



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

"It used to be that..." Have you ever made a point that started with that phrase or one that's similar to it? Most of the time it's said with nostalgia, and a desire to return to "the good old days" whenever that might be for the person saying it. "It used to be." We could make a list of how each of us would finish that thought, and some of those things would be important and some not.

Why did this phrase come to my mind as I was thinking about this month's newsletter article? Because, it used to be that Christians remembered the important days in the life of Christ and in the Church Year with a special time of worship. That was the case for the major Feast that happens 40 days after Easter Sunday, the Ascension of Our Lord. It used to be that most Christian Churches would have a special time of worship on the Thursday that Ascension Day always falls on (*there will be a service at St. John for Ascension Day on May 29th!*).

I can remember going to a special chapel service in the Lutheran School that I attended to celebrate this glorious event, and then another service for the whole congregation that evening. At the end of chapel each of us would be given a balloon with a card attached to it, and we would take it outside and let it go into the sky to provide a visual of Christ ascending into heaven. The card would have a Scripture verse attached to it, and a message to whoever found it to consider mailing it back to our school so we could see how far it had traveled.

Most of the time Ascension Day isn't given this kind of attention anymore. With all of the distractions in our world today, it just doesn't seem all that important to us. Busy schedules don't allow for a seemingly random worship time on a Thursday in the middle of a spring month, especially so soon after the extra worship times of Holy Week. And with no attention given to it at all by the world outside of the church it's easy to miss the importance of this special day.

But Ascension Day is an important event in the life of Jesus, even if we don't always get it. The book *Celebrating The Saints* by William Weedon helps us to remember this special day. He writes, "...forty days after Easter, the Holy Church celebrates with great joy the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. The Book of Acts relates that after our Lord Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples at various times across a period of forty days...He had work for them to do. He promised that He would pour out on them His Holy Spirit and in the Spirit's power they shall be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth. Then, as they looked on, He was lifted up until a cloud hid Him from their sight. As they stared into the sky, perhaps with tears, two angels appeared to them..., "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

"Thus began the Church's long wait. The disciples would die before this promise was fulfilled. Generation after generation would arise in the Church and be succeeded by the next, and still the people of Christ wait. We wait because we know that He who has kept His every other promise to us will not fail to keep the promise of His final appearing. Meanwhile, we live as a community of faith in what is not seen, but what we know to be true. Jesus sits enthroned at the Father's right hand, filling all things with Himself and waiting with us for the Father to signal the moment of His joyous appearing. It is true that He has withdrawn His visible presence from us, but He is nevertheless truly with His Church to the end of the age. Hidden beneath His Means of Grace, He still comes to us. His Ascension did not take Him far; rather it brought heaven near, 'Behold, I am with you always,' He promised...the visible presence of Christ has withdrawn into His invisible presence in Word and Sacraments. [With our celebration of the Ascension] we join the ages [in celebrating His arrival at the Father's right hand and] in the long wait for Jesus' final appearing, [as we] are comforted by His constant nearness." – Pr. M.



2025

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: Tues.-Fri.:

9 am to 12pm

Dual Parish Office:

715-352-2888

Office Secretary Email:

secretary@stjbeth.org

Dual Parish Website:

www.Stjbeth.org



Bethlehem Birthdays

Weiler, Austin	5/02
Hammel, Shane	5/03
Reinhart, Ryan	5/03
Bernt, Croix	5/04
Yessa, Ivy Mae	5/04
Johnson, Wendy	5/05
Ortman, Barbara	5/06
Graun, Matthew	5/07
Luther, Joanne	5/07
Neumann, Michael	5/10
Schreiber, Bart	5/10
Empey, Judy	5/12
Viegut, Taygen	5/12
Hammel, Ashton	5/17
Schwarting, Michelle	5/17
Thomas, Matthew	5/18
Weiler, Bruce	5/18
Dassow, Vicki	5/20
Klimpke, Alex	5/20
Johnson, Braiden	5/21
Bender, Brenten	5/22
Bernt, Erin	5/23
Cornelius, Natasha	5/25
Kilty, Leighton	5/28
Broeske, Amy	5/31
Klimpke, Jonathon	5/31
VanLuven, Marcus	5/31

