

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

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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

Feb. 2025

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

February 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible classes 9:15am</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PTL meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p> <p>LWML meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation class 3:30pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Adult Choir practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Bethlehem Girls A Basketball Tourn. @ BLS</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Basketball Tourn.</p> <p>Altar Guild meeting 9:30am</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p> <p>Youth Gathering Torte Fundraiser</p>
<p>9</p> <p>LHS Sunday Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible classes & Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>Youth Gathering Torte Fundraiser</p> <p>Elders meeting 11:45</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Endowment meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation class 3:30pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Adult Choir practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible classes & Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>Confirmation meeting 11:30am</p> <p>Youth Group 4:00pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>March Visitor Deadline (noon)</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation class 3:30pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Adult Choir practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Bethlehem Boys B Basketball Tourn. @ BLS</p> <p>LHS Drama Dept. "Newsies" 7:00pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Basketball Tourn.</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p> <p>LHS Drama Dept. "Newsies" 7:00pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible classes 9:15am</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>LHS Drama Dept. "Newsies" 2:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm</p> <p>Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation class 3:30pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Adult Choir practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Father-Daughter Dance 6:00-8:00pm</p>	

◇◇ Tischreden with Pastor Hanson ◇◇

Welcome to Table Talk with Pastor Hanson! Pull up a chair and let's talk about our victory in the Resurrection of Jesus!

The bulk of our Epistle readings for this month will follow the Apostle Paul through his exhortations to the churches in Corinth (1 Corinthians 15). What does this have to do with us today?

Resurrection and Victory: A Reflection on 1 Corinthians 15

As we enter the month of February, the world around us is often still caught in the grip of winter, a season that reminds us of dormancy and stillness. Yet, as Christians, we are continually called to remember and live in the hope of resurrection and new life. This hope is beautifully encapsulated in 1 Corinthians 15, a chapter where the Apostle Paul lays out the profound truth of the resurrection and its implications for us as believers, not just on Easter Sunday, but every day of our lives.

The Centrality of the Resurrection

Paul begins this chapter by reminding the Corinthians of the gospel message he preached to them, which they received and on which they have taken their stand. This gospel is centered on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

The resurrection is not just an addendum to our faith; it is the very cornerstone. Without it, our preaching and faith are in vain. Paul emphasizes that *if Christ has not been raised, then our faith is futile, and we are still in our sins* (v. 17). The resurrection is the proof of Christ's victory over sin and death, assuring us of our own future resurrection.

Resurrection as Victory over Death

One of the most striking aspects of 1 Corinthians 15 is Paul's depiction of the resurrection as the ultimate victory over death. He declares, *“Death has been swallowed up in victory”* (v. 54) and boldly asks, *“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”* (v. 55). This triumphant proclamation reminds us that death, often seen as the final enemy, has been defeated through Christ's resurrection.

For our church today, this message of victory is a source of immense comfort and strength. In a world where death and decay seem to reign, the assurance of resurrection provides hope. It encourages us to face life's challenges with the confidence that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The Transformational Power of the Resurrection

The resurrection also has a profound impact on how we live our lives here and now. Paul urges the Corinthians to let the truth of the resurrection transform their daily lives: *“Therefore, my dear*

brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (v. 58).

This exhortation is just as relevant for us today. As we engage in various ministries, outreach programs, and day-to-day acts of service within our church and community, we do so with the knowledge that our efforts have eternal significance. The resurrection gives our labor purpose and meaning, affirming that what we do for the Lord will have lasting impact beyond this life.

Living as a Resurrection People

Our church, as a body of believers, is called to embody the hope and victory of the resurrection in all aspects of our communal and individual lives. This means being a place where the reality of new life in Christ is evident—in our worship, in our study of God’s Word, in our relationships with each other, and in our witness to the world.

1 Corinthians 15 challenges us to not only hold fast to the truth of the resurrection but to let it shape every facet of our existence. As we meditate on this chapter during February, let us be reminded that we are a resurrection people, called to live in the power and victory of the risen Christ.

May we, as a church, continue to stand firm, give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, and celebrate the hope we have in the resurrection, knowing that in the Lord, our labor is not in vain.

