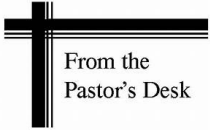




The Dual-Parish Review



From the
Pastor's Desk

Last month, September, we were witness to some major historical events that will have far reaching impact in our country and maybe even across the world, much like the events of the Reformation that we will celebrate once more at the end of this month. On the afternoon of September 10th, a bullet shot and killed one of the most popular voices of Christianity and conservative politics in the country, Charlie Kirk, on a Utah college campus. Before that event, if you didn't spend much time on social media, you likely never heard of him, but for several days after his murder his name was everywhere. The culmination of the coverage came on September 21st when his family and the organization that he founded, Turning Point USA, held a public memorial service in Arizona.

The event was massive. An estimated crowd of 200,000 people attended both inside and outside the arena for the Arizona Cardinals, and countless others watched live broadcasts of the service. Numerous people, including the President and Vice-President spoke of what a terrific and influential guy Charlie Kirk was. They spoke about his hard work, his character, and about the importance of continuing with the work that he did through Turning Point USA.

And while all of that is noteworthy, for those who watched or attended the event itself, something far more important happened. One of the largest presentations of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in recent memory was given, and thanks to the modern-day version of the Gutenberg printing press which we call the Internet, millions of people heard it. And that sharing of the Gospel was punctuated by Charlie's widow, Erika, telling those who were listening that she was willing and able to forgive the killer of her husband. That kind of forgiveness can only come from Christian faith, and it was on full display for anyone who was willing to hear it.

Was Charlie Kirk someone that we would agree with on every point of Christianity? No. He was certainly no Lutheran. But was he a brother in Christ nonetheless? Yes, and his frequent and bold proclamation of the Gospel was a clear indicator that he agreed fully with what St. Paul wrote in Romans 1:16 – 17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" Unlike many celebrity deaths that bring out people to make claims about the deceased that may or may not be true. Charlie Kirk leaves an abundance of evidence of his faith and trust in Jesus Christ. You don't have to look very far on the Internet to find it, just like the printing press in the day of Luther helped to spread his writings far and wide.

The question after all of this though, is how will God use these events in the days, months, and years ahead? If we could see into the future, will we see the predicted shift in the rise of Christianity that many are hoping for, or will we see a return to the status quo in a couple of years like we saw after the terrorist attacks on 9/11? The Lord's Word will never return to Him empty, and His Gospel was shared widely and freely in the last several weeks. Will it bear much fruit? We can and should hope and pray fervently that it does, but we won't know for sure until we've been able to look back on things in a few years. We will need the clear vision of history to see what will come of all of this, much like the people who were alive at the time of Martin Luther couldn't possibly know what would come about from his efforts in the time of the Reformation. Yet here we are, more than 500 years since Luther first nailed 95 points for theological debate onto the castle church door in Wittenberg, a single act that set into motion events that would literally change the world and bring about reforms to Christianity that we Lutherans still hold to today. Thanks be to God for His continued work in the lives of His faithful believers, and for the ongoing spread of His Gospel message that Jesus Christ came to save all people from their sins! Amen. – *until next month, Pr. M.*

October 2025



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.Stjbethorg



Bethlehem Birthdays

Jayden Reinhart	10/01
Randy Cook	10/02
Joshua Reinhart	10/07
Dee Freimund	10/08
Tammy Ortman	10/09
Tripp Thomas	10/11
Evan Strack	10/12
Tyler Kunze	10/18
Ray VanLuven	10/20
Adam Viegut	10/20
Bruce Gumz	10/21
Brett Schreiber	10/23
Gloria Cornelius	10/26
Megan Kosik	10/26
Shey Thomas	10/26
Kylee Johnson	10/29
Clarence Molthen	10/30

St. John Birthdays

Thomas Wussow	10/02
Doris Scherr	10/03
Christian Pehlke	10/05
Holly Seibert	10/07
Janice Brown	10/09
Jonathan Schulz	10/12
Joanne Rathsack	10/17
Danni Seibert	10/19
Matt Hartwig	10/20
Annabelle Hartwig	10/25
Loren Wenzel	10/25
Cody Rodman	10/29
Wade Rodman	10/29
Greta Marshall	10/29
Neal Koepke	10/31

Bethlehem Anniversaries

Verlyn & Judith Wittlinger	10/02
Del & Michelle Schwarting	10/05
Thomas & Louise Geisking	10/06
Shane & Patricia Hammel	10/17
Bruce & Brenda Weiler	10/18
Bruce & Geanna Denzine	10/29
Scott Deana Parker	10/31

