

**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)

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

School: (920) 452-5071  
[infoschool@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:infoschool@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

# May 2025

**MEMBERSHIP**



Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Sheboygan Area  
Lutheran Schools  
Association

# May 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue



Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 LWML officer meeting 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	2 Grandparents / VIP Day at Bethlehem Noon School Dismissal	3 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
4 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Coffee hour for teacher recognition Bible class / Sunday School 9:15am *Bible Task Force mtg 11:30am *Elders mtg 11:45am	5 Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week!	6 Gala meeting 6:00pm LWML meeting 7:00pm	7 Culvers Day for Youth Group (all day, 3 locations) Reading Part 1:00pm Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Stewardship 7:00pm	8 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	9 Mom & Son Glow-Bingo 5:30pm	10 Altar Guild meeting 9:30am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
11 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	12	13 Quilters 9:00am	14 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Spring Pops Concert @ LHS 7:00pm	15 Youth Gathering leader meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	16 SALSA Track Meet @ Howards Grove LHS Graduation! 7:00pm	17 Confirmation pictures 9:00am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
18 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Confirmation Service 1:30pm	19 Board of Christian Day School meeting 6:00pm	20 June Visitor Deadline (noon)	21 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Assimilation meeting 6:00pm	22 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	23 NO SCHOOL	24 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
25 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	26 NO SCHOOL (Offices closed) Memorial Day	27 Quilters 9:00am	28 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	29 5K Graduation 4:00pm Ascension Worship w/HC @ Bethlehem 8:30am & 6:30pm	30 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! Closing Service School Picnic @ Kiwanis 8th Grade Graduation @ LHS	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 regular Bible study and devotion and how they are essential for growing in faith, as the Holy Spirit continues to guide us into the truth of Christ through God's Word.*

### **Growing in the Word: The Importance of Bible Study and Devotion**

*Based on John 16:12-15*

As we enter the month of May, a season of growth and renewal, it is fitting to reflect on the importance of growing in our faith through Bible study and devotion. Jesus' words in John 16:12-15 remind us of the vital role of the Holy Spirit in guiding us into all truth:

*"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."*

In this passage, Jesus prepares His disciples for the time when He will no longer be with them in the flesh. He promises that the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth," will continue to lead them in understanding His Word. This promise is not only for the disciples but for all believers, including us today. Through the Scriptures, the Spirit continues to work in our hearts, opening our minds to God's truth and deepening our faith in Christ.

#### **The Necessity of Bible Study**

Jesus acknowledges that there is always more to learn: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." His disciples had spent years in His presence, hearing His teachings and witnessing His miracles, yet they were not yet ready to fully grasp all that He had to reveal. If this was true for them, how much more is it true for us?

Bible study is essential because we, too, have much to learn. God's Word is not just a collection of ancient writings but a living testimony of His grace, revealing His plan of salvation through Christ. Regular engagement with Scripture helps us understand who God is, who we are in relation to Him, and how we are to live as His redeemed people.

Moreover, the Bible is not a book we can master in one reading. Each time we open it, the Holy Spirit works in us, revealing new insights, convicting us of sin, strengthening our faith, and equipping us to live as God's children in a fallen world. Without the discipline of Bible study, we risk being led astray by the falsehoods of the world and our own sinful nature.

#### **The Blessing of Daily Devotion**

Bible study, while necessary, must also be accompanied by daily devotion. Devotion is not merely an academic exercise but a time of personal reflection and prayer, in which the Word of God is applied to our hearts and lives. Jesus tells us that the Spirit "will take what is mine and declare it to you." The Holy Spirit takes the truth of Christ and makes it real and personal for us.

In daily devotion, we meditate on Scripture, allowing it to shape our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. We pray in response to God's Word, seeking His guidance, strength, and peace. Through devotion, we grow in our relationship with God, learning to trust in His promises and walk in His ways.

(continued....)

### Encouragement for Our Congregation

In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to neglect time in the Word. But as Jesus reminds us, there is always more to learn, and the Holy Spirit is always ready to guide us. May we be a congregation committed to studying the Scriptures and spending time in devotion, trusting that through His Word, God continues to shape us into His faithful people.

This May, I encourage you to set aside time each day to read, reflect, and pray. Join a Bible study if you haven't already. If you need a place to start, consider reading through the Gospel of John or a daily devotional like Portals of Prayer. As we grow in our understanding of God's truth, we will also grow in our faith, hope, and love in Christ.

God's blessings as you abide in His Word!

In Christ's grace,

◇< Pastor Hanson

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## Share Night Slip



A portion of the sales raised from this slip will go to  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church / Youth Group.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No additional coupons or discounts to be applied. **Good only on 5-7-25.**

Valid only at Culver's on 4225 State HWY 42, 641 S. Taylor Dr. and  
2510 Washington Ave.

