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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

> 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

Mar. 2025

# **MEMBERSHIP**





Sheboygan Lutheran High School Association



Sheboygan Area Lutheran Schools Association

# March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am	3 Rick Zeuner	4 Quilters	5 Reading Partners 1:00pm	6 Adult Choir practice	7	Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
Bible classes (First New Member class) 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	Bible class 6:00pm	9:00am LWML meeting 7:00pm	Confirmation class 3:30pm  Ash Wed. Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm  Stewardship meeting 7:00pm	7:00pm		Worship w/HC 5:30pm
Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm  PTL meeting 6:00pm	11	Reading Part 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm Assimilation meeting 5:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	13 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	14	Hible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
However the second of the seco	Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm  Board of Christian Day School meeting 6:00pm	April Visitor Deadline (noon) Quilters 9:00am	19 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	20 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	21	22 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
23/30 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes & Sunday School 9:15am  23rd: Bible Study Task Force 11:30am 30th: New Member Welcome Coffee Hr.	24/31 ,  24th: SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL  31st: Back to School	25 SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL	26  SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL  Soup Supper 5:00pm  Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	27  SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL  Adult Chair practice 7:00pm	28 SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL	29 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 our journey into the Lenten Season as a preparation for the victory of Christ on the cross and the grave!

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, we are reminded that this is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent calls us to walk with Christ on His journey to the cross, contemplating His sacrifice and love for us. It is a season marked by prayer, fasting, and giving—practices that draw us closer to God and help us to see His work in our lives and our church today.

In our congregation, Lent offers us an opportunity to deepen our faith together. Whether through midweek services, special devotions, or acts of service, we are invited to examine our hearts and re-center our lives on Christ. As Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness preparing for His ministry, so too are we given this time to prepare for the joy of Easter morning.

One of the most powerful themes of Lent is repentance. As we confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness, we are reminded of His grace poured out through Christ's suffering and resurrection. This message is as relevant today as ever. In a world filled with distractions and struggles, Lent urges us to focus on what truly matters—our relationship with God and the calling to live out His love in our daily lives.

The prophet Isaiah, centuries before Christ, prophesied about the Suffering Servant, a powerful image of the Messiah who would bear our griefs and carry our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4). Isaiah's words point us directly to Jesus, who was "pierced for our transgressions" and "crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5). As we reflect on Christ's journey to the cross, we see how these prophecies were fulfilled in His suffering and ultimate victory over sin and death.

As we journey through this season together, let us embrace the Lenten call to turn away from sin and turn toward Christ. May our church be a place of encouragement and spiritual growth, reflecting God's mercy to one another and to the world.

In Christ's grace,

<>< Pastor Hanson





CHURCH & SCHOOL



FRIDAY, APRIL 11
PINE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
4914 SUPERIOR AVE, SHEBOYGAN
6 PM - DOORS OPEN & CASH BAR
7 PM - DINNER & PROGRAM

This is a free event for adults only. Seating is limited. Reserve your spot by calling the church at (920) 452-4331 or emailing amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com by March 26.

Free childcare available at Bethlehem beginning at 5:30 pm.

# **March News**

## **NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

Our next session of New Member Classes will take place on the following Sundays from 9:15-10:15am: March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, and March 30 (please note that ALL are welcome to these refresher courses). On March 30 we will welcome New Members during the 8:00am worship service, with a special coffee hour to follow.

Please pass along this information to anyone you may know who would be interested.

#### A MESSAGE FROM BETHLEHEM'S QUILTERS

The Bethlehem Quilters are busy all year long. We love creating and sewing quilts for others. Thank you for your generosity in past donations. Our current needs are new or lightly used flat sheets, large pieces of new fabric, and quilt batting. We meet two Tuesdays a month (upcoming dates are March 4 & 18), starting at 9:00am. We'd love to have you stop in and join us!

### **OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

They will be holding a brat fry on Sunday, March 16 from 10:30am-1:30pm. Head over to 917 Mead Ave. to enjoy brats, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, assorted desserts, and beverages. Proceeds will help offset the cost for their new main entrance doors, scheduled to be replaced this year.

#### BETHLEHEM'S ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter breakfast will be served immediately following the sunrise service and will continue until 10:00am.

As in previous years, the cost of the breakfast will be a free-will donation.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 19, 9:00am-noon, for set-up and prep work.

Volunteers are also needed on Easter Sunday, April 20, 6:30-10:00am to cook, serve, and clean up.

Even if you can help a portion of the time, it would be greatly appreciated.

