

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

 [www.facebook.com/
ourbethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)

 [https://twitter.com/
ourbethlehem](https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem)

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

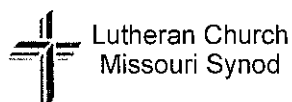
Bible Studies

Saturday evening ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Aug 2024

MEMBERSHIP



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

August 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am	2	3 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
4 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	5 PTL meeting 6:00pm	6 Quilters 9:00am	7 Youth Board meeting 4:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	8 Board of Evangelism meeting 7:00pm	9	10 Altar Guild meeting 9:30am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
11 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Confirmation Info meeting 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	12	13	14 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	15	16	17 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
18 Bethlehem Church Picnic Kiwanis Park Worship @ 10:00am Food, fellowship & activities to follow	19	20 Quilters 9:00am Back to School Night 6:00-7:30pm	21 Worship w/HC 6:00pm Parish Planning Council meeting 7:00pm	22 September Visitor Deadline (noon) First Day of School! 8:00am	23	24 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
25 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am	26	27	28 Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voters meeting 7:00pm	29	30 NO SCHOOL	31 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm

◊◊ Tischreden with Pastor Hanson ◊◊

Welcome to Table Talk with Pastor Hanson! Pull up a chair and let's talk about the means by which we Lutherans receive God's grace and his promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

This month, our Holy Gospel readings in church take a break from St. Mark's Gospel readings and flips to St. John's account. The reason for this is because St. Mark does not record the profound conversation that Jesus had with crowd following the feeding of the 5,000. In this teaching by Jesus, he admonishes the crowd for seeking physical food from Jesus and urges them to seek eternal food from heaven. This food will nourish their eternal souls, rather than their temporal bellies. Following these set of readings from St. John, we return to St. Mark, chapter 7. Here Jesus confronts the Pharisees who complain to Jesus about ceremonial washing. This gives Jesus an opportunity to teach them, and us, about the difference between human traditions and divine ordinances.

The Sacrament of the Altar: Nourishment for Eternal Life

In John 6:22-69, Jesus introduces Himself as the Bread of Life, offering a profound teaching on the Sacrament of the Altar. After miraculously feeding the 5,000, Jesus addresses the crowd seeking Him, urging them to seek not perishable food, but the food that endures to eternal life. He declares, **"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst"** (John 6:35).

As Lutherans, we understand this teaching as a reference to the Lord's Supper. Jesus offers His true body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. In verses 51-58, He makes a radical assertion: **"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh"** (John 6:51). This statement was challenging even to His disciples, but it underscores the Sacramental Union of Christ in the Lord's Supper, as his body and blood come together with the bread and wine.

The Sacrament of the Altar is a Means of Grace, providing the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation from God. It is a profound mystery that we embrace by faith, trusting in Christ's promise. As we partake in this holy meal, we are united with Christ and with one another, forming one body in Him. It is a reminder of our dependence on Christ for our spiritual nourishment, calling us to repent and approach the Lord's Table with reverence and gratitude.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Cleansing and New Life

In Mark 7:1-13, we encounter the Pharisees and scribes criticizing Jesus' disciples for eating with unwashed hands, adhering to human traditions rather than God's commandments. Jesus responds by quoting Isaiah: **"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"** (Mark 7:6-7). He emphasizes the danger of elevating human traditions over God's Word.

In this context, Holy Baptism stands as a divine ordinance instituted by Christ, not a human tradition. It is a sacrament through which God acts to cleanse us from sin and grant us new life. Jesus continues, **"You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men"** (Mark 7:8). Baptism is a powerful act of God's grace, washing away our sins and incorporating us into the body of Christ.

Luther's Small Catechism teaches that Baptism *"works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare."* It is more than a ritual; it is a tangible expression of God's love and mercy, assuring us of His continual presence and faithfulness.

Both the Sacrament of the Altar and Holy Baptism are means by which God engages with us through simple means: bread, wine, and water. They are outward signs of inward grace, visible tokens of God's invisible work in our lives. Through these sacraments, we are drawn closer to Christ, nourished by His grace, and strengthened in our faith. Let us participate in these sacraments with hearts full of gratitude, trusting in God's unwavering love and commitment to us, His people.

