

**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](http://www.ourbethlehem.com)

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

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



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[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 2023**

**MEMBERSHIP**



Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Sheboygan Area  
Lutheran Schools  
Association

# August 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

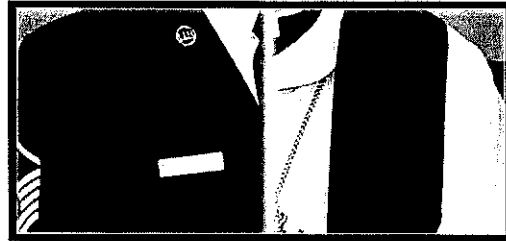
		<b>1</b> Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am	<b>2</b> Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am Worship w/HC 6:00pm Band interest meeting (school) 6:30pm	<b>3</b> Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm LHS 45th Anniversary Open House 7:00-10:00pm
<b>6</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Bible Study Task Force meeting 11:30am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Quilters 9:00am Board of Evangelism meeting 6:00pm	<b>9</b> Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Altar Guild meeting 9:30am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>13</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	<b>14</b> Bethlehem Faculty meeting 8:30am PTL meeting 6:00pm	<b>15</b> Bethlehem Staff meeting 8:30am	<b>16</b> Worship w/HC 6:00pm Parish Planning Council meeting 7:00pm	<b>17</b> New Family Orientation (school) 6:00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>20</b> CHURCH PICNIC Worship 10:00am Kiwanis Park (Installation and rededication of staff, during service)	<b>21</b> Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	<b>22</b> Quilters 9:00am	<b>23</b> Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>24</b> FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! Opening Worship Service 8:30am September Visitor Deadline (noon)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>27</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	<b>28</b> Star Gala meeting 6:00pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voters' meeting 7:00pm	<b>31</b>		

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR HANSON

<>< Tischreden with Pastor Hanson ><>

### Left-hand Vocation to Right-hand Vocation

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11*



*“Jeremy C. Hanson. Associate Pastor. Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Sheboygan, Wisconsin. South Wisconsin District.” – Rev. Jeffrey Pulse, CTSFW Call Service Announcement, 25 April 2023*

That announcement is marked in my life as the most joyous moment of my life. After many years of hard work, patience, sacrifice, and study, I have finally received a call to be a pastor in God’s right-hand kingdom. But not just any pastor mind you. Your pastor!

In 1999, an 18-year-old band geek from Fairborn, Ohio graduated from High School. He had no idea what he wanted to do in life, but he wasn’t allowed to stay at home and do nothing. So, in order to find out who he was, he joined the U.S. Air Force and was off to Basic Military Training 2-weeks after graduation. He entered a healthcare vocation, assisting surgeons in the operating room. He was practically a kid still and was responsible for the lives of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Later in his vocation, he was given greater responsibility in leading and managing the largest surgical clinic in the Army/Air Force medical system. For 20 years, he served his country and supported the mission of defending his nation from its enemies. He was a citizen of the world as his vocation took him to England, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Germany, Washington D.C., and San Antonio, Texas.

Toward the later half of his left-hand kingdom vocation, this now young adult was married, was raising a family, and was ready to start looking forward to the next greatest adventure after the military was done with him. He spent a career caring for the physical health and welfare of our nation’s people in his charge and felt the call to care for the spiritual health and welfare of God’s people. He then, while stationed in Germany, began to prepare for the ministry. In 2015, he was awarded a bachelor’s degree in theology from Concordia University Wisconsin. He finished the final 4 years of his Air Force career and retired from active duty in 2019. From there, he moved the family to Fort Wayne, Indiana to further his formation as a pastor at Concordia Theological Seminary.

If you haven’t guessed already that soldier of the U.S., now turned soldier of Christ, is me.... Rev. Jeremy Hanson.... your pastor. I have spent a career bearing the sword....er, scalpel, for the left-hand kingdom of the United States. Now I bear the sword of the Spirit, ready to wield it wherever God requires me to swing. Often this sword will be used defensively against Satan’s attacks against Christ’s church but will also be used offensively against Satan himself as he attempts to insert his lies and deceptions into the lives of God’s people.

(over)

As your pastor, I will do just that. This day and age, Satan is no longer hiding behind the bushes picking off unsuspecting victims. He is out in the open, inserting his lies and deceptions in our schools, government, businesses, and yes, even in our churches. In the military, we study our enemies.... their customs, religion, fighting tactics, weapon capabilities, etc. We Soldiers of Christ must be vigilant in the same manner.

Know first God's Word and what the Truth is. You do this by regularly attending worship and hearing God's Word. You attend Christian education classes, Bible Studies, and personal devotions in order to actively keep God's Word in your lives and on your lips. You arm yourself with God's armor in the remembrance of your Baptism of forgiveness and in receiving the Body and Blood of your Savior at the Lord's Table. All these things prepare you and arm you for battle against Satan in this life. With God's Truth and His gifts in your life, Satan has ZERO chance of taking you down with his flaming darts of doubt, lies, deceptions, and shame. You are armed with Christ, who vanquished Satan already. Christ is your shield and strength and has never left you in this field of battle.