St. John Anniversaries

Mike & Sue Rohde	10/18
David & Katie Telschow	10/21
Michael & Lisa Thompson	10/25

October Greeter

Schedule Bethlehem

10/5	Verlyn & Judy Wittlinger
10/12	Robert & Maria Strack Family
10/19	Nathan Sprotte & Wally Sprotte
10/26	Jeff Geisking & Wally Sprotte



October Acolyte Schedule

Bethlehem

10/5	Isaac Kosik
10/12	Madalynn Johnson
10/19	Aleah Kosik
10/26	Evan Strack

St. John

10/5	Samuel Hartwig
10/12	Kassidy Thompson
10/19	Isabelle Kramp
10/26	Lauryn Hartwig

Newsletter
Deadline is
October 27th



The first Annual Sunday School Rally was, sponsored by Bethlehem & St. John Sunday School and Board of Education, held on September 14 at the Milan Ball Diamond. We also celebrated Grandparents' Day. We thank God for the children and all who attended, and also beautiful weather, good food, fun games and fellowship of our church families. Mark your calendar for the second Sunday of September next year when we will again celebrate Rally Day and Grandparents' Day.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Attention all current 7-12 GRADERS!

We want you to attend next summers Higher Things Youth Conference with us! Registration materials will be available for pick up beginning October 1st. The date for the conference is June 23-26, 2026.

The registration packet and the \$150 registration fee is due to Deb Mathey by Sunday October 26th. No exceptions.

We will meet in early November, once we are registered on November 1st, to discuss fundraising and more details about the trip.

If you are on the fence, have questions, are struggling with the financial situation, please talk to Deb! Don't miss the chance to attend this amazing event!



Bible study and fellowship nights continue every Wednesday at St. John for any and all youth in grades 9-12. We are currently studying the book of Romans. The third Wednesday of each month is our chance to step away from studying and have fun with some fellowship time. Come grow in your knowledge and faith and make some memories with YOUR youth group!

Bethlehem Soup Supper, Craft and Bake Sale The Soup Supper, Craft and Bake Sale will be on December 13th. We are in the planning stages and looking for volunteers to sign up for activities during the week. Sign-up sheets with different tasks are available at the back of church. Please take a look and prayerfully consider using your talents and time to volunteer. Deadline to sign up is 10/12. If we do not get enough help, then this will change what we are able to do, and the event will be a carry out only – no eating in!



New Books Added to St. John Library

The Christian Difference: An Explanation & Comparison of World Religions

Faith Misused: Why Christianity Is Not Just Another Religion by Alvin J. Schmidt

The Unholy Trinity: Martin Luther against the Idol of Me, Myself, and I by Michael A. Lockwood

Real Men Don't Text: A New Approach to Dating by Ruthie and Michael Dean

To Knot or Not by Donna Margaret Greene

To the Ends of the Earth by A.L. Barry

The Fire and the Staff by Klemet I. Preus

The Rock Speaks by Cindy Steinbeck

Ragged Hope: Surviving the Fallout of Other Peoples Choices by Cynthia Ruchti

Without Flesh: Why the Church Is Dying Even Though Jesus Is Still Alive by Jonathan Fisk



Pure Germany! 2026 – Choice of Two Tours!

1. NE Germany (Old Pomerania) + N. Bavaria (Rothenburg) + Historic Lutherland Villages & Sites Date: Sept. 8-20, 2026
2. NE Germany (Old Pomerania) + Elbe River Cruise (Berlin > Prague) (Including Lutherstadt Wittenberg) Date: Nov. 3-17, 2026

Take a tour of Germany where locals go, not the places where tourists go! Each tour includes a journey to Old Pomerania (NE Germany), multiple UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Ravensbrück (WW2 Concentration Camp for Women), and more.

For more detailed information, contact:

Jim Yagow
N3494 Hooyman Court
Appleton, WI 54913-9218

Mobile Phone: (920) 809-4445
Email: jimyagow@aol.com



St. John Sanctuary Refresh Project

At the July Voters Meeting, the sanctuary refresh project was approved, and we recently signed the contract with Church Interiors Inc. The sanctuary will be getting a facelift. The plaster will be repaired, walls and ceilings painted (no change in color), new chair rails and baseboards installed, new lighting, and the altar mural will be professionally cleaned. The exact start date is not yet known but we think it will be sometime this winter, and it will take approximately 4 weeks to complete.

