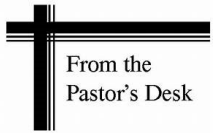




The Dual-Parish Review



From the
Pastor's Desk

A TALE OF THREE MARTINS

Remembered On Three Consecutive November Days

On November 11th, the Christian Church remembers Saint Martin of Tours, pastor and bishop. Martin was born into an unbelieving family in what is today known as Hungary around the year 316 AD. He was the son of a senior officer in the Roman army, and moved to Lombardy when his father was transferred there. When he was about ten years old, Martin began to attend a local Christian church against his parent's wishes, and he soon enrolled in classes to become a fully confirmed member of the faith. When he was about 15, Martin was drafted into the cavalry according to the custom of the time for sons of officers to serve in the Roman military. Three years later, he was sent to the region of Gaul in what we now call France.

Martin's charity for the poor was well known even from his time as a soldier. He once saw a poor beggar dressed in tattered rags on a cold winter's day, and used his sword to slice his own cloak into two parts. While he kept one part for himself, the other part was given to the freezing beggar to wrap up in against the cold. In the course of his military service, a time came when Martin felt that he could not join in a particular battle. He proclaimed to his superiors that, "I am a soldier of Christ." He was immediately arrested and jailed, but it turned out that the anticipated battle never occurred because the enemy sued for peace instead. Martin was released from prison not long after, and he was discharged from any further military service. That allowed him to pursue his study of the Christian faith, and in 371 he was declared the Bishop of Tours where he faithfully and tirelessly served until his death on November 11, 397.

A little more than 1000 years later, on November 10, 1483, a son was born to Hans and Margaret Luther in Eisleben, Germany. They baptized their newborn boy the very next day, on St. Martin's Day, and gave him the name of Martin Luther in honor of the famous St. Martin, Bishop of Tours. This second Martin would become even more famous than the first when he posted 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. From that day on his writings and efforts to reform errors in the Catholic Church would become the foundation for what is now called the Lutheran Church all over the world. Martin Luther is celebrated today for rediscovering the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone, and for standing firm for that truth against enormous pressure from some of the most powerful men of his day. He died on February 18, 1546.

About 39 years after the birth of Martin Luther, a third Martin was born on November 9th. This man is often considered to be one of the greatest theologians that the Lutheran Church was ever blessed with, even though many don't know his name, Martin Chemnitz (the first part of his name is pronounced as you would the word, "chemistry"). His significance as a writer and teacher of the Christian faith was so great and influential, that it is undebatable that had Martin Chemnitz not been alive when Martin Luther died, the Lutheran Reformation would never have lasted.

Martin Chemnitz arrived in Wittenberg, Germany in 1545, and he learned from both Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon (the writer of the Augsburg Confession and its Apology). He initially worked as a librarian which enabled him to read extensively even as he taught in order to earn a living. After several years of study both on his own and with the teachers in Wittenberg, he was ordained as a pastor on November 25, 1545. His extensive writings are still used in training pastors today, especially his works on the Lord's Supper and the Nature of Christ (Christology). After Luther's death, Chemnitz's leadership was key in keeping the work of the Reformation going, and his work is a major part of our confessional document known as the Formula of Concord. Martin Chemnitz died on November 8, 1586. — *until next month, Pr. M.*

November

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.Stjbeth.org



Bethlehem Birthdays

Jane Becker	11/05
Ashley Thielman	11/07
Isaac Hammel	11/09
Marlene Schreiber	11/11
Lori Schmitt	11/12
Hannah Fehrenbach	11/16
Halie VanLuven	11/23
Cory Broeske	11/26