In Christ's service,

◊◊ Pastor Hanson

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL



The Star Gala Presents

*Blue & White
Ball*

Join the Bethlehem family, past and present, for an evening of generosity to impact our mission & ministry.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

— 5:30 PM —

BETHLEHEM PARISH ACTIVITY CENTER

1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan

\$50/person includes all-you-can-enjoy buffet dinner

Live & silent auction

Table sponsorships available

Register online at ourbethlehem.com or in the church office
by September 14.

— Formal attire —

August News

GOD DOESN'T TAKE THE SUMMER OFF. HOW ABOUT YOU?

Two vibrant Bible studies continue to be offered through August. Where will we see you?
Saturday Bible study is from 4:15-5:15pm and Sunday Bible study is from 9:15-10:15am.

- * Pastor Hanson leads participants through the book of Acts. In it, Luke describes various acts of the Apostles following Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Feel free to join this class at any time.
- * Pastor Niles leads "Council and wisdom from on high: a study of Proverbs". Although the Bible's primary purpose is to make us wise unto salvation, it also teaches us how to live in this world.

Here's the upcoming Bible study schedule for your reference:

- August 3rd:** Pastor Hanson, Century Room
- August 4th:** Pastor Hanson, Century Room
- August 10th:** Pastor Hanson, Century Room
- August 11th:** Pastor Niles, Century Room (no book of Acts class this day)
- August 17th:** Pastor Niles, Century Room
- August 18th:** NO Bible study—join us at the Church Picnic!
- August 24th:** Pastor Hanson, Century Room
- August 25th:** Pastor Hanson, Library and Pastor Niles, Century Room
- August 31st:** Pastor Niles, Century Room
- September 1st:** Pastor Hanson, Library and Pastor Niles, Century Room

IS IT "THEM", OR IS IT "US"?

How often have we heard in various places, even church, "*What are they thinking?*" or "*I wish they would do something about _____?*" Does it ever occur to us that THEY is actually US? Unlike some denominations, the Lutheran Church is not structured from the top down. It's structured from the layperson/members up. We are the final decision-makers. That's why it's so important for all communicant members of our congregation to become voting members. It's an easy process.

1. Come to a Voters' meeting.
2. Sign the attendance book and advise the Exec. Dir. of your desire to become a voting member.
3. At your first meeting, just listen.
4. At any subsequent meeting, feel free to offer comments and vote on matters brought before the group.
Let's fill the Sanctuary with active and engaged members!

CHURCH PICNIC NEWS

Mark your calendars for August 18th for this year's Annual Church Picnic. Please join your Bethlehem family for the service at 10:00 am at Kiwanis Park. Following worship, we'll be having food, beverages, fellowship, and a variety of activities for all ages. Please watch the bulletin and Facebook for more posts leading up to the event. We will need several volunteers to help make this event successful. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Century Room.

We are also looking for some donations. Please consider helping out and donating a food item or BINGO prize for the picnic. Sign-up sheets for food items will be out in the Century Room toward the end of July. Gift cards are appreciated as well. All donations for food or BINGO prizes can be placed in the marked bins in the Century Room. Please have all donated items in the bin by August 11th.

JOIN THE QUILTERS

The upcoming quilting dates are August 6th and August 20th, beginning at 9:00am in the Century Room.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Attention Altar Guild ladies ~ your presence would be greatly appreciated at the next meeting, which will be held on Saturday, August 10th at 9:30am.

More August News

UPCOMING NEAT REPEATS SALES

- 7/30-8/3 - purses, duffels and luggage 50% off
- 8/6-8/10 - scrapbooking supplies 50% off
- 8/13 - 30% off everything in the store
- 8/14-8/16 - CDs, DVDs and books 50% off
- 8/17 - National Thrift Store Day, 50% off everything in the store

BETHLEHEM'S CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

Take a look at the flyer in this month's edition of the Visitor.
If you have any questions regarding this event, please email craft_fair@ourbethlehem.com.
Please mark November 9th on your calendar and plan to attend!

THE STAR GALA PRESENTS THE 2024 BLUE & WHITE BALL ON SEPTEMBER 21ST

We are seeking brand new items for our live and silent auctions!
We need items that will fit into many different categories, so we encourage creative donations.
If you'd prefer to give a monetary donation, the Gala committee can purchase & package for you.
Another easy donation option is 1 bottle of wine and a \$25 gift card to a favorite restaurant.
We also have many Star Sponsorship levels available. If you have any questions about donating or sponsorship levels please contact thestargala@ourbethlehem.com.

THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated candy, walked, decorated the float, and waved to us marching in this year's 4th of July parade. We could not have done it without all of you and your donations. Bethlehem had a great showing in the parade. Thank you again!

A REQUEST FROM BETHLEHEM'S SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

Bethlehem's music classes are in need of 30 five-gallon buckets. They can be new or slightly used. They will be used to learn rhythm and beat. If you are able to donate, please drop the bucket(s) off in the school office. Thank you for your consideration.

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES AT LHS

Sheboygan Lutheran is seeking a part-time math teacher for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. This position is responsible for instructing Pre-Algebra, Intro to Statistics, and Transitions to College Math at the high school level. A bachelor's degree is required. Additionally, we are looking to expand our substitute teacher list for the upcoming school year for the full range of subjects. A bachelor's degree in any field is required. Please contact Derek Bult, Principal, at bult@lutheranhigh.com or at (920) 452-3323 if you are interested in either of these positions.

A MESSAGE FROM TRINITY, SHEBOYGAN

Trinity Lutheran School, 824 Wisconsin Ave., is looking to hire a Hot Lunch Coordinator. The position is 10 hours/week, no weekends or holidays, with on-the-job training. Send inquiries to roeske@trinitysheboygan.org

SUMMER SCRIP

Scrip-on-the-Go orders will be accepted during August. All orders will need to be in by 3:00pm on Thursdays and can be picked up Tuesday-Thursday between 7:30am-3:00pm.

SEPTEMBER VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the September Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, August 22nd, 2024. 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.

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

May 31, 2024

ASSETS	May 2024	April 2024	
Cash	\$ 89,448	\$ 71,791	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,478,080	\$ 6,392,426	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 52,481	\$ 46,453	
SYNOD	\$ 8,750	\$ 7,000	
Lutheran High School	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,433,434	\$ 1,441,968	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,627,828	\$ 1,634,005	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 65,454	\$ 78,334	
Tuition	\$ 15,544	\$ 24,538	
School Choice Program	\$ 163,234	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 252,030	\$ 112,163	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 175,676	\$ 180,402	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ 76,353	 \$ (68,239)	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2024</u>	\$ 942,912	\$ 690,882	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2024</u>	\$ 919,502	\$ 743,745	
 <u>NET INCOME 2024</u>	 \$ 23,409	 \$ (52,863)	

Summer is here and at the end of August school will be starting again. Please remember to worship on a weekly basis and encourage your fellow Christians to do the same. It is important to spend time together strengthening each other in our faith.

Thank you for your support!

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

June 30, 2024

ASSETS	June 2024	May 2024	
Cash	\$ 55,871	\$ 89,448	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,436,964	\$ 6,478,080	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 56,561	\$ 52,481	
SYNOD	\$ 0	\$ 8,750	
Lutheran High School	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,000	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,424,882	\$ 1,433,434	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,615,962	\$ 1,627,828	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 61,537	\$ 65,454	
Tuition	\$ 17,454	\$ 15,544	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 163,234	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 105,284	\$ 252,030	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 125,867	\$ 175,676	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ (20,583)	 \$ 76,353	
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2024</u>	 \$ 1,048,197	 \$ 942,912	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2024</u>	\$ 1,045,370	\$ 919,502	
 <u>NET INCOME 2024</u>	 \$ 2,826	 \$ 23,409	

It's only a matter of weeks and school will be starting. Please remember to worship on a weekly basis and encourage your fellow Christians to do the same. It is important to spend time together strengthening each other in our faith. We hope to see you at the church picnic.

Thank you for your support!

Winter Vendor & Craft Fair

Bethlehem Lutheran School

1121 Georgia Ave, Sheboygan, WI

Saturday, November 9th

9:00—2:00

50+ Vendors & Crafters

Raffles* • Bake Sale

Food & Beverage Concessions

**Get one free raffle ticket with each*

\$2 entrance fee

(purchase additional raffle tickets for \$1 each)

Eliminate shipping delay worries...

SHOP LOCAL for Christmas!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

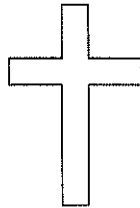
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

ROOM RESERVATION REMINDER

Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know 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. 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*.



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 920-452-4331.

Congregational Sponsors

Dennis & Nancy Bearns
Sandra Fischer
Leonard Johnson
George & Karen Haecker
Jim Behrens

Bev Fischer
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