

**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)

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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

**Jan 2026**

**MEMBERSHIP**



Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Sheboygan Area  
Lutheran Schools  
Association

# January 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1  HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
4  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am	5  SCHOOL RESUMES  PTL meeting 6:00pm  BCDS meeting 7:00pm	6  Quilters 9:00am  LWIM meeting 6:30pm  Bethlehem Night @ LHS basketball 5:50 / 7:15pm	7  Read. Part. 1:00pm  Public Conf. 3:30pm  Worship w/HC 6:00pm  Assimilation 6:00pm  Stewardship 7:00pm	8  Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	9	10  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
11  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am	12	13	14  Reading Partners 1:00pm  Public School Confirmation 3:30pm  Worship w/HC 6:00pm	15  Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	16	17  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
18  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am  Elders mtg 11:45am  Youth Group swim @ Sheb.Falls noon-2:00	19	20  Quilters 9:00am	21  Reading Partners 1:00pm  Public School Confirmation 3:30pm  Worship w/HC 6:00pm	22  Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	23	24  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
25  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am	26	27	28  Reading Partners 1:00pm  Public School Confirmation 3:30pm  Worship w/HC 6:00pm	29  Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	30	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 what it means to grow in Christian Discipleship.*

### “Discipleship in the Light of Christ’s Epiphany”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of January brings us into the season of Epiphany—a *season of revealing*. Christ is made known to the nations. The Light of the world shines into every darkness. And as the light of Christ is revealed, something else becomes clear as well: **what it means to follow Him.**

This year, the lectionary gives us four consecutive Sundays—Second Sunday after Christmas through the Third Sunday after the Epiphany—that beautifully reveal different dimensions of **Christian discipleship.**

#### **Second Sunday after Christmas — Christ Our Wisdom (Ephesians 1:3–14; Luke 2:40–52)**

We hear of the boy Jesus in the temple, “*growing in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*” In a world that chases after many kinds of wisdom, Epiphany begins by reminding us that **true wisdom is found in Christ alone.**

#### **Discipleship begins with being shaped by His Word.**

Just as Jesus was found in His Father’s house, hearing and speaking the Word, so also our discipleship takes root in regular worship, Scripture study, and prayer. We follow Christ by listening to Him.

#### **The Baptism of Our Lord — Discipleship Begins in Baptism (Matthew 3:13–17)**

At Jesus’ baptism, the heavens open, the Spirit descends, and the Father declares, “*This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*”

Our discipleship—our walking with Jesus—**begins in our baptism**, where we are united with Him, adopted by the Father, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In a new year filled with resolutions, this Sunday calls us to remember the identity we already have:

- You are baptized.
- You belong to Christ.
- You walk in newness of life.

Discipleship is not self-improvement. It is living daily from the promises God has already spoken over us.

#### **Second Sunday after the Epiphany — Called to Witness (John 1:29–42a)**

*"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John declares Jesus openly, and the first disciples follow because someone **bore witness**.

Discipleship includes **inviting others to meet Jesus**.

Andrew brings Peter. The Church brings her children. Christians bring their neighbors, their friends, and even casual acquaintances. The Epiphany light is never meant to be hidden—it is shared. When we speak of Christ, serve in His name, or simply express our hope in Him, we participate in the ancient pattern of disciples calling others into the light.

### **Third Sunday after the Epiphany — Called to Follow (Matthew 4:12–25)**

Jesus calls fishermen from their nets: *"Follow Me."*  
And immediately they do.

Here discipleship appears in its simplest and clearest form: **hearing Jesus' call and responding with trust**.

To follow Jesus means letting His Word set our direction, His forgiveness lighten our burdens, and His mission shape our priorities. For some of us, that means renewed commitment to worship and Bible study. For others, it means stepping into service, restoring relationships, or simply taking the next step in faith.

### **A January Invitation: Let This Be a Month of Renewed Discipleship**

In this Epiphany season, Christ reveals Himself—and as He does, He reveals the path of discipleship:

**Wisdom in His Word** (Luke 2)

**Identity in Baptism** (Matthew 3)

**Witness to the world** (John 1)

**Following His call** (Matthew 4)

As a new year begins, I invite you to recommit to walking this path together as the body of Christ.

