



The Dual-Parish Review



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

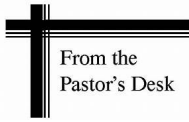
Dual Parish Website:

www.Stjbeth.org

Facebook page: Bethlehem

Lutheran Church-Milan, WI & St.

John Lutheran Church-Edgar, WI



From the
Pastor’s Desk

Ever since our earliest days, the Christian Church has been faced with the very real possibility of martyrdom or being killed for not giving up your faith in Jesus Christ. It’s only in the seventh chapter of the Book of Acts that the first person is killed because of his faith in Jesus, and that was St. Stephen whose martyrdom was part of the readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter this year and who is also remembered every year on December 26th. From that point on, Christians faced ever increasing persecution which included the very real possibility of martyrdom. Out of all of the apostles, including Matthias, the replacement for Judas. and the apostle, Paul, every one of them died for their faith except for St. John, but he lived the remainder of his days in exile on the Island of Patmos.

Today, people are still persecuted and martyred for their faith in Christ all over the world. The website for the organization Voice of the Martyrs regularly presents the stories of people who suffer for remaining faithful to Jesus, and it lists multiple countries that are restricted for Christians, hostile to Christians, or that are being monitored by their organization for concerning situations. Most of the areas that they list are not surprising, such as Communist China; majority Muslim countries, especially in the Middle East; or African nations that are experiencing regular fighting.

But what is not listed on their website or in many other places is the persecution that is beginning to take hold in western nations that have been historically Christian. Across Europe, countries that have been dominantly Christian for most of their existence have begun to pass laws that are ultimately used to prosecute and convict Christians for speaking, writing, or demonstrating their faith. In January of this year, a woman in Great Britain named Isabel Vaughan-Spruce was criminally charged for *silently praying* outside of an abortion center. Last June in Belgium two people were arrested for standing on a public sidewalk with signs that objected to transgender child surgeries, and our State Department says that in France anti-Christian and anti-Jewish acts have increased dramatically.

And then there is the case of Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Member of Parliament Paivi Rasanen, two faithful Lutherans from Finland who were honored at this year’s graduation exercises for our Ft. Wayne Seminary. This past March the Supreme Court of Finland found both of them guilty for publishing a book teaching about the Christian view of sexuality, and the fact that men and women are created different. The book in question – which the court ordered destroyed in all of its forms, including electronically – was published years *before* the country’s “hate speech” laws were even put into place. The court’s conviction indicated that “...Christians in Finland can quote the Bible, but not discuss, explain, or teach what it says...Rasanen and Pohjola have now been prosecuted in Finland for more than 7 years for talking and writing about the Bible...prosecutors kept exercising the unusual Finnish option to re-prosecute after [two] acquittal[s] until they achieved a conviction.” (Joy Pullman writing for *The Federalist* online news, May 21, 2026)

Yes, throughout the history of Christianity, persecution and martyrdom have been present with us. But so has our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who promised us at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” And in 16:18 of the same book, Jesus also promised that, “...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” The world continues to hate and attack Christ’s Church, and because He warned us about it we should not be surprised. Pray for all who are facing such persecutions, but know that we have little to fear from anything that they do to us because in all things, Christ is with us, and He has already won the final victory! – *until next month! Pr. M.*

PS If you’d like to read the book that the Finnish Court wants destroyed, it’s available on the website for The Lutheran Heritage Foundation, or you can ask me for a printout! – Pr. M.



Birthdays

Anniversaries

Bethlehem Birthdays

Madalynn Johnson	6/04
Dale Ploeckelman	6/05
Braiden Johnson	6/06
Cheyanne Kilty	6/06
Dolores Venzke	6/06
Aaron Kirchner	6/15
Joseph Marier	6/19
Nathan Sprotte	6/20
Richard Niemi	6/23
Geanna Denzin	6/30

Bethlehem Anniversaries

Michael & Marilee Neumann	6/05
Roger & Judy Empey	6/09
Debbie & Thomas Kittleson	6/11
Aaron & Christina Kirchner	6/12
Thomas & Cynthia Graun	6/12
Phil & Tammy Kunze	6/25
Bradley & Ashley Thielman	6/27

St. John Birthdays

Isabelle Kramp	6/01
Marion Schneider	6/03
Sue Karl	6/05
Mae Morien	6/08
Mueller, Linda	6/13
Larry Hartwig	6/15
Sharon Szymanski	6/22
Natalie Thompson	6/22
Kay Christiansen	6/22
Jeffrey Werner	6/23
Judy Gray	6/25
Katie Telschow	6/26
Traci Pehlke	6/26
Albert Wolff	6/30

St. John Anniversaries

Dean & Traci Pehlke	6/7
Bradley & Sandra Wendtland	6/11
Ken & Kay Christiansen	6/14
Aaron & Karissa Niemann	6/14
Mark & Stacey VanHoy	6/20
Mark & Patricia Koepke	6/28