The menu will include scrambled eggs, egg toppings, cheesy hashbrowns, sausage links, fruit, baked goods, milk, juice, and coffee. Donations of baked goods are appreciated and can be brought to the kitchen on April 19 between 8:00-10:00am. If you are interested in helping with this annual tradition, please call or text Megan Boerger at 920-889-0056 or email her at m-boerger@hotmail.com.





# CHURCH DECORATION FUND for EASTER

We encourage you to join us on Easter morning for this fellowship gathering.

Please consider donating a monetary gift to the Altar Guild's Church Decoration Fund. All donor names, along with the designation as to whether the gift is being given in memory of, in honor of, or for blessings received, will be published.

Please designate which category, by circling in memory of or in honor of.

Please return to the church office. Make checks payable to **Bethlehem Altar Guild.** 

# Deadline for submitting donations is noon on Friday, April 11, 2025

Given by:		in memory/honor of	
Given by:		in memory/honor of _	
Given by:		in memory/honor of _	
	Given by:		for blessings received
	Given by:		for blessings received

# **More March News**

## **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 <a href="www.ourbethlehem.com">www.ourbethlehem.com</a>. 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 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.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Gathering Place is looking for friendly volunteers to help in their kitchen on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. They are looking for help with cooking, doing light prep work, serving meals, and washing dishes. Please email Mark at markjanke@stpaulfalls.com to set up an appointment.

## **STAR GALA FINANCIALS (2024)**

\$50,000 was applied to the general fund, \$37,617 was raised for the Fund-A-Need, and \$2,392 was raised from the Teacher Giving Tree.

## **UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS**

**3/4-3/8:** kitchen items, 75% off **3/11:** everything in the store, 30% off **3/12-3/15:** vases & scarves, \$0.50 **3/18-3/22:** all picture frames, \$0.25 **3/25-3/29:** jewelry, 75% off **4/1-4/5:** purses, duffels & luggage, 50% off

### 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 up until 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:

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# A message & greeting from The Hispanic Outreach!



*The Lord continues* His work through the Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County. The year 2024 was a year of many blessings. God has been good to our Hispanic Outreach, and we are grateful that He has allowed us to reach a new year, 2025. God's hand was in our midst, supporting us and providing for our ministry.

We are blessed that God has touched many lives around us to provide for our ministry in 2024. We are thankful for your support. Thanks for your commitment to help us with this ministry—it is sincerely appreciated.

We are very grateful! Thanks to these donations, we have been able to continue to preach the Gospel of Our Lord. With your generous support, we have reached many souls through this Ministry. Last year, the Lord received 6 new members through the rite of baptism. We instructed 11 individuals (2 youth and 9 adults), leading to Confirmation. We introduced our ministry to more than 100 new visitors throughout the year. We are blessed with offering growth, six months into the fiscal year, 23% ahead of plan. We are thankful for the generosity of 18 partner congregations across Sheboygan County. 162 mission backpacks were provided to students this year, through our partnership. Additionally, I began working with new families and am currently working with them, praying they become members soon.

*Great news!* The Lord continues to enlarge His family. On December 29, 2024, Mariu Victoria Rangel Rojas was baptized. Jesus has done it again! Thanks be to God!

*Thanks to the Lord*, we received one new member on November 17, Arelis Afanador, who was received through the Rite of Confirmation. She was born in Venezuela and moved to Sheboygan last year. To the glory of God, she is now a member!

**Good News!** Back in November of last year, we started at Good Shepherd a new service at 6:00 PM. This gives this ministry the opportunity to reach more people. For those who cannot attend the noon service, they now have another option.

*Operation Backpack* is on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Good Shepherd Sheboygan. We are already collecting supplies. Our goal is to collect 150 backpacks with school supplies. We would like to have all the supplies and backpacks by July 20. If you're willing to be part of this effort, please bring the school supplies to Good Shepherd. You can also send a donation with a memo: Operation Backpack, to: Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach 730 County Rd PPP Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. For more information, contact Rev. David Blas at 630-229-2455.

**Thank you** for reading this letter! Thank you for your continuing support for OUR Hispanic Ministry. Thank you for partnering with us. Please continue to pray for us! Please consider continuing to support us! May God richly bless you!!! We are looking forward to what the Lord has for us in 2025!

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

DON'T FORGET!

BETHLEHEM'S ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT, SPONSORED BY THE YOUTH GROUP!

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

CHECK OUT THE FLYERS AROUND THE BUILDING. SIGN UP AS A TEAM (8 MAX) OR INDIVIDUALLY. USE THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE CENTURY ROOM.



# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

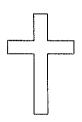
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

#### **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*.

### **APRIL VISITOR DEADLINE**

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