

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



<https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem>

Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Jeremy Hanson
Associate Pastor

Mr. Joshua Klug
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 2025

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

August 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
3 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Bible Study Task Force meeting 11:45am	4 GALA meeting 6:00pm	5 Quilters 9:00am	6 Worship w/HC 6:00pm Stewardship meeting 7:00pm	7	8 Church & School Offices closed	9 Altar Guild meeting 9:30am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
10 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	11	12	13 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	14	15	16 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
17 CHURCH PICNIC @ Kiwanis Park 10:00am	18 September Visitor Deadline (noon)	19 Quilters 9:00am	20 LHS first day of school—1/2 day Worship w/HC 6:00pm Parish Planning Council meeting 7:00pm	21	22	23 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
24/31 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	25 Bethlehem's first day of school — full day School Picture Day	26	27 Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voters' meeting 7:00pm	28	29	30 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm

✠ From the desk of Pastor Niles ✠

Lutheran Education - So Much More than *Just a School*

As summer draws to a close, our thoughts turn to the start of a new school year—a time of anticipation, learning, and growth. For many families in our community, this season is not just about buying supplies and picking out backpacks; it's about the profound commitment to Lutheran education.

Roots in Faith and Learning

Lutheran education, deeply rooted in the teachings of Holy Scripture, emphasizes the integration of faith and learning. It goes beyond academic excellence to nurture students spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. In our schools, every subject—from math to history—is taught through the lens of Christian values, guiding students to understand the world through God's perspective.

Community and Support

Our Lutheran schools are not just places of education; they are vibrant communities where students, families, and educators support each other. We are quite aware that we are not perfect. There are times when we sin against each other. No one is immune to this whether we are a child, a parent, or a teacher. Our community is built off of the forgiveness that Christ gives to each and everyone of us. We hold each other accountable while forgiving one another as in Christ, God forgave us. This sense of community fosters strong relationships and a nurturing environment where every child can thrive academically and spiritually.

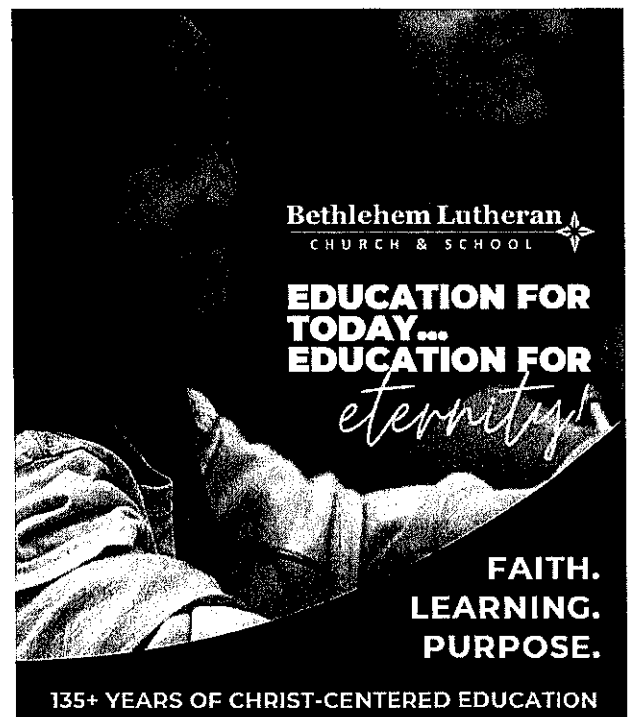
Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders

At the heart of Lutheran education is the mission to prepare tomorrow's leaders—individuals who are not only equipped with knowledge and skills but also grounded in Christian faith and values. Through academics, character formation, and service opportunities, our schools empower students to make a positive difference in the world.

As we embark on this new school year journey, let us lift our prayers for all students, teachers, and staff members. May God bless them with wisdom, strength, and grace as they grow in knowledge and faith. We invite you to continue supporting Lutheran education, whether through prayer, volunteering, or advocating for the value of Lutheran education. Together, we can continue to nurture the next generation of leaders who will shine the light of Christ where they are called to be.

In Christ,

Pastor Niles



August News

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE CHRISTIANS ARE ENGAGED IN AN INVISIBLE WAR?

What is this war? How are we to fight? What weapons do we have?

You won't want to miss Pastor Hanson's very special "Armor of God mini-study" on Sunday, August 3, from 9:15-10:15am in the Century Room. We'll learn who the enemy is, how to "dress" for battle, and we'll receive Paul's closing blessing of *peace, love, faith, and grace*.

Mark your calendar for this important, stand-alone Bible study.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Attention Altar Guild ladies: your presence would be greatly appreciated at the next Altar Guild meeting, taking place on Saturday, August 9 at 9:30am.

CHURCH PICNIC DONATIONS & HELP ARE APPRECIATED

The Annual Bethlehem Church Picnic takes place on Sunday, August 17, at Kiwanis Park. The worship service begins at 10:00am, with food, fellowship, and fun to follow. The picnic committee is requesting food donations, gift cards to purchase food, and BINGO donations (\$5 or under). Volunteers are needed to take tickets, fill order forms, and serve food & drinks. All sign-up forms and donation bins will be located in the Century Room (please turn gift cards into the church office). Please have all items donated by August 13.

