

# The Dual-Parish Review November, 2018



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
5484 County Road E  
Athens, Wisconsin 54411  
**Sunday Worship at 8:15 a.m.**  
**Dual-Parish Office**  
Office Hours: M, T, W, F: 1:00pm to 4:00pm  
Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888  
Dual Parish Email: secretary@bethstj.org  
Dual Parish Website: www.bethstj.org

**St. John "High Steeple" Lutheran Church**  
119417 Huckleberry Road  
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426  
**Sunday Worship at 10:15 a.m.**  
**Rev. Frank Giebel - Vacancy Pastor**  
Pastor's Cell: 715-298-0303  
Church Office: 715-352-2888

## Journey IN Faith

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or overseas than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like – how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10 percent? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

So, if 10 percent was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving – that's the way. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've out-given God's goodness or that we've given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider – no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

Or, as St. Paul said, bringing the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church:

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus took the disciples' five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers – not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Article

## Logic 101

Author Unknown

A college student was in a philosophy class which had a discussion about God's existence. The professor presented the following logic:

"Has anyone in this class heard God?" Nobody spoke.

"Has anyone in this class touched God?" Again, nobody spoke.

"Has anyone in this class seen God?"

When nobody spoke for the third time, he simply stated,

"Then there is no God."

One student thought for a second, and then asked for permission to reply. Curious to hear this bold student's response, the professor granted it, and the student stood up and asked the following questions of his classmates:

"Has anyone in this class heard our professor's brain?"

Silence.

"Has anyone in this class touched our professor's brain?"

Absolute silence.

"Has anyone in this class seen our professor's brain?"

When nobody in the class dared to speak, the student concluded,

"Then, according to our professor's logic, it must be true that our professor has no brain!"

(...The student received an "A" in the class.)



## St. John News Items

*In joyful response to God's grace, our calling is to be strengthened by the Word and Sacraments to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people.*

### \*\*\*Thank You\*\*\*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Harvest Supper. because of you we brought great joy to many shut-ins, elderly and community members who had meals delivered, or came and ate in the dining room. It was a joy to see so many people work together to make this Outreach event a wonderful experience.

### \*\*\*Locking the Church\*\*\*

Until we have a new Pastor the church will be locked at all times. Sharon will be here on Mon. Tue. Wed. and Fri. from 1pm to 4pm. If you need to get in the church when locked call Lloyd & Mary Schultz for the key.

### \*\*\*LWML Monthly Bible Study\*\*\*

Our next Bible Study meeting is Thursday, November 1 and our topic is: *Abundant Spiritual Treasures*. We no longer take attendance or do the traditional meeting things. It is an open group for all who love the Lord and want to Serve the Lord with Gladness.

### \*\*\*Voters Meeting For Church Officers\*\*\*

There will be a voters meeting on Sunday November 11, after services to vote for nominees for the following offices - Financial Secretary, Elder, Board of Education, Trustee, and Recording Secretary.

### \*\*\*Cinnamon Rolls for Cindy\*\*\*

On November 11 we will have cinnamon rolls available during coffee hour and to take home after church. Free Will Donations will be accepted and all money will be forwarded to Cindy for her mission work.

### \*\*\*LWML Members\*\*\*

On Saturday, November 10 we will be getting together to bake those cinnamon rolls. Check with a LWML member if you would like to be a part of the project. More information to follow as far as the time.

### \*\*\*Christmas Poinsettias\*\*\*

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for anyone who would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in celebration to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. The cost is \$10.00. The last day to order will be December 2. Please make checks payable to Abbotsford School District and give your check to Sharon at the church office.

### \*\*\*Congregation Christmas Party\*\*\*

A Congregation Christmas Party is planned for Sunday, December 9 right after church. Come "snow or high water"! We will do a potluck lunch, so make your favorite dish and join us. More details to follow.

### \*\*\*Harvest Supper Report\*\*\*

The total with meat donations and meal donations October 6 was \$3208.76. Expenses - Meat after the \$250.00 Trivent seed money was \$688.91. Potatoes \$238.00, Buns \$84.00 for a total of \$1010.91. Balance of \$2197.85.