In Christ’s victory,

◇◇ Pastor Hanson



February News

DO YOU PAY ATTENTION TO "SPECIALS" IN A STORE?

Bethlehem has some "specials" coming up in February.
Look for details on the full-page ad in this edition of the Visitor.

WHY STUDY THE BOOK OF LUKE?

Joshua 1:8 gives us a good reason to study Luke or any other portion of the Bible.

"Study this book of instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do."

Join Pastor Hanson in the library every Sunday in February from 9:15-10:15am,
or in the Century Room on February 15 & 22 from 4:15-5:15pm, to take a deep dive into the book of Luke.

PASTOR NILES IS A PASTOR OF SURPRISES

To find out what he will be discussing at Bible class on February 1 & 8,
join him in the Century Room from 4:15-5:15pm. You won't be disappointed.

"IS GENESIS HISTORY?" WILL NOT MEET ON FEBRUARY 3

Due to parent-teacher conferences at LHS, Rick's class will not meet on February 3.
The class will meet on February 10, 17 & 24 from 6:00-7:00pm in the Century Room.

Even if you've missed a session or two, plan to attend.

It's possible that you've never heard the account of creation this way before!

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD LADIES

Please plan to attend our next meeting, which will be on Saturday, February 8 at 9:30am.

BRAT FRY AT ST. MARK

The St. Mark Men's Club will be holding their annual Super Bowl Brat Fry on Sunday, February 9 from
10:30am-1:30pm (1019 N. 7th St.). The menu includes brats, hamburgers, German potato salad,
beans, and dessert. Dine-in (fellowship hall) or take-out.

Tickets are available from the church office or at the door on the day of the brat fry.

SPAGHETTI DINNER - YOUTH FUNDRAISER

The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Sunday, February 16 from 12:00-4:30pm.

The dinner includes spaghetti (with or without meatballs; gluten-free upon request), garlic bread, and torte.

Cost: \$8.00/adult, \$5.00/age 5-10, Free/age 4 & under.

Proceeds will help offset the cost of their youth attending the National Youth Gathering.

ANOTHER SPAGHETTI DINNER

Luther Memorial (1127 Eisner Ave.), Sunday, February 22 from 4:00-6:00pm.

The meal includes salad, homemade meatballs, meatless sauce, bread, and desserts.

The cost is \$12.00/person and children 12 & under are free.

For delivery, call & leave a message with the church office (920-458-1322).

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE AT BETHLEHEM

All Bethlehem Church & School girls, with their father figures, are invited to attend the Father-Daughter
Dance on February 28 from 6:00-8:00pm in the Parish Activity Center. Check out the posters around the
building. Either scan the QR code or contact Gail at gailmilatz@gmail.com

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

2/4-2/8: all clothing, \$1.00 2/11: everything in the store, 30% off

2/12-2/15: books, 50% off 2/18-2/22: toys, games & puzzles, 50% off

2/25-3/1: candles & candleholders, 50% off

More February News

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Our next session of New Member Classes will begin on Sunday, March 2 from 9:15-10:15am. Please pass along this information to anyone you may know who would be interested.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Attention individuals, groups, boards, and committees: we are looking for your help to make the Lenten Soup Suppers a success! Would you be willing to make a large crock-pot of soup? Would you prefer to supply baked goods? On average, 60 people attend soup suppers each Wednesday. Set-up begins around 4:00pm, with supper beginning at 5:00pm. The following dates will be in need of help & hosting: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, and 4/2. Please contact Laurie Reuter at 920-331-0187 if you can help.

BETHLEHEM FACILITY RESERVATIONS

If you are an individual or group looking to reserve space at Bethlehem (Century Room, library, gym, kitchen, cafeteria, etc.) please make sure to call the church office. Thank you for your cooperation.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL TOURS

Come and check us out in person or online at www.ourbethlehem.com. We would love to have you visit and spend some time learning more about us. We are setting up appointments & tours for 3K to grade 8. The dates for the tours are February 11, 13, 18, 20, 27, and March 4, 6, 11, 13, 17 & 20.

