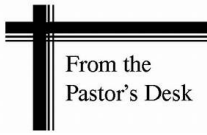




# The Dual-Parish Review



As another year of school comes to a close, so does another year of catechism instruction, or what we call Confirmation Class. A number of our young students attend this weekly class to learn Luther's Small Catechism with the goal of becoming members of their congregation through the Rite of

Confirmation. This event is a chance for each of these young people to publicly acknowledge and affirm that they do believe in this Christian faith that was given to them at their Baptism, and at the same time they promise to live the Christian life that they have been called to by the Holy Spirit.

Most of us probably remember our own confirmation instruction in the past. For some, it was at a similar time of life as the students who will be confirmed this month. For others, they learned Luther's Small Catechism at a later point in life as they decided to join the Lutheran Church as an adult. For each person the memories are either good or bad or a combination of the two, and each of this year's confirmands will have their own memories made this year.

But of all the memories each person has, the one that might slip from the mind all too easily is the importance of what was learned. Recently I was reading Martin Luther's introduction to the Large Catechism which he wrote for people to use after they have learned the Small Catechism, and I was struck by the emphasis that Dr. Luther put on the importance of daily use of what he included in these two books. I want to share some of what he wrote with you this month as another group of students is confirmed in the Christian faith.

Martin Luther writes, "...all Christians...all pastors and preachers... should daily exercise themselves in the catechism, which is a short summary and epitome of the entire Holy Scriptures. They should always teach the catechism... many see the catechism as a poor, common teaching, which they can read through once and immediately understand. They can throw the book into a corner and be ashamed to read it again.

"Yes, even among the nobility one may find some clowns and penny pinchers, who say (a) there is no longer any need for either pastors or preachers, (b) we have everything in books, and (c) everyone can easily learn it by himself. So they are happy to let the parishes rot and become empty...

"But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher... Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning—and whenever I have time—I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so. Yet these...fellows would in one reading promptly become doctors...[who] know everything...this...is a sure sign that they despise...their office and the souls of the people...they even despise God and His Word... They need to become children and begin to learn their alphabet, which they imagine they have long outgrown [Mark 10:15]...

"Besides, catechism study is a most effective help against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts. It helps to be occupied with God's Word, to speak it, and meditate on it, just as the first Psalm declares people blessed who meditate on God's Law day and night (Psalm 1:2). Certainly you will not release a stronger incense or other repellant against the devil than to be engaged by God's commandments and words, and speak, sing, or think them [Colossians 3:16]. For this is indeed the true "holy water" and "holy sign" from which the devil runs and by which he may be driven away [James 4:7]... God Himself is not ashamed to teach these things daily. He knows nothing better to teach. He always keeps teaching the same thing and does not take up anything new or different... Can we finish learning... what God Himself cannot finish teaching?" – *until next month!*  
*Pr. M.*

Quotes From "Preface of Dr. Martin Luther" in The Large Catechism, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Pocket Edition. © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Source: <https://bookofconcord.cph.org/en/large-catechism/preface/>



## 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

## Acolyte Schedule

### Bethlehem Birthdays

Shane Hammel	5/03
Ian Rinehart	5/03
Jonelle Venzke	5/03
Croix Bernt	5/04
Ivy Mae Yessa	5/04
Wendy Johnson	5/05
Barbara Ortman	5/06
Matthew Graun	5/07
Joanne Luther,	5/07
Michael Neumann	5/10
Bart Schreiber	5/10
Judy Empey	5/12
Taygen Viegut	5/12
Ashton Hammel	5/17
Michelle Schwarting	5/17
Matthew Thomas	5/18
Vicki Dassow	5/20
Braiden Johnson	5/21
Brentin Bender	5/22
Erin Bernt	5/23
Natasha Kaminski	5/25
Leighton Kilty	5/28
Amy Broeske	5/31
Klimpke, Jonathon	5/31
Marcus VanLuven	5/31

