



**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN**  
1121 Georgia Avenue, 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)

Church: (920) 452-4331  
[infochurch@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:infochurch@ourbethlehem.com)

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 [www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)

 <https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem>

Rev. J. Patrick Niles  
*Administrative 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 2023**

**MEMBERSHIP**



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Sheboygan Area  
Lutheran Schools  
Association

# March 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Partners in Reading 1:00pm  Soup Supper 5:00pm  Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	2	3	4  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
5  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am	6  Bible Class 6:00pm  PTL meeting 6:00pm  Star Gala meeting 7:00pm	7  Quilters 9:00am  Board of Public Relations meeting 6:30pm  LWML meeting 7:00pm	8  Partners in Reading 1:00pm  Soup Supper 5:00pm  Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	9	10	11  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
12  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am  Youth Group 5:30-7:00pm	13  Bible Class 6:00pm	14  Texas Roadhouse Dine-In or To-Go Night, in support of the Youth Group 4:00-8:00pm (Bring your flyer!)	15  Partners in Reading 1:00pm  Soup Supper 5:00pm  Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	16  April Visitor Deadline (noon)	17	18  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
19  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am  Bible Study Task Force meeting 11:30am	20  Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	21  Quilters 9:00am	22  Partners in Reading 1:00pm  Youth Board meeting 4:30pm  Soup Supper 5:00pm  Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	23	24	25  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
26  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am	27  Spring Break No School	28  Spring Break No School	29  Spring Break No School  Soup Supper 5:00pm  Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	30  Spring Break No School	31  Spring Break No School	

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

### A Hopeful Grief

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ~1 Thessalonians 4:13-14~*

There are many times in our lives that are filled with grief. Grief is quite simply suffering over the loss of something. We may experience grief over the loss of a job... the loss of our youthfulness... or the loss of a person. Any loss can cause us grief, but grief is never meant to be the goal. Grief is the process by which you recognize and adapt to that loss. Grief is not meant to lead you to despair. Paul states quite the opposite in 1 Thessalonians 4. For Christians, grief is meant to lead us to hope.



Paul reminds the Christians in Thessalonica that it is good to grieve, but only if we grieve in hope. And hope can only come from the promise of resurrection, perfection, and the new creation. The reality that we will see our loved ones of the faith again, seeps into every facet of the Christian life.

Hopeful grief is actually a blessing that God has given us. When we look forward to the resurrection with eager expectation, it gives us the perspective to see our experiences now as only temporary. We may miss our dearly departed, but it will only be for a moment. Our reunion in the new creation will be for eternity.



Hopeful grief is not just a blessing to us, but it is also a blessing that we can share with others as we live our lives in love and service to our God and to our neighbor. When we listen and share the

burdens of our neighbors, we are, with the help of the Holy Spirit, facilitating hopeful grief. When we are a smile, a hug, or a caring shoulder to cry on, we are living out our hope while sharing it with others. This is what Paul talks about when he encourages the church in Corinth to *"be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). May this hope always be in your thoughts and actions!

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

# **UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** **AT BETHLEHEM**

<u>Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup></u>	Lent Midweek 8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup></u>	Lent Midweek 8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup></u>	Lent Midweek 8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup></u>	Lent Midweek 8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup></u>	Lent Midweek 8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup></u>	Palm Sunday 5:30pm (communion)
<u>Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	Palm Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am (communion in both)
<u>Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup></u>	Maundy Thurs. 6:00pm (communion)
<u>Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup></u>	Good Friday 1:00pm & 7:00pm (communion in both)
<u>Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup></u>	Easter Vigil 5:30pm (communion)
<u>Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup></u>	Easter 6:00, 8:00, 10:30am (communion in all)

Lenten Soup Supper will take place at 5:00pm prior to each evening Lent Midweek service (3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22 & 3/29).

# March News

## “WHISPERS OF THE PASSION” TO BE LWML TOPIC

Ladies: Hopefully this intriguing title piques your interest. To discover what those whispers are, join us at LWML on Tuesday, March 7th at 7:00pm in the Century Room. You don't need to be (or even become) a member to attend. LWML loves “company”.

## WEEKEND BIBLE CLASSES TO FEATURE A GUEST SPEAKER

Craig Toerpe of the LCMS Foundation will be our weekend Bible study leader for the first three weekends in March. His topic will be *“Born for Blessing”*. Plan to be in the Century Room on Sundays from 9:15-10:15am. You won't want to miss this special opportunity.

## SATURDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS

Per the above message, Craig Toerpe will be leading Bible class the first 3 Sundays in March. Pastor Niles will continue to lead the Saturday evening Bible class. His topic will be *“Is this Love?: The Art of Love in the Christian Life, according to 1 John”*. Join him in the Century Room from 4:15-5:15pm.

## YOU'VE HEARD OF “MARCH MADNESS”, BUT.....

How about “March Monday night Bible study”? From 6:00-7:00pm on March 6th and March 13th in the Century Room, our dynamic leader, Rick Zeuner of the Lutheran High faculty, will conduct a “deep dive” into Genesis 2. Some big questions will be addressed, like “Why did God put Genesis in place for us?”, “Do the Bible and science both support understandings for a young-earth view?”, and “How can we stand firm in our faith with a foundation of God's holy word?”.

Even if you've never come before, start coming now. You'll be glad you did.

## WOMEN'S ONLINE GROUP STARTS MARCH 6TH

It's not too late to sign up for a walk through the devotional book entitled “Sanctuary” by Denise Hughes. Discover some ways to lead the “quiet life” Paul speaks about in 1 Thessalonians 4. Contact Mary Jo Cyr at 920-912-2532 or maryjocyr4@gmail.com

## WHO DO YOU TALK TO AT COFFEE HOUR?

If you're like most of us, you seek out people you know to chat with. But what if, for the next week or two, you said a few friendly words to someone you don't know. You could start with a topic as ordinary as the weather. To encourage you, here's a quote from Maya Angelou, a famous American poet:

*“People may forget what you said, or what you did; but they never forget how you made them feel”.*

Do we want individuals to feel that Bethlehem is a friendly church?

## THE 2023 BETHLEHEM STAR GALA PRESENTS: “AN EVENING OF DENIM AND DIAMONDS”

Save the date: Saturday, September 23rd, 2023!

We are looking for current members of Bethlehem Church and parents of Bethlehem School to be a part of the 2023 Star Gala committee. We have a meeting scheduled for March 6th at 7:00pm in the library to set up the different needs. Areas include: sponsorship, silent auction & donations, invitations & printing, decorations, set-up, clean-up and more! If you are able to attend the meeting, please contact Keeli Johnson at [thestargala@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:thestargala@ourbethlehem.com) (or feel free to just show up)

## ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST— APRIL 9TH

The Easter breakfast will be served immediately following the Easter sunrise service and will continue until 10:00am. As in previous years, the cost of the breakfast will be a free-will donation. We are in need of volunteers to help with set-up and prep on Saturday, April 8th, from 9:00am until noon. We also need volunteers to help with cooking, serving and clean-up on Sunday, April 9th, from 6:30am until 10:00am.

Volunteers do not need to stay for the entire time; all help is welcomed.

The menu will include scrambled eggs (with available toppings), cheesy hashbrowns, sausage links, fruit, baked goods, milk, juice, and coffee. Donations of baked goods are appreciated and can be dropped off to the school kitchen on Saturday morning between 8:30-10:00am. If you can help, please contact Megan Boerger at 920-889-0056 or [m-boerger@hotmail.com](mailto:m-boerger@hotmail.com)

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

# More March News

## NEAT REPEATS

- 2/28-3/4: all picture frames \$0.25
- 3/7-3/11: all vases and all scarves \$0.50
- 3/14: 30% off everything in the store
- 3/15-3/19: jewelry 75% off
- 3/21-3/25: kitchen items 75% off

## TEXAS ROADHOUSE FLYER

Save the flyer in this edition of the Visitor!

Support the Alaska Mission Trip team as they travel to Nenana, Alaska in June.

Dine in or place a to-go order at the Sheboygan Texas Roadhouse on Tuesday, March 14th from 4:00-8:00pm. Present the flyer and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of the food order purchases to the Youth Group.

## YOUTH GROUP DATE FOR MARCH

Attention Junior & Senior youth! Please plan to attend our one youth group get-together this month. The date is Sunday, March 12th from 5:30-7:00pm.

## PART-TIME CUSTODIAL POSITION OPENING

Sheboygan Lutheran High School is accepting applications for a female custodial position. This year-round position is for evenings, 5 days a week, 4 hours a day, cleaning the school building and girls' facilities, to maintain a well-kept and sanitary facility. Applications for employment can be downloaded from the [www.lutheranhigh.com](http://www.lutheranhigh.com) website or obtained in the LHS school office (Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-2:00pm).

## FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHURCH WORKER STUDENTS

- 1). South Wisconsin District Financial Aid applications are due May 15th. Anyone attending a Concordia University or Seminary, is a member of an LCMS congregation in the SWD, and is preparing to be a full-time church worker (pastor, teacher, deaconess, DCE/DCO, DFLM, DPM, lay minister) is encouraged to apply. There are 2 applications required (District Financial Aid Application and Personal Aid Application). Both are available on the South Wisconsin District website — [swd.lcms.org/resources/student-aid-applications/](http://swd.lcms.org/resources/student-aid-applications/).
- 2). LWML Female Church Worker Scholarship. The LWML South Wisconsin District has been blessed to be able to award scholarships each year since 1991 to women from South Wisconsin District who are preparing for church work in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. An endowment was established to assist women with their undergraduate education. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2023-2024 school year. Application instructions and forms are available online at <https://www.lwml-swd.org/scholarships> (scroll to the bottom).

## LCMS FOUNDATION

It is important to involve family in your gifting plan from your estate. While financial gifts are valuable, passing on the faith is even more important. You can include a statement of faith in your will, or at least share a family blessing in writing, to become a special gift that lasts long after the Lord calls you home. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor has resources to help you craft this statement. Contact Craig Toerpe, Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation to answer questions regarding gifts to family, ministry, or other questions you may have regarding estate plan and gift plan at 262-707-3005 or [craig.toerpe@lfnd.org](mailto:craig.toerpe@lfnd.org)

## PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR 2023 CALENDAR

The Bethlehem Church family picnic will be held on August 20th, 2023.

## 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 Thursday, March 16th, 2023. Please feel free to email [amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com) or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

## WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Tom Stelter - February 3, 2023

## WELCOMED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM

Sawyer Robert Zittel - February 5, 2023  
Cassius Massimo Gamez - February 11, 2023



# FUNDRAISING

**DINE-IN OR TO-GO**

»» *Support* ««

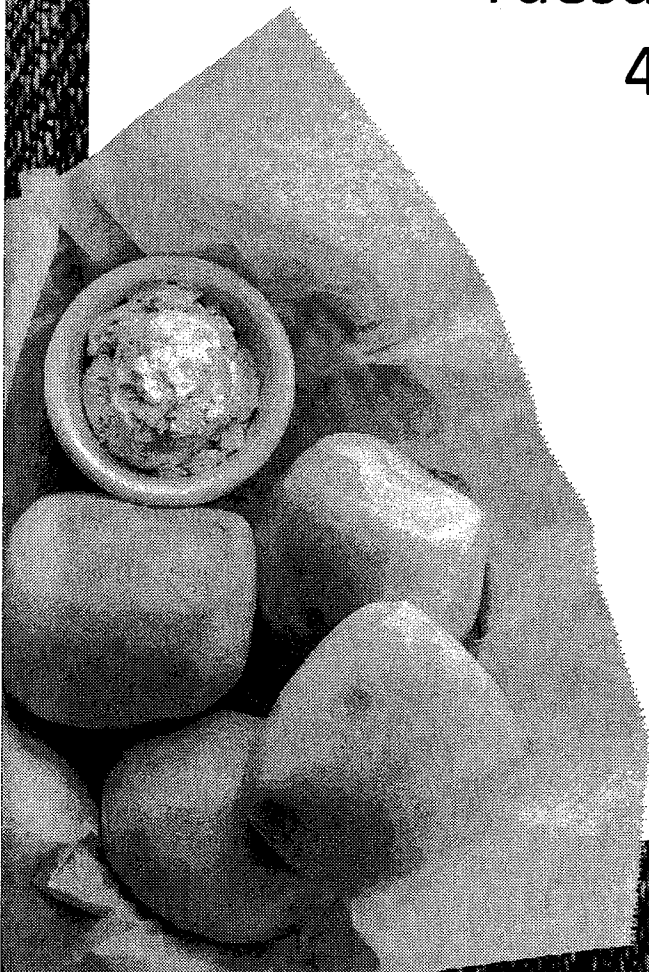
**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Tuesday, March 14th

4pm – 8pm

**10%**  
**DONATION NIGHT**

Support Bethlehem Lutheran Church by presenting this flyer to the Sheboygan Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases!



# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES**

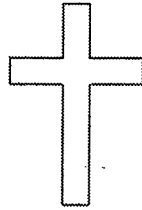
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **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](http://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*.



# **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 a 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**

Dennis & Nancy Bearns  
Sandra Fischer  
Leonard Johnson  
George & Karen Haecker  
Jim & Ruth Behrens

Bev Fischer  
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## **Commercial Sponsors**

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