



The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

For this month, I wanted to share with you this excellent article I came across from Pastor Peters in Clarksville, TN. I hope you appreciate it as much as I did! - Until next month! Pr. M.

The ridiculous business of the Olympics and its crude image (whether intended to be the Last Supper in drag or stupidly mimicking that image by accident) reminds us that we are living in an age in which offending or being tone deaf to Christians is the only offense left. No one would have dared to cast Mohammad or Islam in this way but Christians are fair game, I guess. It is one more way in which we Christians are reminded of the cause of Christ in a world unfriendly to Him or His cause and therefore unfriendly to us.

This might make us want to take arms and fight back. It might make us think that we need to fight back in order to claim territory and people and a culture for Jesus. While that might certainly be the temptation, nowhere does Christ call us to do battle for Him in this way. We are to fight the good fight of faith but the focus of that battle lies within us and not in some me'n'Jesus sort of shoot out at the OK corral. No, we should not simply take it but neither should we respond in kind. We are not called by God to fight for square footage or for political power or state sponsored favor.

Nowhere is this more true than how we see the Church in the world. The best analogy I can think of is that of an embassy. An embassy is literally the sovereign space of one nation within the territory of another. Embassies are not sacred -- they are violated by our enemies from time to time. This is a solemn reminder of the kind of enemies we have. They do not play fair nor do they play by the rules. That said, from our perspective that is exactly what the Church is. She is the kingdom of God but in an alien and foreign land. Where the Church is, gathered around the Name of Jesus, the Word of God, and the Holy Sacraments, there is God, God's kingdom, and God's territory -- even when it is in an unfriendly nation or world. Churches are embassies of Christ for the sake of the Kingdom and they are places of refuge and safety not because their buildings are strong but because their Lord is.

We must come and go from this embassy. Our work is in the world but we are not of the world. We cannot afford to allow ourselves to get caught up in a fight over land or power. Our cause is faithfulness to Christ. We meet every Lord's Day, the day of His resurrection, to gather around His Word and Sacraments, in part to be reminded that we do not belong to the world. We belong to the Lord are our citizenship is in His kingdom. We have our commonwealth with Christ. As tempting as it is to use such offensive things as what we saw in France at the Olympics, our call is not to war with the world over power or space but to be faithful to the Gospel that alone saves. Embassies are not military outposts but territory of one nation in another for the sake of the citizens who live there but who belong somewhere else. That is how it is for you and me.

We will never win the nation for Jesus but we are called to speak the Gospel to the far reaches of the earth knowing that where the Word of Christ is spoken an outpost of the Kingdom is placed there. I find some comfort in this. We are not on our own nor are we expected to for God what is His to accomplish. Our calling is to be faithful. And, by the way, that means we need to be in the embassy of the Lord often enough so that we know it as our true home and a little bit of heaven planted by God in the midst of this world and its troubles, fights, and evil. That may not seem like much but it is more than enough for you and me. Trust in the Lord and not in earthly rulers or kingdoms. That is what the Psalmists said. How hard it is to believe sometimes that we should not fight for every square inch of territory we can claim for the Lord but we are not here to mark a claim for land or property but for those for whom Christ died.

Posted by **Pastor Peters** August 21, 2024



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.Stjbethorg

St. John Church Council Meeting

August 13, 2024

Present were Kay Christiansen, Linda Mueller, Cathy Schneider, Steve Schneider, Jeff Werner, Mel Niemann, Sharon Niemann, and Pastor Mathey.

Linda Mueller called the meeting to order and Pastor opened with prayer.

Minutes were read and approved.

Pastor's report included that September 18 will be the confirmation class date and a new member class will start in September also. Trinity, Athens has a seminary student who will be going to Costa Rica for training before his vicarage. He may be doing a guest speaker spot for us in September as it can be arranged. VBS was a successful event. We were reminded to keep in mind the district convention is being held next June and we have until the end of January to nominate people, and bring forward concerns that should be considered at that time.

Elders had no report.