### St. John Birthdays

Jordan Wolff	5/01
Cade Littleton	5/02
Delores Telschow	5/08
Eleanor VanDerLeest	5/10
Odin Schreier	5/11
Sloan Held	5/13
Phyllis Spindler	5/13
Emma Noller	5/16
Edward Mielke Jr.	5/17
Les VanDerLeest	5/17
Edwin Hamann	5/18
Ethan Telschow	5/18
Darla Syring	5/22
Eli Kopplin	5/22
KaraAnne Schara	5/26
Samuel Hartwig	5/27
Dawn Mortvedt	5/27
Paul Reinhart	5/28

### Bethlehem

5/3 Aleah Kosik
5/10 Evan Strack
5/17 Kelly Mathey
5/24 Bailey Schreiber
5/31 Isaac Kosik

### St. John

5/3 Christian Pehlke
5/10 Lexie Noller
5/17 Sam Hartwig
5/24 Cale Koch
5/31 Isabelle Kramp

## Greeter Schedule

### Bethlehem Greeters

5/3 Ray Yessa & family
5/10 Josh Rinehart & family
5/17 Jospheh and Gloria Cornelius
5/24 Nathan Kunze & Melanie Kunze
5/31 Matt Anderson & family



# Anniversaries

### Bethlehem Anniversaries

Matt & Mindy Graun	5/8
Jeffrey & Renae Geisking	5/10
Richard & Lois Niemi	5/29
Pastor Michael & Deb Mathey	5/30

### St. John Anniversaries

Bruce & Doris Wussow	5/3
Matt & Tabitha Hartwig	5/9
Larry & Sandy Hartwig	5/17
Larry & Jennifer Noller	5/28
Pastor Michael & Deb Mathey	5/30



## Confirmation & First Communion

will be on Sunday, May 17th.

### Confirmands:

Lauryn Hartwig

Cale Koch

Lexie Noller

Christian Pehlke

### Receiving First Communion

Aubree Kirschner

Isabelle Kramp

Kassidy Thompson

## **SAVE THE DATE: Bethlehem VBS**

Shipwrecked - Rescued by God

July 13th and 14th from 4:30-7:00.

Join us for two fun-filled days of Vacation Bible School where kids will learn to trust God through life's storms. Enjoy Bible stories, music, crafts, and games in an exciting shipwrecked adventure! Anyone volunteers willing to help, please contact Janessa, Tammi, Beth or Patti.



See the next page for St. John VBS Registration form

Keep Paul and Countney Mroczenski in your prayers as they have returned home to Wisconsin.

End of Service Logistics: If you would like an updated physical address for us, please let us know. Similarly, their last official day of employment with the LCMS is June 23. They will not have access to our @lcms emails after that, so please let us know if you would like an updated email address for us. Thank you.



## News

### LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bethlehem: May 10th

St. John: May 17th

### **St. John Graduation**

### **Recognition Brunch**

### **hosted by the Sunday School.**

Quilts presented at 9:30 am  
with brunch to follow.

Brunch menu: coffee, milk, juice, tea,  
sausage, cheese, crackers, fruit and  
cupcakes

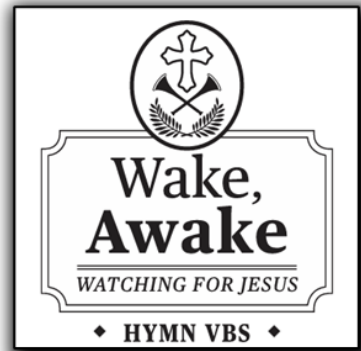
# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (High Steeple)

119415 Huckleberry St, Edgar, WI 54426

## - VBS Registration Form -

Mon., July 20– Fri., July 24, 2026 9:00 am to 12:00pm

Kids ages 3 years—going into 6th grade



### One Form Per Family

Name: First and Last	Birthdate	Age	Grade Completed
_____	___/___/___	___	___
_____	___/___/___	___	___
_____	___/___/___	___	___
_____	___/___/___	___	___

Parent/Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Allergies Children Have: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Issues/Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (Name, phone #): \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child(ren) (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor(s) designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Permission to Attend: I give permission for my child(ren) (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Bethlehem and St. John 2026 Graduates

