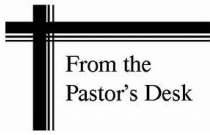




# The Dual-Parish Review



We are living in a time when people are fond of saying, “You have your opinion; I have mine. Maybe your Easter celebration turns you on, but don’t tell me it’s the only truth. Jesus? Buddha? Mohammed? Truth is whatever you and your friends make it out to be.” That’s the

way many people look at truth today. Easter and Jesus, many people say, may be “true” for us but not for everybody. Faced with this mindset we’ve got to ask some basic questions. How much does Easter matter for *us*? How much does Easter matter for you? Will our celebration of Easter matter for others?

How much does Easter matter for you and me? The Apostle Peter says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because according to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). Jesus died and rose for the sins of the whole world, especially for you. In fact, it’s because Jesus did die and rise for you, that you can be assured that your sins are forgiven and that you do have eternal life. For you, Jesus allowed Himself to be beaten and flogged, and teased and taunted. And for you, Jesus allowed a crown of thorns to be pressed into His head. But most important of all, it was for you that Jesus laid down on that fateful Friday, and allowed His hands and feet to be nailed to a wooden cross. At any time, Jesus could have said, “That’s it! I’ve had enough. No more!” But for you, *for you*, Jesus not only endured the cross, He died on it. And He did it all to pay for your sins. He was then laid in a tomb. And just when it looked like all was lost, just when it looked like this Messiah was just some cruel joke, just when it looked like that was it. It happened! Jesus rose from the dead!

St. Peter says, “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without any blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God” (1:18-21). Yes, Easter matters...to you...to me, and it matters to anyone who believes in Him!

As followers of Jesus we believe that this is the absolute truth. St. Peter says, “You have purified yourself by obeying the truth” (1:22). We believe this word of resurrection is the truth and that it is true for us and for everyone. Our eternal destiny depends on it, “God has given us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” With that in mind, what should it look like to others because Easter matters to us?

When we live as though Easter matters, we put a high priority on being a Christian community, on our life together as the body of Christ. We regularly come to God’s house to hear His Word and receive our Lord’s Supper. We continue to be fervent in our daily prayers and devotions, even beyond Lent. “Lord, we believe Your word is truth; help our unbelief!” When Easter matters we continue as a church to do good works in our community and let our neighbors know that Christ is here with us for them. (continue on page 6)



## 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](mailto:lcmsrevmike@gmail.com)

Secretary Office Hours:

Tues. - Fri., 9 am - 12 pm

Dual Parish Office:

715-352-2888

Office Secretary Email:

[secretary@stjbeth.org](mailto:secretary@stjbeth.org)

Dual Parish Website:

[www.Stjbeth.org](http://www.Stjbeth.org)

Facebook page: Bethlehem

Lutheran Church-Milan, WI & St.

John Lutheran Church-Edgar, WI



## April Birthdays!

### Bethlehem Birthdays

Tom Geisking	4/05
Kimberly Letlebo	4/05
Jolene Gumz	4/06
April Weiler	4/07
Marya Viegut	4/13
Bentley Thurman	4/14
Brooks Thielman	4/15
Hudson Jay Kunze	4/15
Bruce Denzin	4/18
Jase Thielman	4/21
Caelyn Cook	4/27
Calleigh Cook	4/27
Joseph Cornelius	4/27
Nathan Kunze	4/28

### St. John Birthdays

Taylor Wussow	4/06
Charles Marcis	4/07
Joe Murkowski	4/07
Matthew Witucki	4/07
Lisa Thompson	4/14
Carson VanHoy	4/19
Nadine Callies	4/19
Marcus Pehlke	4/22
Dale Hamann	4/26
Alexander Thompson	4/27
Abram Derfus (Wussow)	4/28
Lillian Pehlke	4/28

## Acolyte Schedule

### Bethlehem

4/5	Aubree Kirschner
4/12	Kylee Johnson
4/19	Isaac Kosik
4/26	Madalynn Johnson

### St. John

4/5	Cale Koch
4/12	Isabelle Kramp
4/19	Lauryn Hartwig
4/26	Kassidy Thompson

## Greeter Schedule



### Bethlehem Anniversaries

Troy & Cheyanne Kilty	4/10
Brentin & Tayler Bender	4/23

### St. John Anniversaries

Joseph & Heather Murkowski	4/9
Joanne & Jim Rathsack	4/27
Roger & Sharon Ballerstein	4/29

### Bethlehem

4/5	Michael & Marnie Neuman
4/12	Matt & Janessa Thomas family
4/19	Dan & Jane Becker
4/26	Loretta Schafer & Natasha Kaminski