Acolyte Schedule

Bethlehem

6/7	Aubree Kirschner
6/14	Isaac Kosik
6/21	Madalynn Johnson
6/28	Aleah Kosik

St. John

6/7	Lauryn Hartwig
6/14	Kassidy Thompson
6/21	Christian Pehlke
6/28	Lexie Noller

Newsletter Deadline
is June 23rd

Bethlehem Greeters

6/7	James Freimund & Dale Ploeckelman
6/14	Gabby & Jordan Umlauf
6/21	Jill Penk & family
6/28	Cory & Amy Broeske

God's Blessings to the Confirmands



Christian Pehlke
Lexie Noller
Lauryn Hartwig
Cale Koch



God's Blessings to the First Communicants

Isabelle Kramp
Aubree Kirschner
Kassidy Thompson





Congrats

CLASS OF 2026

GRADUATES

ST. JOHN GRADUATES

MICAH SCHULZ, CADE KOCH,
AND NICHOLAS PEHLKE

BETHLEHEM GRADUATE

MARCUS VAN LUVEN



Save the Date The Edgar parade!

Sunday, June 21 at 1:00 pm

Looking for volunteers to help with the float decorating and being in the parade. Contact Mary Schultz, Mel Niemann, or Traci Pehlke.



We give thanks for a memorial gift given in honor of Selma Miessner.

LCMS Family Ministry

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

“Jesus is Lord” may seem like a simple statement, and yet in it is the heart of what we believe. There are many accounts and doctrines in the Scriptures, and the creeds offer a simple explanation. Every time that we speak the Apostles’ Creed we are confessing what we believe and it is ingrained into our hearts. Everyone in your household can memorize this Creed. You can then say it as a part of your routine as you have devotions as an individual or as a family. Our faith is reinforced on Sundays when we speak the Creed with our church family and also each day in our homes in our devotions.



Information

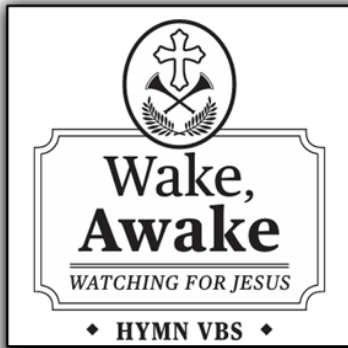
VBS Registration forms can be found on the following two pages and at church.

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.



St John VBS:

Wake, Awake, Watching for Jesus Hymn VBS

is July 20-24, 9:00am- Noon. Please contact Traci if you can help, would like to register a child, or if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE Brats and Hot Dogs

Where: Cenex Station



Pies and Baked Good Sale

Hwy 13, Dorchester

Friday, July 17th

How can you help?

10:30 am to 5:00 pm

*donated pies, baked goods, attend and/or help

* used disposable pie tins and identify the flavor or type

Bethlehem and St. John

LWML Plant Sale

was a success! \$1264.00

Thanks to everyone who donated and helped!



Interested in E-giving?

Talk to Tabitha in the church office or head to the website: stjbeth.org, click on Bethlehem or St. John on the top banner, scroll down, find the E-giving button and follow the instructions.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
**Vacation Bible School – Shipwrecked,
Rescued by God**
July 13 & 14, 2026
4:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

VBS REGISTRATION FORM (One Per Family)

(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian

Names _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

1) Child's Name _____

Birth date ____/____/____ Age _____ Grade entering in the fall _____

Allergies and/or other special needs/conditions _____

2) Child's Name _____

Birth date ____/____/____ Age _____ Grade entering in the fall _____

Allergies and/or other special needs/conditions _____

3) Child's Name _____

Birth date ____/____/____ Age _____ Grade entering in the fall _____

Allergies and/or other special needs/conditions _____

4) Child's Name _____

Birth date ____/____/____ Age _____ Grade entering in the fall _____

Allergies and/or other special needs/conditions _____

Who may pick up your child at the end of each VBS day?

Name _____ Relationship _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

____ 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.

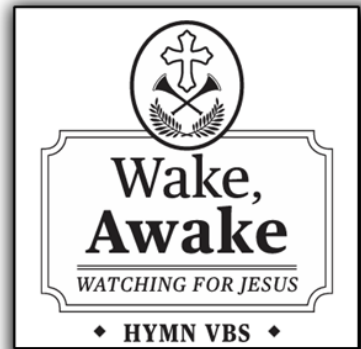
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (High Steeple)

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

Four dates remain for the 2026 for the sponsorship of The Lutheran Hour over radio station WDLB at 8 :00 am on Sunday mornings.

August 30

September 6 & 13

December 13

What better way to help spread the Word of God to those in our surrounding communities.