If you have stepped away from Bible study, return.

If you have grown weary in prayer, begin again.

If your worship attendance has slipped, come back and join us in the house of your Father.

If you are not serving, ask how you might use your gifts for the good of the kingdom.

Discipleship is never a solo journey. Christ calls us to follow **together**, in the fellowship of His Church, shaped and strengthened by His Word and Sacraments.

May the light of Christ revealed in this Epiphany season shine brightly on your path, now and throughout the year.

In Christ our Light,  
◇◇ Pastor Hanson

# January News

## **LEADING WITH MISSIONS**

The Bethlehem Lutheran Women in Mission (LWIM) have chosen The Sheboygan County Food Bank as the **January mission of the month**.

Food banks across the country receive much attention during the holiday season.

However, come January, the shelves are no longer full and our neighbors still face food insecurity. The Sheboygan County Food Bank distributes food through its core programs and also in partnership with food pantries and other organizations in Sheboygan County, to make sure that nutritious food reaches thousands of families, seniors, and children. Please pray for and consider supporting this worthy mission.

## **PASTOR NILES TO VISIT LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWIM)**

Did you join us in December? If so, please come back! If not, how about visiting our next gathering on Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30pm? Pastor Niles will install our officers for the next term and will also present a topic (the subject has yet to be revealed; you'll have to come to find out). Remember, LWIM loves guests!

## **WINTERTIME BIBLE STUDY TO BE BASED ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

For many, the book of Romans is a favorite book of the Bible. Pastor Niles will be leading a several-week study based on a topic of Romans 1-14: "*The gospel and our righteousness*". This study will provide a comprehensive look at the life of a Christian, from our universal need for the gospel, to our existence as justified believers. Be sure to be in the Century Room on Sunday, January 4 (9:15am) for the first session.

## **PASTOR HANSON WRAPS UP REVELATION IN EARLY JANUARY**

From Saturday, January 3 through January 17, the book of Revelation study will deal with God's final victory over His enemies, the nature of God's eternal kingdom, and the promise of life with Him. Need some hope for the future? You won't want to miss the final sessions of this great book of the Bible.

## **EVER HEARD OF THE SMALCALD ARTICLES?**

If you're shaking your head, you're not alone. These articles are a summary of Lutheran doctrine, written by Martin Luther, for an intended ecumenical council of the church to be held in the town of Smalcald. To learn more about these little known but important writings of Luther, join Pastor Hanson in the library on Sunday, January 18 from 9:15-10:15am for the first session.

## **TWO NEW OFF-WEEKEND BIBLE STUDIES TO START IN JANUARY**

1. Rick Zeuner will begin a series at Lutheran High School on Monday, January 12 at 6:00pm in room 102. The study will look at the characteristics that define Godly leadership in a world filled with social media "influencers". Attendees will see what it takes to be a leader.
2. Mary Jo Cyr will start an online women's study on January 26. Based on the book "*Love Rules*", readers will see themselves in 40 short narratives depicting how pride, insecurity, and grudges can damage relationships. They will learn why we still need Jesus' perfect commandment-keeping love. Contact maryjocyr4@gmail.com for more information.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL WELCOMES ALL BETHLEHEM KIDS**

Whether your children are in public school, Bethlehem School, or are home-schooled (and are between age 3 and 8th grade), Sunday School has a place for them. Just take your child downstairs to the school lunchroom and Dustin Stielow will direct you to your child's classroom.

# More January News

## WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU RAISED YOUR HAND?

Maybe it was to ask or answer a question. Or maybe it goes way back to school days when you needed permission to leave the room. How about when offering your services as a volunteer? The Bible tells us that "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few". If you hear of something that needs to be done around church, do you offer your services without even being asked?

All these words from a well-known hymn to be your inspiration: *"Let none hear you idly saying 'there is nothing I can do'; Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be; Answer quickly when He calleth, 'Here am I, send me, send me!'"*

## HOW ABOUT THIS FOR A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

How about thinking of Sundays between 9:15-10:15am as THE EDUCATION HOUR?

