



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

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CONNECT WITH US



Bethlehem Lutheran

1121 Georgia Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

www.ourbethlehem.com

Church: (920) 452-4331
infochurch@ourbethlehem.com

School: (920) 452-5071
infoschool@ourbethlehem.com



www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem

<https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem>

Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Alan D. Kubow
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship:

Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - 8 & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School:

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

September-May

Bible Study

Sundays 9:15 to 10:15am
Biblical subjects - Century Room

Wednesdays-7am
Prayer Breakfast - Century Room



December

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

Updated December Calendar at www.ourbethlehem.com

The Bethlehem Visitor

December 2019

Frost's Two Paths

Each day, your life wraps around you like a warm bed. It becomes cozy and secure like a soft mattress beneath your slumbering body. There are times when it might be a little uncomfortable. The mattress might be lumpy. But each day, the blanket of life lulls you back under its warmth. Occasionally, you open your eyes and look outside the window. It seems sunny. It seems like it would be warm. But can it really be more comfortable outside than in your bed? Is it really better than being under your blanket? Could that really be? So you stay.



And that is ok. Your body needs rest. Your life needs rest and contentment. These are truly blessings of God. However, occasionally, you just cannot shake that feeling that there is something more appealing out that window. You, now, have a decision. Does your contentment outweigh whatever might be drawing you out from the comfort of the blanket of life? Is there something big in store for you? Is it worth chancing your feet on the cold floor to find out?

Lord God, You have called you servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

There are numerous times in our lives when we are faced with Frost's proverbial two paths. One looks well-traveled and comfortable. The other looks cold and unknown. You know what one holds. The other is a crap-shoot. There are times when it is perfectly feasible to take the comfortable path. God's good gifts of contentment and satisfaction await. The daring move is not always the right move.

However, when the same unknown path is set before you and you just cannot turn away, have the courage to take it knowing that God is right beside you. Sometimes the daring move is the right move. It will be painful. It will be scary. It will be uncertain. But during those times, your good Lord is supporting you with His love, and leading you with His hand. Sometimes the path that is least traveled does make all the difference in our lives. However, the love and care of our God traveled the path to the cross for you. So, if you are so inclined, throw off the blanket. Venture onto the cold floor. Do something. See what God has planned.

As we progress through the Advent season, we see that God's planned involved Jesus for us. We also see that the Christ's child's ultimate death and resurrection frees us to be bold in our lives. We are bold to live our Advent confidence each and every day.

STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – December 2019

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.



December News



Important Visitor Deadlines

Due to the Christmas Holiday if you would like to submit information for the January *Visitor* please have your information to the church office no later than noon Thursday, December 12, 2019. You can email your information to jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the January *Visitor*.

Bethlehem Bash + YOU = Success!

The Bethlehem Bash Committee would like to say thank you for all those that helped make this years Bash a HUGE success! We are grateful for all the donations from our Bethlehem family and from local businesses. Thank you to the staff, junior high and high school students, face painter, kitchen crew, and our “trunkers.” We could not have done it without your help and are so very grateful! See you again next year!

Plan Ahead For Buying Christmas Scrip

The last day to order in time for Christmas gift giving will be 8:00am Monday, December 9, 2019. Any special orders placed after this time will not be filled until after we return from Christmas break. The last chance to purchase Scrip before Christmas will be December 18, 2019. This includes after school sales and Scrip-On-The-Go. These sales will be from our inventory on hand. Normal Scrip hours will resume on Friday, January 3, 2019. Scrip will also be available the weekends of December 21/22 and December 28/29.

Scrip Payment Payouts

The following is a list of Scrip payouts that were given for the month of October and the number of families that are participating:

- Bethlehem Tuition - \$1209.88 – 32 families
- Lutheran High Tuition – 671.71– 18 families
- Concordia University - \$60.60– 2 families
- Bethlehem General Fund - \$394.81 – 11 families
- Guardian Angel Fund - \$104.32 – 4 families
- Bethlehem’s Commitment to LHS - \$92.70 – 2 families.

If you’re interested in knowing more about how the Scrip program works and would like to participate you can see one of the Scrip sellers after service on Saturday night or between services on Sunday, or contact Brenda Kanz directly at 920-912-3086.