Please see the flyer in this edition of the Visitor, for additional information regarding the picnic.

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A MEMBER OF BETHLEHEM?

Do you use a word like "we", or rather words like "they" or "them"?

Truth be told, our congregation is not run by a select group of people. It is true that administrative boards have specific responsibilities, but major decisions are always made at Voters' meetings. If you are a communicant member of Bethlehem, you are entitled to become a voter and help discuss & decide on important issues. The next Voters' meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Wednesday, August 27 at 7:00pm. It's easy to become a voter; join us and we'll show you how.

NEW AT BETHLEHEM — BIBLE STUDIES WEEKEND

On Saturday, September 6, beginning at 4:00pm and Sunday, September 7, beginning at 9:15am, join the Bible Study Task Force for refreshments as they turn the spotlight on the interesting array of Bible studies being offered **this coming fall** (weekends, Monday nights, and online). Be on hand for this time of fellowship and then continue to watch bulletins and Facebook for specifics on upcoming Bible studies.

"WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE"

Are you new to Bethlehem? Are you interested in joining our church? Are you wondering what being Lutheran is all about? Are you someone who has been around the church for a while, but still have questions? Why not join us to find out the answers to these questions and other questions that you might have? We invite you to "What Lutherans Believe" (originally known as our New Member Class), beginning on Sunday, September 21 from 9:15-10:15am. This class will run for 5 weeks. If you need additional information, please contact Fred Jabs, from our Board of Assimilation, at 920-889-4304 or pfkjabs@hotmail.com.

NEAT REPEATS SALES

8/5—8/9: hats, scarves, ties, and belts, 50% off

8/12: everything in the store, 30% off

8/13—8/15: linens, 50% off

8/16: everything in the store, 50% off, for National Thrift Store Day!

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace 1 Peter 4:10*

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Whatever

Colossians 3:17

A message from our Principal

Greetings to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School,

I'm honored to officially begin my ministry here at Bethlehem. There is much to learn as I get to know this community and build meaningful relationships. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself when we cross paths in the coming weeks. I'm eager to meet you!

Thank you for the prayers and support over the past few months. They have been a true blessing as my family: Sarah, Ryan, Aaron, and I make the transition from Virginia to Wisconsin. It's a big move for us, but we are excited about this new chapter and look forward to becoming part of the Bethlehem family.

As we prepare for a new school year, I ask for your continued prayers as we welcome both returning and new families to our campus. Our theme for the 2025–2026 school year is **"Whatever!"**, based on Colossians 3:17: *"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* I'm excited to see how our teachers and staff will bring this theme to life through chapel messages, devotions, lessons, and bulletin boards that reflect their creativity and faith.

May God bless the upcoming school year and all who are a part of the Bethlehem Lutheran community.

In His Service,
Mr. Klug





Celebrate

135 years of fun, fellowship, and faith!

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL




Church PICNIC

SUN. AUG. 17 2025 | KIWANIS PARK

Worship at 10AM | Festivities to Follow

**Bounce House
Face Paintings
Chicago Softball
Closest to the Pin
Cornhole
Bingo
Music
Food**



Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

THE STAR GALA INVITES YOU TO

an evening of

AMERICAN
FOOTBALL
TEAMS

Saturday

September 27 2025

5:30 pm

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
Parish Activity Center
1121 Georgia Ave. Sheboygan, WI 53081

tickets on September 20

in Church Office or
ourbethlehem.ejoinme.org/thestargala2025



The Star Gala 2025 presents An Evening of a Million Dreams Donation Form

We are seeking brand new items for our annual event! Items will fit into many different categories, so we encourage creative donations! Please reply by Sept 1, 2025, so we can fully recognize you! If you have any questions about donating to Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School-The Star Gala 2025 presents An Evening of a Million Dreams on September 27, 2025, please contact thestargala@ourbethlehem.com.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (MUST BE COMPLETED BY DONOR)

Name/Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

NAME YOU WOULD LIKE

PUBLISHED: _____

Description/Items of
Donation: _____

Value of Donation: _____

The Star Gala is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

****Please make a copy of this form for your tax records**

Sponsorship Information

We have many different Sponsorship levels available. Please contact thestargala@ourbethlehem.com for more information or to set up a meeting with our sponsorship team.

this and that

EVER HEARD "IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK"?

Well, the walls in the Century Room and the walls throughout the school during the school year might not actually *talk*, but they certainly convey messages. If you haven't done so already, take a few minutes to look at the array of attractive posters that are on display. There's a lot of information to take notice of!

A MESSAGE FROM THE LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY ~ Jesus' transforming presence ~

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost' (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

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*.

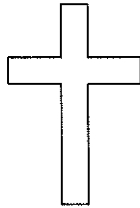
SEPTEMBER VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the September Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Monday, August 18, 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH PICNIC: Join us on Sunday, August 17 at Kiwanis Park.

STAR GALA: Plan to attend this event on Saturday, September 27 in the Parish Activity Center.



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.

Congregational Sponsors

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