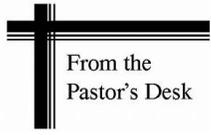




The Dual-Parish Review



From the
Pastor's Desk

By the time this month's newsletter is relevant, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be over a week in the past, and the world has moved on to celebrate the beginning of 2026. For most people, the celebration of Christmas ended on the morning of December 26th as the annual shopping spree shifted into returns and post-Christmas sales. By the time "the ball" drops in Times Square on New Year's Eve, the world is pretty much tired of anything having to do with "the holidays."

But here in the Church, our perspective is much different. The first day of 2026 is only the middle of our celebration of Christ's birth as the 12-day Festival of Christmas continues. January 1st is one more cause for joy as Jesus is named and circumcised in keeping with the Law of Moses. This event is the beginning of Jesus' work to completely fulfill the Father's Will and to perfectly keep God's Law for us because we are unable to do it, and it is also the first shedding of His blood for us foreshadowing what He will do on the cross many years from this 8th day of His Incarnation.

Since Christ's Incarnation is such a monumental event in human history and in salvation history, the early Christian Church knew that it couldn't be celebrated in just one day, and so the celebration continues until the Day of Epiphany on January 6th each year. With the arrival of Epiphany, the season of Christmas comes to an end, and the Church turns its focus from God coming in the flesh of a human to God revealing His Glory in Jesus, the Word of God made flesh. For this reason, the word "Epiphany" is an accurate term used to describe this season since it means "manifestation," "appearing," or "shining forth."

The season of Epiphany begins with the arrival of the foreign Magi in Jerusalem seeking the newborn King of the Jews. God the Father called them by the shining Light of a special star to come and worship His Son. These Gentiles are the first non-Jews to worship the newborn Messiah, and with their arrival God is making it clear that Christ's saving work will be for all people of all nations as Isaiah 60:3 prophesied, "Nations shall come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your rising."

The rest of the Epiphany season will proclaim the truth of St. Paul's words in Colossians 1:19, "In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell." God the Father will proclaim that He is pleased with Jesus in the celebration of His Baptism by John in the Jordan River, and the Holy Spirit will descend on Him in the form of a dove – one of the only places in the entire Bible that the Holy Trinity appears at the same time. By His Baptism, Jesus is making all baptisms a blessing for His faithful people. "The fullness of God" will be shown for the first time as Jesus changes water into the best of wine at the wedding of Cana, and it will be shown time and time again in the various miracles that Jesus does throughout His public ministry. Finally, "the fullness of God" will shine forth at the end of the Epiphany season with the Transfiguration which will be celebrated on February 15th this year. That event tells of Christ's very appearance shining with the Light of His eternal Glory and Divinity before He sets off for Jerusalem for His Passion, Crucifixion, and ultimately His Resurrection victory! – *until next month, Pr. M.*



Bethlehem

Lutheran Church

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 "High Steeple"

Lutheran Church

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

Pastors Office Hours: M—T

Pastors 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

JANUARY

Bethlehem Anniversaries
 Bruce & Jolene Gumz 1/12

St. John Birthdays

Mary Schultz	1/07
June Krebsbach	1/13
Dale Karl	1/16
Elizabeth Marshall	1/16
Kelly Yessa	1/17
Douglas Brown	1/22
John Yessa	1/22
Cole Koch	1/24
Samantha VanDerLeest	1/25
Hawkins Niemann	1/28
Odin Schreier	1/29
Bud Mortvedt	1/30

Bethlehem Birthdays

Raymond Yessa	1/05
Patricia Hammel	1/07
Arlette Molthen	1/10
Virgil Underwood	1/11
Luke Carlson	1/14
Thomas Graun	1/14
Tayvin Bender	1/18
Braxton Kilty	1/19
Philip Carlson	1/21
Isaac Kosik	1/24
Dorean Freimund	1/25
Luke Schmidt	1/28
Leta Ebben	1/29
Olivia Hammel	1/30
Troy Kilty	1/31

January Acolyte Schedule

Bethlehem

1/4	Isaac Kosik
1/11	Madalynn Johnson
1/18	Aleah Kosik
1/25	Evan Strack

St. John

1/4	Christian Pehlke
1/11	Cale Koch
1/18	Lexie Noller
1/25	Sam Hartwig

Greeter Schedule Bethlehem

1/4	Alan & Lori Schmitt
1/11	Virgil & Bridgette Underwood
1/18	Tom & Lucy Geisking
1/25	Carissa Schumacher & family



Pastor, Deb, Tim and Kelly would like to send a humble and huge thank you to all who have kept us in your prayers, shared with us your cards and tokens of your love and especially your lives with us. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving church family. It is hard to believe that this is only our fourth Christmas season amongst the Bethlehem and St John's family. We are blessed and humbled. May the Lord continue to show us love and mercy to all of us together as we move forward into a New Year of sharing the love of Christ with one another and all those whom God sets before us!

