

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL 

1121 Georgia Ave. 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



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Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Jeremy Hanson
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Times

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday - 6:00pm

Bible Studies

Saturday evening ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Apr. 2025

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

April 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Quilters 9:00am LWML meeting 7:00pm	2 Reading Part 1:00pm Confirmation 3:30pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Youth Board 5:00pm Stewardship 7:00pm Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	3 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	4	5 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm TRIVIA NIGHT 5:30PM
6 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	7	8	9 Reading Part 1:00pm Confirmation 3:30pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Youth Gathering meeting 5:30pm Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	10 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	11 "Celebrate the Ministry" @ Pine Hills 6:00pm SALSA middle school dance @ St. Paul's	12 Easter Egg Hunt 9:00am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm LHS Dinner Auction 4:30pm
13 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Youth Group end-of-season 4:00-6:00pm	14 PTL meeting 6:00pm	15 Quilters 9:00am	16 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm NO WORSHIP Parish Planning Council meeting 7:00pm	17 May Visitor Deadline (noon) Maundy Thursday Worship 6:00pm	18 NO SCHOOL Good Friday Worship 1:00pm & 7:00pm	19 Bible class 4:15pm Easter Vigil Worship w/HC 5:30pm
20 Easter Worship w/HC 6:00am, 8:00am & 10:30am Easter Breakfast 7:00-10:00am	21 NO SCHOOL	22	23 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm NO WORSHIP Voters' meeting 7:00pm	24 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	25 Fun Fair 5:00-7:00pm	26 Scholastic Olympics @ LHS 8:00am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
27 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Evangelism meeting 11:30am	28 Board of Christian Day School meeting 6:00pm	29 Quilters 9:00am	30 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm			

◁◁ FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES ▷▷

Why are You Weeping?

“Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.”
~John 20:14-18~

As we celebrate the joy of Easter, we turn to the powerful moment in John 20:14-18, where Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Christ. This passage is one of profound transformation—mourning turns to joy, confusion gives way to recognition, and despair is replaced with hope. Mary stands weeping outside the empty tomb, overwhelmed by sorrow. Even when Jesus appears before her, she does not immediately recognize Him. It is only when He calls her by name—“Mary”—that her eyes are opened. In that instant, she knows her Lord has conquered death.

This moment mirrors our own faith journeys. Often, in times of sorrow and uncertainty, we may struggle to see Christ’s presence in our lives. Yet, He calls us by name in our Baptism, through His Word, and in the Sacraments. He does not remain distant but draws near to comfort and restore us. Every time we gather as God’s people around His sacraments, Christ draws us together into His presence for grace, strength, and forgiveness. They are brilliant reminders that one day, we will be resurrected like Christ and in His presence eternally.

Jesus then commissions Mary: “Go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Here, we see Christ’s great mission unfolding. His resurrection is not just a victory over the grave but a declaration of restored fellowship with God. Through faith in Christ, we share in this relationship as children of the Heavenly Father. We confess with joy that Christ is truly risen! This is not a symbolic victory but a real, bodily resurrection, affirming His triumph over sin, death, and the devil. Like Mary, we are called to bear witness to this good news. We do so in our congregations, in our families, and in our daily vocations.

This Easter, may we hear Christ’s voice calling us anew. May we recognize Him in Word and Sacrament, rejoice in His victory, and go forth with boldness to proclaim: ***Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!***



In Christ,

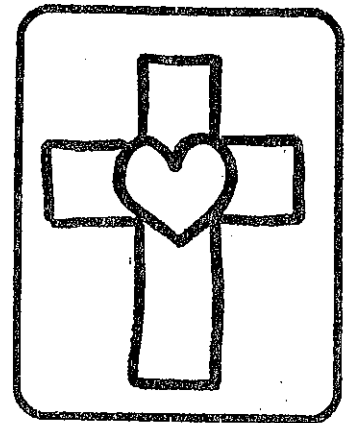
Pastor Niles

Life Together in Christ

Our year in **4K** is almost through.
We had so many fun things to do.
A-B-Cs and 1-2-3s
Trying our best, and busy as can be.
Singing, stories, coloring, sharing,
Friendships, manners, growing and caring.