St. John Birthdays

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



Bethlehem Wedding Anniversaries

Matt & Mindy Graun	5/08
Richard & Lois Niemi	5/29
Rev. Michael & Debra Mathey	5/30

St. John Wedding Anniversaries

Bruce & Doris Wussow	5/3
Matt & Tabitha Hartwig	5/9
Jayne & Victoria Myszk	5/11
Larry & Sandy Hartwig	5/17
Larry & Jennifer Noller	5/28
Rev. Michael & Debra Mathey	5/30

Last Day of Sunday School

for the 2024-2025 School Year:

Bethlehem:	May 11, 2025
St. John:	May 18, 2025

Halie VanLuven update

We want to thank everyone for the thoughts, cards, prayers, donations, and outpour of love and support for Halie and our family. We are very grateful and feel very blessed to be part of such a great community.

As many know, Halie was recently diagnosed with Primary Aggressive Multiple Sclerosis and has numerous attacks that have affected her functioning and mobility. After a hospital stay in December followed by a round of Plasma Exchange therapy, Halie seemed to regain most of the functioning she lost and seemed to be doing better. Then in February the onset of another attack began which affected Halie's lower extremities and her mobility was affected. Once again requiring another hospital stay, getting her line back in and another round of Plasma Exchange Therapy.

We are thankful to say that the Plasma Exchange therapy once again seems to have helped reverse the effects of her most recent attack and her mobility again has improved. Finally approved by insurance, Halie had her first round of Ocrevus to prevent future attacks on March 12th. She's starting to get back to normal and feeling good! Again, we want to sincerely thank you for the prayers and support. Love, The VanLuven Family .

The Bethlehem Outreach Team is planning a bus trip to The Clauson Family Music Show "Best of all Times" on Saturday, August 23, 2025. Cost is \$105.00 per person and we need 30 people to attend. Cost includes the bus ride and the dinner show. If interested or if any questions, please contact Marlene Schreiber at 715-383-0259 ASAP. Thank you.

Military Honors at the Town of Wien/ Frankfort Cemetery on May 26, 2025

Edgar Homeschoolers will be this cemetery. They have seeded some areas and have washed grave stones. They are hosting a celebration at the Edgar Village Hall in the afternoon (12:30-3:30) commemorating "Wisconsin in the Civil War" (160 Years). We will be honoring Charles (Carl) Marquardt at the Civil War Veteran buried in the Town Cemetery.

NOTE: He was one of the founding fathers of the Town of Wien and St. John Church. St. John's own Charlotte Murkowski is a direct descendant of his.

Bethlehem and St. John Quilters

As of April, we have assembled 109 disaster/crisis quilts. We have shared them with many local people, the Orphan Grain Train, the Abbotsford, Colby Dorchester Fire Dept. and the Medford Fire and Rescue Squad.

We thank everyone for the donating, collecting, preparing and sewing. Our assembly gals had a nice selection to work with. All donations are very much appreciated.

A Look At LWML Missions:

Lutheran Hour Ministries-Kazakhstan, "Sharing Christ to Women and Children of Kazakhstan," for \$100,000 to be used for direct outreach in local churches, holistic ministry, digital outreach through thred.asia and printed Christian resources. This will help reach the unchurched in Kazakhstan where the proclamation of the Gospel is difficult due to harassment by non-Christian religious authorities and unbelieving family members. This grant was paid at the national level. In June, more mission projects like this will be adopted and ready for our support. To God be the glory as we pray for His work to be done.

St. John Brewer Trip to be on Wednesday, June 25th. Cost is \$85 with payment to include ticket, sack lunch, water, soda and charter bus to drop off and pick up at the door. To reserve your spot contact Stacey VanHoy 715-506-0207.

LWML Plant Sale

The LWML Plant Sale is May 15th – 17th From 9 am to 5 pm (only until noon on the 17th) at Unity Memorial Hall
Set up: May 14th 9 am to noon.
Help is appreciated!