St. John Birthdays

Martha Rodman	11/02
Savannah Koepke	11/03
Lloyd Schultz	11/03
Nancy Witucki	11/03
Lucas Koepke	11/05
Ronda Durkee	11/09
Amber Kroening	11/09
Stacey VanHoy	11/09
Meaghan Telschow	11/10
Peter Kroening	11/17
Aaron Niemann	11/21
Lindsey Ellis	11/21
Amy Wilhelmi	11/21
James Clark	11/23
Suzanne Gehrke	11/23
Rodney Held	11/23
Izabella Myszka	11/23
Echo Schoenrock	11/23
Anna Koepke	11/24
Judy Ulrick	11/25
George Seibert	11/25
Larry Noller	11/27
Ron Hahn	11/28
Brad Wendtland	11/29
Ken Christiansen	11/30

Bethlehem Anniversaries

Alan & Lori Schmitt	11/6
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St. John Anniversaries

George & Danni Seibert	11/13
Lloyd & Mary Schultz	11/14
Stan & Sharon Szymanski	11/14
John & Kelly Yessa	11/15
Jonathan & Kay Schulz	11/16
Melvin & Sharon Niemann	11/28

November Acolyte Schedule

Bethlehem

11/2	Kelly Mathey
11/9	Bailey Schreiber
11/16	Kylee Johnson
11/23	Aubree Kirschner
11/30	Isaac Kosik

St. John

11/2	Christian Pehlke
11/9	Cale Koch
11/16	Lexie Noller
11/23	Sam Hartwig
11/30	Kassidy Thompson



Greeter Schedule Bethlehem

11/2	Doreen Freimund & Marlene Schreiber
11/9	Dan and Jane Becker
11/16	Bruce & Brenda Weiler & April/Amber
11/23	Del and Michelle Schwarting
11/30	Lori and Alan Schmitt

Newsletter
Deadline is
November 24th



Thanksgiving Service:
Wednesday, November 26
Bethlehem @ 1pm
St. John @ 7 pm



LOOKING AHEAD:
Advent Season starts
November 30th.

Bethlehem Soup Supper, Craft and Bake Sale

Homemade Soups

Chicken Dumpling,
Chili,
Sauerkraut Chili,
Cheesy Broccoli Cauliflower

**CARRY OUTS
ONLY**



Important Dates:

Pre-Order: December 1-12 by calling Dorean Freimund at 715-680-0078

Pick Up Soup: December 12 or 13 from 9 am to 3 pm

Pick up at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Tenth Annual Christmas Wreath Sale



The Bethlehem LWML Ladies Aid is having their Christmas wreath sale. Sign up sheets are at both churches. Deadline is November 23rd. Delivery date is November 30th. Any questions please call Arlette at 715-223-6060 or 715-223-3946 or Shirley at 715-654 5291

Mark your calendars!!

children's
program



St. John's children's Advent program. Sunday, December 21, with a light meal provided following church services and the children's program at 1:00.

Program Practices will be November 30, Dec 7, Dec 14 and Dec 21 at 9:30am- 10:15.

Our prayers were heard and God blessed us with a successful 2025 Harvest Supper. We prepared and served 451 roast beef meals for our community, Senior Living homes, and home bound. We received positive feed back from everyone that ordered a meal. It is welcomed and looked forward to every year.

We continue to struggle with early commitments of help from members. In order to plan effectively all positions need to be filled timely. I encourage all members to set aside time to participate. All help is greatly appreciated.

Generous congregation and community support brought in donations of \$5324. Our expenses totaled \$2232. We will donate \$464 to Paul and Courtney Mroczenski, our mission family and \$2628 to the Sanctuary Refresh.



Thank you to all who made this year's Harvest Supper a success! Looking forward to having your support for 10-3-26!

- Nancy Witucki and Mary Schultz



St. John and Bethlehem Lutheran Witness Renewal

If you wish to renew your Lutheran Witness Subscription or if you would like to get a new subscription the price for 2026 is \$27.65. *Deadline for renewal is November 30th.* Payment can be given to the church secretary. If you wish to pay by check, make your check out to St. John and note for "Lutheran Witness renewal".

