

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

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


Sunday School ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

July 2026

MEMBERSHIP

 Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

 Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

 Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

July 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p> <p>Stewardship meeting 6:45pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Happy 4th of July! Walk in the parade!</p>  <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Picnic meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p> <p>Assimilation meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p>	<p>20</p> <p>August Visitor deadline (noon)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Sheboygan A's (Assimilation) -Tailgate: 6:00pm - Game: 7:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:30am</p>	<p>31</p>	

◇< Tischreden with Pastor Hanson >◇

Welcome to Table Talk with Pastor Hanson! Pull up a chair and let's give thanks to God for making us a faithful citizen of the United States of America in order to love and serve our neighbors, and a citizen of the Kingdom of God where we find our true citizenship in Christ Jesus.

A Tale of Two Citizenships

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This July, our nation continues its celebration of America's 250th anniversary. It is an opportunity to give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon our country: the freedoms we enjoy, the opportunities we have, and the countless men and women who have served their neighbors through sacrifice and dedication.

As Christians, however, anniversaries such as these also invite us to reflect upon a deeper truth: while we are citizens of the United States, we are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel readings appointed for this month help us keep both of these realities in proper perspective.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the weeds. The servants are eager to separate the good from the bad immediately, but the master tells them to wait until the harvest. Our Lord reminds us that this present world is a mixed field. Until Christ returns, believers and unbelievers, righteousness and wickedness, faith and unbelief will coexist. No earthly nation, government, or society will ever become the perfect Kingdom of God. We await that kingdom's fullness when Christ returns in glory.

Yet while we wait, we are not idle.

Later in Matthew 13, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a treasure hidden in a field and to a pearl of great value. These parables remind us that nothing in this world—not wealth, power, comfort, nor even national prosperity—can compare to the surpassing worth of belonging to Christ. The greatest blessing God has given us is not an earthly citizenship but a heavenly one purchased by the blood of His Son.

This truth gives shape to how we live as Christians in our communities and in our nation. We are free to love our country without making it an idol. We can celebrate its blessings while recognizing its imperfections. We can participate in civic life, pray for our leaders, and serve our neighbors, all while remembering that our ultimate hope is not found in Washington, Madison, or any earthly capital. Our hope rests in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Last month, the Gospel reading from Matthew 9 offers another important reminder to carry forward into this month. Looking upon the crowds, Jesus had compassion on them because they

were *"harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."* Then He told His disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."*

As America marks 250 years, the Church's mission remains unchanged. Our calling is not merely to preserve a nation but to proclaim Christ. We pray for our country because we love our neighbors. We serve our communities because Christ first served us. We share the Gospel because eternal citizenship matters far more than earthly citizenship.

The freedoms we enjoy are gifts from God and should be received with thanksgiving. But they are also opportunities—opportunities to worship freely, to teach our children the faith, to gather around God's Word and Sacraments, and to bear witness to Christ in our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities.

As we celebrate this historic anniversary, let us thank God for our nation while remembering that we belong to an even greater kingdom. Through Holy Baptism, God has made us His own. Through faith in Christ, we have become heirs of an eternal inheritance. Through His Church, He continues to gather us as citizens of a kingdom that will never end.

May God continue to bless our nation. More importantly, may He keep us steadfast in the true faith until that day when the harvest is complete and we rejoice forever in the presence of our King.

In Christ,

◇< Pastor Hanson



July News

LEADING WITH MISSIONS

For the July Mission of the Month, the Bethlehem Lutheran Women in Mission have selected **Bethlehem's Youth Mission Trip**. We have 16 youth and 7 adult leaders traveling to Fort Collins, Colorado from August 2-7. They will serve the local community through Three Trees Outdoor Ministry, whose mission is to help people encounter Jesus Christ through service projects, leadership development, outdoor experiences, worship, and Christian fellowship. This mission trip is an opportunity for our young people to put their faith into action and learn what it means to serve their neighbors in Christ's name. Please consider supporting these youth and adults as they prepare to share Christ's love through acts of mercy and service. Please pray that God would bless their service, strengthen their faith, protect them in their travels, and use them as His hands and feet in the Fort Collins community.

NEW SUMMER BIBLE STUDIES BEING PLANNED

Pastor Hanson will lead a 6-session study on "*Christian Hospitality and Evangelism*", beginning July 5. Whether or not you are comfortable talking about your faith, this study will encourage and equip you to be a faithful ambassador of Christ in your home, workplace, neighborhood, and church.

Pastor Niles will conclude "*A Christian Approach to Parenting and Family*" on July 5.

He is developing a new series which will begin on July 12. Watch the weekly bulletin and Facebook for more details.

WE ALL PRAY.....SOMETIMES

Where do you fall on this prayer scale?

- ◆ *Very little* - I rarely, if ever, talk with God.
- ◆ *Some* - I sporadically talk with God.
- ◆ *Often* - I talk with God every day.
- ◆ *Very often* - I constantly communicate with God throughout the day.

How about trying this "pocket prayer" (courtesy of Rev. Max Lucado):

"Father, because you are my dad, You care about my problems and You know how to handle them. Even in my struggles, I trust that You have a purpose for my life and will use these struggles for my good.

I need help. Heal me and forgive me. (What is burdening you?)

They need help. (Lay the problems of others before Him)

Thank you. (For caring about my problems and hearing my prayer)

In Jesus' name, Amen"

A MESSAGE FROM THE GUNDLACH FAMILY

Ken Gundlach, former Bethlehem principal and teacher, left this life for his home in heaven on May 27, after a long battle with cancer. His funeral was held at Bethlehem on Saturday, June 13, celebrating 44 years of service, including 13 wonderful years at Bethlehem. Thanks to our pastors and staff, and to all our members who so kindly visited Ken, sent cheering messages & cards, food & treats, and prayers, and who offered their assistance, especially during these last six months.

