

# The Dual-Parish Review December, 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](mailto:secretary@bethstj.org)  
Dual Parish Website: [www.bethstj.org](http://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*

Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we

tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord,

Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

## *Giving Thanks on this Journey News From Cindy Wrucke*

### **Please Pray for:**

- ◆ Continued proficiency in my Czech language lessons
- ◆ My atheist friends who are now interested in hearing more about Jesus.
- ◆ LCMS missionaries in the field who may not be able to spend the holidays with families.

### **Give Thanks for:**

- ◆ Work that is starting on the mobile device app to bring the Gospel electronically to the Czech people.
- ◆ All of the individuals and congregations who have generously provided financial gifts and pledges.

### **Praise God For:**

- ◆ The hope we have through Him alone.

Thanksgiving was always a wonderful holiday in Wisconsin because it signaled the end of the farm harvest and provided a brief respite before Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations. What an appropriate time to stop and give thanks to God for everything He gives us! This mission journey also provides so many reasons to give thanks. Here are a few:

**Sponsors.** Thanks to you, my donors, supporters and prayer warriors. I couldn't possibly be equipped to work and stay in the mission field without God raising you up to help.

**Technology.** WiFi phone calls, Skype and Facebook Messenger video chats allow me to stay in touch regularly with my children, parents, and brothers and sisters in Christ back in America.

**Angels.** Thank God for His holy angels that guard and protect me daily. Being in the mission field, I have seen things I didn't know I would ever encounter. The peace that I have, knowing God is keeping me safe, is truly a reason to give thanks.

**Eurasia team.** I am inspired by our church partners and my fellow LCMS missionaries in the region, servants of Christ who put in many long hours with grace and compassion. I am blessed to work alongside such faithful men and women in a part of the world where harvest workers are few and the work can be overwhelming.

**Safe travels.** Because I serve the entire Eurasia region, I have traveled to more than 10 countries so far this year. I also eat what is placed in front of me, even if I have no idea what it is. Thankfully, the food has been nourishing and usually delicious.

**A Savior who died for ALL sinners.** I am so blessed by God's mercy to me, through Jesus Christ, that it is a joy to share the Good News in a country where people desperately need to know His love. Every sin has already been paid for by the blood of our Savior, yet most people here have no idea this gift of salvation is for them too. Praise be to God, who alone gives us hope in this atheistic country that seems so hopeless at times.

## ST. John 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.

### You are Invited to a Christmas Party

**Place:** St. John Parish Hall

**Date:** Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> After service

**Potluck:** Bring your favorite dish to pass.

**Gift:** Bring a monetary gift for the flood victims in Southern WI.

**Fun:** Guessing Jars

Door Prizes

Famous Shopping Game

Singing Carols

### Christmas Bag Donation

Anyone wishing to give a donation toward the Christmas bags for the children see a Trustee. This long time tradition gives treats to all the children at the Children's Christmas Program.

### Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 23 at 3:30 at St John's. Practice, for any interested children, will be on Sundays at 9:00-10:00am, December 2, 9, 16, 23.

Parts will be handed out to students on Sunday, December 2nd. Friends and family are encouraged to participate! Thank you. **Have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!**

Traci Pehlke 715-352-2269, text 715-432-9333, [traci@pcavenue.org](mailto:traci@pcavenue.org) or Mary Schultz 715-352-2603

### Sunday School News

St. John Sunday School is doing a "Giving Box" this Advent and Christmas Season. We will be collecting items for our 3 local food pantries to conclude on Epiphany Jan. 6, 2019. We will also be using our mission money offerings to purchase drywall for the flood ravished homes in Southern WI. The Orphan Grain Train is set up to purchase the drywall locally.

Items most needed are paper products, personal care items, laundry detergent, dish washing soap and as always canned goods especially with meat like Spaghetti with meatballs.

### Advent - Christmas Schedule

**One - November 28, 7:30pm**

**At Bethlehem**

**Two - December 5, 7:30pm**

**At St. John**

**Three - December 12 7:30pm**

**At Bethlehem**

**Christmas Eve December 24**

**9:30pm at Bethlehem**

**Christmas Day December 25**

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

## Bethlehem Items

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

### Christmas Cards

The CWIA has a selections of greeting cards and Christmas cards. Individual cards are \$.50 each and boxes of cards are \$5.00. Please come and check them out. Thanks for supporting the CWIA

### Soup Supper & Craft and Bake Sale Live Nativity

Saturday, December 8th 4pm to 7:30pm is our Soup Supper and Live Nativity, be sure to invite your family, neighbors and friends to come join us for the evening.

### Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Program will be Sunday, December 16, immediately following worship service.

### Christmas Bag Donations

Anyone who would like to donate towards the children's Christmas bags at Bethlehem can give it to any CWIA member.