St. John Members:

Make sure all your events and church activities are on the monthly calendar. With the snowy months approaching, the parking lots will be cleared out for Church Services and events listed on the monthly calendar.



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 & 29, April 5 & 12, May 3, 10, 24 & 31, June 7 & 28, August 16, 23 & 30, September 6 & 13, November 15 & 22, December 13 & 20

What better way to help spread the Word of God! 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.

"Happenings in the District" - Check out our district (North WI District) monthly newsletter at www.nwdlcms.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/nwdlcms



Dual Parish Council Budget Meeting

September 18, 2025

President Linda Mueller called the meeting to order.

Roll call: Pastor Mathey, **Bethlehem:** President Alan Schmidt, **St. John:** President Linda Mueller, Treasurer Danni Helm, Dean Pehlke, Tabitha Hartwig

Minutes from 2024 Dual Parish Budget Meeting were reviewed with an amendment. A motion was made by Dean Pehlke to change \$331,778 to \$31,778 under Proposed Budget: under Health care. Alan Schmidt seconded the motion, all in favor, the motion passes.

New Business: Discussion about having more joint services. This idea will be brought up at the Dual Parish Voters' Meeting October 2025.

Proposed Budget:

Pastor Salary and Benefits

Rent on the Parsonage stayed the same.

Health Care increased by 1.24% to \$32,172 (\$324 difference)

Health Savings Acct. stayed the same

Retirement decreased by 2.33% to \$48,132 (\$776 difference)

Pastor has chosen to take retirement at 10.7% instead of 13%

Total Salary and Benefits increased by 1.56% from \$118,840 to \$120,332

Office Expenses:

Postage stayed the same at \$2,000

Accounting stayed the same at \$1,200

Copier (Quarterly Maintenance) increased by 150% from \$1,000 to \$2,500

Telephone (split) stayed the same at \$600

Internet (split) increased 50% from \$1,000 to \$1,500

Office Secretary stayed the same at \$9,000

Office Secretary Milage stayed the same at \$500

Office Secretary FICA stayed the same at \$700

Computers stayed the same at \$1,000

Folding Machine stayed the same at \$500

Worker's Comp stayed the same at \$1,000

Computer Software stayed the same at \$300

Total Office Expenses increased by 10.05% from \$19,900 to \$21,900

Total Parsonage Expenses including heating and septic stayed the same at \$3,500

Total Education Expenses including Adult Bible Study, Portals of Prayer & Confirmation

Ministry increased by 79.08% from \$1,530 to \$2,740 (increase was due to adding Portals of Prayer to this category)

Total Copyright Expenses stayed the same at \$650

Pastoral Services Expenses stayed the same at \$2,000

Professional Expenses stayed the same at \$500

Continuing Education stayed the same at \$1,000

Convention Expense stayed the same at \$500

Total Budget increased by 3.47% from \$146,060 to \$151,122

Discussion was had in regard to Pastor's salary. A motion was made by Alan Schmidt to increase Pastor's salary to \$80,000 from \$77,000. Dean Pehlke seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion passed.

Vote to accept the Budget as proposed passed.

Bethlehem Portion \$75,831

St. John Portion \$74,351

Dual Parish Budget Voters' Meeting will be at 7 pm on October 12, 2025 at St. John Lutheran Church

Motion to adjourn was made by Alan Schmidt, seconded by Dean, all in favor, motion passes.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes recorded by Tabitha Hartwig Dual Parish Recording Secretary

Dual Parish Budget Voters' Meeting at St. John Lutheran Church on October 12, 2025

St. John's President Linda Mueller called the meeting to order.