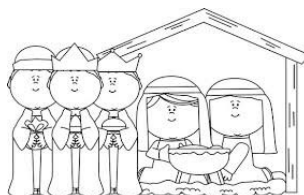
“Souper” Bowl Sunday is back again

Mark your calendars for the weekend of February 1 & 2, 2020. You can carry out a 32 oz. container of chili or chicken noodle soup, which includes: cheese, crackers and bars with every container, all for the cost of only \$7.00. Watch for more details in the upcoming News and Notes and the January *Visitor* as to when tickets will be available after services.



Eli’s Love – Book Donations

The holiday season is upon us, this year please consider donating to a new children’s or teen’s book to Eli’s Love. Books donated are given to local organizations and children in need, truly do make a difference in their lives. A donation box will be in the Century Room through Christmas.
Thank you and God Bless- Josh & Brenda Bintzler





More December News



LWML

Ladies, do you enjoy parties? Do you like cake? If you answered yes, please join us in the Century Room at 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 3rd to celebrate Jesus' birthday with a friendly group of Christian women. Members are reminded to bring their Christmas stockings (\$7.80 mite offering) and a snack to share. Congregational members can drop off filled mite boxes in the LWML mailbox opposite the church opposite the church office anytime. Hope to see you at the birthday celebration!

Look What's Ahead for January Bible Studies!

Want to spend time studying God's Word with other believers? Sunday morning bible study and the Wednesday morning prayer breakfast continue meeting through the winter, and two new studies are starting in January at familiar times.

Adult Bible Study meets year-round between services Sunday mornings (9:20-10:15) in the Century Room. There will be a special series on stewardship starting in mid-January.

How We Got the Bible will meet Monday nights 6:30-7:30pm starting in mid-January. This is a video series with discussion facilitated by Tim Grasse.

Prayer Breakfast meets Wednesday mornings from 7-7:45am in the Century Room. Led by Pastor Kubow.

The Lutheran Difference will meet from 4-5pm Saturdays in the Wolter Library before Saturday night service. The pastors will be leading this study starting in mid-January.

Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages

Baptisms:

Leo Nicholas Reuter, son of Jacob N. and Ashley S. (Holbrook) Reuter, baptized November 17, 2019

Deaths:

Ruth E. Buttke, 92, passed away on October 26, 2019

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Pastoral Care

When you are hospitalized, please notify the church office (or have a family member or friend notify us). Due to privacy laws the hospitals no longer contact the church.

Personal Information Changes

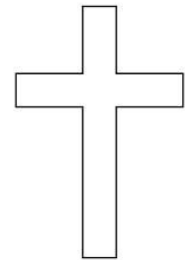
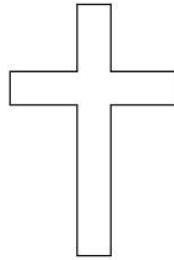
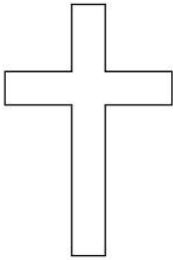
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

Room Reservation Reminder

Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know ASAP if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

Visit Us Online

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is on Facebook.com. Look for updates and information by typing Bethlehem Lutheran School. For more school information, please visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com.



VISITOR SPONSORSHIP

To help us defray expenses for producing and mailing our monthly newsletter, we have established a sponsorship program which includes a congregational contributor for a cost of \$50 per year; and a commercial contributor for the cost of \$120 per year. If interested, please drop off your payment or call the church office at 452-4331.

