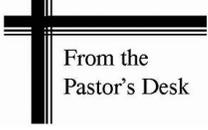




The Dual-Parish Review



From the
Pastor's Desk

The season of Advent has arrived once again, and with it the time to prepare for the celebration of the arrival of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One of the primary ways to prepare for that celebration is with an added time of worship each week on Wednesday. This special time of prayer and meditation is offered either at 1:00pm at Bethlehem or at 7:00pm at St. John. God invites you to be an active part of His family by being in His House to hear His Word. It's a special invitation to come and receive the gifts that God has for you.

But we have so many good reasons not to accept this invitation. At least, we think they're good reasons. The demands of work to be done either at a job or just things around the house that seem so important. The schedule of running kids to one activity after another gets so overwhelming that one more thing just doesn't seem possible. The lack of energy after a long day makes going home for some quiet time seem so much more important. And the list can go on and on from there. It's amazing what we will make a priority over time spent worshipping our Lord and Savior either on a regular Sunday morning or at a special weekday service such as during this season of Advent.

The simple fact is that God wants you to take time out for Him. The 3rd Commandment is very clear, "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy." These words are a clear instruction to remember to set time aside for God, who spends 24 hours a day, 7 days a week protecting and providing for you. This commandment calls faithful Christians to come and hear God's Word, and to hold it sacred, *gladly hearing and learning it*. God invites you here to be a part of His family, and to receive what gifts He has to give you.

And that's something that so many of us misunderstand about coming to worship. It isn't about what you are doing for God. It's all about what God wants to do *for you!* That's why our liturgy is called "Divine Service" because in it our Divine God is serving His people. God – the Creator of all things – wants to serve you!

In the Divine Service God comes to us, and He speaks to us through His Holy Word. He confronts us with our sin, and warns us about how dangerous it is to ignore our sin. But God doesn't just warn us about our sin. He also forgives it, and promises to forget about it completely once it's forgiven. God also encourages us with the Good News of His love, and He promises to give us the strength that we need to get through the challenges of life in this broken world. In addition to all of this, God also provides the banquet of Holy Communion for His faithful children, and with it provides even more forgiveness as He becomes a part of us in a very real and tangible way as we receive Christ's body and blood.

It can be hard to come back to God's House after you've been away for a while. We are creatures of habit, and once you're no longer in the habit of coming to worship, it can be difficult to start again. In addition to that difficulty is the thoughts and temptations that can get in the way of remembering God's desire to have us be in His House. The devil is really good at putting all kinds of questions and doubts into our head about whether or not God would really want us back with Him. The devil is good at it because he's had 1000's of years of practice in manipulating and tempting human beings.

That's why God has given us so many gifts, including the gift of His Word to assure us of His never-ending love and mercy. If you're not sure whether God will welcome you back as He says that He will, just consider this from Romans 8, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Hope to see you soon! – Pr. M.*



December 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



December

BIRTHDAYS

December Acolyte Schedule

Bethlehem	
12/7	Madalynn Johnson
12/14	Aleah Kosik
12/21	Evan Strack
12/28	Kelly Mathey

Bethlehem Birthdays	
Sutton Kiltyn	12/02
Sequoia Miles	12/04
Tammi McKee	12/06
Lucy Geisking	12/09
Kurt Denzine	12/10
Justin Schwarting	12/12
Rosie Kunze	12/13
Elizabeth Kirchner	12/14
Joshual Bernt	12/16
Marnie Neumann	12/18
Kelly Mathey	12/18
Christian Kirchner	12/20
Karleigh Rinehart	12/21
Janessa Thomas	12/28

St. John Birthdays	
Samantha Myszka	12/01
Valerie Myszka	12/01
Stephan Schneider	12/01
Audrey Telschow	12/01
James Ulrick	12/02
Delayna Noller	12/05
Emma Koepke	12/08
Lauryn Hartwig	12/09
Amanda Kopplin	12/09
Raegene Rodman	12/11
Theodora Hamann	12/15
Steven Koepke	12/18
Kelly Mathey	12/18
Lisa Wussow	12/19
Victoria Myszka	12/20
Holly Meaders	12/30

St. John	
Wed. 12/3	Isabelle Kramp
Sun. 12/7	Christian Pehlke
Wed. 12/10	Christian Pehlke
Sun. 12/14	Cale Koch
Wed. 12/17	Lexie Noller
Sun. 12/21	Sam Hartwig
Wed. 12/24	Kassidy Thompson
Thurs. 12/25	Isabelle Kramp
Sun. 12/28	Lauryn Hartwig



December

ANNIVERSARIES

Greeter Schedule Bethlehem	
12/7	Justin Schwarting and Kara Schwarting
12/14	Ray & Sarah Vanluven & family
12/21	Pastor Michael & Deb Mathey and family
12/28	Dawn Gumz & Beth Kosik family

Bethlehem Anniversaries	
Clarence & Arlette Molthen	12/02
Matthew & Janessa Thomas	12/19

St. John Anniversaries	
Albert & Miriam Wolff	12/12
Ryan & Samantha VanDerLeest	12/15
Stephan & Catherine Schneider	12/26

Newsletter
Deadline is
December 26

Join Us at
Advent Worship



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Advent Schedule

Week 1 December 3

Bethlehem 1:00pm

St. John 7:00pm

Week 2 December 10

Bethlehem 1:00pm

St. John 7:00pm

Week 3 December 17

Bethlehem 1:00pm

St. John 7:00pm

Christmas Eve

Bethlehem 5:00pm

St. John 7:00pm

Christmas Day

Bethlehem 8:00am

St. John 10:00am

PLEASE NOTE: If there is a need to cancel Church Services or Meetings due to bad weather, you can find out by checking waow.com (Channel 9), wsaw.com (Channel 7), or Facebook. Every effort will also be made to change the message on St. John's answering machine as soon as possible, and please, if you are not comfortable with the weather conditions, be safe and stay home!



