

The Dual-Parish Review

Message from Pastor

Remember to consider this in your daily devotion. - until next month! Pr. M.



Read the Catechism

Sunday

Before Divine Service - Christian Q & A

After Divine Service - Table of Duties

Monday

The Ten Commandments

Tuesday

The Creed

Wednesday

The Lord's Prayer

Thursday

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Friday

Confession

Saturday

The Sacrament of the Altar

Every Morning

Luther's Morning Prayer

Every Night

Luther's Evening Prayer



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

AUGUST

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bethlehem Anniversaries

Robert & Maria (Kena) Strack	8/5
Cory & Amy Broeske	8/9
DuWayne & Susan Gumz	8/16
Jason & Tammi McKee	8/17
Ray & Samantha Yessa	8/24

Bethlehem Birthdays

George Erickson	8/01
DuWayne Gumz	8/08
Jason McKee	8/08
Bayden Bender	8/09
Dennis Venzke	8/15
Bailey Schreiber	8/16
Tammy Kunze	8/23
Jeffrey Geisking	8/26
Posie Schumacher	8/29
Amber VanLoven	8/29
Wallace Sprotte	8/31

St. John Anniversaries

James & Judy Ulrick	8/6
Amy Wilhelmi & James Clark	8/6
George & Charlotte Murkowski	8/11
Peter & Lisa Kroening	8/12
Peter & Patricia VanDerLeest	8/20

St. John Birthdays

Peter VanDerLeest	8/04
Bruce Wussow	8/06
Tyler Koepke	8/07
Michael Schneider	8/08
Cade Koch	8/08
Sandra Schafer	8/10
Jill Mielke	8/14
Mark VanHoy	8/14
Ross Mueller	8/18
Mike Rohde	8/19
Christopher Schneider	8/20
Lexie Noller	8/22
Maryn Schafer	8/25
Phyllis Diedrich	8/27
Cale Koch	8/27

{ Acolyte Schedule }

Bethlehem

August 2	Aubree Kirschner
August 9	Dual Parish Service at St. John
August 16	Madalynn Johnson
August 23	Aleah Kosik
August 30	Evan Strack

St. John

August 2	Kassidy Thompson
August 9	Christian Pehlke
August 16	Lexi Noller
August 23	Sam Hartwig
August 30	Cale Koch

Bethlehem Greeter Schedule

August 2

Clarence & Arlette Molthen

August 9

Dual Parish Service at St. John

August 16

Bruce & Jolene Gumz & family

August 23

Bruce & Geanna Denzin

August 30

Dick & Lois Niemi



♦ **Annual Dual Parish Sunday School Rally Picnic**

When: September 13th

Watch for more details in the bulletin

♦ **Confirmation Classes and Youth Group** will start up in September at Bethlehem watch the bulletin for the date.

♦ **Life Light Bible Study** will be starting September 17th. Watch for signup sheets and more information to come in the weekly bulletin.



St. John's Harvest Supper is scheduled for October 3, 2026.

This is a congregational event that needs your participation. Sign-up sheets will be out shortly, as there are many jobs to complete prior to the big day. Sign up early and pick your spot. Please consider donating your time to prepare for this event. Contact Nancy Witucki at 715-352-7060 or Mary Schultz at 715-352-2603 if you have any questions.



LWML Annual Garage Sale

Our annual garage sale will be held next year in the first part of May. We look forward to everyone's support after Easter. Save your "Fantastic Goodies and Giveaways" for us. – LWML

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



*September Newsletter
deadline is
August 27th*

Did you Know? You can receive your monthly newsletter via email, in your church mailbox or in your mailbox at home? Please let the church secretary know if you would like to change your mode of delivery for your monthly newsletter or if you are not receiving the monthly newsletter at all.



BETHLEHEM VBS Recap: A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School such a wonderful experience! We are so grateful for our VBS staff, volunteers, and everyone who gave their time, talents, supplies, and support to help create a fun and faith-filled VBS where the children learned that God is always with us and rescues us through every storm.



LCMS Family Ministry

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

August is a crazy time. Kids are going back to school, with all the activities and bustle. Parents are trying to make sure that their kids have all the things that they need to succeed in this new school year. In the midst of this time of new beginnings and transitions, it can be a challenge for a family to have meaningful connections with each other. Eating meals together can be a wonderful way to spend time together. In the midst of all the bustle and busyness, it is helpful be intentional about having time as a family where you can connect. At the beginning of each week, plan what meals you will eat together as a family. Make the most of them by having a family devotion, encouraging each other, building one another up, or having a time of prayer.