Congregational Sponsors

Jim & Judy Heinecke
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Richard & Marge Hahn
Leonard Johnson
Joan Osthelder

Bob & Lori Gottowski
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Roger & Sandy Fischer

Commercial Sponsors

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Boneck Printing

Advent/Christmas/New Year's Worship Opportunities

Advent Services

Wednesday, December 4, 8:30am and 6:00pm

Lead by Bethlehem 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grade students

Wednesday, December 11, 8:30am and 6:00pm w/Holy Communion

Lead by Bethlehem 3K, 4K & 5K students

Wednesday, December 18, 8:30am and 6:00pm

Lead by Bethlehem 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th grade students

Soup Suppers in the Parish Activity Center

Wednesday, December 4, 11 & 18 at 5:00pm

Free Will Offering

Christmas Eve/Day Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 4:00pm - Sunday School Service

Tuesday, December 24, 6:00pm - Family Service

Tuesday, December 24, 11:00am - Candlelight Service w/Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 25, 10:00am - Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 31, 6:00pm - Worship w/Holy Communion



GREETERS SCHEDULE

December 2019

November 30, 5:30pm
Joan Strohschoen &
David Strohschoen

December 7, 5:30pm
Phyllis Barts &
Lewis Hartman

December 14, 5:30pm
Wilma Kasten &
Linda Nikisch

December 21, 5:30pm
Mary Jo Cyr &
Aaron Cannon

Sunday School Service
December 24, 4:00pm
Linda Herber

December 28, 5:30pm
Bev Fischer &
Jeanette Gast

December 1, 8:00am
Jeff, Peggy & Mallory Jensen

December 8, 8:00am
Jeff, Peggy & Mallory Jensen

December 15, 8:00am
Robb & Tricia Roeh

December 22, 8:00am
Judy Friedrichs &
Darlene Nardi

Choral Worship Service
December 24, 6:00pm
Janelle Gooding &
Neil Jonasen

Christmas Day
December 25, 10:00am
Larry Harmelink

December 29, 8:00am
Jane Cecil &
Fred Jabs

New Year's Eve
December 31, 6:00pm
Jodi Damrau &
Jane Halverson

December 1, 10:30am
Nina Altenberger &
Grace Hartman

December 8, 10:30am
Deb Hansen &
Jeremy Crego

December 15, 10:30am
Megan, Sienna & Maizy Boerger

December 22, 10:30am
Shaun & Cory Brachmann

Candlelight Service
December 24, 11:00pm
Dan & Malou Blackburn

December 29, 10:30am
Kathy Fricke &
Grace Hartman

January 2020

January 4, 5:30pm
Peter & Jennifer Nikisch

January 5, 8:00am
Steve & Deborah Schlelein

January 5, 10:30am
Laura Lienau &
Crystal Payne

Thank you to all who are greeting during this busy month. Your words and smiles make everyone feel welcome. May you all have a blessed Christmas!

Cristel Hodges
Greeters Chairlady



Acolyte Schedule for Seventh and Eighth Grade Confirmation Students

**Please be in the Sacristy 15 minutes before the time of service to robe up and prepare to serve at the Lord's altar.

**Please find a Pastor or an Usher if you need help robing and for instructions on lighting the candles for that service

**If you are unable to serve on the date or time assigned, it is your responsibility to contact another 7th or 8th grader from the list that you received in the mail to replace you.

December 7/8

5:30pm - Karson Wyckoff; 8:00am - Nathan Fischer; 10:30am - Chloe Walford

December 14/15

5:30pm - Lindsey Fischer; 8:00am - Erika Bohlman; 10:30am - Bradley Van Engen

December 21/22

5:30pm - Brandon Nikisch; 8:00am - Logan Grasse; 10:30am - Adrianna Saxon

December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 pm — 6:00pm — 11:00pm ——— Please Volunteer to serve at the Lord's Altar for one of these services

December 25 Christmas Day

10am — Please Volunteer to serve at the Lord's Altar for this service

December 28/29

5:30pm - Jack Karpinski; 8:00am - Kaitlyn Barts; 10:30am - Aleithea Adams

December 31 New Years Eve

6:00pm — Please Volunteer to serve at the Lord's Altar for this service



January 4/5

5:30pm - Isaiah Cyr; 8:00am - Elliott Leibham; 10:30am - Lucy Brown

January 11/12

5:30pm - Sienna Boerger; 8:00am - Sophia Lieffring; 10:30am - Hunter Adams

January 18/19

5:30pm - Brookelyn Nachtwey; 8:00am - Caden Roth; 10:30am - Ezrabella Kubow

January 25/26

5:30pm - Lucas Ehaney; 8:00am - Erika Bohlman; 10:30am - Worship in Gym (NLSW)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. — Matthew 5:16 ESV