# May News

## **REMEMBER THIS SONG FROM "HAMILTON"?**

"I'm Not Throwin' Away My Shot!" is a powerful statement from this famous musical. It brings to mind the question: "are you throwin' away yours?". If you are a communicant member of Bethlehem and are not currently a voting member, the answer very well could be "yes". In our congregation, decision-making does not flow from the top down, but rather from the bottom up. How about making a point of attending the next Voters' meeting? The date and time are always announced in the bulletin. Express your opinion and vote. In other words, "take your shot"!

## **LADIES: DID YOU ATTEND "ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT" ON DECEMBER 1?**

If so, the Bethlehem LWML was delighted to have you share that evening with us. And now, here's another invitation. On Tuesday, May 6 at 7:00pm in the Century Room, please come and get acquainted with our LWML. Audrey Braatz will present a personalized topic entitled "*Bethlehem LWML, Past, Present and Future*". Come and learn something about this hidden gem in our congregation. As a guest you will be under no pressure whatsoever. Will we see you there?

## **HAVE YOU TAKEN NOTICE OF OUR NEW SIGNAGE?**

Many of us usually use the parking lot entrance for church events and we never get a look at the Georgia Ave. side of our building, where we have some new great-looking blue and white signage. If you've ever tried to find your way to a meeting at an unfamiliar church, you know how important signage can be. Be sure to take a look at the front of our church and school. You'll be glad that you did!

## **GALA MEETING**

Help is needed for this year's Gala, which will be held on Saturday, September 27. The committee is looking for people to help get plans started! The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6 at 6:00pm in the library. Questions? Please contact Linda Zimbal at [lindaz@zimbalink.com](mailto:lindaz@zimbalink.com)

## **CULVER'S DAY, IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH GROUP**

Plan to eat out on Wednesday, May 7!

The Culver's flyer has been added to this edition of the Visitor. Make sure to take it with you to any of the 3 Sheboygan locations on May 7. Thank you for your continued support of Bethlehem's Youth Group!

## **ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD LADIES**

Your presence would be greatly appreciated at the next meeting, which will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 9:30am. Reminder: Altar Guild will be sponsoring coffee hour on May 11, so please bring your food/beverage items to the meeting, so that they are available for the next day.

## **NEAT REPEAT SALES**

5/6—5/10: lamps, 50% off

5/13: everything in the store, 30% off

5/14—5/17: shoes & socks, 50% off

## **HAVE YOU EVER WANTED YOUR VOICE HEARD ON BIBLE STUDY TOPICS?**

Now is your chance! We are conducting a survey to gather your preferences on Bible study topics and the best times for these sessions. Your input is invaluable in helping us create a more engaging and meaningful study experience. Please scan the QR code and complete the form to share your thoughts.

Thank you for your participation and for being an essential part of our community!

The QR code can be found on the flyer in this edition of the Visitor.

# **Questions Answered:** **A Layperson's Take on Group Bible Study**

Greetings in the name of our risen Savior Jesus Christ.

Christians throughout the ages have been plagued with questions regarding what the Bible says, and what they think it says. We, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, are blessed with Synodically-trained and ordained pastors who, through our worship services, walk us through the Old Testament, the epistle, and the gospel readings in the sermon.

Sermons are our pastor's venue for teaching and explaining the day's sermon text typically taken from either the epistle or the gospel. Every week, we hear the Word, and have it explained through the sermon. Hopefully, explanations such as these help answer questions that may arise from that day's readings.

As Christians, we are encouraged to spend time in His word by reading the Bible individually or through family devotions. Romans 10:17 says, *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."* In John 1:1, he tells us *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* Every time you have an opportunity to hear the Word, you are hearing God. Think of it as having the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit sitting next to you, and giving you hope.

Isn't it amazing how one can read a particular verse or passage three or four times, and then, suddenly, you discover something that you never caught before?

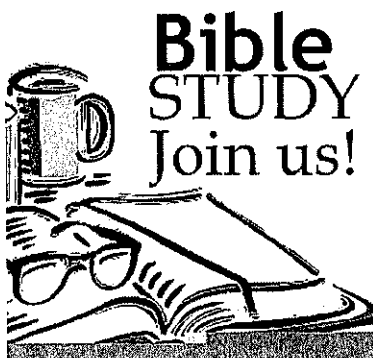
Personal study of the scriptures is essential for one's personal spiritual growth. However, that is not where spiritual growth should end.

Bible studies led by our pastors, Synodically-trained teachers, and lay leaders whose subject is guided by our pastor's aid, is yet another dimension to one's spiritual growth. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus answered, *"man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

Acts 2:42 tells us in the early church, *"Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"*. Teaching and fellowship seemed to have gone together and it still does today.