St. John's VBS 2026 Recap

We had 10 children ranging in ages 3 through those going into 6th grade. We had a wonderful group of over 12 youth helpers, and about 13 adult workers. This year we followed the hymn "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" to learn that Christ, who came once, will come again. We need His salvation, and we need to prepare for his return with the means of grace. We rejoice that Christ comes to rescue us from suffering, because He is the source of **ALL JOY!** We participated in fellowship, activities, wonderful snacks, creative crafts, singing, and a lot of fun. It is wonderful to see everyone working together, enjoying the craziness of all the children, and sharing God's love with all present.

During our Bible lessons, we talked about "Christ's Triumphal Entry" from Matthew tells us the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his crucifixion, and that He will come again. "Peter Realizes His Sinfulness" In Luke we learned, that like Peter, we are all sinful and need to confess our sins to prepare for Christ's return. "The Parable of the Ten Virgins" from Matthew taught us that we must prepare for Jesus' return with the means of grace. "Jesus Raises Jairus's Daughter" in Mark and we rejoice with Jairus that Christ comes to rescue us from suffering. In Revelation "A Great Multitude Praises God". We rejoice with the multitudes because Christ is the source of all Joy!

Mission Fundraisers

This year we collected food for local area food pantries, Athens, Edgar, and Stratford. We collected **206 Food Items** during the week and the kids and staff delivered the grocery bags to the 3 local Circle of Joy drop offs at VBS closing on Friday. We focused on items needed the most: Canned Meats: (Chicken, Ham, Tuna, Spam) Canned Pasta with Meat, Canned Fruit, Cereal. All Non-perishable items were accepted.

Our second mission was Ringle Tornado relief, in conjunction with North Wisconsin District LCMS Disaster Relief. **We collected over \$ 2,252 from VBS with the congregation's help!**

We closed VBS with an evening church service on Friday, followed by a picnic style supper in the parish hall. The kids enjoyed showing off their new songs to families and friends. Praise be to God! Thank you to all the children and families that made this possible.

Traci Pehlke - VBS Director



DUAL Parish

Hope to
see you
all there!



and Church Service

August 9, 2026

Hosted by St. John

Divine Service will be in the Sanctuary at St. John at 10 am.

Potluck lunch to follow.

St. John will provide the main dishes (hamburgers, hot ham and hot dogs)

Bethlehem will provide the salads and desserts.

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

August 2026

August 9th:

St. John: Dual Parish Service and Picnic

UPDATE on the Financial aspect of the Refresh Project

Refresh 2026 Expenses Totals

\$121,035.00	Church Interiors – Paint & Lights
\$ 4489.26	Rice's Floors
\$ 2284.65	Electrician
\$ 510.00	Mayer Upholstery
\$??.	Innovative Machine – Radiator covers
\$128,318.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$128,318.91	Total cost minus radiator covers
\$ 40,755.00	Deposit
\$ 51,984.57	Beginning Balance
\$ 34,562.31	2026 Donations
\$ 1,017.03	Still need plus radiator costs



LWML Brat and Hot Dog, Pie and Baked Goods Sale

Brats were not the only things “frying” on Friday!!! The truck parked by the gas pumps and store were also ablaze!!! It was really on fire!! That was pretty scary for a while! We showed our appreciation by giving the firemen a brat and water. So many thanks to everyone who Served the Lord with Gladness!!!

We will be depositing \$2,322.06!!!

Last year, we made around \$1900.

Thank you, and God Bless You!!

Janean Morrow (Zone 10 President)



St. John Monthly Council Meeting July 14, 2026

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

A motion was made to accept the minutes from June 9, 2026. MMSP.

Pastor's Report

- Youth trip to the Higher Things conference went really well. It was a good experience for all. They want to do it again next summer which will be at Concordia, Mequon.
- Pastor's Continuing Education class in Shawano was very beneficial. It covered the book of Romans in three days. He got a lot out of it.
- Albert Wolff's funeral was last week.
- Shut ins are being visited regularly.
- Doing opening and closing each day for VBS next week.
- One wedding later this summer.
- The Synod Convention is next week in Phoenix, AZ. Roger Ballerstein is the Lay Delegate and Pastor Groleau is the Pastoral Delegate for our circuit. Pastor Harrison was reelected for a likely final term to be Synodical President.
- Evangelism training is in November.

Elders Report

- No report

Evangelism (Former Outreach) Report

- Applying for North Wisconsin District Mission Grant for radio advertising. The application is due August 15th.
- Discontinuing having a float in the Edgar parade due to lack of getting new people coming to VBS through that venue.