Roll call: Pastor Mathey, **Bethlehem**: President Alan Schmitt, Loretta Schafer, Verlyn Wittlinger, Judy Wittlinger, Gloria Corneluis, Del Schwarting. Bart Schreiber, Shane Hammel, Patti Hammel and Shirley Buss **St. John**: President Linda Mueller, Roger Ballerstein, Jeff Werner, Deb Mathey, Delores Telschow, Melvin Niemann, Sharon Niemann, Lloyd Schultz, Mary Schultz, Dean Pehlke, Tabitha Hartwig

A motion to accept the minutes from 2024 Dual Parish Budget Voters' Meeting was made by Alan Schmitt and seconded by Bart Schreiber, all in favor, the motion passes.

Old Business: None

New Business:

2026 Dual Budget Proposal: After discussion, Roger Ballerstein made a motion and Bart Schreiber seconded to approve the 2026 Dual Budget. The motion carried with all in favor.

Adding 1-2 more Joint Church Services throughout the year: After discussion, it was decided to table the idea.

Delegate for the Circuit Forum on 10/16/25: This delegate would attend the Circuit Forum on 10/16/25 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church where it will be voted on which delegate will represent our circuit at the Convention Triennium summer of 2026 in Phoenix, AZ. A motion to have Roger Ballerstein represent St. John and Bethlehem Churches at the circuit Forum was made by Mary Schultz, seconded by Bart Schreiber, all in favor, motion carries.

Motion to adjourn was made by Alan Schmidt, seconded by Lloyd Schultz, all in favor, motion passes.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes recorded by Tabitha Hartwig Dual Parish Recording Secretary

St. John Treasurer's Report to Council and Voter's Meeting, October 19, 2025

This year \$45,000 has been raised for the repainting and refreshing of the Chapel. That amount will be deposited to the LCEF checking account to set it aside for those expenses in Winter 2026. A deposit of \$40,722 was already sent to the restoration contractor in August. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$123,499, plus costs in relation to the installation of new lighting. We are continuing to raise funds for the project.

Year - to - Date Balances through September 30th, 2025

- Restricted Funds receipts: \$61,364; Expenses: \$55,723; Balance remaining YTD: \$5642
- One Year Note Balance: \$53,833.64
- September General Fund Average Weekly Earnings: \$2484/week
- General Fund Receipts Year - to - Date: \$83,525
- General Fund Expenditures Year - to - Date: \$100,717 (All bills are paid)
- Shortfall of deposits vs. expenses in the General Fund Year - to - Date: (\$17,192)
- *Approximately \$440 per week is needed in additional offerings to the General Fund plate in order to meet regular monthly operating expenses. Please consider increasing your offering if it is feasible and comfortable for you.*
- The 2026 Budget Weekly Offerings needed to cover regular monthly expenses: \$2716/week

Weekly Giving Goal with the \$440 added to cover 2025 losses: \$3,156/week

Copies of the Monthly Reports and Budgets provide more detail and are available to view on the bulletin board outside of Pastor's office. A digital copy may be obtained from the Treasurer or the Secretary. All are always welcome to attend the Council Meetings every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

St. John Council meeting

10-14-2025

Present were Linda Mueller, Danni Seibert, Pastor Mathey, Dean Pehlke, Jeff Werner, Mel and Sharon Niemann. Pastor led an opening prayer.

Minutes were read and approved from the last meeting.

Pastor gave his report and he will be gone on Oct. 20-22 for the district pastor's conference. Thanksgiving services will be on Wednesday this year. The date is November 26 at 1pm at Bethlehem and at 7pm here at St. John.

Elders and Outreach had no reports.

Board of Ed reported that Reformation Sunday will be celebrated on the 26'th. Also, Pastor's Appreciation will be at that time.

Treasurer's report reviewed the different accounts and we are behind in the weekly budget needs; but all bills are paid.

Finance committee will need more counters this next year as several are in their last term.

Unfinished business:

The church refresh will begin in January probably around the second week.

A summary of the Harvest Supper will be available by the quarterly meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Niemann Recording Sharon Niemann

St. John Quarterly Voter's Meeting

10.19.2025

Twenty-Five voters signed in for the roll call. Pastor Mathey opened with the Lord's Prayer. A correction was made to the previous meeting minutes and then they were approved.