Here's how it could work:

- ♦ If you have children ages 3 through 8th grade, take them to Sunday School while you are at Bible class.
  - ♦ If your children are younger than 3, you decide if they'd be ok sitting with you at Bible class.
  - ♦ If your children are older than 8th grade, take them with you to one of the pastor-led classes.
    - ♦ If you're an adult with no kids to consider, choose a class and enjoy.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SCRIP PROGRAM

If your Scrip credit went to Bethlehem Lutheran Church General Fund, Bethlehem Guardian Angel Program, or Bethlehem's Commitment to LHS, you can claim any profit on your income taxes. If you would like a copy of your report, please see a Scrip seller, or contact Brenda Kanz at 920-912-3086.

## A SINCERE THANK YOU

Thank you to all who showered us with gifts over the Christmas season.  
Your kindness and generosity are quite something!  
~ Pastor Niles, Pastor Hanson, and Amy Weir ~

## UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

Merry Christmas from Neat Repeats - come shop with us!

1/6—1/10: shoes, 50% off

1/13: everything in the store, 30% off

1/14-1/17: kitchen items, 50% off

1/20-1/24: all fabric, 50% off

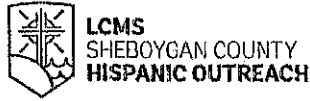
1/27-1/31: books, 50% off

## GERMAN RUSSIAN MEETING

The next meeting of The Sheboygan Chapter of Historical Society of Germans from Russia is Saturday, January 10 at 1:00pm in the Lutheran Fellowship Hall (824 Wisconsin Ave., Sheboygan). The meeting will begin with a variety of soups made by club members. The program will be information about Germans from Russia. Please park in the north parking lot and enter the Fellowship Hall through the north door. Light snacks and beverages will also be available. Visitors are welcome. Call 920-889-5550 with questions.

## UPCOMING VOTERS' MEETING

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 28 (7:00pm) for our next Voters' meeting.



December 17, 2025

The Lord continues His marvelous work through His Holy Sacraments, and we rejoice in seeing His grace at work in our community!

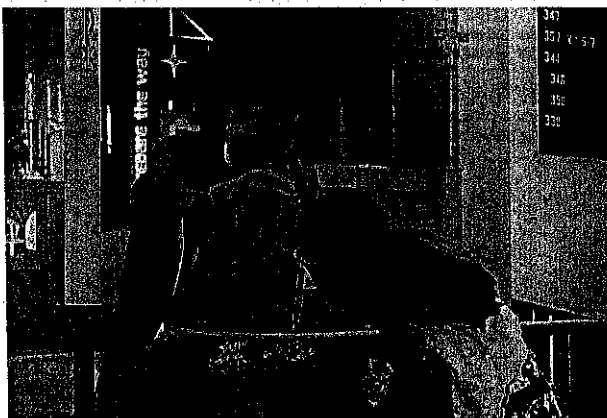
On December 7, we celebrated the Holy Baptism of Ada S. Chavarria. In this sacred sacrament, our Lord called Ada by name, washing her in the waters of baptism and joining her to Christ. Through this divine act, Ada has been clothed in Jesus, forgiven of all sins, and welcomed into the family of God. What a joyful moment for her family, friends, and all of us as a congregation!

Ada's baptism reminds us that God's mission is alive and active. Every child baptized, every person brought to faith, and every family nurtured in the Word is part of His ongoing work in our community. Through ministries like ours, the Gospel continues to shine, bringing hope, forgiveness, and the love of Christ to hearts that long for His presence.

We are so grateful for the faithful members and supporters whose gifts make this mission possible. Your generosity helps provide pastoral care, faith formation, and outreach opportunities that bring the saving love of Jesus to many more people. As we rejoice in Ada's baptism, we invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with this mission, so that more lives may be touched, more hearts drawn to Christ, and more souls welcomed into His eternal family.

Let us celebrate together the promise of baptism: that in Christ, we are all children of God, forgiven, loved, and called to shine His light in the world.