Blessings to you all ~ Jeri Gundlach and family

BETHLEHEM'S 50/50 RAFFLE

Watch for individuals selling tickets in the Century Room during weekend worship. **1/\$20 or 3/\$50.**

Are you interested in selling some tickets to your friends & neighbors? Stop by the church office.

- 1st Prize - 25% of total proceeds.
- 2nd Prize - 10% of total proceeds.
- (3) 3rd Prizes - 5% of total proceeds.

The remaining proceeds will go towards the operating budget.

The winning tickets will be drawn at our Church Picnic, being held August 16 @ Lutheran High School.

More July News

COMMUNITY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Bethlehem is partnering with several area churches to collect school supplies for local children and families in need. As part of this community-wide effort, Bethlehem's collection focus includes:

- ~ #2 Pencils
- ~ Pens (blue/black/red)
- ~ Wide-ruled notebooks
- ~ Composition notebooks
- ~ Index cards
- ~ Erasers
- ~ Highlighters
- ~ College-ruled notebooks
- ~ Loose-leaf notebook paper
- ~ Post-it notes

Donations may be placed in the Century Room through July 19.

Thank you for helping local students begin the school year equipped for success!

SHEBOYGAN A'S GAME

The Board of Assimilation welcomes you to join us at the Sheboygan A's game on Friday, July 24. Fellowship Tailgate, sponsored by the board, begins at 6:00pm, with the game to follow at 7:30pm. The cost is \$5/ticket (adult or child). The sign-up sheet is located in the Century Room (deadline July 19).

Turn in your payment to the church office or you can Venmo Emily Nickel: @Emily-Nickel-3.

Questions? Contact Emily at emclarenicks@yahoo.com or 920-254-1595.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be taking place at Bethlehem July 27-30 (see flyer in this edition of the Visitor).

Donations can be placed in the marked bin, located in the Century Room.

- ~ Fruit Loops
- ~ Raisins
- ~ Chocolate chips
- ~ Banana chips
- ~ Corn or Rice Chex cereal
- ~ Goldfish crackers (original)
- ~ Individual bags of chips/popcorn/pretzels
- ~ String cheese (individually wrapped)
- ~ Beef sticks (individually wrapped)
- ~ Jug/Hawaiian Punch
- ~ Small Gatorade bottles
- ~ Napkins / Paper plates / 5 oz. cups
- ~ Mini marshmallows
- ~ Yogurt or chocolate covered raisins
- ~ Rice Krispie cereal
- ~ Blue Jell-O (large box)

BETHLEHEM'S CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 16.

Please plan to attend this year's church picnic at our new location - the grounds of Lutheran High School! Worship begins at 10:30am, with fun, food, and fellowship to follow.

SAVE THE DATE!

Bethlehem's 2026 Winter Craft & Vendor Fair will be held on Saturday, November 7.

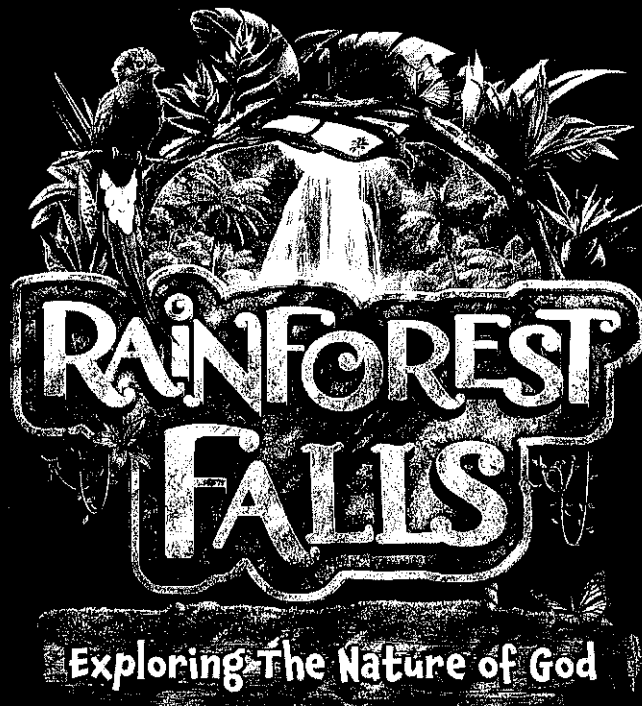
Are you a crafter or a vendor? Would you like to rent a booth or would you like to know more?

Contact Gail at craft_fair@ourbethlehem.com for more information or stop by the church office to pick up a rental agreement form. Spaces fill up fast, so don't delay!

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School



JULY | 27-30

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

*FREE event for all
children 4K - 8th Grade*

Register Here



**JOIN US FOR
GAMES, BIBLE STORIES, SNACKS,
CRAFTS & MORE!**

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

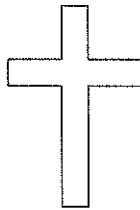
Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is on Facebook. Please also visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com. Check out the main page where you will find information about upcoming events and activities. See the calendar of important items. Find helpful information by clicking on the various tabs under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

AUGUST VISITOR DEADLINE

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

JOIN OUR UPCOMING EMAIL & COMMUNICATION LIST!

Stay informed with weather-related cancellations, receive The Visitor newsletter by email, and obtain special event announcements. Simply scan the QR code. We kindly ask that each adult in your household completes their own sign-up. We look forward to keeping you informed on all the happenings at Bethlehem Lutheran Church! This is on the calendar as a summer project. Stay tuned - we appreciate your patience!



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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