Board of Education Report

- VBS will be next week with a closing program for the whole congregation on Friday, July 24 at 6:00pm.

Trustees Report

- Repair done on Parsonage and Church LP regulators.
- Lawn mowing needs 3 more people to sign up.
- Five windows will be replaced on Saturday.
- Float wagon sold for \$300 which went into the General Fund.
- Money was given for Air Conditioning in the Church. AC options will be investigated.

Treasurer's Report

- Discussed extra money given for windows to go to the Refresh Project.
- Detailed printed financial reports reviewed and discussed for June.
- Donations are short by less than \$4,000 to meet the Refresh Project costs.
- Budget funding for church operation was met for June 2026. Bills are paid but we have a deficit for meeting our budget on a weekly basis.

Finance Report

- Counting is going well but more counters would be helpful. If anyone is interested, they are welcome to come and check it out.

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

Unfinished Business

- The Chancel is just about done.
- Steve Schneider reported that he heard lots of positive comments on the Refresh Project.
- The light fixtures that were taken out of the church are available in the basement. We will ask Mike Thompson if he would be able to find new home(s) for these fixtures.
- Learned that the organ has a battery and that if you unplug it for a while, the battery and programming dies.
- Dean Pehlke is working on the new camera for recording church services.
- A missed painted spot in the church will be painted.
- Will be giving Bethlehem a card and \$100 per week for the use of their facility for a total of \$1000.
- Flower bed should be done next week.

New Business

- Concordia Publishing House is selling hymnals for \$20 each in honor of their 20th anniversary. We will be ordering 20 for the church and also opening it up for congregation to see if anyone wants to order also.
- Christ Candle will need to be replaced. We will need to decide if we want a wax candle or change to a refillable liquid wax candle.
- Dual Parish Picnic on August 9th. We are doing the main dish and beverages. Bethlehem will bring salad or dessert.

Motion made to adjourn. MMSP.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Cathy Schneider, Recording Secretary

St. John Quarterly Voters' Meeting July 19, 2026

28 voters signed in for the roll call. Pastor Mathey opened with prayer.
Motion made to approve previous quarterly Voters' Meeting minutes. MMSP.

Pastor's Report

- Youth trip to the Higher Things conference went very well. The five young ladies got a lot out of it. It was a good experience for all. Planning on going next year since it will be close at Concordia, Mequon June 22-25, 2027.
- With the completion of the Refresh Project, we will have a Rededication Service. Possibly doing it at the joint service on August 9th.
- Life Light Bible study will begin in September. Exact dates and topic to be determined.
- Tentatively planning on presenting the program "Everyone His Witness" on Saturday, November 7, 2026. This will be held at our church but open to all churches in our circuit.

Elders Report

- Steve Schneider read a message from the Church Council. "Thanks be to God for everyone who donated, worked, and prayed to support our recent "Refresh Project" in any way! The Lord has truly blessed our efforts tremendously. This has been quite the undertaking, and there are many people to thank from the committee (headed up by Sharon Niemann) that got estimates and worked with Church Interiors to those who joined in for the last vacuum trip around the sanctuary, thank you to all!
"Once this project was a go, the Trustees (headed up by Ryan VanDerLeest) worked tirelessly to get done what was needed. It took a lot of long, tedious hours; many trips to the church; and countless contacts with the workers from Church Interiors, as well as the long list of other details that go into a project like this. But as anyone can see from the outcome, it was all well worth it! Thanks again to anyone and everyone who helped out in any way! And, as always, Thanks Be To God, and to Him Alone Be The Glory!"
- Still keeping track of the home bound.

Evangelism (former Outreach) Report

- Investigating radio advertising. Hope to have something on the radio by fall. To get this going, NWD has grants available. Grants are available for up to \$10,000. Don't know how much we are requesting right now. Meeting with the Edgar restaurant in August to advertise on their TB monitor. This will be less expensive than radio. There was a comment to look into digital advertising since that is where younger people are listening.

Board of Education Report

- Sunday School was held jointly when we were worshipping at Bethlehem.
- Sunday School resumes on September 13. Hoping to do a joint Rally Day with Bethlehem also that day.
- Confirmation starts in September.
- We had five youth and three adults go to Higher Things. They were very tired on the trip home but when asked, they all wanted to go back next year, especially to Concordia, Mequon since that is next year's site and they are familiar with it. Others are interested in seeing the campus as potential students in the future. There were several good breakout sessions. The youth hope to do a presentation about the trip in August.