Highlights

- A Alphabet Soup Marching Game
- B Bingo!
- C Christmas Service
- D Dinosaurs
- E Everyone is the Same, Everyone is Different
- F Fun Fair
- G Grocery Store Learning Center
- H Helper-of-the-Day
- I "I've Got the Joy"
- J "Jesus Loves Me This I Know"
- K Kindness Matters
- L Lovin' the Library
- M "My God is so Great!"
- N Noah's Ark
- O Outside Play Days
- P Pajama Day
- Q Questions, Questions, Questions!
- R Rhyming Words
- S Spring is coming . . . Chicks are here!
- T "Thank you Mom & Dad" Program
- U "I am Unique"
- V Valentine Post Office
- W Waffle Blocks
- X Box of ABC Things
- Y "I Love You!"
- Z Zoo Animals



April News

DO YOU FIND SOME WORDS OFF-PUTTING?

How about Bible Study or Bible Class?

Perhaps these words sound boring or even intimidating.

Please read on, paying attention to these key points and maybe you'll change your mind.

- 1). Our studies are led by interesting and enthusiastic leaders.
- 2). The studies are interactive and informal.
- 3). Questions are always encouraged.
- 4). No one is ever called on to read or respond.
- 5). You'll end up being surprised at what you learn.

Our spring line-up of studies will be out soon. Why not choose one and give it a try.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE VOTERS' MEETINGS?

Maybe they sound like they're just for a few, elite decision-makers, but the truth is that in a congregation organized the way ours is, regular communicant members like you and me are given the authority to make serious decisions. All we have to do is show up to a voters' meeting and express a desire to become a voting member. The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Why not show up and activate your right to vote?

BETHLEHEM'S ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter breakfast will be served immediately following the sunrise service and will continue until 10:00am.

As in previous years, the cost of the breakfast will be a free-will donation.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 19, 9:00am-noon, for set-up and prep work.

Volunteers are also needed on Easter Sunday, April 20, 6:30-10:00am to cook, serve, and clean up.

Even if you can help a portion of the time, it would be greatly appreciated.

The menu will include scrambled eggs, egg toppings, cheesy hashbrowns, sausage links, fruit, baked goods, milk, juice, and coffee. Donations of baked goods are appreciated and can be brought to the kitchen on April 19 between 8:00-10:00am. If you are interested in helping with this annual tradition, please call or text Megan Boerger at 920-889-0056 or email her at m-boerger@hotmail.com.

We encourage you to join us on Easter morning for this fellowship gathering.



CHURCH DECORATION FUND for EASTER



Please consider donating a monetary gift to the Altar Guild's Church Decoration Fund. All donor names, along with the designation as to whether the gift is being given in memory of, in honor of, or for blessings received, will be published.

Please designate which category, by circling in memory of or in honor of.

Please return to the church office. Make checks payable to **Bethlehem Altar Guild**.

**Deadline for submitting donations is
noon on Friday, April 11, 2025**

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ for blessings received

Given by: _____ for blessings received

More April News

BETHLEHEM'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Head to the gymnasium at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 12 for some Easter fun!

CRUSADE FOR BIDS DINNER AUCTION

Join us for an evening of fellowship and generosity at Sheboygan Lutheran High's annual dinner auction on Saturday, April 12 at LHS! Enjoy a scrumptious buffet dinner, must-have live and silent auction items, spirited games, a tantalizing Dessert Dash, and more!

Online reservations are now open, with early bird tickets for \$73 prior to April 1.

Visit lutheranhigh.com/auction for reservations and event details.

APRIL SUPPLY DRIVE

Bethlehem's Student Council will be running a supply drive the entire month of April. They ask that all items be donated by Wednesday, April 30. Everything collected will benefit Bethlehem Church & School families in need. Take a look at the flyers around the building or the list below.

Please bring **NEW** items to the counter in the Century Room. Let's watch as the blessings grow!

The Student Council thanks you for supporting our ministry of love here at Bethlehem.

- ◆ Hair items (brushes, combs, hair ties)
- ◆ Personal hygiene items (shampoo, soap, body wash, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, chap stick, lotion, hand sanitizer)
 - ◆ Towels, washcloths, blankets, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, socks (kid & adult)
- ◆ Activity books, cards, games, books (all ages), art supplies (crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper), small stuffed animals

RAISE-RIGHT FOR BETHLEHEM (see flyer in this edition of the Visitor)

Check out an easy way to earn money for our church without paying anything extra! Buy gift cards through the RaiseRight program (formerly Scrip). Another option is the RaiseRight mobile app.

With RaiseRight, you buy the cards at face value. Bethlehem then receives a percentage of that face value—that's it! It's so easy!