Outreach joint service was held and 19 members joined us from Bethlehem.

Board of Ed will start up Sunday School September 8.

Trustees and the Lead on the parsonage renovation reported that \$47,600.19 was spent on the project. This included all new windows, insulation, doors, air, etc. This cost is so low due to many volunteer hours. The kitchen fan is replaced and kitchen lighting is repaired.

Treasurer reported that we had \$96,267 total in all accounts. We have \$27,416 in checking with the parsonage renovation bills paid. No paperwork was available in printout.

Finance committee reported that all was going well.

Cemetery committee reported that only small work will be done as the weather will permit.

Motion was made to accept all reports, seconded and passed.

Old business:

Nominating committee will be Steve Schneider and two more members.

Sept. 11 will be the dual budget meeting at 7pm at St. John, Sept 16 will be the joint council meeting, Oct. 13 will be the dual parish voters meeting, & Oct. 20 will be voters meeting at St John.

New Business:

We have begun plans for the sanctuary renovations. Volunteers for committee so far are Cathy Schneider, Lloyd Schultz, and Trish Schneider. Bulletin announcements will be asking for more people to work on this project.

Our next meeting will be Sept. 10

Sharon Niemann

Recording Secretary

YOUTH NEWS

Any questions?

Contact Deb Mathey

715-216-6634

lcmsdcedeb@gmail.com

**Youth Bible Class for ANY YOUTH
grades 9-12.**

EVERY WEDNESDAY!!

Beginning Sept 18, 2024

6:00PM

Bethlehem Lutheran In Milan

Upper Room

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY DATES

Youth grades 7-12 grade are
welcome at ALL Activities!

- Sept 8th Sunday Youth Kickoff
 4:00PM
 At Pastor Mathey's House
 Food & FUN!
- Sept 28th Apple Picking
 Meet at St. John at 11:00am
 Watch church bulletin/
 Facebook for more details
- Sept 29th Baking Fun!!
 MORE DETAILS TO COME!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS

- OCT 5th Help with Harvest Dinner
- OCT 6th Higher Things Meeting
 (SEE HIGHER THINGS
 INFO for more details)
- Possible Bake Sale and Halloween
Fun!

**Friends
Always
Welcome!**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
Athens, WI 54411

St John High Steeple Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426
Pastor's House is next door.

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE 2025 INFO

We will once again be heading to Higher Things Youth Conference during the summer of 2025.

TWO possible dates are: July 8-11, 2025
 July 29-Aug 1, 2025.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING: Sunday October 6
6:00PM at St. John High Steeple

Registration paperwork will be distributed
Decision on which date we will attend.
Please check your calendars ahead of time!



Once we decide on a date and you make a decision on attending.....

Registration paperwork and \$!50 registration fee will be due by
SUNDAY, OCT 27, 2024

Higher Things Conference is open to all youth in grades 7-12

All Things New 2025



HE WHO WAS SEATED
ON THE THRONE SAID,
"I AM MAKING
EVERYTHING NEW!"
(REVELATION 21:5)

The one who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Jesus promises that just as He is risen, we will rise. The last great enemy has been destroyed. Everlasting life belongs to all who believe...one day.

But for us, some days, that day feels far away. Like it'll never come... like it's been made for someone other than you.

Dear one, hear the promise for you today, too. "Behold, I am making all things new." ...right now. It doesn't just mean that one day, everything will be fixed. It means that things are allowed to be broken today. Nothing can be so damaged that it can't be made new. Nothing broken will say that way. There is a resurrection of all flesh.

We can look forward with hope, even when everything falls apart around us. The promise isn't held at arm's length. When today is still broke, He who sits on the throne wants you to cling to the promise now. You are already a child of God, and so you are already a child of the resurrection. Call the sin that destroys what it is. Call death the last great enemy. It has already been defeated.

Live a steadfast faith today no matter what things look like because you rest on a yesterday that was made whole on the cross. Realize that God hates the same things you war against too, but he has already won the victory... the victory that makes All Things New.