"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



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 or filling out the forms located in each church

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

Pick up at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Each Bethlehem family is asked to bring four dozen cookies to church for the Bake Sale by Thursday, December 11th.

Bethlehem Poinsettia Orders

- ◆ Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.
- ◆ Deadline to order is December 7th.
- ◆ Cost is \$12. Please make checks payable to Marlene Schrieber.



The Lutheran Hour over radio station WDLB-1450AM/98.7FM at 8:00 am on Sunday morning. What better way to help spread the Word of God than to sponsor a date! 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.

YOUTH GROUP Happenings

Advent Soup Supper at St. John

Dates: December 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

What: The Youth Group will be serving savory soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and desserts



Free will offering to support the youth attending the Higher Things Youth Gathering.

Put it on your calendar: Red Robin will be giving 20% of the food sales on 12/23/25 to the Youth Group for their trip to the Higher Things Gathering.

All you need to do is have a delicious meal at Red Robin and show the flyer (below) or mention the fundraiser to your server.

Red Robin® will give

**20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO**

ST. JOHN YOUTH GROUP - HIGHER THINGS

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

225548 Rib Mountain Dr, Wausau, WI 54401

December 23, 2025*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin.



News

St. John's Children's Advent program Sunday, December 21 at 1 pm

a light meal provided after church

Program Practices

Dec 7, 14, and 21

9:30am- 10:15.



St. John Sunday School Holiday Mission:

Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable food, and monetary donations to stock the shelves of the pantries for Christmas!

Items needed most are:

Canned Meats; Chicken, Ham, Tuna, Spam, Canned Pasta with Meat, Canned Fruit, Cereal. All Non-Perishable items are accepted.

Collection Boxes throughout church.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Any questions, contact Traci



BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us Sunday, December 14th following the 8 a.m. service for a special presentation as our children share a joyful celebration of the CHRISTmas season through music and songs. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We will be having a light brunch following the presentation.

Please invite your family and friends.

BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School December 21st and 28th.

St. John Sunday School

Milestone Gifts will be presented on December 7th.

St. John's Sunday School had a successful delivery to local food pantries that took place on Friday, November 23. We delivered a large banana box of items to each of the three local food pantries. The SS students went grocery shopping, picking out items they liked, looking at prices and being smart shoppers, and thinking of things that people would need. Afterwards, we sorted out the items for delivery. Thanks for all of the congregations help. We will be doing this again before the Christmas holiday.



Linda Mueller called the meeting to order with Jeff Werner, Pastor Mathey, Dean Pehlke, Danni Seibert, Doug Brown, Mel and Sharon Niemann present. Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.

Last month's minutes were approved.

Pastor's report was that Thanksgiving services will be the Wednesday schedule that will continue through Advent. Discussion is being held on where to have services during the refresh work in January. Please watch for announcements.

Elders had no report.

Outreach reported that there were 18 blood donations given at our last drive. Another one is planned in March. Watch for that date.

Board of Education is planning that the youth will coordinate soup suppers before Advent services from 5:30 -6:30 Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Those wanting to help should contact Traci Pehlke at phone # 715-432-9333.

Sunday School Milestone gifts will be presented Dec. 7th during the Sunday morning service.

Dec. 21st is the children's service will be following a light luncheon after regular service and should start at 1p.m. Rehearsals will be Nov. 30 and every Sunday through Dec. 21st.

For Christmas gifts, we will be collecting nonperishable food items for the local food pantries.

Trustees had no report.

Treasurer reviewed the accounts and bills are being paid and we continue to gather funds for the refresh project.

Reports were accepted.

No old business.

New business: We have 5 youth and 3 adults going to Higher Things Conference in St Louis during the last week of June.

Discussion about the cemetery shepherd hooks determined that it was up to each individual's discretion on the matter. Trivia Night 2026 will be March 13th.

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

Sharon Niemann, recording secretary

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.



Keep Paul and Countney Mroczenki in your prayers as they continue their mission work in Puerto Rico. You can check out their monthly newsletter at <https://missioncentral.us/mroczenki/>

In October's Newsletter, you will learn about the Christmas traditions in Puerto Rico.

December 7

"Chosen for What?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what?
 (Romans 15:7)

December 14

"Pictures of Patience"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 Patience can be practiced, tested, strained, and lost. Christians are called to return the patience God in His mercy has shown us, in Christ.
 (James 5:7-8)

December 21

"Everybody Is Somebody"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 God sends His people--the Church--to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise.
 (Romans 1:7)

December 28

"Get Ready for the Best"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros
 Christ will return--maybe this year, maybe even today! Pastor German Novelli helps us to prepare for the blessings and challenges of a new year.
 (Luke 12:36-37)

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.



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.





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