A full sponsorship is \$94. If interested in sponsoring a date, contact Lisa Snorheim at 715-659-4006 or email at trinity.spencer.wi@gmail.com

Bethlehem LWML Ladies will be hosting Undie Sunday

Destitute people around the world need basic necessities. Thousands of people helped by The Grain Train do not have good underwear or socks. For Undie Sunday, please bring NEW underwear (all sizes, men's women's, girl's and boy's) and socks to church. Arlette will be collecting at Bethlehem and Jeff W. will collect at St. John. Undies and socks will be collected through Sunday, June 14th.



HAPPY
Father's Day



The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him. Proverbs 20:7

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

June 2026

Bethlehem fellowship hall reserved
June 7th

St. John Members:

If you notice something that needs fixing, is missing, needs cleaning and/or needs updating, please inform a Trustee or the church secretary.

Thank you—Cleaning Crew

"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

St. John Monthly Council Meeting **May 15, 2026**

Linda Mueller called the meeting to order with Peter VanDerLeest, Mary Schultz, Jeff Werner, Melvin Niemann, Stephan Schneider, Cathy Schneider, Danni Seibert, and Bob Strunk present. Stephan Schneider opened with prayer.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from April 14, 2026. MMSP.

Pastor's Report

Confirmation and First Communion this Sunday, May 17.

Pastor may be going to a conference May 18-19.

Youth will be heading to St. Louis for Higher Things in June. They will be leaving Sunday, June 21st. The conference is Tuesday through Friday, June 26th.

Elders Report

No report

Evangelism (Former Outreach) Report

Possible advertising for St. John and Bethlehem churches at the Edgar Family Restaurant on their screens. Tabitha is also helping with this. Checking into grants available with North Wisconsin District to pay for this advertising.

Possible advertising with the Marshfield radio station. Cathy to investigate advertising on 88.5, 89Q, and 88.1.

Board of Education Report

This Sunday, May 17 will have Graduation recognition with quilts before the 10:30 service. Gifts to be presented to Confirmands and First Communicants.

On May 31 at 9:30am the Mroczenski family will speak about their missionary experience and receive the Sunday School gifts.

VBS theme this year is based on the hymn, "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" and to be held July 20-24.

Closing program and picnic at 6:00pm on Friday, July 24. VBS kids to be walking in the Edgar Parade on June 21st.

Joint Sunday School Rally Day is September 13.

Trustees Report

Lawn mowing needs more people to sign up.

Checking on an exterior light that is working improperly.

Treasurer's Report

Detailed printed financial reports reviewed and discussed for April. Automatic electronic payments (VANCO) have been corrected to go to the General Fund.

Donations are short by about \$14,226 to meet the Refresh painting contract. Other Refresh project costs are not yet funded.

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

Finance Report

Counting after the service is at Bethlehem and is working out well.

Cemetery Report

A couple of small stones need straightening that we can do ourselves. No large stones need work at this time. We will be removing the flower garden and planting grass leaving the evergreens.

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

Unfinished Business

Chancel remodel is coming along. Working is starting on Thursday, May 14.

Five windows are also being delivered on Thursday, May 14th for the addition.

Pastor had asked whether we could put the crucifix from his office in the right arch in the front of church.

Decision tabled at this time.

New Business

Memorial Committee came up in an earlier discussion. Will talk to the current members to see if the committee is needed. Will check with Tabitha to see if she has time to send Thank You notes to donors.

Joint Worship Service with Bethlehem on August 9 here at St. John.

No thrift sale at St. John this year. Bethlehem would like to have a Thrift sale at St. John if it works out. All depends on the Refresh project and other events.

Motion made to adjourn. MMSP.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Cathy Schneider, Recording Secretary

June 7, 2026 "Peter's Restoration—and Ours"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

Jesus forgives and restores us and He sends us out to offer this restoration to others, in His name. - John 21:1-19

June 14, 2026 "Journey Through Anxiety"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Anxiety is like a "Check Engine" light for the soul that leads us to take all our concerns to the Lord in prayer. - Matthew 6:25

June 21, 2026 "Journey Through Depression"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Depression can feel like being "stuck," but we are never truly alone. God meets us with His care and provision. - 1 Kings 19:7

June 28, 2026 "Journey Through Ambition"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

You don't have to worry about making a name for yourself. In Christ, God has already given you His. - Matthew 25:21

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



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





It is almost time for the Higher Things Youth Conference

in St. Louis, MO at Washington University. Our group will be leaving Sunday, June 21st. We will take a couple of days to do some sightseeing in St. Louis, MO. The Conference begins Tuesday afternoon with Divine Worship. Many opportunities for worship, spiritual growth and fellowship are planned. We appreciate all the support our congregations have given to us to help us attend this event. If you haven't already, please join the Youth Facebook group. We will give regular updates, pics and some live videos of our trip together.

Thank you for your continued prayers. Please keep Pastor, Deb, Ronda, Kelly, Lauryn, Jaydn, Isabelle and Cassidy all in your prayers as the Lord prepares their hearts and minds for this experience!

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches
119415 Huckleberry Road
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*Where
the
Light
of
Jesus
Christ
Always
Shines*