### Bethlehem Graduates:

**Marcus Van Luven:** Abbotsford High School, Milwaukee School of Engineering of Biomedical



### St. John Graduates:

**Cade Koch:** Edgar High School, Workforce farming & Assistant Edgar Cross Country Coach

**Nicholas Pehlke:** Veritas Scholars Academy, Concordia University in Wisconsin, majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in cyber security

**Micah Schulz:** Edgar High School, Michigan Technological University, majoring in engineering.

### **LCMS Worker Wellness**

May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week! We give thanks to God for the work of our Lutheran school teachers!

Visit [lcms.org/workerwellness](https://lcms.org/workerwellness) for ideas to show appreciation for our teachers!

Newsletter  
Deadline is  
May 26th

### **Interested in E-giving?**

Talk to Tabith in the church office or head to the website: [stjbeth.org](https://stjbeth.org), click on Bethlehem or St. John on the top banner, scroll down, find the E-giving button and follow the instructions.



### **LCMS Health Ministry**

May is usually a chock-full month for families with school-aged kids. Graduation, music recitals, spring sports tournaments, awards ceremonies...the list goes on! It can be easy to get bogged down with the busyness of May. But this month also serves as a great reminder that there are many people pouring into the lives of our children, not the least being their teachers at school! The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week and teachers should receive praise and appreciation for their dedication to helping teach our children. Pray for your teachers. Write thank you cards and notes. Consider giving gifts. Show love to all teachers for using their vocations to serve Christ and His children.



**THANK YOU to everyone who donated Easter Lilies**

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory</u>
Verlyn & Judith Wittlinger	Loved Ones
Schwarting Family	Loved Ones
Hammel Family	Loved Ones
Shirley Buss	Loved Ones
Loretta Schafer	Loved Ones
Joshua & Jill Penk & Family	Loved Ones
Dorean Freimund	Danny & Diane
Galen & Marlene Schreiber	Loved Ones
Joanne Luther	Loved Ones
Brenda Weiler	
L.W.M.L.	
C.W.I.A	
Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!	
God's Blessing, Marlene	

**Bingo Sunday** was held April 26th. Thank-you all who attended. We had 17 people attend with 14 playing Bingo. We collected \$150 for the CUP Food Pantry. The Out-Reach Team also donated another \$350, so a Total of \$500 was given to the Food Pantry at Zion Lutheran Church in Colby. A fun afternoon was had by all!! Plan for another Bingo Sunday in the fall!

The Out-Reach Team Jane, Dorean and Marlene



**Bethlehem Members:** Dorean is collecting money for the flowers. Please place your donation in the basket on the table in the back of church.

On April 26th, we celebrated our organists, Delores and Gloria, who fill our churches with beautiful music and songs every Sunday.

Thank you to both congregations for the organist recognition, the well wishes, the cards, flowers and the delicious cake. All were so very much appreciated. We consider our church family a very special blessing.

-Gloria & Delores



### Bethlehem and St. John Quilters

As of April, we have assembled disaster/crisis quilts. We have shared them with many local people, and other local service departments

We thank everyone for the donating, collecting, preparing and sewing. Our assembly gals had a nice selection to work with. Our at home quilters were able to make personalized quilts for our High School Graduates. All donations are very much appreciated.

There is a supply of quilts available at both churches for those who need. Members are encouraged to share with the quilts with others who need the love of Jesus.



### Ringle Tornado

### Relief Donations

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church is the central donation center for the North Wisconsin District.

To donate: go to [mtoliveweston.org](http://mtoliveweston.org), scan the QR code or call 715-359-5546

### LWML Plant Sale

- Thurs. May 14 9 to 5
- Fri. May 15 9 to 5
- Sat. May 16 9 to noon

Unity Memorial Hall

121 Madison St.

Unity, WI

1 block west of Highway 13

All proceeds go to the Lord's mission work of the LWML, WI Zone 10



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

**May 2026**

**Reserved May 17th for a confirmation party**

### Update for the refresh, as of 04/26/26:

Church Interiors, Inc. refresh/painting/lighting contract price: \$123,499.