## Dual Parish Items:

### Announcements

The deadline for information submitted to the office to be placed in the weekly bulletin announcements is Noon on Wednesday. Bethlehem's information is picked up on Tuesday's at 12:30pm. Information for the January Newsletter **must be in no later than Noon on Thursday, December 20.**

### New Years Eve Party at Trinity Athens

New Years Eve party at Trinity, Athens at 7pm. Movie (name not yet determined) use the school door on east side at top of ramp to keep draft out of Gathering area. Look for the red bow on doors.

Also from 7pm old fashion board games and cards will be provided on the lower level. Feel free to bring your own games.

Snacks and drinks will be furnished thanks to Thrivent.

A \$5 donation is suggested as we will be helping Tina Lampi of Christ Lutheran, as she goes to Haiti to provide things for an orphanage.

### Address Changes

Many of you have gotten your new Addresses, please remember to inform the church office of the changes. You can report the new address when you sign the Record of Fellowship.

### Wisconsin Valley Lutheran Concert

Mark your calendars now! WI Valley Lutheran High School band, choral and praise team concert will be held Tuesday, December 11th beginning at 7:00pm on The Valley campus located at 601 Maple Ridge Road in Mosinee. We are blessed each year to celebrate our Savior's birth and the Winter Season with music!

### Prayers

Please keep the Call Committee bathed in prayers as we begin the call process for a new Pastor.



# In Service This Month

## St. John

### St. John Greeters:

12/2 K. Apfelbeck, Nancy Witucki  
 12/9 Doug Brown, Janice Brown  
 12/16 Dan, Jill Koerner  
 12/23 Delores Telschow, Emma Noller  
 12/25 Rhonda Durkee, Char Murkowski  
 12/30 Amy, Julie, Stephanie Karl

### St. John Elder of the Month:

Dean Pehlke

### St. John Readers:

12/2 Dennis Punke  
 12/9 Dean Pehlke  
 12/16 Cathy Schneider  
 12/23 Doris Scherr  
 12/25 Doug Brown  
 12/30 Roger Ballerstein

### St. John Acolytes:

12/2 Ethan Telschow  
 12/9 Natalie Thompson  
 12/16 Maryn Schafer  
 12/23 Alex Thompson  
 12/25 Caleb Mroczenski  
 12/30 Lillian Pehlke

### St. John Ushers:

12/2 Paul Heise, Steve Schneider  
 12/9 Paul Heise, Jared Reis  
 12/16 Paul Heise, Dennis Punke  
 12/23 Paul Heise, Paul Reinhart  
 12/25 Paul Heise, Carrie Callies  
 12/30 Paul Heise, Bud Mortvedt

## Bethlehem

### Bethlehem Greeters:

12/2 DuWayne, Sue Gumz  
 12/9 Randy, Sandy Reynolds  
 12/16 Kevin, Beth Kosik  
 12/23 Scott, Dana Parker  
 12/24 Wally, Dorothy Sprotte  
 12/30 Russ, Shirley Buss

### Bethlehem Elder of the Day:

12/2 Bart Schreiber  
 12/9 Del Schwarting  
 12/16 Virgil Underwood  
 12/23 Bart Schreiber  
 12/24 Del Schwarting  
 12/30 Virgil Underwood

### Bethlehem Readers:

12/2 Randy Reynolds  
 12/9 Marlene Schreiber  
 12/16 Dana Parker  
 12/23 Wally Sprotte  
 12/24 Verlyn Wittlinger  
 12/30 Bart Schreiber

### Bethlehem Acolytes:

12/2 Alexis Gumz  
 12/9 Amber VanLuven  
 12/16 Lydia Carlson  
 12/23 Ashton Hammel  
 12/24 Amber VanLuven  
 12/30 Olivia Hammel

### Projection Operator:

12/2 Lydia Carlson  
 12/9 Isaac Hammel  
 12/16 Luke Carlson  
 12/23 Olivia Hammel  
 12/24 Randy Reynolds  
 12/30 Brenda Weiler

## Bethlehem

Kilty, Sutton 12/2  
 Bunkelman, Sheri 12/6  
 McKee, Tammi 12/6  
 Geisking, Lucy 12/9  
 Luther, Charles 12/10  
 Schwarting, Justin 12/12  
 Kirchner, Elizabeth 12/14  
 Bern, Joshua 12/16  
 Anderson, Ronald 12/17  
 Neumann, Megan 12/17  
 Neumann, Marilee 12/18  
 Geisking, Justin 12/28  
 Thomas, Janessa 12/28  
 Woodward, Denney 12/29  
 Kirchner, Galen 12/30