We have approximately \$85,000.00 on hand for this project, but that leaves us with a short fall. We are praying that we can complete this project without taking out a loan. However, we have been falling short with our weekly offerings. We are not bringing in enough to cover expenses and have had to use savings to meet our monthly bills.

We are asking everyone to contemplate all the gifts that God has blessed you with and prayerfully consider increasing your weekly donations and/or contribute to the refresh fund. The Bible tells us in 2nd Corinthians 9: 7-8 "Each one must give as he has decided in his own heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver and God is able to make all grace abound to you. So that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

-Thank you

September 9, 2025

Council minutes

Present were Linda Mueller, Bud Mordtvedt, Danni Seubert, Jeff Werner, Pastor Mathey, and Dean Pehlke. Linda called the meeting to order, minutes from the previous meeting were read and they were accepted.

Pastor gave his reports. New items were the Fall Pastor's conference in Eau Claire Oct 20 -22. The topic would be the prolife issues today since the overturn of Roe vs. Wade. He also mentioned the use of Kwik Trip gift cards as a sale item to raise money for the refresh of the church. He had heard that the profit was at 6%. The council appointed Linda to check into the details of putting this into place.

Elders and Outreach had no report.

Board of Ed announced that the Sunday School was using the Enduring Faith Materials this year.

Trustees reported that bids have gone out for snowplowing the church grounds.

Treasurer's report was given and we are short on the weekly given to budget. The income for the refresh of the sanctuary is just over \$85,000. \$45,000 will be needed yet to complete the project as given in the estimate.

Finance committee is going well; but we will need new counters starting January 2026 as some terms are up.

Reports were approved as presented.

Unfinished business:

The contract and downpayment arrived at the Church Interiors LLC office on Sept 19'th and we are waiting to hear when we are on their schedule. Linda will write a bulletin message to explain the progress of the church refresh committee so far.

New business:

Dual council meetings are Sept. 18'th and Dual parish voter's meeting will be Oct. 12'th.

Motion was made to adjourn and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Niemann

Dual Parish Voter's Meeting on October 12th 7 pm at St. John Lutheran Church



DONATE BLOOD

Saturday
October
18

8:00AM - 12:30 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a
healthy meal and drink
plenty of water before
donating.

877-232-4376



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

LOCATION

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
119145 Huckleberry St., Edgar

PROMOTION Everyone who donates receives
a **FREE PINT OF CULVER CUSTARD** while supplies
last.

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

Call 877.232.4376 or visit versiti.org/WI.

blood provider for Marshfield Clinic Health System



 **versiti**
Blood Center of Wisconsin

The Edgar Lions Club
would like to invite all
Edgar area senior citi-
zens to attend our Annu-
al Senior Citizen Drive-
thru Chicken Dinner.

Date: October 16th

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Place: Edgar Fire House

Cost: Free to Senior Citizens

RSVP between Oct. 6th -
Oct. 13th to either Marie @
715-573-5616 OR Kathy @
715-721-6520

The Lutheran Hour: The following dates are available for 2026 sponsorship of The Lutheran Hour over radio station WDLB-1450AM/98.7FM at 8:00 am on Sunday morning: January 11 & 25, February 15 & 22, March 8, 15, 22 & 29, April 5, 12 & 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7 & 28, July 26, August 16, 23 & 30, September 6 & 13, November 1, 8, 15 & 22, December 13 & 20

What better way to help spread the Word of God! A full sponsorship; is \$94.00 for the half-hour broadcast. Please contact Lisa at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Spencer at 715-659-4006 or email her at trinity.spencer.wi@gmail.com to request a date. In addition, the program airs nationally on SiriusXM Family Talk, Sundays at 10 a.m. ET, channel 131. You can even listen on your phone or speakerphone, by dialing 855-JOHN-316 and selecting option 3. Simply put, you can listen anytime, anywhere ... and it's more convenient than ever!



North Wisconsin District Adult Gathering

Make plans now to attend the NWD Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Registration & morning refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. with the program from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Devotions will be led by District President, Rev. Timothy Shoup. Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Dan Paavola, will share a message based on his book, *Our Way Home: A Journey through the Lord's Prayer*. Rev. Paavola currently serves as the pastor of River of Life Lutheran Church in Saukville, Wisconsin. Previously, Dan taught theology at Concordia University Wisconsin full time for 28 years and continues to teach at Concordia as Professor Emeritus. The \$35 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, and a catered lunch. Registration deadline is September 26th. Registration forms are available in the narthex and on the NWD homepage at www.nwdlcms.org under 'Events and Info'.