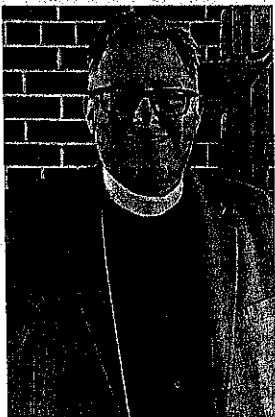
Serving Christ through His humble servant and yours,  
Rev. David Blas



# CELEBRATE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## Hispanic Outreach Ministry

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026  
12:30 PM BILINGUAL SERVICE**



**Guest Preacher:  
Dr. Rev. Nathan Meador  
President of the South Wisconsin  
District of the LCMS**

**Potluck Afterward - Bring a Dish to Pass**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1614 S 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Sheboygan, WI



**LCMS  
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY  
HISPANIC OUTREACH**



**Dear Church Family,**

As we step into a new year, many of us think about resolutions—ways to grow, improve, and make positive changes. This year, I'd like to encourage each of us to take one intentional step forward in our faith walk.

For some, that step might be committing to attend worship regularly if it hasn't been part of your routine. For others, it could be joining a Bible study to deepen your understanding of God's Word. And if you haven't yet found a way to serve, perhaps your resolution could be to reach out and get involved in a ministry or volunteer opportunity.

It doesn't have to be overwhelming—just one step. One decision that brings you closer to Christ and strengthens our community of faith. Together, these small steps can make a big difference in our lives and in the life of our church.

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*  
— Hebrews 10:23–25 (ESV)

**Take your next step today!**

**Join us for worship:**

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Wednesday: 6:00 PM

**Grow deeper in God's Word through Bible Study:**

Saturday: 4:15 PM

Sunday: 9:15 AM

... And sometimes Monday night, too!

Looking for more connection? Read on for opportunities to join a **small-group Bible study**. These groups are a wonderful way to build relationships, share life, and grow together in faith.

For more details and upcoming events, check out our updated calendar on the church website. Let's make 2026 a year of growth, connection, and commitment. I'm excited to see how God will work through each of us as we take that next step.

**Blessings,**

*Martha Becker*



### **Calling All Potential Small Group Leaders!**

As our congregation prepares to launch a new **Small Group Bible Study Ministry**, we are looking for faithful, creative, and welcoming members who may be interested in **leading a small group**. You do *not* need to be a Bible expert—just someone who loves God’s Word, cares for people, and is willing to host or gather a group in a comfortable location.

Small Groups will meet in a variety of settings and can be built around themes that fit your interests or the needs of your friends and neighbors. Here are just a few ideas:

- **Women’s Bible Study in the Garden** – meeting outdoors at a public garden or backyard to study “Faithful Women of the Scriptures.”
- **Brew & Bible (Men’s Group)** – gathering at a local restaurant or pub for fellowship and a study on Lutheran doctrine.
- **Young Families Group** – rotating homes to reflect on “Christ in the Home” while kids play nearby.
- **New-to-Lutheranism Group** – meeting in a coffee shop to explore Lutheran basics and Christian foundations.
- **Retirees’ Psalms Study** – meeting in the library or a senior center for prayer, comfort, and connection.

If you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you toward leading—or if you’re simply curious and want to learn more—please contact **Pastor Hanson** or **Pastor Niles**. We will guide you, train you, and walk alongside you as we begin this exciting new ministry together.

Let’s bring God’s Word into the places where His people gather!



# BETHLEHEM NIGHT at LUTHERAN HIGH



As a small way to say 'thank you' for your support of Sheboygan Lutheran High School,  
all members of Bethlehem will be admitted **FREE OF CHARGE!**

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

### CRUSADER BOYS VS. LIVING WORD

JV AT 5:50 PM | VARSITY AT 7:15 PM | BADGER HOT SHOTS AT HALFTIME

Join us in the LHS gym to cheer on the Crusaders!  
(Fun fact: The starting 5 are Bethlehem Badger graduates!)



# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES**

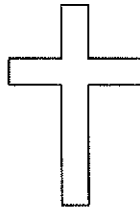
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **VISIT US ONLINE**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is on Facebook. Please also visit us at our website, [www.ourbethlehem.com](http://www.ourbethlehem.com). Check out the main page where you will find information about upcoming events and activities. See the calendar of important items. Find helpful information by clicking on the various tabs under *Church* and *School*.

## **FEBRUARY VISITOR DEADLINE**

If you would like to submit information for the February Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**. 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.

### **Congregational Sponsors**

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