Downpayment already sent to contractor: \$40,755.

Total donations presently secured in LCEF Checking as of 2/28: \$66,993.

**Balance of remaining contract dollars needed: \$15,616.**

LCEF CD Savings account balance (in addition to checking): \$56,021.

Additional costs beyond this contract with Church Interiors, Inc. will be incurred by an electrician's work on the installation of lights. Copies of the contract are available from the Treasurer or the Church Secretary.

Please feel free to contact Danni Seibert, Treasurer, at 909-801-1776 for any questions you may have, or for updates as donations come in. We are a blessed congregation and we are truly grateful for everyone's generosity towards this project.

## **St. John Monthly Council Meeting April 14, 2026**

Linda Mueller called the meeting to order with Stephan Schneider, Peter VanDerLeest, Danni Seibert, Sharon Niemann, Mel Niemann, Bob Strunk, Jeff Werner, and Cathy Schneider, and Pastor Mathey present. Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from March 10, 2026. MMSP.

### **Pastor's Report**

Easter and Lenten services were well attended.

New member class was finished and we welcomed a new member by confirmation, Bob Strunk.

Double Baptism is coming up.

Confirmation classes are continuing for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Confirmation Day is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Bethlehem is aware of everything coming up this Sunday having our service at their church.

Recommend a monetary gift to Bethlehem to thank them for the use of their facility.

### **Elders Report**

No report

### **Evangelism (Former Outreach) Report**

Planning on doing advertising in the radio stations and family restaurant after refresh is done.

Mel Niemann gave an update on the church sign. At this time, we do not need to move the sign since the county regulations have changed so that the sign's location is acceptable.

### **Board of Education Report**

No Report

### **Trustees Report**

Snow plowing went well.

Lawn mowing sheet is half full.

Parish Hall windows will be the next project.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Detailed printed financial reports reviewed and discussed for February.

Budget funding for church operation was met for March 2026. Bills are paid but we have a deficit meeting our budget on a weekly basis.

Donations are short by about \$16,500 to meet the Refresh contract. Other Refresh project costs are not yet funded.

### **Finance Report**

Always open for new people to help with counting money.

Working on when we will be counting money during the time we are worshipping at Bethlehem.

### **Cemetery Report**

A couple stones need straightening.

The flower garden was looked at by Schalow's Nursery. The evergreens in the back are fine but the other plantings are overgrown. The weed barrier is failing. Will be getting an estimate to see how much it would cost to replace plants that are overgrown with weeds. Discussion on whether we can do it ourselves.

Mel spoke to adjacent land owners and town chairman and received permission to clean up brush along the road.

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

### **Unfinished Business**

Pete VanDerLeest reported that the Fireside room and Carport windows will be coming in the first part of May.

Pete also gave a Chancel Committee report saying that they need direction whether to renovate the

Chancel or to do nothing. Estimated cost of project would be between \$4100 - \$5700 for flooring.

He requested help with moving pews tomorrow morning, April 15, to prepare for the refresh project.

### **New Business**

Cathy Schneider reported that the church office will be taking over the website and the church recordings.

Discussed the need to let the community know about our temporary location change.

Local insurance company offering a possible insurance option for our church.

Reviewed LCEF Ministry Improvement Loan in case we need it for the refresh project. Motion made to recommend to the voters that we apply for the \$50,000 LCEF loan for the refresh project.

MMSP.

Motion made to adjourn. MMSP.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Cathy Schneider, Recording Secretary

## St. John Voters' Meeting April 19, 2026

24 voters signed in for the roll call. Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.  
Motion made to approve previous quarterly Voters' Meeting minutes. MMSP.