Tours are available from 8:30am to 10:00am and 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

If these times do not work for you, please contact the school office to make other arrangements.

We ask you to reserve your tour by calling the school office at 920-452-5071.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL - WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM

Bethlehem Lutheran School will again be participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the upcoming 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. You will attend BLS for free if given a voucher.

This program allows families in the Sheboygan area to access the educational program at Bethlehem Lutheran; especially those families who in the past might not have been able to afford to attend.

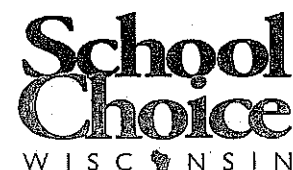
Bethlehem will be accepting applications for grades 4K-8 for parents who wish to enroll their children at the school through the WPCP. Student applications for the WPCP can be submitted online from February 3- April 17, 2025 at <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>.

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.

So what does that number look like? Your adjusted gross income (AGI) would need to be at or below the levels listed below for the size of your family:

Family Size	Single Family	Married Family
1	\$33,132	
2	\$44,968	
3	\$56,804	\$63,804
4	\$68,640	\$75,640
5	\$80,476	\$87,476
6	\$92,312	\$99,312



For each additional member, add \$11,836

A WINTER WONDERLAND OF BIBLE STUDIES

SATURDAYS | ONGOING | 4:15-5:15 pm | CENTURY ROOM

Pastor Hanson: Book of Luke
Pastor Niles: Various subjects

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY | 9:15-10:15 am

Pastor Hanson: Book of Luke | Library
Pastor Niles: "Being Lutheran: It's More Than a Name!" | Century Room (February's topic TBA)

MONDAYS | 8 SESSIONS BEGINNING JANUARY 13 | 6-7 PM | CENTURY ROOM

Rick Zeuner: "Is Genesis History?" - a fresh look at Creation

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY | 9:15-10:15 am

Craig Toerpe, LCMS Foundation: "Christian Giving from a Biblical Perspective" | Century Room
Pastor Hanson: Book of Luke | Library

SUNDAYS IN MARCH | 9:15-10:15 am | LIBRARY

Pastor Niles: "What Lutherans Believe" (with new member class)

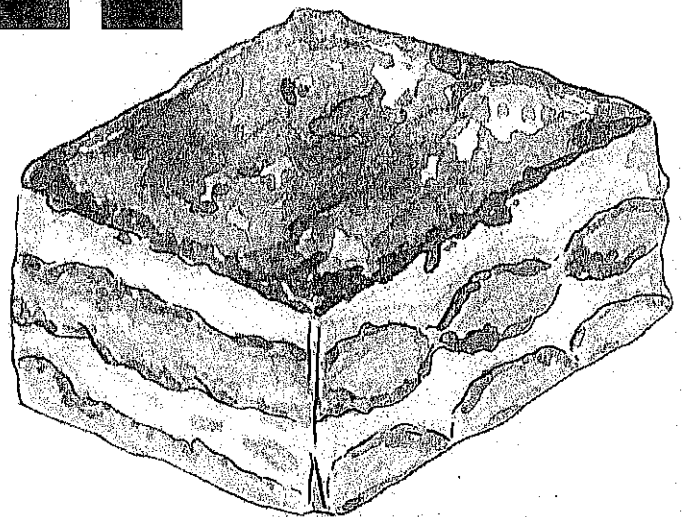
Sold by the slice!



LEMS YOUTH GATHERING

TORTE SALE

**FEB
8-9**




**SOLD BEFORE AND
AFTER SERVICES**

Oreo, Cherry, Eclair, etc.



**FREE WILL
DONATION**

**Bethlehem
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL 



CLASSROOM NEWS

¡Feliz Año Nuevo 2025!

~~ A message from Laurie Schultz's classroom ~~

Bienvenidos (Welcome) to 2025 from los estudiantes (the students) at Bethlehem Lutheran School. 2025 has already started out with many activities! Whether it be sporting events, a SALSA spelling bee, or preparing for National Lutheran Schools Week, it has been a busy place!