Trustees Report

- This last week we signed the contract for LP. The regulator was updated in the parsonage this week also. The regulator will be updated in the church also.
- Lawn mowing needs 3 more people to sign up.
- Had a donor donate for air conditioning in church. A few years ago, we looked into mini splits which would have been about \$40,000 at that time. Investigating other options.

Cemetery Committee

- Haven't been able to walk and look over the cemetery yet. Hoping to do it soon.

Treasurers Report

- E-giving was explained in a little more detail.
- Thrivent has some changes. If you are a member, there are changes to giving through the Choice program. Will post the information on the bulletin board.
- As of yesterday, we are short \$1,694 for the Refresh project with a couple of small bills yet to be turned in.
- Written report was reviewed but some Excel reports were unavailable.
- Bills are paid.
- Discussed computer program and the possibility of getting QuickBooks online.

(Continue on the next page)

St. John Quarterly Voters' Meeting (continued)
July 19, 2026

Finance Report

- Counting is going well but more counters would be helpful. If anyone is interested, they are welcome to come and check it out.

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

Old Business

- Pete reported that the Chancel is done. He is going to screw down the rail a bit more.
- Five windows were put in yesterday. Had a good number of volunteers. Thanks to everyone for helping.
- At the Council meeting, it was decided to give Bethlehem \$100 per Sunday for a total of \$1000 as a thank you for the use of their facility.
- Cemetery flower garden done being transferred to lawn.
- The Synod Convention is going on this week in Phoenix, AZ. Roger Ballerstein is the Lay Delegate. Pastor Matthew Harrison has been elected as Synodical president for the next 3 years. He says it is his last term. Please pray for the convention.

New Business

- Sharon Niemann asked about the power being disconnected from the car ramp doors. Too difficult to use without the electric door opener. Outer doors have a switch turning off the automatic door opener because wind often triggers its opening. The switch can be turned on when the doors need to be used.
- Loan is almost paid for. We still have the \$50,000 loan. We could pay it back. We could keep it in case we have another need. Motion made to pay off the loan as soon as possible. MMSP.
- Dual Parish Worship and Picnic is here on August 9th at 10:00am. We are doing the main dish and beverages. Bethlehem will bring salad or dessert.
- Three people are on this year's the nominating committee: Mary Schultz, Dean Pehlke, Steve Schneider – Head Elder
- Nancy Witucki announced the Harvest Supper will be October 3, 2026.

Motion made to adjourn. MMSP.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,

LCMS Health Ministry

August is a month bursting with life and activity! The colors of summer linger for a little longer. Daylight hours are still long and sunny. Children are preparing to go back to school. As Christians, we get to relish in the good life that the Lord has given to us — not simply when the sun shines or when the energy of youthfulness exists — but we rejoice in all times and in all circumstances, for “this is the will of God in Christ,” Paul writes in 1 Thess. 5:16–18! Christians see life most vividly through the cross and resurrection of Jesus, which is utter folly to the world (1 Cor. 1:18). People will question how life has meaning in the face of suffering, challenges, and most especially in the wake of death, and the answer is always found in Jesus (1 Cor. 15). The Lord is the Author and Giver of Life. Whether life feels like a joyous summer or an endless winter, Christ's movement through the cross and empty tomb means that His presence, His comfort and His joys are yours in all things.

For Scriptural reflections of life under the cross, visit the LCMS Life library at lcmslife.org and consider reading “God's Presence in Suffering: The Theology of the Cross” at thelc.ms/suffering-theology-of-the-cross.

Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

August 2, 2026 - "Why Jesus Told Parables" - Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Archives August-Effective communicators tell stories to make a point. Hear how Jesus' parables point us to Himself. Mark 4

August 9, 2026 - "Extreme Neighborliness" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Archives August-Jesus is the ultimate "Good Samaritan," the unlikely Rescuer who binds our wounds, carries us to safety, and pays the price through His cross. Luke 10:25-37

August 16, 2026 - "Look at Me" - Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Archives August-God hears our cry for justice, not as an indifferent judge, but as our merciful heavenly Father. Luke 18:1-8

August 23, 2026 - "Real Riches" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Ken Klaus

Archives August-It's not wrong to have possessions, but to love anything in such a way that it takes the place of God is spiritually deadly. Luke 12:15

August 30, 2026 - "Tell Me a Story!" - Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer

Archives August-God lavishly sows the seed of His Word. Responses vary. Mark 4:1-20, 26-34

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 Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Jeff Schwarz.

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.



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Bethlehem Milan

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