### **Pastor's Report**

Lenten report. One Sunday missed due to blizzard. People got the message it was cancelled  
Holy Week and Easter had good attendance.  
New member class brought in one new member: Robert Strunk  
Refresh going on and worship will be at Bethlehem.  
Confirmation is coming to a close. May 17<sup>th</sup> will be Confirmation Sunday. We have 4 students being confirmed. Church location is to be determined due to the refresh project.  
Higher Things Conference June 23-26, 2026 in St. Louis. Pastor Mathey, Deb Mathey, and Ronda Durkee are leaving June 21<sup>st</sup> with 5 students.

### **Elders Report**

No report  
Thank you to Bethlehem for letting us use their facility.  
Asked congregation if they have any comments. Do they want to use screens? Not at this time.

### **Evangelism (former Outreach) Report**

Meeting with Pastor. Looking into advertising for our churches. Waiting at this time until we are back in our sanctuary.  
Stacy VanHoy and Ronda Durkee looking into a Brewer's Bus Trip.

### **Board of Education Report**

No Report

### **Trustees Report**

Snow plowing went well.  
Lawn mowing sign-up sheet available.  
Replacing windows in Parish Hall will be investigated.  
Let trustees know if something needs to be fixed. Put a note in their box.

### **Treasurers Report**

Written report was reviewed.  
Weekly giving is a little behind budget requirements.  
Donations for the Refresh project contract are short by about \$16,500. Electrical work costs are also not yet covered.

### **Finance Report**

No Report

### **Cemetery Committee**

No Report

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

### **Old Business**

Pete VanDerLeest reported on the Chancel Committee. Estimate for project would be between \$4700-\$6300. Linda told the assembly that the Counsel recommended that the congregation give the Chancel Committee the authority to decide what would be best and spend up to \$10,000 for the renovations. Motion made to give authority to the Refresh Committee and the Chancel Committees to decide what renovations should be done to the Chancel with a budget up to \$10,000. MMSP.  
Firewise room and Carport windows will be replaced in June. Will be asking for help.

### **New Business**

Pastor Mathey reported that the North Wisconsin District Disaster Response is organizing help for the tornado that hit the Ringle area. Mount Olive, base headquarters, is assessing what help will be needed. Hopefully next Sunday there will be more information.  
Linda asked if we should reimburse Bethlehem for use of their facility. We are tabling until we know how long we will be using their facility.  
Thank you to Sharon Neimann and Ryan VanDerLeest for their work on the Refresh Committee work.  
We are at a shortfall for the Refresh project so an email was reviewed from LCEF to take out a loan for the project. This would give more time for fundraising. Council recommended we take out the loan. Motion made to apply for the \$50,000 loan for the Refresh project. MMSP.  
Cemetery flower garden is overgrown. Motion made to have a committee remove the garden and reseed with grass. MMSP.

Motion made to adjourn. MMSP.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