From grocery and clothing stores, to gas stations, restaurants, entertainment, and so much more, RaiseRight has the gift cards. Check it out for yourself and let Bethlehem benefit from your normal everyday purchases!

**** You must contact Brenda Kanz to be signed up, with Bethlehem as the beneficiary. ****

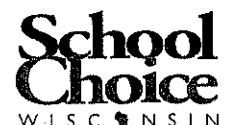
Contact Brenda at 920-912-3086 or BethlehemScrip@hotmail.com or BrendaKanz@hotmail.com.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL - WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM

Bethlehem Lutheran School is participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the 2025-2026 school year. The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) provides children throughout the state with a full tuition voucher to attend the private or religious school of their choice. This program allows families in the Sheboygan area to access the educational program at Bethlehem Lutheran; especially families who in the past might not have been able to afford to attend.

Bethlehem will be accepting applications for grades 4K-8 for parents who wish to enroll their children at the school through the WPCP. Student applications for the WPCP can be submitted online up until April 17, 2025 at <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>. There is also a link that can be found on our website www.ourbethlehem.com.

The program currently is limited to those families with incomes below 220% of the federal poverty level. Contact the school office at 920-452-5071 for assistance or for more details.



**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF**

January, 2025

ASSETS	Jan 2025	Dec 2024	
Cash	\$ 49,202	\$ 115,081	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 961,103	\$ 961,103	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,250,972	\$ 7,318,408	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 31,734	\$ 25,733	
SYNOD	\$ 1,913	\$ 0	
Lutheran High School	\$ 2,500	\$ 0	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,364,471	\$ 1,373,159	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,528,252	\$ 1,520,056	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 98,604	\$ 107,608	
Tuition	\$ 37,657	\$ 20,527	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 158,569	\$ 224,838	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 224,952	\$ 192,278	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ (66,383)	\$ 42,559	
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2025</u>	 \$ 158,569	 \$ 2,185,965	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2025</u>	\$ 224,952	\$ 2,179,102	
 <u>NET INCOME 2025</u>	 \$ (66,383)	 \$ 6,862	

Adult giving for January was at \$98,604, \$18,604 over our budgeted estimate. Accounts payable holding steady at \$31,734. We were down (66,000) mainly because we had three payrolls in January. Each payroll is approximately \$60,000. Please remember to worship on a weekly basis and encourage our fellow Christians to do the same. Talk to a friend about Christ. It's important to spend time together strengthening each other in our faith!

Thank you for your support!

**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF**

February, 2025

ASSETS	Feb 2025	Jan 2025	
Cash	\$ 249,834	\$ 49,202	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 961,103	\$ 961,103	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,371,743	\$ 7,250,972	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 65,309	\$ 31,734	
SYNOD	\$ 3,830	\$ 1,913	
Lutheran High School	\$ 5000	\$ 2500	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,355,763	\$ 1,364,471	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,553,931	\$ 1,528,252	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 69,217	\$ 98,604	
Tuition	\$ 18,437	\$ 37,657	
School Choice Program	\$ 167,630	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 277,729	\$ 158,569	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 194,653	\$ 224,952	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ 83,076	\$ (66,383)	
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2025</u>	 \$ 436,298	 \$ 158,569	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2025</u>	\$ 420,049	\$ 224,952	
 <u>NET INCOME 2025</u>	 \$ 16,248	 \$ (66,383)	

Adult giving for January came in below our budgeted estimates at \$ 69,217. Accounts payable was up to \$65,309 but cash also climbed big to \$ 249,434. February is the shortest month so our income and expenses are usually lower. If you haven't seen a friend in church, please give them a call and find out if anything is up. If needed, call the church office and let them know if there is a concern. Talk to a friend about Christ. It's important to worship regularly and spend time together as fellow Christians. It helps to keep all of us stronger in our faith!

Thank you for your support!



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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

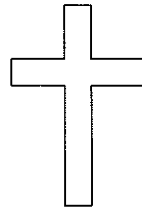
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

VISIT US ONLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is on Facebook. Please also visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com. Check out the main page where you will find information about upcoming events and activities. Scroll down to see a calendar of important items. Find helpful information by clicking on the various tabs under *Church* and *School*.

MAY VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the May Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, April 17, 2025. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note that it is for the Visitor.



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 the 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 920-452-4331.

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Sandra Fischer
Leonard Johnson
George & Karen Haecker
Linda Hulbert-Ertel

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