Newsletter  
Deadline is  
April 27th

## Lenten Schedule

### Maundy Thursday April 2

**STJ: 1:00pm**

**Beth: 7:00pm**

### Good Friday, April 3

**STJ: 1:00pm “Devotional Service”**

**Beth: 7:00pm Full Service**

### Easter Sunday April 5

**Beth: 8:00am**

**St. John: 10:30am**

## LCMS Health Ministry

The English word, “Easter,” is the term we use in referring to Christ’s Resurrection Day. “Easter” comes from the same word as “east,” the direction from which the sun rises every morning. East is the direction of dawn. In Christ’s Resurrection — in His Easter — we, His people, are given a new morning; the light and eternal life of Christ now dawns in us also. As the prophet Malachi foretold, indeed the Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing in His wings (Mal. 4:2). In Baptism, this healing has been applied to us and is renewed in us as we daily rise in Christ, the Dayspring (Dawn) of Life (Luke 1:78 NKJV). Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He has come to bring health and healing to all!

St. John Easter Breakfast  
Sunday, April 5th 9:00 am to  
10:15 am. Free will offering  
for the Mroczenski Mission.



Quarterly Voters’  
Meeting will be  
April 19th.



**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**

# News

### Bethlehem Sunday School:

There will be no Sunday School  
on Easter Sunday, April 5th

### St. John Sunday School:

The Sunday School children  
will be playing the chimes  
on Easter Sunday, April 5th.  
There will be no Sunday  
School on Easter Sunday,  
April 5th.

### SAVE THE DATE:

**St. John VBS** will be July 20-24, 2026



# Bingo



April 26, 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Suggested donation \$2 per card  
100% of proceeds will go to the Cup  
CUP Food Pantry in Colby



Snacks and drinks  
provided.



Prizes awarded!



Reaching Out with Jesus Christ  
Building Our Community  
Teaching All to Love and  
Serve One Another

233500 County Road E  
Milan, Wisconsin  
(across from the Milan cemetery)

## St. John Refresh Project

Tentative date for Refresh Project to start is after Easter. Please watch the weekly bulletin, the website (stjbeth.org) and the Facebook page for up to date details.

When the refresh starts, church services will be held at Bethlehem at 8 am and 10:30 am.

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School will be at 9:15 am for both congregations at Bethlehem.



## YOUTH GROUP

## Happenings

Our 3rd Annual **Bucket; O'Blarney** trivia night was another successful event! The youth, their families, members of both churches and the community all came together to make it all happen. We set a goal of \$3,000 and AGAIN surpassed it with a final total of \$3100!! Thanks be to God for all that used their gifts, talents and enthusiasm to bring it all together for a fun night!



## **St. John Monthly Council Meeting March 10, 2026**

Linda Mueller called the meeting to order with Jeff Werner, Cathy Schneider, Danni Seibert, Mary Schultz, Sharon Niemann, Mel Niemann, Bud Mortvedt, Stephan Schneider, and Pastor Mathey present. Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from February 10, 2026. MMSp.

### **Pastor's Report**

We are in the middle of Lent; services continue for the next few weeks. Meals are scheduled for the next two mid-week services. Palm Sunday is March 29<sup>th</sup>. Holy Communion will be at both Maundy Thursday services. On Good Friday, the 1:00 service will be a devotional service and the 7:00 evening service will be the full service at Bethlehem. Easter Sunday services are at the usual times of 8:00am and 10:30am.

"Small Church Clarity" workshop is rescheduled for the Fall.

Spring Pastor's Conference is May 18 and 19.

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

Pastor and the Evangelism board are tentatively planning on presenting the program "Everyone His Witness" on Saturday, November 14, 2026.

### **Elders Report**

FYI regarding the Thrivent postcard that many received encouraging members to send choice dollars to Lutheran World Relief. Lutheran World Relief is not an LCMS sponsored charity anymore. The LCMS charity is called LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

We will be worshipping at Bethlehem during the St. John Refresh. Bible study will be combined for both congregations between the 8:00am and 10:30am services. Communion supplies will be brought over from St. John instead of using Bethlehem supplies. Other logistics were discussed.

Reminder to put the information about location change on website.

### **Evangelism (Former Outreach) Report**

St. John will be hosting a blood drive on March 28, 2026 from 8:00am to 12:00noon. Participants will receive a flyer about our church.

Also working on a "Save the Date" notice for the "Everyone His Witness" program on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

The float wagon is to be put up for sale.

### **Board of Education Report**

Baptism Anniversary cards are being sent to Sunday school students.