Pastor's report included that Thanksgiving services will be here at 7pm on Wednesday, Nov. 26 and at Bethlehem at 1 pm.

Board of Ed reported that Pastor's appreciation will be on Oct. 26.

Trustees announced that Jason Bohman will do the snow plowing this year. He will have a calendar of church events and the yard will be open including the car port.

Treasurer report was given and we have taken in over \$45,000 for the church refresh so far this year. Our estimate for the work is \$140,000. So, we need an additional \$60,000. Additional copies of the treasurer's statement are always available to be emailed to you or by copy in your mail box.

Motion was made to accept all reports as given.

Unfinished business:

Harvest Supper was amazing again this year. 451 meals were served. Donations \$5324, expenses \$2232. \$464 to the Mroczenski family mission, \$2628 for the church refresh.

Discussion was made on doing the floors for the church as long as the pews are out. Motion was made to do nothing with the floors except in the alter area as we had planned originally. Motion passed.

New business:

Election of officers. A ballot was presented. No new nominations came from the floor. A unanimous ballot was cast for our new officers: They are : Congregational Elders – Stephan Schneider and Dean Pehlke; Trustee - Peter VanDerLeest and Ryan VanDerLeest; Recording Secretary – Cathy Schneider; Board of Education – Danni Seibert; Board of Evangelism - Mel Niemann and Mary Schultz

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted, Sharon Niemann, Recording Secretary

Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

November 2

"The Way Out"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus alone is the Way out, rescuing us from sin, despair, and death. He calls us to live as people "on the way."

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

November 9

"The Lead of Life"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

The lead (or 'lede') of a news story conveys the most essential information. What is the lead of the Good News, the Gospel?

(Luke 20:27-40)

November 16

"The Name on the Front"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Mercy is an others-focused attitude because God is an others-first God.

(Romans 12:5-6)

November 23

"An Unlikely King"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

Christ is the King of an unlikely kingdom. Dr. Chad Lakies describes that kingdom's seemingly upside-down, illogical logic.

(Philippians 2:5-11)

November 30

"Rise and Shine"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is no siesta. It's a 5am wake-up call, a jolt out of bed that will turn your world upside down.

(Romans 13:11)

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

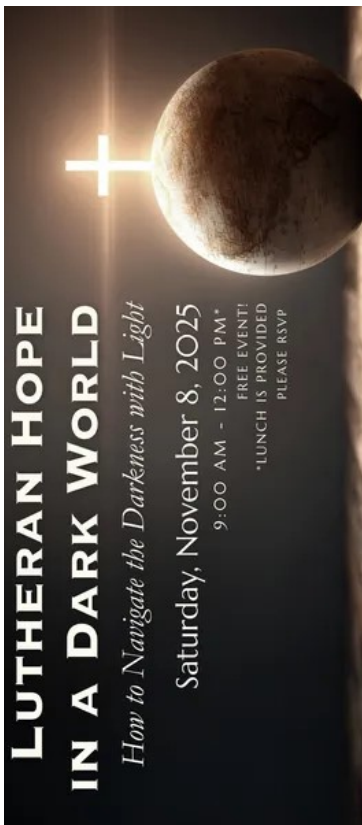
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Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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.





What: Lutheran Hope in a Dark World

When: Saturday, November 8, 2025
9 am to noon

It is a free event with lunch provided.
Please RSVP on their website at
<http://flcgb.com>

Where: Faith Lutheran Church

2335 S. Webster St., Green Bay, WI 54301

Together with Higher Things speaker and host of Christ in All Things, Rev. Harrison Goodman, we will learn how to speak in truth and act in love as we face current challenging societal situations. "Lutheran Hope in a Dark World" will help us navigate many world issues including self-harm, same sex attraction, gender dysphoria, pornography and use of technology trauma and more.

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



Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
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Always
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