



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

With the 2024 election cycle finally over with, the seemingly endless attempts to get the opinion of people by surveys has finally slowed down to a less obnoxious level. Just prior to last month's election the attempts to get public opinion about the candidates reached a fever pitch, and most of us were ready to completely cut off our contacts with the outside world just to get it to stop. But the end of the presidential election doesn't mean that we won't be asked to take another survey sometime in the future, and that isn't necessarily a bad thing depending on what the topic is.

Why do I bring up surveys so soon after being released from the constant threat of coming across yet one more person trying to get me to answer their questions? The answer to that comes from the results of two surveys that should have a significant impact on our relationship with our neighbors. The first one is especially fitting for this time of the year as the Christmas holiday gets closer and closer. Each week will see more and more people going through the annual chore of putting up decorations to help them in their celebration of Christmas, but how many of those same people will really celebrate Christmas for the reason that it exists?

This holiday is, of course, the time that we give thanks to our Lord in Christ's Mass – from which we get the term "Christmas" – for sending His Son into this world to be our Savior. But as important as that focus is, many of the people around us have little to no idea about it. And this is where the point of the first survey really becomes important. According to a poll of 1000 Americans taken by the organization Lifeway Research, 60% of people who were contacted said that they attend church at Christmas, but of the 40% who don't, 57% said that they would attend if *someone invited them to go*.

We no longer live in a world where we can assume that our friends, our neighbors, or even our own family know who Jesus Christ is or how important it is to worship Him. As St. Paul tells us in Romans 10:14, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" And just three verses later we read that, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Hearing the Word of God brings faith to those who are listening to it, faith in the Christ whose birth we are soon to celebrate. There is no one in your life who doesn't need to hear God's Word, and your invitation to them to come and see Jesus is the most valuable gift that you could ever give.

That brings me to the second survey that I mentioned earlier. Of the people who became Christians as adults, the number of them who said that they started going to church because a friend invited them is a truly incredible number. That number is 86%! It turns out that a simple and sincere invitation from a Christian to a friend is one of the most important factors in someone attending a church and coming to know Jesus because of it. Think about these two surveys this month as you begin your own Advent preparations to "Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King!" – *until next time, Pr. M.*



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
November 12, 2024

Call to order by Linda Mueller. Also attending were Doug Brown, Kay Christiansen, Jeff Werner, Steve Schneider, Dean Pehlke, Mel Niemann, Sharon Niemann, and Pastor Mathey.

Opening prayer was given by Pastor.

The secretary's report was approved with the correction of the date for this meeting.

Pastor gave his report. There are two sessions of Bible class left of the Life Light Bible study groups. Thanksgiving services will be Wed. eve, the 27'th at Bethlehem and on the 28'th at St John.

Dec. 31'st is going to be a New Year's Eve game night here at the parish hall. More information will follow on that.

A new family and an individual have expressed interest in joining our congregation.

Cyber Security information night was a success. Dean did discuss many common scams and defenses that we all can do to avoid problems with scammers.

Elders had no report.

Outreach asked for suggestions for events that they might be able to help facilitate.

Board of Ed. said that Children's Christmas program rehearsal will begin November 24 during Sunday School time. The Children's program will be Dec. 22'nd at 2 pm.

The treasurer's report showed all bills paid.

Finance Committee will be needing more people to count money after church for 2025. Please see Jeff if you are able to serve in this manner.

Trustees sent word that the fire dept. annual inspection of all the fire extinguishers has passed. The outdoor light by Pastor's office has been taken care of and all the eavestroughs are cleared and covered. The bowing shelves in the kitchen will be getting new braces in the near future.

A motion was made to accept all reports. Seconded and passed.

Old business: A correction is needed to the minutes of the quarterly voters meeting minutes. This will be taken up at the next voter's meeting in January.

Opportunity to sign the constitution will be offered at the annual meeting in January.

The Memorial Committee announced that \$2000 will be sent to the LCMS Disaster Response Relief from the undesignated memorial fund. The current committee: Doug Brown, Stacy VanHoY, and Pete VanderLeest were reappointed.

New business: For the Finance Secretary work: Rhonda Durkee will be allowed to shadow Jeff Werner on Sunday mornings for the remainder of December. In January, she will do the year end reports for the congregation. Motion was made and seconded to this; all agreed.

For the work of treasurer, we have two applications. An interviewing team was appointed to review and meet with the candidates. Pastor, Kay and Linda will meet with them when it is convenient.

Our next meeting date is Dec. 10'th. Motion was made to adjourn,

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary



Advent Schedule
Week 1 December 4
 St. John 1:30pm
 Bethlehem 7:00pm
Week 2 December 11
 St. John 1:30pm
 Bethlehem 7:00pm
Week 3 December 18
 St. John 1:30pm
 Bethlehem 7:00pm



Christmas Eve
 Bethlehem 5:00pm
 St. John 7:00pm

Christmas Day
 Bethlehem 8:00am
 St. John 10:00am

CHURCH OR MEETING
CANCELLATION POLICY

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) or wsaw.com (Channel 7). 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

New Years Eve Gathering



Come Ring in the NEW YEAR with us!
 Tuesday, December 31, 2024
 8:30PM
 St. John Lutheran- High Steeple- Edgar
 In the Fellowship Hall

Come play some games and hang out!
 Have a favorite board, card or dice game?
 Bring it!

Have a snack, appetizer or sweet treat you want to share?
 Bring it!
 We will have things available also!