Guard yourselves with the Sword of the Spirit and know without a doubt that Satan cannot hurt you if you tightly hold onto that Sword. As soon as you put it down though, know that you are making yourself vulnerable to Satan's flaming darts. You are all soldiers of Christ on the temporal battlefield of Satan, who thinks he is still in control. Continue to stand firm against Satan's attacks with God's Word at the ready and his attacks will simply fall away, because Christ's victory has become yours in your Baptism. Never put the Sword of the Spirit down, not even at work, in school, at home, or in your personal life. Keep God's Word at the ready, until the day you are called home to be with God Himself and He relieves you of your armor and retires you for a life of eternal bliss and happiness. Thanks be to God!

Soli Deo Gloria!

<>< Pastor Hanson



# August News

## WHAT'S ON YOUR AUGUST TO-DO LIST?

- 1). Sign the kids up for school?
- 2). Sign the kids up for VBS and Sunday School?  
(Yes, even if they attend Bethlehem School. Layperson leaders can often provide a fresh, new perspective to familiar teachings.)
- 3). Buy new backpacks and maybe some school clothes?
- 4). Sign up for fall sports? Etc., etc., etc.....

But what if you don't have kids? How will you prepare for the fall season? What about planning to attend 1 hour of adult Biblical education per week? New and interesting Bible study classes are currently being developed. The pastors will have informative topics for weekend classes on either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Rick Zeuner will lead a Monday evening series, Mary Jo Cyr will facilitate a women's online study, and there could be more to come!

Watch for details in upcoming Visitor articles, bulletin announcements and Facebook postings. Then prepare your heart to take advantage of at least one of them.

## DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS ON THE MOVE

Check out the Evangelism cart in the Century Room! Each month an item to share will be available. Watch for information in the weekly bulletin. The month of August will feature Arch books to share with a niece, nephew, or any young relative or neighbor who does not currently attend a church.

There are also activity books for adults.

All past tools will be kept in the cart while supplies last.

## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Attention Altar Guild Ladies: Your presence would greatly be appreciated at the next Altar Guild meeting. The meeting will be on Saturday, August 12th at 9:30am.

## SPANISH CLASS WITH PASTOR BLAS

Pastor Blas will be offering an opportunity for you to come and learn how to start a conversation with your Spanish neighbor, how to pray the Lord's Prayer with them, how to talk to them about Jesus, and how to make small talk about the weather and other mundane things. This class is open to all ages and skill levels (however, children attending should be able to read, as there will be handouts).

The class will run on Thursdays (10:00am) for 9 weeks, beginning Thursday, September 7th.

The class will take place at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sheboygan, in the Education Room.

The cost will be \$45 for the 9-week program.

These funds will go directly to support the Spanish mission work of the LCMS in Sheboygan County. Register by stopping in to Immanuel's church office during business hours (1626 Illinois Ave.). You will be asked to provide your name, phone number and payment (checks made payable to Rev. David Blas).

We hope to see you there!

## OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to sponsor the worship bulletin or the altar flower arrangement? Would you be interested in hosting the Sunday morning coffee hour? If so, please take a look at the dates that are currently available.

These 3 sign-up boards are located on the wall at the top of the stairs, in the Century Room.



Church News

# More August News

## BETHLEHEM'S CHURCH PICNIC

The Bethlehem Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 20th. Please join your Bethlehem family for the service at 10:00am at Kiwanis Park, followed by food, games, and activities.

We'll be having a cornhole tournament, beer tasting, golf activities, kid's activities, and BINGO.

The Church Picnic Committee needs your help and donations. We are requesting some food donations, BINGO prize donations (\$5 or under), and volunteers to sign up to serve food / drinks and take tickets / fill order forms at the picnic.

All sign-up forms and donation bins are in the Century Room. Please have all items donated by August 13th. We also need help defraying the cost of renting the large tent this year, so if you would like to specifically help with that, please grab an envelope from the easel in the Century Room and turn it into the church office, with the donation. THANK YOU! Let's make this year's picnic a great one!

## SCHOOL DONATIONS

As part of a Thrivent Action Team, we will be collecting some school supplies and miscellaneous items for Bethlehem, leading up to this year's church picnic.

Some items that BLS is in need of: Ziploc bags, pencils, individually-packaged Goldfish Crackers, Cheez-its, tissue boxes, and glue sticks. All items can be placed in the marked bin in the Century Room.

The bin will also be out at the picnic for donations.

Thank you for helping us ***Supply the School!***

## LHS COMMUNITY FAMILY FAIR

Save the date for family fun at Lutheran High School: Saturday, September 9th, from 2:00-6:00pm. Enjoy giant inflatable play structures, carnival games, dunk tanks, pie-eating contests, raffles, delicious concessions, and more! While you're there, learn about life at LHS by touring the campus and chatting with Crusaders. This event is open to the public. Spread the word and introduce a new family to LHS.

Details at [www.lutheranhigh.com/familyfair](http://www.lutheranhigh.com/familyfair)

## THE STAR GALA PRESENTS AN EVENING OF DENIM AND DIAMONDS

Save the date: Saturday, September 23rd, 2023.