There will be a procession for Palm Sunday.

The children are playing bells on Easter Sunday.

### **Trustees Report**

The windows in Parish Hall are leaking and being investigated to see what can be done.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Detailed printed financial reports reviewed and discussed for February.

Down payment made for the Refresh Project was \$40,755.00.

Amount that has been received since that time for the Refresh Project is \$62,916.83.

Budget funding for church operation was met for February 2026.

### **Finance Report**

Always open for new people to help with counting money.

### **Cemetery Report**

Nursey-planted flower garden needs weeding and refreshing. Mel Niemann will be contacting Schalow's Nursery to see what options we have. He will report back what he finds out.

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

### **Unfinished Business**

Refresh Project update – At this time, the project is starting right after Easter. Sharon will be calling Church Interiors Inc weekly for updates. Sharon will be calling Trustees to let them know when workers are coming. Currently we still need \$20,000 to meet the painting obligation. This does not cover any electrical work and Chancel renovations. Ask Sharon Niemann or Danni Seibert about where we stand with donations. New Lights will be installed by us. We need an estimate for an electrician to put up the new lights in the church.

(Continue on page 6)

**Pastor's Message continue from the front page (page 1)**

Bunnies and candy and eggs are all good and fine, but the true meaning of Easter is so much more. The angel at the tomb puts it nicely, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead..." Come and see so that you can go and tell the Good News of this Easter season. The news of the hope that is in each of us that Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Let others know that your faith isn't about living a life that is "holier than thou," but that your faith is instead a life that sees the cross and knows that in spite of its pain and suffering and ability to kill our Lord, His tomb is empty and He is very much alive! Alleluia! Amen. – *Until Next Month – Pr. M.*

**Continued from page 5—St. John Monthly Council Meeting—March 10, 2026**

**New Business**

Mel Niemann offered to clean up brush in the ditch by the church parking lot. Mel will call Wien town chairman to see if he can do it.

A motion was made to accept the donation offer for fans to be installed in the balcony and cover all expenses for this fan project. MMSP.

A motion was made to get estimates to replace existing sanctuary fans and replace them if feasible. MMSP.

Motion made to adjourn. MMSP.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Cathy Schneider, Recording Secretary

**LWML NWD Zone 10**

**Spring Rally**

The LWML, North Wisconsin Zone 10 Spring Rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, WI on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Registration begins at 5 pm with Rally starting at 5:30 pm with devotions, Bible Study, Bridge Street Mission center presentation and business meeting. A light sandwich lunch will be served from 5:00p to 5:30p. Registration fee is \$5.

All activities will be held in the Trinity Fellowship Hall (church basement) You may enter at the north doors, located on Elm Street, by the bell tower.

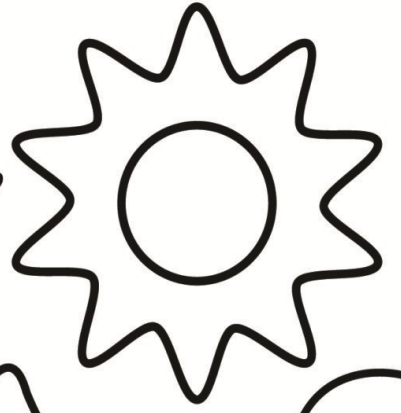
When registering, please provide the names of any deceased members from your society. The Christian Life Bible Study "Trees of The Bible" will be presented by Christian Life Chair, Annette Krause.

Our "Gifts From The Heart" will be for Bridge Street Mission.

The Wish List is:

Twin Size Bedding, Toiletries and Personal Hygiene Items, Winter Weather Items (hats, gloves, socks and hand warmers), One Gallon Size Ziplock Bags, Aluminum Foil and Plastic Wrap, Canned Goods (soups, meats, fruits and beans), Dry Goods

Have A



Blessed Easter



April 5, 2026

## **"You Don't Know What You Have Till It's Gone"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Death is the enemy of life, but in Jesus, God made death become life's servant.  
1 Corinthians 15:26

April 12, 2026

## **"Early Adopters"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The risen Jesus is the "display model" of what we will be, through faith in Him.  
1 Corinthians 15:20

April 19, 2026

## **"Not in Vain"**

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti  
Because Jesus lives, your future is certain. You can also be confident that your present life has meaning and worth. In the Lord, your labor is not in vain.  
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

April 26, 2026

**TBD—Information not available at printing.**  
**Please check out the website at**  
**[www.lhm.org/sermon-schedule](http://www.lhm.org/sermon-schedule)**

### 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)**



### **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





**Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches**  
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Where  
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