Questions?
 Talk to
 Pastor or Deb Mathey



Sunday School November & December Activites

November 17th--Make Thanksgiving cards

November 24th "The Ten Lepers" Make Christmas gifts and practice music.

December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. 9:15 to 10:15 am
 Christmas Service rehearsal

December 22, 2 at 2:00 pm. Children's Service

December 29th No Sunday School



Kilty, Sutton	12/02
Miles, Sequoia	12/04
McKee, Tammi	12/06
Geisking, Lucy	12/09
Denzine, Kurt	12/10
Schwarting, Justin	12/12
Kunze, Rosie	12/13
Kirchner, Elizabeth	12/14
Bernt, Joshua	12/16
Neumann, Marnie	12/18
Kelly Mathey	12/18
Rinehart, Karleigh	12/21
Geisking, Justin	12/28
Thomas, Janessa	12/28
Kirchner, Galen	12/30
Myszka, Samantha	12/01
Myszka, Valerie	12/01
Schneider, Steve	12/01
Telschow, Audrey	12/01
Ulrick, James	12/02
Durkee Jr., James	12/04
Noller, Delayna	12/05
Koepke, Emma	12/08
Hartwig, Lauryn	12/09
Syring, Amanda	12/09
Rodman, Raegene	12/11
Hamann, Theodora	12/15
Koepke, Steven	12/18
Mathey, Kelly	12/18
Myszka, Victoria	12/20
Niemann, Karissa	12/20
Wendtland, Damion	12/27



Clarence & Arlette Molthen	12/02
Matthew, Janessa Thomas	12/19
Albert & Miriam Wolff	12/12



To the Bethlehem and St. John Quilters,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful quilt. It's evident a lot of time and thought went into it. I'm truly touched by the gift and the kind words. God's blessings to each of you. Gloria Cornelius

St. John Congregation and the Quilters:

I want to thank the entire congregation and the St. John\Bethlehem Quilters for the beautiful quilt. It has been my privilege to play the organ for you and I hope I'm able to play for many more years, We are so blessed to have a congregation the truly enjoys singing. God Bless You All! Delores Telschow

Thank you to Rick and Nancy Hippe (former members) for sending a gift to St. John.

St. John Mission News: On our Mission bulletin board please note our new missionary Vicar Paul and family. Keep them in your prayers and send support as you are able. We have been supporting Cindy W. for a few years: she has finished her tenure and returned to the states.

St. John Sunday School News. we will be starting practice for our Children's Service on Dec. 22 at 2:00 P.M. We will also be working on our Christmas gifts.

BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - Our Christmas program "Silent Night" will be Sunday, December 15 after the church service. All are welcome, invite your grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors to attend. After the program we will be serving cinnamon rolls, cookies, and beverages in the fellowship area. There will be no Sunday School December 22nd and 29th.

LWML News: We will be packing college and military care packages at our December meeting the 5th at 9:30 A.M. If you wish to bake something or donate some items Please have them in the Conference room on that day or before.

Please Remember our local food pantries –Athens, Edgar-Marathon and Stratford Circle of Joy box is in the entryway. Note of Thanks received from Edgar: "Thank you for the donation of groceries. We appreciate that you remember us--and it enables us to continue helping the needy."

St. John trustees are collecting money for our Old Tradition of treat bags. Or if you wish to donate an item 40 bags will be made and given out on Dec 22 the Childrens Service. Trustees are Ryan V., Bud Mortvedt and Mike T.

December 1

"Will Everything Sad Come Untrue?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A mother and her young son trade a life of privilege for one of poverty, a story that is borderline unbelievable, yet nonetheless true. (Jeremiah 33:16)

December 8

"Completely Ordinary Human"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one through which Jesus is working to make the world new again.

(Malachi 3:7)

December 22

"Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again. (Luke 2:10-11)

December 29

"No Getting Better Than This"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

The Good Life--what is it? Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be. (Colossians 3:12-17)

Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcasts

Dates available to sponsor the Lutheran Hour on WDLB.

This is a great outreach of the LCMS, and would make a great Christmas gift for someone as well.

January 12 & 26

March 9, 16, 23 & 30

April 6

May 4, 18 & 25

June 29

July 13 & 27

August 24 & 31

September 7 & 14

November 2, 9, 16 & 23

December 14 & 21

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



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.

When Jesus Was Born

A Christmas Word Search Puzzle

X S W J I M B S S C A S G N P
X H Q K A R T E H H K U E E R
L E I R B A G R T A E S D M E
T P Y D B T I E O H N E S E S
D H E L O S G M L E L J P S E
X E E V T R I C C I O E M I N
H R S M U R E N G O L D H W T
T D A S A L I H N Y B A B E S
E S O C E K Y T I V I T A N M
R M L G N L H O L Y G H O S T
A E N A F T B J D H P E S O J
Z A R S W O C V D O N K E Y S
A F H R X Q N S A V I O R Z R
N R E G N A M O W T T A N N U
B I R T H D A Y S M Y R R H Z



Miracle
Holy Ghost
Nativity
Herod
Mary
Son of God
Nazareth
Gabriel
Blessed
Joseph

Jesus
Baby
Savior
Bethlehem
Stable
Manger
Swaddling Cloths
Shepherds
Wise Men
Star

Angel
Gold
Frankincense
Myrrh
Birthday
Donkeys
Cows
Sheep
Presents
Christmas

Save the Date



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



*Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*