We still need to purchase some supplies, we will report this as soon as we know total.

Harvest Supper Roundup will be soon, if you have any suggestions (we have a few) give them to the church office or Mary Schultz.



## Bethlehem News Items

*Reaching out with Jesus Christ, Building our Community, Teaching all to Love and Serve one another.*

### \*\*\*Blood Drive\*\*\*

Bethlehem Blood Drive, Saturday, November 3, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Snacks, and Refreshments provided.

### \*\*\*Craft & Bake Sale, Soup Supper and Live Nativity\*\*\*

We are asking each family to bring four dozen cookies or crafts to be sold at the Bake Sake and the Soup Supper, by Wednesday December 5. The back door will be left open from 8:00am to 5:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for various jobs for the Soup Supper and the Live Nativity. If we all work together we can make this another successful year. Thanks! The Outreach Team.

### \*\*\*Soup Supper\*\*\*

Bethlehem Soup Supper Saturday, December 8 serving from 4:00pm to 7:30pm. Featuring Chicken Dumpling, Chili, Sauerkraut Chili, and Cheesy Broccoli, Cauliflower Soups. Once again we will have the Live Nativity every 20 minutes from 4 to 7pm. There will be crafts and baked good available for sale.

### \*\*\*Thank You\*\*\*

Thank you to the person who donated the hamburger meat for the Soup Supper, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### \*\*\*Christmas Poinsettias\*\*\*

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for anyone who would like to purchase a poinsettia to help beautify the church for the Christmas season. The cost is the same as last year which is \$10.00. The last day to order will be December 2, as we want to decorate the church before the "Live Nativity". Please pay Marlene Schreiber when ordering and make checks payable to Abbotsford School District.

### \*\*\*Christmas Wreaths\*\*\*

The Bethlehem LWML Afternoon Ladies Aid is selling fresh Christmas Wreaths for the Holidays. They are made extra full, and come with a red velvet bow and are to be used outdoors. Sign up sheets are available at Bethlehem and St. John. We will be taking orders until Sunday, November 25. Delivery date will be Sunday, December 2 at both churches. The members of our Ladies Aid thank you for your support.

## Dual Parish Items

### \*\*\*Thanksgiving Services\*\*\*

There will be only a Thanksgiving Service at Bethlehem on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:30pm, Pastor Radde will be guest Pastor; and at St. John on Thanksgiving, November 22, 10:15 am.. Pastor Schwalenberg will be guest Pastor.

### \*\*\*December Newsletter Deadline\*\*\*

The deadline for information submitted for the December newsletter will be Tuesday, November 20.

### \*\*\*Advent Services\*\*\*

Advent Week One: Wednesday, November 28 at Bethlehem at 7:00pm. We will be alternating Wednesday Services; Second week - St. John, Third week - Bethlehem

### \*\*\*Hospital Visits\*\*\*

Marshfield Hospital will no longer give the names of congregation members hospitalized. If you or a family member are hospitalized or a new parent, please call, leave a message to let the Church office know so that we can arrange for someone to visit during this time if needed. **Office 715-352-2888.**

# In Service This Month

## St. John

### St. John Greeters:

11/4 Randy, Darla Syring  
11/11  
11/18 Phyllis Diedrich, Janice Brown  
11/22 Jared, Kayleigh Reis  
11/25 Dale, Sue Karl

### St. John Elder of the Month:

Roger Ballerstein

### St. John Readers:

11/4  
11/11 Roger Ballerstein  
11/18 Mike Thompson  
11/22 Stacey VanHoy  
11/25 Elizabeth Marshall

### St. John Acolytes:

11/4 Kaleb Schulz  
11/11 Lillian Pehlke  
11/18 Natalie Thompson  
11/22 Caleb Mroczenski  
11/25 Elder