## St. John

Myszka, Samantha 12/1  
 Myszka, Valerie 12/1  
 Schneider, Stephan 12/1  
 Telschow, Audrey 12/1  
 Ulrick, James 12/2  
 Durkee Jr., James 12/4  
 Noller, Delayna 12/5  
 Guyett, Darlene 12/8  
 Koepke, Emma 12/8  
 Streit, Donna 12/8  
 Syring, Amanda 12/9  
 Murkowski, Richard 12/10  
 Rodman, Raegene 12/11  
 Schultz, Michael 12/13  
 Heise, Holly 12/14  
 Koepke, Steven 12/18  
 Wussow, Lisa 12/19  
 King, Easton 12/20  
 Myszka, Victoria 12/20  
 Niemann, Karissa 12/20  
 Mroczenski, Corbin 12/26  
 Wendtland, Damion 12/27

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

# Happy Anniversary

## Bethlehem

Clarence & Arlette Molthen 12/2  
 Matthew, Janessa Thomas 12/15  
 Randy & Sandra Reynolds 12/23

## St. John

Albert & Miriam Wolff 12/12  
 Ryan & Samantha VanDerLeest 12/15  
 Paul & Joanne Reinhart 12/16  
 Stephan & Catherine Schneider 12/26  
 Brian, Amanda King 12/31



## Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule

### December 2

#### "Reality Therapy"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 The book of Ruth deals with unimportant people and unimportant matters, but deals with them in such a way as to show that God is active in ordinary lives-like yours and mine. Ruth's story became an important part of the story of Jesus. Listening to God's work in her life can rescue us from dead end delusions and bring us into what is most real -a Jesus-centered reality.  
 (Ruth 1-2)

### December 9

#### "Redeemer with a Capital R"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 When people use the word "redeem" outside of religious context, they tend to use it in a commercial sense-redeeming points from purchases or casino tokens for cash. In the Bible, the word "redeem" is used in a family setting. In the story of Ruth, Boaz is a "kinsman redeemer," who points to Jesus, our capital-r-Redeemer. Jesus has done more than pay our points. He redeems by bringing us into his clan, his people, his household, that we might be with him forever. (Ruth 3-4)

### December 16

#### "In Anxious Times - Rejoice! "

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony Cook  
 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. With anxiety on the rise, the Apostle Paul's call to "rejoice always" seems all but unobtainable. While there are many helpful ways to cope with society's increasing anxiety, Paul points us to a frequently overlooked source of joy and peace, God's grace in Christ. (Philippians 4:4-7)

### December 23

#### "The King's Strength "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 A true king's strength is seen, not in vaults and arsenals, but in the loyalty of his people. We celebrate the birth of the King who won the victory, not by taxing his subjects and killing his enemies, but by serving, loving and dying for them. By his resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and lends us strength to become His loyal subjects.  
 (Luke 1:26-56)

### December 30

#### "A Long Good-By"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy  
 As the year come to a close, we likely have regrets and guilt. We can beat ourselves up over work left undone, but Jesus Christ has assured us that He is your hope. His grace is more than sufficient to take us into another year and give us peace.  
 (Luke 2:27-32)



## 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)

## CONGREGATIONAL SELF STUDY

The Call Committee is in the process of a Congregational Self Study, which the District will use to assist them in choosing candidates for our congregations to choose from. We felt that everyone should have a chance to voice their expectations for our next pastor. Please take a few minutes to fill out these survey questions. Hand them into the church office no later than December 16. The committee will meet to compile the results and present the final Congregational Self Study for approval at the Annual Voters meeting in January.

You can still hand in the first survey sent out earlier with this page. There are extras copies of that survey in the narthex. Please keep the Call Committee bathed in prayers as we go thru the call process for a new pastor.

1) Expected pastoral role in preparing worship?

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2) Expected pastoral role (s) in community?

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3) Expected pastoral role in stewardship?

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4) Expected pastoral role with missions?

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5) Expected pastoral role in youth ministry?

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**Soup Supper  
Craft & Bake Sale - 2018**

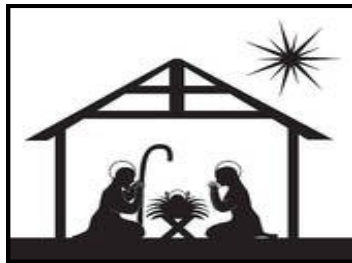
**4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

In praise to God for the grace  
He has shown us, there will  
be no charge  
for the meal.  
Free-Will Offerings  
will be accepted.



*All Offerings go to Missions  
and the Facility Fund*

**MENU:**  
Chicken Dumpling,  
Chili, and Cheesy Broccoli  
Sauerkraut Chili  
With Cheese,  
Crackers, Rye Bread, and Bars



Crafts, Quilts,  
Christmas Ornaments  
Baked Goods, Cookies,  
Pies, Candy

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

**On a sapphire blue night  
with white diamond stars,  
the King of Glory was born!**