Check out the event information located in this edition of the Visitor.

## 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 24th, 2023. Please feel free to email [amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com) or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

## WELCOMED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM

McCoy J. Michael - July 12, 2023

Maverick Dean Lunsford - July 15, 2023

Hudson Gregory Goetsch - July 23, 2023

## WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Ruth Behrens - July 5, 2023

Jerome Starich - July 24, 2023

**Bethlehem  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

# DENIM & DIAMONDS

**Saturday, Sept. 23**

1121 Georgia Ave., Sheboygan

5:00pm Doors Open  
Silent Auction

5:30 - 7:30pm Buffet Dinner

8:00pm Live Auction  
and Fund-a-Need

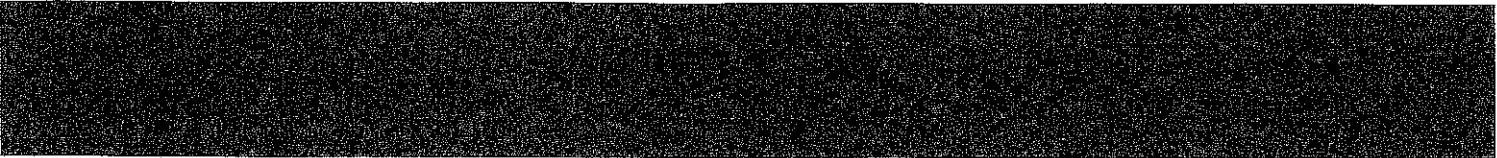
\$50 per person  
or "round up" a table of 8  
plus 2 bottles of wine for \$500

**Register at [ourbethlehem.com](http://ourbethlehem.com)**

or with Amy at the church office

*Reservations required for dinner*

SO PUT ON YOUR BEST DENIM & SPARKLIEST DIAMONDS  
AND GET READY TO BID HIGH AND BID OFTEN!



**We are excited for the biggest fundraiser of the year for Bethlehem Church and School. We have a goal of \$125,000 for this event. We are using all proceeds of The Star Gala for a new playground on our campus. Hope we can count on your support.**

### **Ways you can help:**

- **Come to the Denim & Diamonds Event!** Reserve your table online.
- **Donate a basket or gift card for our silent/live auction!** Deadline is Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Sign Up to Volunteer at the event!** We have a spot for everyone who wants to help. Please sign up!
- **Become a Star Sponsor!** We have Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels to be recognized at the event.
- **Make a Donation!**

Please contact with any questions Keeli Johnson 920-207-0044 or email [thestargala@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:thestargala@ourbethlehem.com)



## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

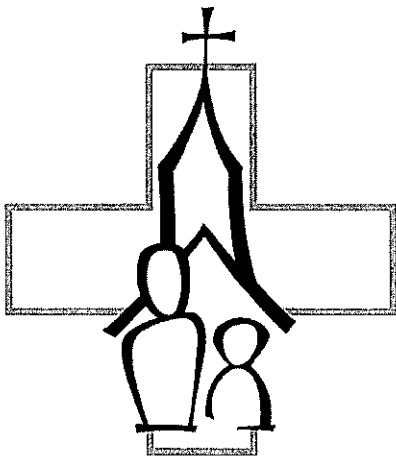
### Back to School... Still in Church?

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace. ~Hebrews 13:8-9~*

#### **COME ON!!! IT'S TIME TO GO!!!**

We are embarking on the time of year when this phrase will be heard every morning throughout our house. Everyone in the house will be distracted and concerned with getting ready for school that they will need to be reminded that we actually need to get to school. As we approach the beginning of a new school year, we get wrapped up in pencils, pens, paper, books, the right backpack, the right outfits, and the right lunch boxes for a new year. Everything is new, and everything is different. Yet the important things of Bethlehem remain the same... namely, Jesus.

The writer to the book of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is always the same. The words and promises of Jesus never change. His presence among us never changes. Jesus continues to be where He has always said He would be... in His Word and Sacraments. In the simplicity of His eternal presence, we find the grace and strength for all of the new things that each minute, day, or year brings.



Yet, we often lose the forest for the trees. We become so entangled and distracted by the daily happenings that we overcomplicate our lives by not remaining focused on the unchanging nature of Christ's presence with us and for us. We allow schedules, events, and life to convince us that there are things more important than what Christ gives to us in worship. As a matter of fact, maybe we have let our own worship discipline slack this summer. Vacations, leisure, and various activities have made us apathetic about worship. If that is the case....

#### **COME ON!!! IT'S TIME TO GO!!!**

It is my prayer that this call to action is not just heard weekday mornings urging families to school, but it is also heard on weekends urging families to receive the grace and blessings of Christ. While it is time to get back to school, let it be a reminder that it is time to get back to Jesus. It is time to stop letting the things of the world dominate our lives, and refocus on the things of eternity. Your Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and so is His grace, strength, and forgiveness for all that you are called to do in your lives.

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

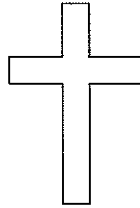
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## 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](http://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.

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

### Congregational Sponsors

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