### St. John Ushers:

11/4 Ron Hahn, Dennis Punkte  
11/11 Ron Hahn, Paul Reinhart  
11/18 Ron Hahn, Mike Thompson  
11/22 Ron Hahn, Bud Mortvedt  
11/25 Ron Hahn, Carrie Callies

### St. John Altar Guild:

Carolyn Hahn,  
Sharon Ballerstein

### St. John Counters:

Linda, Jill

## Bethlehem

### Bethlehem Greeters:

11/4 Rueben, Loretta Schafer  
11/11 Alan, Lori Schmitt  
11/18 Adam, Marya Viegut  
11/22 Brad, Ashley Thurman  
11/25 Bart, Brittney Schreiber

### Bethlehem Elder of the Day:

11/4 Dell Schwarting  
11/11 Virgil Underwood  
11/18 Bart Schreiber  
11/22 Del Schwarting  
11/25 Virgil Underwood

### Bethlehem Readers:

11/4 Del Schwarting  
11/11 Virgil Underwood  
11/18 Lucy Geisking  
11/22 Verlyn Wittlinger  
11/25 Natasha Woodward

### Bethlehem Acolytes:

11/4 Lydia Carlson  
11/11 Luke Carlson  
11/18 Ashley VanLoven  
11/22 Olivia Hammel  
11/25 Ashton Hammel

### Projection Operator:

11/4 Randy Reynolds  
11/11 Lydia Carlson  
11/18 Alexis Gumz  
11/22 Ashton Hammel  
11/25 Tammi McKee

### Bethlehem Counters

Adam, Marya, Marelee

# Happy Birthday

## Bethlehem

Becker, Jane 11/5  
Thielman, Ashley 11/7  
Sprotte, Dorothy 11/8  
Hammel, Isaac 11/9  
Schreiber, Marlene 11/11  
Schmitt, Lori 11/12  
Stauske, Allen 11/12  
Ortman, Jack 11/23  
VanLoven, Halie 11/23  
Cooper, Linda 11/24  
Cory Broeske 11/26

## St. John

Martha Rodman 11/2  
Savannah Koepke 11/3  
Lloyd Schultz 11/3  
Nancy Witucki 11/3  
Lucas Koepke 11/5  
Rhonda Durkee 11/9  
Amber Kroening 11/9  
Stacey VanHoy 11/9  
Meaghan Telschow 11/10  
Karl Heiden 11/13  
Peter Kroening 11/17  
Roger Spindler 11/18  
John Schafer 11/20  
Aaron Niemann 11/21  
Lindsey Wussow 11/21  
Suzanne Gehrke 11/23  
Izabella Myszka 11/23  
Anna Koepke 11/24  
Judy Ulrick 11/25  
McKenna Koch 11/27  
Larry Noller 11/27  
Ron Hahn 11/28  
Katie Wussow 11/28  
Brad Wendtland 11/29  
Henry DeRosier 11/30

Please contact the church office if your Birthday or Anniversary are not listed, listed incorrectly, or you would like them removed.

# Happy Anniversary

## Bethlehem

Alan & Lori Schmitt 11/6  
Charles & Joanne Luther 11/8

## St. John

Lloyd & Mary Schultz 11/14  
Stan Sharon Szymanski 11/14  
John & Kelly Yessa 11/15  
Jonathan & Kay Schulz 11/16  
Melvin & Sharon Niemann 11/28



## Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

### November 4

#### "The Problem of Heaven"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
What if we get to heaven--and we don't like it?  
(Rev. 7:9-18)

### November 11

#### "What is Heaven?"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A message by Michael Zeigler for The Lutheran Hour based on John 17:1-5  
(John 17:1-5)



### November 18

#### "Once And For All"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook  
Rev. Dr. Tony Cook shares God's message of forgiveness--"In Jesus, our Great High Priest, we have found the perfect and permanent solution to our separation and sin."  
(Hebrews 10:11-19)

### November 25

#### "Birth Pains"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A message by Michael Ziegler for The Lutheran Hour Based on (Mark 13:1-37)



## Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

Station	City, State	Freq.	Band	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)

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**St. John (High Steeple) LCMS**