St. John's VBS is July 21 through July 25th, 9:00 am – noon. This summer, we're going on an epic adventure through Australia, and you're invited! We'll encounter amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life, and wondrous wilderness. And most importantly, we'll be guided by our Savior, Jesus, who tells us, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" in our theme verse, John 14:6. Join us! Cannot wait to see you there!

Traci Pehlke,
VBS Director



Graduation/ Mother's Day Brunch at St. John, May 11th from 9:30-10:15 in the carport area. We will be celebrating *Maryn Shafer's Graduation* from Edgar High School and *all our Mothers*. Menu: Cinnamon Rolls, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate and White Milk, Orange Juice, Cheese, Sausage, Crackers, and Graduation Cupcakes.



Bethlehem Voters Meeting Reports

Outreach Report: Working on Palm Sunday breakfast with the Sunday school. We have boxes out collecting items for the residents could use or eat in the area nursing homes and assisted living facility!

Planning a bus trip in August to the Clawsons !!

Watch church bulletin for more details!

Regards, Loretta Schafer Chairperson

Elders Report: We meet with Pastor every month to discuss Shut-In visits and upcoming congregation events and schedules.

Treasurer Report:

As of March 31,

General fund \$362.41

Building Fund. \$25,432.58

Memorial Fund. \$5470.84

General savings \$11,937.10

LCEF general fund. \$30,000.00

LCEF building fund. \$60,000.00

All bills are paid current.

Bethlehem Board of Education/Sunday School Update

The Sunday School children sang during the church service on Palm Sunday. Sunday School helped with the Palm Sunday breakfast. Free will offerings from the breakfast totaled over \$200 which will be added to the mission to support Vicar Paul and his family. Thank you to all who attended and helped with the breakfast and supported our mission. The last day of Sunday School will be May 11.

The board of education met on Monday, March 17. VBS will be July 14th and 15th from 4:30-7:00 p.m., stay tuned for further details. Anyone interested in helping with VBS can contact Janessa Thomas, Tammi McKee or Patti Hammel. There will be a joint board of education meeting on May

St. John Voters Meeting Reports

Treasurer Report: For the First Quarter of 2025, the General Fund Receipts were \$24,985; Restricted Funds were \$7974; and Bethlehem Reimbursements were \$8724; **total receipts: \$41,683.** The General Fund Expenses were \$30,928; Restricted Funds were \$1887; and Bethlehem expenses were \$8641; total expenses: **\$41,456.** The One Year Note at LCEF is now valued at **\$51,737.** Checking balance for Nicolet is \$52,963; LFCU is \$1033; and LCEF is \$53,954; **TOTAL FUNDS on Account is \$107,950.**

The District Q1 Remittance is as follows: \$3597 Budgeted to Synod; \$780 for Lutheran World Relief; \$137.75 for Hearts for Jesus through Sunday School Missions; and \$475 for "Other" Non-Budgeted District Missions; total remittance is **\$4989.75.** The Secretary has each of these reports if anyone would like to receive a copy, or you can always request one by email at treasurer@stjbeth.org, or text Danni at 909-801-1776, for a PDF copy of reports you would like to see.

STJ Church President Update:

The April Voters Meeting fell on Easter this year so the Council decided to cancel the meeting as there were not pressing issues that needed to be discussed. We agreed that all Board members would submit a report for the news letter to keep everyone informed of what we are working on.

Several months ago we were notified that Sharon was retiring from her Dual Parish Secretary position. We did advertise publicly for this position and had a few candidates. Both Bethlehem and St John leadership was involved in the interview process. Our own Tabitha Hartwig stood out among the candidates and was offered the position and accepted the position. We want to welcome her as our new Dual Parish Secretary. Her new office hours are Tues, through Fri 9-12. Please keep in mind that Tabitha does not work on Sunday and all business should be conducted during her working hours.

We want to thank Sharon for her years of service and dedication to our congregations. An official thank you/retirement party is being planned for 5/18/25.

The sanctuary renovation/ refresh project continues to move forward. Anyone interested in being involved in this project can contact Sharon Niemann.

We still have the \$5000.00 from Wisconsin Valley Lutheran School that has not been designated yet. One of the suggestions was that we get a robotic vacuum. I was notified that our cleaning committee would like to continue with the current system and asked that that portion of the fund go to Vicar Paul Mroczenski. Please continue to think and pray on where these funds should go. The final decision as to what to do with the money will be made at the next voters meeting.

We did have some constitutional changes involving the terms of our officers and over the next several weeks I will be working on that update to our constitution.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that the Council Meeting are scheduled on the second Tuesday of the month are not just for board members. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. A church like any organization works best when everyone is involved. We all have been given gifts and talents that we are to use. We would like to hear any comments, suggestions, or ideas that you have for our church and council meetings are a great opportunity to bring these forward.

Respectfully submitted Linda Mueller



Confirmation
will be on Sunday, June 1st.

The confirmands are :
Madalynn Johnson
Isaac Kosik
Kelly Mathey
Sequoia Miles



FLOAT HELP NEEDED!

St John High Steeple will have a float in the Annual parade on Sunday June 15, 2025. We will need walkers, riders and help decorating!

Please watch the bulletin for details as to when we will do some planning. Decorations will be done on Saturday June 14 and the parade is Sunday June 15. We need everyone's help to reach our community with God's Word!

The Second Annual Buckets O'Blarney Trivia Night Fundraiser was held Friday, March 14th. We had a 93 trivia players and a ton of volunteers that came, participated and made our night a HUGE success!

We raised \$2077 from tickets and mulligan sales (come next year to find out what a mulligan is!), silent auction deals, and various donations. The funds are being divided four ways: Support for a Lutheran Vicar in Puerto Rico, Pregnancy Center support, Camp Luther Camperships and youth activities.

We were truly blessed to have such wonderful support from our many congregation members, our community and those who participated with such vigor and excitement. We look forward to another great event in 2026....save the date: **Friday, March 13, 2026!**



Come join us to thank and celebrate Sharon!

We will be having a pot-blessed meal by both congregations on Sunday, May 18th at noon in St. John Parish Hall. Beverages provided by LWML. Music by Sunday School Children.

Please sign up for the pot-blessed meal.
Sign up sheets available at both churches.



LARGE THIRFT SALE
Make An Offer On All Items
Located at St. John Church Edgar
Sale Dates: April 30th— May 3rd
Sale Hours: 9 am - 5 pm

Special Sale: Sunday, May 4
Come after church and pick
up something special for a
friend, a family member or
yourself.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
TO CELEBRATE KELLY MATHEY!**

8TH GRADE GRADUATION
WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 2025
7:00PM
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL
301 ELM ST - ATHENS, WI

RITE OF CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025
8:00AM
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
233500 CTY RD E - MILAN

PARTY
SATURDAY MAY 31, 2025
2:00PM - 6:00PM
ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
119417 HUCKLEBERRY RD- EDGAR

PLEASE RSVP BY:
SUNDAY MAY 25, 2025
TO DEB:
715-216-6634

May 4

"An Old Place, A New Beginning"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

God is the Searcher Who will not stop looking for us. In our lonely hiding place, He says, "I knew I would find you here."

(John 21:1-19)

May 11

"How to Be Happy"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Lasting happiness is found in surrender, rather than control.

(John 15:11)

May 18

"Truth That Takes Us In"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus is the Truth Who will take you in to live like He lives, planted in God His Father's love.

(John 15:9)

May 25

"What's Your Story?"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning

Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness. Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power.

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.

In this time of uncertainty, don't find yourself feeling isolated. HE is always with you! Discover FREE resources for your entire household and continue enriching your faith even when we can't gather together. Visit lhm.org/covid-19 and explore all of the ways you can hear God's Word, equip yourself in outreach, and provide Gospel-centered activities for the kids!

Internet Resources:

Worship Anew is an online ministry put out by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne available to view on the Internet. The current week's program can be found on their homepage at Worshipanew.org/program.

Moments of Comfort is an online video ministry of Worship Anew which speaks to the sufferings we face in this life with the comforting message of God's Word.

They have a list of archived programs listed on the site.

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.



*Happy Mothers Day
To All our moms.*

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



*Where
the
light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*