New Books

Added to

St. John Library

Look for the handouts in the library giving a description of each book.

A Simple Way to Pray by Martin Luther
Atlas Of the Bible and Christianity
Changeless Christ Changing World - Vol 1 by Kenneth Klaus
Fusion: Numbers Bible Study by David Petersen
How Jesus Changed the World by Christopher Hudson
How You Are Changing – Boys age 9-11 by Jane Graver
How You Are Changing – Girls age 9-11 by Jane Graver
In The Shadow of His Wings by Nelda Roth
Josephus The Essential Works by Paul Maier
Journey Through the Ark Encounter
Journey Through the Creation Museum
Leaking Laffs Between Pampers and Depends by Barbara Johnson
Light In the Dark Belt by Rosa Young
Love, Sex & God – Young men ages 14 and up by Bill Ameiss
Love, Sex & God – Young women ages 14 and up by Bill Ameiss
Lutheran Bible Companion: Volume 1 and 2 by Edward Engelbrecht
Lutherans On the Yangtze – Volume 1 by David Kohl
Lutherans On the Yangtze – Volume 2 by David Kohl
Martin Luther The Reformer Traveling Exhibition by Martin Treu
No Ordinary Men by Bryan Salminen
Our Faith from A To Z by Ruth Meyer
Reading Romans with Luther by R.J. Grunewald
Rose Book Of Bible & Christian History Time Lines by Collin Hansen
Sex and the New You – Young men ages 12-14 by Richard Bimler
Sex and the New You – Young women ages 12-14 by Richard Bimler
Take Eat, Take Drink: The Lord's Supper Through the Centuries by Ernest Bartels
The Big Book of New Testament Questions and Answers by Michael Eschelbach
Till The Night Be Past – The Life and Times of Dietrich Bonhoeffer by Theodore Kleinhaus
The Ten Commandments - Learning About God's Law by Gloria Truitt
Where Do Babies Come From? – Boys ages 6-8 by Ruth Hummel
Where Do Babies Come From? – Girls ages 6-8 by Ruth Hummel
Why Boys & Girls Are Different – Boys age 3-5 by Carol Greene
Why Boys & Girls Are Different – Girls age 3-5 by Carol Greene
Worshipping With Angels and Archangels: An introduction to the Divine Service by Scot Kinnaman



Pastor Mathey	9/01	Pastor Mathey	9/01
Buss, Shirley	9/01	Ballerstein, Roger	9/01
Johnson, James	9/01	Niemann, Mel	9/02
Graun, Cynthia	9/05	Schulz, Kay	9/06
Freimund, James	9/06	Weiler, Caylee	9/06
Weiler, Brenda	9/06	Wussow, Doris	9/07
Wittlinger, Judith	9/06	Callies, Carrie	9/09
Yessa, Madelyn	9/07	Ellis, Lincoln	9/10
Kunze, Raeynn	9/12	Syring, Benjamin	9/12
Wittlinger, Verlyn	9/16	Kunkel, Kent	9/13
Schumacher, Pearse	9/18	Held, Chayse	9/17
Kosik, Aleah	9/16	Hahn, Carolyn	9/19
Thomas, Lane	9/18	Ballerstein, Sharon	9/20
Thurman, Beth	9/21	Wendtland, Spencer	9/20
Carlson, Lydia	9/24	Pehlke, Colin	9/26
Kunze, Ashley	9/24	Punke, Dennis	9/26
Schafer, Loretta	9/24	Niemann, Sharon	9/28
Underwood, Brigitte	9/24	Streit, Walter	9/28
Kilty, Carston	9/25	Wendtland, Sandra	9/29
Kirchner, Wyatt	9/26	Niemann, Kaysley	9/30
Kunze, Philip	9/26		
Parker, Deana	9/27		



BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS -

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to teach Sunday School. Starting date is yet to be determined, for this to be possible we need teachers. If interested, please reach out to Patti Hammel or one of the Board of Education members. Thank you