First of all, I wanted to introduce myself since many of you probably don't know much about me and what I do here at Bethlehem. My husband Russ and I moved to the Sheboygan area in 2019 from the Wausau area. I have been teaching for 25 years, with five of those years serving here at Bethlehem. I teach Spanish in grades 4K-8 and Physical Education in 5K-4. I am also the staff coordinator for the forensics program in grades 5-8. I love that I get to teach students every day; it's what I love most!

Just to give you a glimpse into the lives of the students, they are currently learning ball handling skills, hockey, basketball, and badminton in class. It is quite humorous to see the students trying to hit a birdie with their racket. One would think that it would be easy, but it is not. For the past five months a highlight for the students was "Packer Fun Mondays." They knew that if the Packers won, so did they.

Finally, las clases de Español son muy divertidos y prácticas! Yes, Spanish classes are very fun and practical here at Bethlehem! Whether it be learning about colors, animals, family, the community, the body, the alphabet, pronouns, food & drink items, or conjugating verbs, the students are blessed to be learning another language. Once again, Feliz Año Nuevo (Happy New Year)!

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Although much about worship seems similar throughout Christianity, Lutherans have a unique perspective on the question "*What is worship?*" The Lutheran understanding of worship is expressed in the **Divine Service**.

The Athanasian Creed teaches us that true Christian worship can be recognized in two ways. First, we worship the God who is triune, that is, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The second way we recognize Christian worship is that it is centered on Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Our worship is "divine" because it is Christ-centered.

The Lutheran Confessions teach us about the "service" of the Divine Service: "*So the worship and divine service of the Gospel is to receive gifts from God*" (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article V, paragraph 189). In the Divine Service, God, who calls, gathers, and enlightens the whole Christian Church on earth, comes to serve us with His gracious gifts of Word and Sacrament.

People often think that worship is about what we do for or toward God. The reality is quite different. In the Divine Service, God is providing His service for us. In the reading, the preaching, and the proclamation of His Word and in His Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, God comes to us. In worship, God gives His grace and then we respond with thanks and praise.



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

December 31, 2024

ASSETS	Dec 2024	Nov 2024
Cash	\$ 115,081	\$ 223,297
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 961,103	\$ 961,103
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,318,408	\$ 7,411,096 Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
General Accounts Payable	\$ 25,733	\$ 103,447
SYNOD	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
Lutheran High School	\$ 0	\$ 5,000 Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>		
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,373,159	\$ 1,381,828 Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,520,056	\$ 1,615,424
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)		
Adult Envelopes	\$ 107,608	\$ 75,467
Tuition	\$ 20,527	\$ 16,535
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 162,684
Total Monthly Income	\$ 234,838	\$ 262,408
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 192,278	\$ 198,548
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ 42,559	\$ 63,860
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2024</u>	 \$ 2,185,965	 \$ 1,951,127
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2024</u>	\$ 2,179,102	\$ 1,986,823
 <u>NET INCOME 2024</u>	 \$ 6,862	 \$ (35,696)

Adult giving for December was at \$107,608, \$29,950 over our budgeted estimate. Accounts payable dropped big to \$25,733. We received the general fund payout from the 2024 Gala of \$50,000. We finished the year **in the BLACK by \$6,862. That's great!** 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!

COMING TO BETHLEHEM IN FEBRUARY:

TWO SPEAKERS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!



- WHO:** Jacky Drewry: CEO of Anchor of Hope, a faith-based, life-affirming, non-profit, helping women face unintended pregnancies.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00pm, in the Century Room.
- TOPIC:** Getting to know Anchor of Hope and its mission.
- HOSTS:** Bethlehem LWML.
- INFO:** No registration needed.
- INFO:** Both women and men are invited.



- WHO:** Craig Toerpe: Gift-planning Counselor for the LCMS Foundation.
- WHEN:** Sundays in February from 9:15-10:15am, in the Century Room.
- TOPIC:** Christian Stewardship from a Biblical perspective, with practical applications.
- INFO:** Come, listen, and learn from an expert.

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

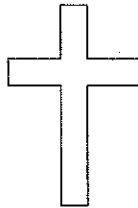
Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

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*.

MARCH VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the March Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Tuesday, February 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.



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
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Linda Hulbert-Ertel

Bev Fischer
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