even invite them over for a shared meal.

HOPE

IT'S IN OUR BLOOD

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Blood Drive

WHEN & WHERE

Sat, October 17
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Road E, Milan

Blood donation tips



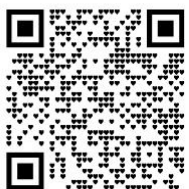
Eat a healthy meal &
drink plenty of water
before donating.



Wear a shirt with
short or easy-to-
roll sleeves.



Don't forget to
bring your ID.



◀ Schedule your appointment
*Appointments preferred.
Walk-ins welcome!*



St. John Monthly Council Meeting
August 11, 2026

Linda Strunk called the meeting to order with Mary Schultz, Lloyd Schultz, Bud Mortvedt, Stephan Schneider, Cathy Schneider, Danni Seibert, Bob Strunk, and Pastor Mathey present. Pastor opened with prayer.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from July 14, 2026. MMSP.

Pastor's Report

- Dual parish service this past Sunday that went well with good attendance in the mid- 80s.
- Sunday Bible study will start the next week, September 20.
- LifeLight Bible study will begin Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00pm at Bethlehem and Thursday, September 17 at 10:30 am at St. John.
- Confirmation classes also resume on September 16.
- Fall Pastors' conference is September 28-30 in Greenville, WI.
- The witnessing workshop is coming up on November 7. Open to all congregations in the circuit. More information coming.

Elders Report

- No report

Evangelism (Former Outreach) Report

- Successfully applied for a \$9,000 North Wisconsin District Mission Grant for radio advertising. Now we wait to see if we will receive it. Also working on some other advertising.
- Helping with the Everyone His Witness Workshop in November by doing publicity.
- Also doing the publicity for the Harvest Supper.

Board of Education Report

- Sunday School is scheduled to start on September 13 with a Rally Day picnic at Bethlehem after church services.
- Joint Board of Education meeting coming up to talk about Rally Day and Sunday School.

Trustees Report

- 5 windows have been replaced.
- Glass block windows to be replaced. TBD.
- Courtyard was cleaned up before VBS. Thank you to the Trustees.

Treasurer's Report

- Still need \$5205.03 to complete the Refresh Project. All other known bills are in.
- Discussed VBS offering distributions. TBD.
- Detailed printed financial reports reviewed and discussed for July.
- Budget funding for church operation was met for July 2026. Bills are paid but we have a deficit for meeting our budget on a weekly basis.

Finance Report

- No report

Motion was made to accept all reports as given. MMSP.

Unfinished Business

- Received the propane contract and Trustees will be talking about it.
- Dual Budget Meeting September 9 at 7:00pm at Bethlehem.
- Dual Council Meeting September 17 at 7:00pm at Bethlehem.
- Dual Parish Meeting October 11 at 7:00pm at St. John.
- Mike Thompson is helping with finding a new home for the old church lights from the Refresh Project.
- Next Council Meeting is September 15 and Linda may not be here due to a conflict.

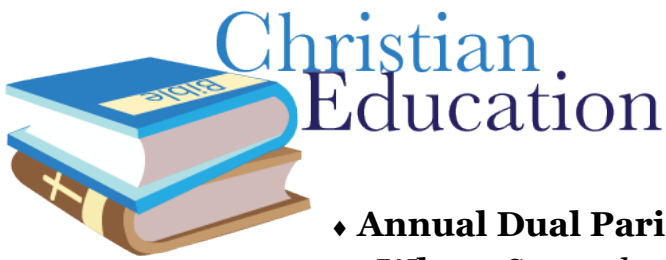
New Business

- None

Motion made to adjourn. MMSP.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Cathy Schneider, Recording Secretary



♦ **Annual Dual Parish Sunday School Rally Picnic**

When: September 13th at 12:30 pm

Where: Bethlehem Church

♦ **Confirmation Classes and Youth Bible Study**

will resume on September 16 at Bethlehem at 6:00pm

♦ **Life Light Bible Study** starts on September 16th and 17th.

We will be studying the Worship Service. Wednesdays 7:00 pm at Bethlehem and Thursdays 10:30 am at St. John

♦ **Higher Things Presentation** at St. John on September 27th after church.

♦ **Higher Things meeting** to discuss June 22-25, 2027 Higher Things conference after presentation on September 27th at St. John

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY

Sunday, September 13th

at 12:30 pm at Bethlehem

Potluck meal at 1:00 pm

Kickball &
Games for
everyone



September 6, 2026

"Come and See" Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

The Book of Nature can open your mind to the possibility that God is real. The Book of Scripture, the Bible, goes further, like a friend who's been there. John 1:46

September 13, 2026

"Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable" Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

In God's family, forgiveness is non-negotiable. It's not up for debate because forgiveness is what makes us who we are. Matthew 6:12

September 20, 2026

"High Bar to Clay Jar" Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

In Jesus, we don't need to compare ourselves to anyone else. Instead, we are free to better appreciate them. Matthew 20:16

September 27, 2026

"Teachable" Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

To be a disciple is to be a learner. Jesus loves you enough to make you teachable. Matthew 21:31

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

Daily Devotions

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeartRadio, Alexa, or Google Home.



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.



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.

HIGHER THINGS REFLECTIONS: Two minutes. It takes two minutes to read a daily *Reflection* full of the Gospel of Christ crucified for you. Each day you get a reading, a devotion, and a prayer to help you confront the devil, the world, and your own sinful flesh with hope in your Lord's victory over all of it.



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