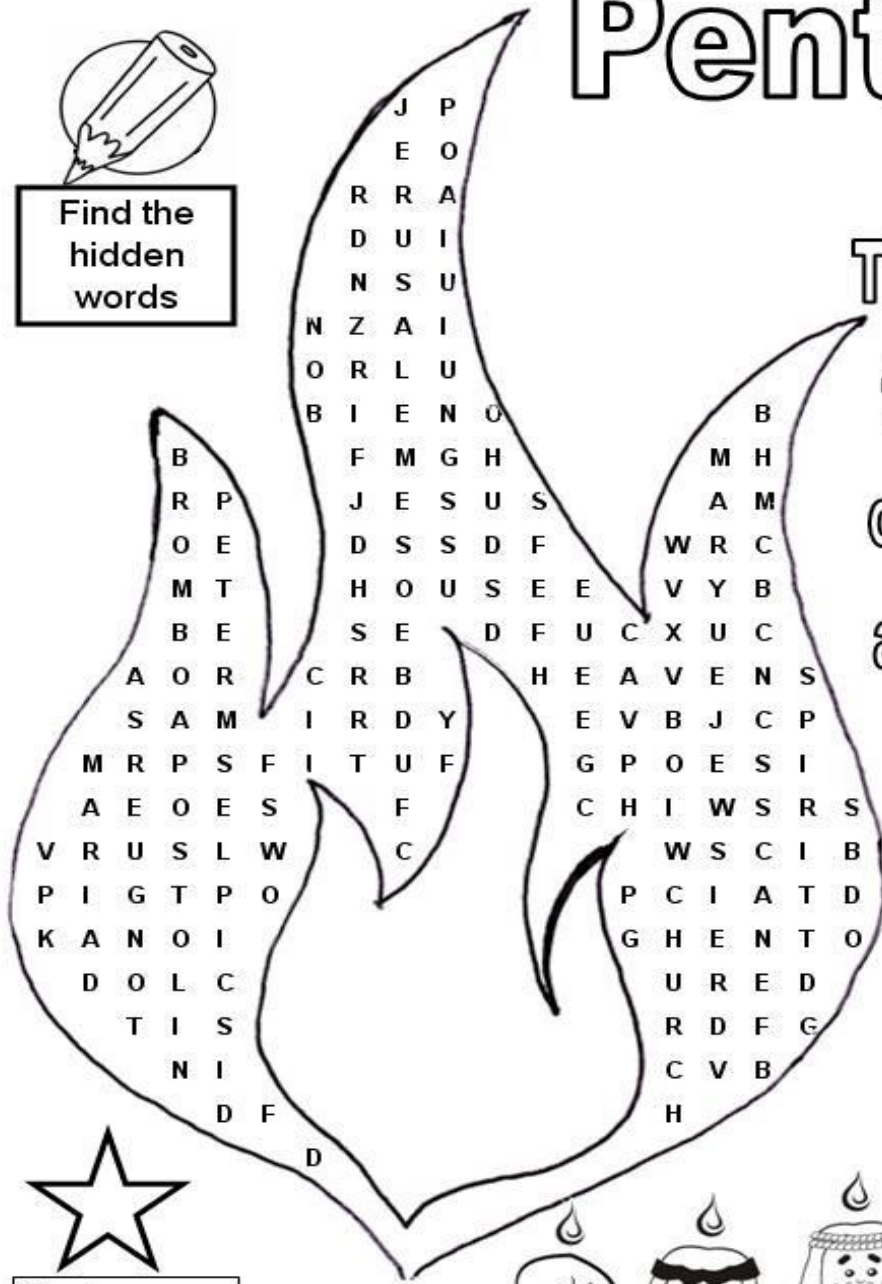
Respectively submitted,

Cathy Schneider, Recording Secretary

# Pentecost



Find the hidden words



Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

Acts 2:3

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- Wind
- Heaven
- House
- Tongues
- Fire
- Spirit
- Jews
- Jerusalem
- Peter
- Jesus
- Wine
- Disciples
- Mary
- Church



## May 3, 2026 "Planning Is Everything"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise.—Psalm 146:3-4

## May 10, 2026 "The King Who Reigns"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

If Easter tells us that Jesus the King has won, then Ascension tells us the King is reigning, and His reign is good.—Luke 24:36-53

## May 17, 2026 "Don't Despise Small Beginnings"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Our small efforts to become the people Jesus saved us to be might seem insignificant, but small efforts compound.—Acts 1:14

## May 24, 2026 "Misery Loves Company"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

It's often said, "Misery loves company." Christ comes to us in our misery with God's love and mercy. - Acts 2:38

## May 31, 2026 "A Friendly Recommendation"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What happens when you find out that acquiring everything you've ever wanted... still isn't enough?

### 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](http://www...lhm.org) or download the free App @ [LHM.ORG/APPS](http://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.

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.



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

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



**When you purchase a Kwik Trip gift card through us, you will be donating 5-15% back to our church.**

**We have multiple cards on hand, but if you would like to order specific or multiple cards, please fill out a pre-order form and give to Deana Parker, Marlene Schreiber, or Lori Schmitt.**

**If you have any questions, ask one of us, or call Deana 715-613-2969.**

**We appreciate your donations to our church by purchasing any gift, grocery, fuel, or carwash cards with us.**

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



*Where  
the  
light  
of  
Jesus  
Christ  
Always  
Shines*