In Christ's Love and Service,
The Mathey's

Thank
you

Bethlehem/St. John Quilting Group will start meeting again on Monday, January 12, 2025. We will meet 9am to noon in the Fireside Room at St. John. (Day of the week might change—We are flexible with the day of the week.)



Newsletter
Deadline is
January 26th

Installation of New Church Officers
will be on Sunday January 11th.
This includes all new officers
and current officers .

PLEASE NOTE: If there is a need to cancel Church Services or Meetings due to bad weather, you can find out by checking waow.com (Channel 9), wsaw.com (Channel 7), or Facebook. Every effort will also be made to change the message on St. John's answering machine as soon as possible, and please, if you are not comfortable with the weather conditions, be safe and stay home!



"Happenings in the District" - Check out our district (North WI District) monthly newsletter at www.nwdlcm.org. The website has plenty of church resources as well as event registrations, calendars and more. Each week highlights from around our district are added to the NWD Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nwdlcm





Happenings

Buckets O' Blarney



Trivia
Contest
Fundraiser



SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your Calendars!

NOW!



FRIDAY March 13, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church-High Steeple
119415 Huckleberry Rd, Edgar

All proceeds go toward sending our Youth to the Higher Things Youth Conference in June.

Confirmation Classes and Youth Group
will resume on Wednesday, January 7th
at 6pm at Bethlehem.

The youth group would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all who worked, donated, made soup and contributed in the many and various ways to make the Advent Soup Suppers a blessing for all. The food was delicious. The fellowship was encouraging. As always, the suppers were a tremendous success due to the love and generosity of all of you! Thank you especially to Traci Pehlke & Tabitha Hartwig for all the planning to make it all come together.



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

News

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 11th for both Bethlehem and St. John Churches.

St. John Sunday School received thank you cards from Edgar/Marathon Circle of Joy and Stratford Food Pantry for their generous donations. Thank you cards are posted on the bulletin board for viewing.



Quarterly Voters' Meeting

on January 18, 2026
after Worship Service

January always brings
"Pennies for Life"
Put one penny (or nickel) in the collection jars for each year of your life. The other event we host is a door collection for "Lutherans for Life" on Life Sunday January 25, 2026. Our Sunday School also does a special lesson on Life Sunday.

Pennies for Life

Poinsettia Donations at Bethlehem

In memory of:

Loretta Schafer	Loved Ones
Darlene Wittlinger	Loved Ones
Shirley Buss	Loved Ones
Alan and Lori Schmitt	Loved Ones
Verlyn and Judy Wittlinger	Loved Ones
Galen and Marlene Schreiber	Loved Ones
Josh and Jill Penk and family	Loved Ones
Dick and Lois Niemi	Loved Ones
Hammel Family	Loved Ones
Dorean Freimund	Danny & Diane
Elizabeth Kirchner	Galen & Michelle
Schwarting Family	
Ladies Aid	
C.W.I.A.	

I would like to Thank everyone who donated poinsettias this year. The church is beautiful. God's Blessings and a Happy, Healthy New Year in 2026.

-Marlene

LifeLight Bible Study focusing on the book of Mark will be meeting on Thursdays starting January 15th.
Times and Location:
Bethlehem 10:30 am
St. John 6:30 pm
Sign up details will be in the bulletin

Portals of Prayer for Jan. through March are available at church.

Flowers in the chancel at St. John were given by the John & Carol Krampien family in memory of their parents and St. John LWML Ladies Aid.

OLD Portals of Prayer are being collected by the Orphan Grain Train. If you have past issues of Portals of Prayers, please place them in the basket located in the carport area at St. John. Bethlehem members can place them in the church secretary's black bin.

St. John Council Meeting did not meet in December due to inclement weather. Therefore, no meeting minutes.

January 4, 2026 "Knowing and Being Known in a New Year"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved.
John 17:3

January 11, 2026 "Solidarity"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes.
Romans 6:5

January 18, 2026

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
To be announced

January 25, 2026 "Cross Words--Words of Power"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
A crossword puzzle uses an answer only once, but Christ is the answer for all people in every place and time.
1 Corinthians 1:17-18

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

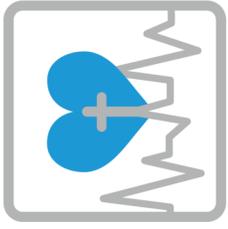
Lutheran Hour Ministries ~ God has called all laypeople to be powerful witnesses for Christ to their families and communities. At LHM, we strive to create convenient ways for you to connect with Jesus and share your faith with others. Our products are free, easy, and digital so that you can use them 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

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.





**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Life Sunday January 25, 2026

Our Life Sunday 2026 theme is based on Psalm 139:13-14: **“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”**

This Word of God reveals the care and intention that God takes in the creation of each and every human being. It teaches us that from the very first moments of our conception, God’s hands are upon us, carefully and lovingly crafting each one of us through our fathers and mothers. And while each person is created by God with their own unique characteristics and personalities, the care that God takes in creating each person shows us that every person, from the moment of fertilization on, is precious to God regardless of their age, size, condition, or ability.

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



*Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*