Please save old athletic shoes. Nothing too worn out. They are gathered for use as playground surfacing. Orphan Grain Train gets 25 cents per shoe and this Florida company pays for the shipping. Thanks for your donation. Find the collection box under the coat rack in the car port



Adam & Marya Viegut	9/06
Randy & Christina Cook	9/13
Bart & Brittany Schreiber	9/22
Joseph & Gloria Cornelius	9/25
Dale & Nancy Ploeckelman	9/25
Alan & Nancy Witucki	9/03
Dale & Sue Karl	9/09
Daniel & Jill Koerner	9/10
Bill & Marge Streit	9/13
Edward & Jill Mielke	9/15
Roger & Phyllis Spindler	9/15
Neal & Anna Koepke	9/16



St. John Sunday School Opens.
September 8th Parents, Grand-
parents and students are invit-
ed! 9:15 A.M.

Bethlehem Sunday
School starting to be deter-
mined .



Confirmation Classes will
resume at Bethlehem on
Wednesday, September 18th
At 6pm.



LWML Fall Rally, Friday, September 13th, 2024 At Trinity Lutheran Church Medford.

Registration: 8:00am to 8:30am. Fee is \$5.00. Breakfast items will be served.

Welcome & Devotions

Bible Study: Holy Spirit: helper, sanctifier, teacher

Speaker will be from The Taylor House, She will sharing formation about The Taylor House and their needs.

Intake items will be personal care, cleaning supplies and diapers.

Canceled stamps and soda pop tabs will be collected.

Presidents Address

Business Meeting

Closing Devotions - remembering deceased members

From Medford: Trinity Lutheran Church, Medford is located 5 miles north of Medford on State Highway 13. Where County Road M goes to the West, we are to the East, 1/2 mile on Dassow Ave, A directional sign is located on that corner.

North Wisconsin District Adult Gathering 2024:



Make plans now to attend the NWD Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. At Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Registration & morning refreshments begin at 9:30am with the program from 10:00 am – 2:30pm. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Devotions will be led by District President Rev. Dwayne Lueck. Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, will share a message based on his book "Overcoming Life's Sorrows: Learning from Jeremiah" which is included with each registration. Dr Lessing currently serves in various roles such as The Edwin F. and Esther L. Laatsch Chair of Old Testament Studies, and Director of the Center for Biblical Studies at Concordia University in St. Paul just to name a few. The \$40 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, lunch, and Dr. Lessing's book. Registration deadline is October 1. A freewill offering will be collected to support Peru missions. Registration forms are available in the narthex and on NWD homepage at www.nwdlcms.org under 'Events and Info'.



Harvest Supper Oct. 5th 2024

Harvest Supper Sat Oct 5th, 2024 Sign up sheets and donation lists on the table in carport area. Pick your job and time ASAP



All of the dates for 2024 for sponsorships of the Lutheran Hour on WDLB have been filled. Thank you all for your time in promoting the available dates throughout 2024. What a wonderful blessing from the Lord.

We are starting to fill some dates in 2025.

For October Newsletter

October Newsletter Items: All Calendar dates and times, or other announcements or requests must be in the office no later than **Monday, September 23rd** Our printing date will be September 25th anything submitted after the 23rd will not be added to the newsletter





Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

September 1

"The One"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

The Universe does not have a plan for your life-- but God does! (Genesis 24:14)

September 8

"Conditioned by the Unconditional"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

God's forgiving love for you in Christ is love that your accomplishments can't enhance and your failures can't diminish. (Genesis 25:23)

September 15

"Bent Necks and a Better Brother"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

The Book of Genesis is no fairy tale. It depicts real people--people like us, with half-truths, crooked ways, and sore necks--but also the God Who created us and bears with us because He loves us. (Genesis 27:35-36)

September 22

"All He Has to Say"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

The story of Jacob's Ladder is not a prompt for us to climb higher; it's a promise that God comes down to our level. (Genesis 28:15)

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!

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

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.



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.