LWML North WI Zone 10 Fall Rally

Saturday, October 18, 2025

At Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer.

Registration and Brunch: 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Fee is \$5.00 and includes morning brunch, the cost of the speaker and materials

The Christian Life Topic for this rally is "Prayer".

Speaker will be from Sleep in Heavenly Peach, Spencer Area Chapter.

Intake items will be new, in the package, twin size bedding, handmade quilts are welcome if they are made from new material and batting 60" x 80" and monetary donations.

Also, collected are canceled stamps, used eyeglasses and soft eyeglass cases.

Monetary donations will be accepted for mites.

Note: activities will be held on the ground floor. The handicapped entrance is on the back (south side) of the education wing off the church parking lot.

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 109 W. Clark St., 3 blocks west of spotlight at the corner of Hwy 13 and Clark St. (Hwy 98 west and Hwy. C east).

Concordia Plan Services Commences CEO Search

Concordia Plan Services (CPS) has begun the search for its next Chief Executive Officer, following the planned retirement of Jim Sanft after 17 years of faithful service as President and CEO. The CEO of CPS will lead the organization in serving LCMS workers and ministries by providing strong leadership, financial stability, and a continued focus on service, trust, and innovation. Candidates must be members in good standing of an LCMS congregation and deeply committed to the values and mission of the Church.

For more details on the role, qualifications, how to apply and how to nominate someone, please visit: www.concordiaplans.org/who-we-are/ceo-search Questions may be directed to Cheryl Johnson, AVP of People Strategies, at 314-885-6818 or Cheryl.Johnson@ConcordiaPlans.org.

About Concordia Plan Services: CPS provides health, retirement, disability, and other employee benefits to workers and ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). CPS manages \$5.0 billion in plan assets with over 70,000 plan participants. CPS uniquely serves its church-based constituency with the responsibilities of missional integrity, operational excellence, and financial stability.

Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

October 5

"Every Age Has a Stage"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

Every age has a stage, not just a stage of life, but also a stage on which to perform and to serve.

(Numbers 8:23-26)

October 12

"When a Cakewalk Becomes a Crucible"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Forgiveness isn't a formality with God. Forgiveness is formative. It changes us.

(Numbers 14:30-31)

October 19

"God's Help Dwells in Us"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo S?nchez

The Holy Spirit is the Helper who comes to dwell in and with us, to encourage and empower us.

(Numbers 11:29)

October 26

"Worn In"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Are you feeling worn down or worn out? Through faith, God conforms us to the pattern of Christ.

(Numbers 20:13)

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

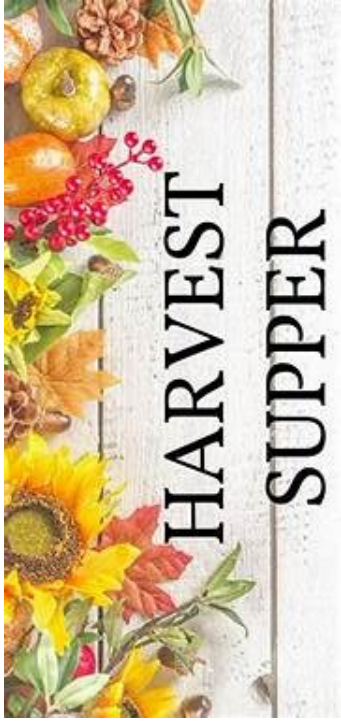
Lutheran Hour Ministries ~ God has called all laypeople to be powerful witnesses for Christ to their families and communities. At LHM, we strive to create convenient ways for you to connect with Jesus and share your faith with others. Our products are free, easy, and digital so that you can use them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





October 4, 2025 4:30 - 6:30PM

DELIVERY AND PICKUP

Delivery Service available to the homebound
in Edgar, Athens, and Stratford

TO RESERVE FIRST 350 MEALS

Call the church office at 715-352-2888

Tuesday - Thursday from 9am to noon
and Friday from 8 am to 4 pm

Place your Orders EARLY!!

Order must be in Friday, October 3rd

Church Members!!!

We are still in need of donations and manual help. There are many opportunities still available. Even if you are only able to help for a short time during the day or for clean-up, it all makes a difference. The more help we have, the easier it is for everyone.

Proceeds after expenses will be split between our mission family Paul & Courtney Mroczenski and our Sanctuary Refresh Project. Please keep this successful congregational event in your prayers. Contact Nancy Witucki 715 -352-7060 or Mary Schultz 715 352 -2603 if you have any questions.

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



Where
the
light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines