



# The Dual-Parish Review

## Message from Pastor

As I sit here writing, the Christmas celebration is almost here, and soon the last day of 2024 will arrive. New Year's Eve broadcasts and news articles will soon begin, filled with reflections of the year that is coming to a close. There will be lists of the best and worst movies, a look at celebrities that have died, a list of the most significant events, and the biggest and greatest changes in our world depending on different points of view. Of course, with these reflections on what has happened, there will also be predictions and contemplations of what will happen in the New Year even though no one can really do that with certainty.

Typically lost in all of this is the four days immediately following Christmas Day and the three observances that are part of our Christian calendar. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, we remember and celebrate the first martyr for Christ, St. Stephen (read about him in Acts 6). On the 27<sup>th</sup>, we remember and celebrate "the apostle whom Jesus loved," St. John, who wrote the fourth Gospel, 1, 2, & 3 John, and the book of Revelation. On the 29<sup>th</sup> we give thanks for King David, the great King of Israel who was one of Jesus' ancestors (Read about him in I & II Samuel and I Kings 1, and we'll be learning about him in the latest LifeLight Bible Study.). Finally, there's the annual observance of The Holy Innocents on December 28<sup>th</sup>. This is the day that Christians honor and give thanks for the children of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod the Great after the visit of the Magi.

In the second chapter of Matthew we're told about this most tragic part of the Savior's arrival, but it's an event that we treat as more of a foot-note because of its heartbreaking nature. Being foreigners, the Magi had no idea what storm they were about to unleash on the little town of Bethlehem with their search for the newborn King of the Jews. But the local reputation of Herod the Great made it clear that he was a vicious and jealous man who would tolerate no rivals or dissension of any kind. He had already murdered members of his own family, including one of his sons, whom he believed to be conspiring against him.

Herod received the visitors graciously, and gave them the information that they sought so that they could find the child that they were looking for. He deviously told them that he wished to honor the new king himself, and asked them to send back details of the family's location. But the Lord intervened in the evil king's plans by communicating through dreams to both the Magi and to Joseph. The Magi left without sending word back to Herod, and Joseph fled with his family to Egypt. But Herod the Great wasn't done yet.

*Continued on page 2*



## 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

Sunday School 9am -

**Sun. Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

**Sun. Bible Study at 11:45am**

**Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey**

Pastors Office Hours: M, W, T:

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.Stjbethor

# Message from Pastor

continued

His soldiers ruthlessly carried out their orders to kill every male boy who was two years old and younger. They had permission from the highest authority. It was perfectly legal as far as the letter of the law was concerned, and Matthew tells us that the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:15 was fulfilled, “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Although we tend to look past this terrible part of the Lord’s arrival, it’s a fitting account to remember this month as we observe what has come to be called Life Sunday near the anniversary of more legal slaughter because of the ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. Although it was overturned, there is still plenty to be concerned about as groups continue to fight for the ability to kill children before they’re even born. Director of Lutherans for Life, Rev. Dr. Michael Salemink writes about The Holy Innocents, “Herod’s sword snuffed them out before they could vocalize the carol the Almighty sent them to sing. The government sanctioned silencing of their voices, never to proclaim their Maker, never to praise the labors of the Savior He gave. Instead only their blood cried out from the ground. It amplified Abel’s ancient appeal for atonement. And their mothers mourned uncomfited...Yet these first martyrs for Christ embody the Gospel. They testify of a Beloved Son who would spill His blood to spare all others from punishment.

“Abortion resolves no regrets. Abortions make nothing better, not even 3,000 American abortions a day for [51 years]. It only adds anguish to anxiety and exchanges a lifetime of happiness for decades of heartache. Only God’s forgiveness works real resurrection. The presence of Christ Jesus relieves abandonment and panic. His words deliver, His ways protect, and His gifts provide abundant and everlasting life. Trusting in His pardon and promise brings the blessings none can seize for oneself.

Let us lend the Holy Innocents our voices the way Jesus Christ gives us His own. Let us declare the worth and purpose of human life no matter what age, appearance, or ability. Let us demonstrate how the Heavenly Father has created, redeemed, and called every human being to be His precious treasure forever. Let us replace the fear and anger of sinful selfishness with courage and compassion. Let us unwrap...joy and hope for everyone [this New Year]!” – *until next month! Pr. M.*

***For more from Lutherans for Life, including resources to help those hurting from abortion and answers to questions regarding end of life decisions, visit their website: [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)***



Sunday, January 19, 2025

## St John Council Meeting

Dec. 10, 2024

Attending were Kay Christiansen, Linda Mueller, Sharon Niemann, Melvin Niemann, Dean Pehlke, Steve Schneider, Bud Mortvedt, Pastor Mathey, Mike Thompson, and Jeff Werner.

Linda called the meeting to order and Pastor led an opening prayer.

Secretary's report was reviewed and approved.

Pastor gave his report summarizing the Advent and Christmas calendar of services. Deb and Pastor are hosting a New Year's Eve fellowship night at the Parish Hall and all are invited to attend. Bring snacks to share and the challenge is to stay up until it is midnight somewhere.

Ash Wed. is March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and we will be preparing for a Life Light Bible Study to fit in between the New Year and then. A pastor's conference on Feb. 3 -5 is being considered by Pastor Mathey. We will hear more on that.

Then, Pastor read a letter to the council from Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School's board of directors. This letter is enclosed in the newsletter. Action will be taken on their gift at the Jan. annual meeting.

Elders had no report.

Outreach had no report.

Trustees reported that exit lights have been updated. The southeast corner of the parking lot is now lit. again. A new dishwasher is on order for the parsonage after several repairs to the existing one in the parsonage.

Treasurers report is complete as printed.

Finance committee will need more people for the new year. Please see Jeff if you can help.

All reports were accepted as given.

Old business:

Candidates for the treasurer position will be interviewed in the coming days and ready to go at the New Year. Kay submitted her resignation effective as of Dec. 31, 2024. The council reluctantly accepted this as her work has been outstanding.

New business:

Installation of officers will be Jan. 12, 2025 at the morning service.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 14, 2025.

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

Sharon Niemann, recording secretary



Schultz, Mary	1/07
Krebsbach, June	1/13
Karl, Dale	1/16
Marshall, Elizabeth	1/16
Yessa, Kelly	1/17
Brown, Douglas	1/22
Yessa, John	1/22
Koch, Cole	1/24
VanDerLeest, Sam	1/25
Niemann, Hawkins	1/28
Mortvedt, Bud	1/30

Hammel, Patricia	1/07
Molthen, Arlette	1/10
Underwood, Virgil	1/11
Carlson, Luke	1/14
Graun, Thomas	1/14
Yessa, Ray	1/15
Bender, Tavin	1/18
Kilty, Braxton	1/19
Carlson, Philip	1/21
Kosik, Isaac	1/24
Freimund, Doreen	1/25
Schmidt, Luke	1/28
Ebben, Leta	1/29
Venzke, Thomas	1/29
Hammel, Olivia	1/30
Kilty, Troy	1/31



Bruce & Jolene Gumz 1/12

## St. John Sunday School News:

Our Sunday School will be collecting food for our local food pantries. All of our congregation is invited to help. Bring all non-parishable items to our collection baskets.

We will continue collecting until Epiphany. Thank you

January 19th is Life Sunday and "Pennies for Life". Give a penny for each year of your life. We will also have a Door offering for Lutherans for Life.

**Bethlehem/St. John Quilting** will start January 6, 2025

We will meet 9am to Noon in the Fireside Room at St. John.  
(We are flexible with the day of the week.)



## WISCONSIN VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

St, John Lutheran Church

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School Board of Directors. We pray this letter finds you well as we enter the joyous season of Advent!

Our Board of Directors has continued efforts towards the dissolution of Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School. We were blessed this year to be able to sell our remaining assets, including our building and land, and are almost done paying off the school's debts. After everything has been paid, we found God continues to provide by giving us a surplus of funds after our building sale.

We would like to share this blessing with your church in thanksgiving of the continued prayers and financial support you have shown Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School over the years. Our ministry would not have been possible without you! We pray this gift will now help to support your ongoing ministries, Please use this donation for any needs your church currently has. We Thank and praise God for you!

Merry Christmas!

Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School Board of Directors.



## Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

**January 5**

### "In the Beginning Was Dialogue"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Do you need more faith? Then you need the Word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ. (John 1:1)

**January 12**

### "What's This Neighborhood Coming To?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When you're not limited by the size of your table, you can invite everyone. (John 1:14)

**January 19 "He Made Me a Believer"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God makes us believers and the more we believe, the more we become involved in the institutions God made--church, marriage, family, and work. (John 2:11)

**January 26 "An Overture to the Greatest Story Ever Told"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez

Like an overture that introduces a great musical work, John the Baptizer is the living voice sent by God to bear witness to Jesus' lordship and salvation (John 3:26-36)

## 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](http://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!

### 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)**

## Internet Resources:

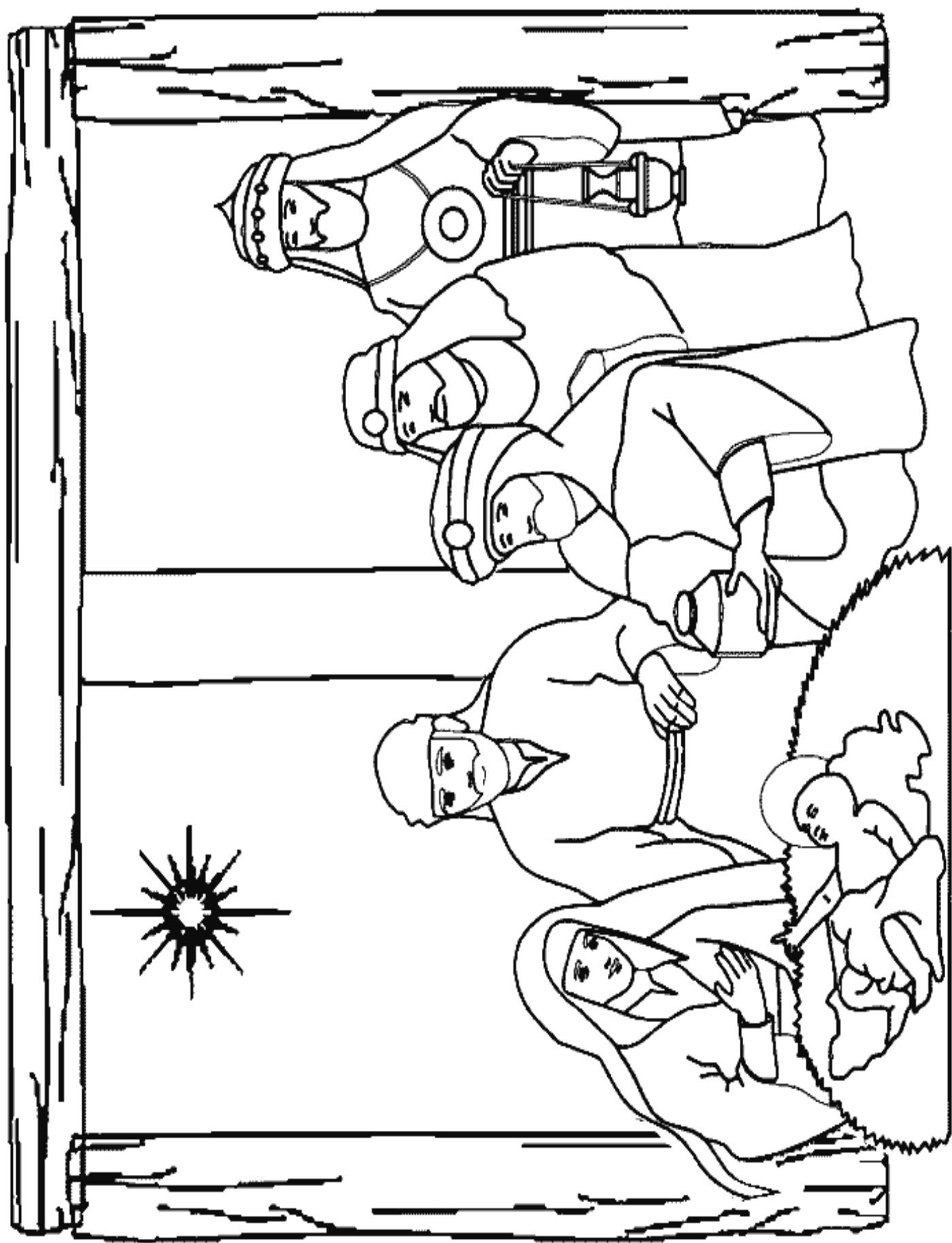
**Worship Anew** is an online ministry put out by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne available to view on the Internet. The current week's program can be found on their homepage at [Worshipanew.org/program](http://Worshipanew.org/program).

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.

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.








# January 2025 ~ BethStJ.org

To Reserve the Fellowship Hall or Schedule an Activity call the Church Office at 715-352-2888

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Beth: LWML 10:00am	3	4
5 BETH Worship 8:00am w/holy Communion STJ Worship 10:30am w/holy Communion	6 STJ - Bethesda 10:00am	7	8 BETH CWIA 1pm STJ: Youth Bible Study 6pm STJ: Confirmation 6pm.	9 STJ: LWML 9:30am BETH - Bethesda 10:am	10	11
12 BETH Worship 8:00am w/holy Communion Installation of Officers Sunday School 8:15am Adult Bible Study 8:15am STJ Worship 10:30am w/holy Communion Installation of Officers Sunday School 8:15am Adult Bible Study 11:45am	13 BETH Elders 6:00pm BETH Council 7:00pm	14	15 STJ: Youth Bible Study 6pm STJ: Confirmation 6pm.	16 LifeLight Bible Study Beth: 10:30am STJ: 6:00pm	17	18
19 Life Sunday BETH Worship 8:00am w/holy Communion Sunday School 8:15am Voters Mtg. 9:15am STJ Worship 10:30am w/holy Communion Sunday School 8:15am Voters Mtg. 11:45	20 STJ - Bethesda 10:00am	21	22 STJ: Youth Bible Study 6pm STJ: Confirmation 6pm.	23 BETH - Bethesda 10 am LifeLight Bible Study Beth: 10:30am STJ: 6:00pm	24	25
26 BETH Worship 8:00am w/holy Communion Sunday School 8:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am STJ Worship 10:30am w/holy Communion Sunday School 8:15am Adult Bible Study: 11:45am	27	28	29 STJ: Youth Bible Study 6pm STJ: Confirmation 6pm.	30 LifeLight Bible Study Beth: 10:30am STJ: 6:00pm	31	
Come Join Us Wednesday @St. John @6:00pm For a Youth Bible Study			Please Take Note The Office Secretary Email Has Changed New Email is - secretary@stibeth.org			St. John Lutheran "High Steeple" 119415 Huckleberry Rd Edgar, WI 54426
			Pastor: Rev. Michael Mathey 715-352-2888 after hour@ 715-330-5599 Do not text - not a cell #			Bethlehem Lutheran 233500 County Road E Milan, WI 54411 715-654-5436
			If you or a family member is Hospitalized please contact the Church Office 715-352-2888 Or Pastor Mathey @715-330-5599 Do not Text This is Not a cell phone #leave a message			Sec. Office Hours: Monday thru Wednesday & Friday - 1:00pm to 4:00pm Office Phone: 715-352-2888 Office Email: Secretary@StJBeth.org

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



*Where  
the  
Light  
of  
Jesus  
Christ  
Always  
Shines*