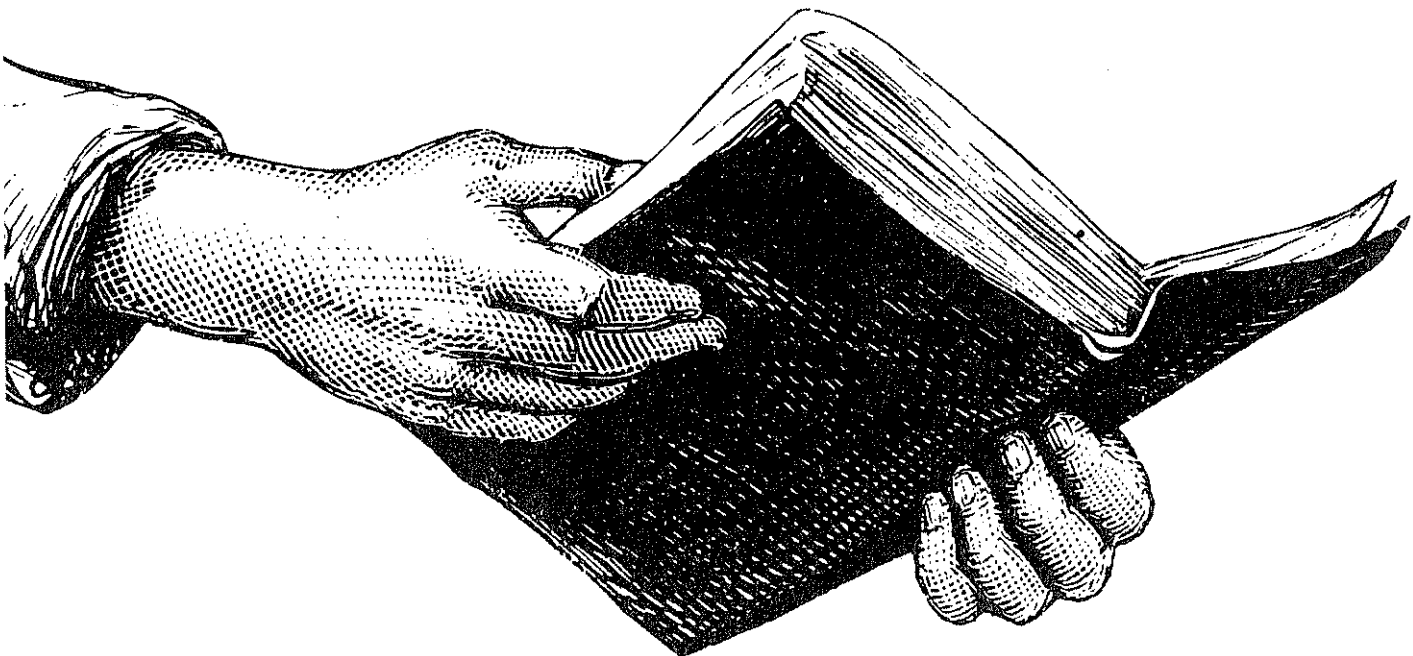
Bible studies are time well spent by first having heard God's Word, and given ample opportunity to ask questions regarding the subject and word at hand. In addition, and perhaps even more important is the opportunity to ask a pastor questions that arose during daily devotions and reading of scriptures.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend any of Bethlehem's weekly Bible study opportunities. Give it a try, you won't be disappointed.



# BIBLE STUDY SURVEY

Please complete this survey to  
voice your opinions on future  
Bible Study topics.



**Bethlehem Lutheran**  
CHURCH & SCHOOL





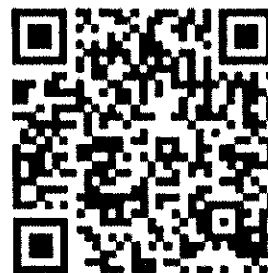
**Please join us for an Epic  
Australian Adventure!**

**Monday July 28th-  
Thursday July 31st  
8:30-11:30 AM**

**We will learn Bible stories,  
make crafts, play games,  
have snacks, and have SO  
MUCH FUN!**

**VBS is FREE for everyone!**

**Register today!**  
(Scan QR Code for  
online registration)





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

**March, 2025**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Mar 2025</b>	<b>Feb 2025</b>
Cash	\$ 161,186	\$ 249,834
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 961,103	\$ 961,103
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,331,750</b>	<b>\$ 7,371,743</b> Includes buildings & land
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>		
General Accounts Payable	\$ 10,108	\$ 65,309
SYNOD	\$ 0	\$ 3,830
Lutheran High School	\$ 0	\$ 5,000 Monthly Pmt \$2,500
<b><u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,347,036	\$ 1,355,763 Monthly Pmt \$11,778
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,481,959</b>	<b>\$ 1,553,931</b>
<b><u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)</b>		
Adult Envelopes	\$ 97,173	\$ 69,217
Tuition	\$ 39,053	\$ 18,437
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 167,630
Total Monthly Income	\$ 154,222	\$ 277,729
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 180,490	\$ 194,653
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ (26,267)	\$ 88,076
<b><u>TOTAL REVENUE 2025</u></b>	<b>\$ 590,521</b>	<b>\$ 436,298</b>
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2025</u></b>	<b>\$ 600,540</b>	<b>\$ 420,049</b>
<b><u>NET INCOME 2025</u></b>	<b>\$ (10,018)</b>	<b>\$ 16,248</b>

Adult giving for March came in above our budgeted estimates at \$ 97,173. Accounts payable came way down to \$10,108. If you haven't seen a friend in church, please give them a call and find out if they need anything. If needed, call the church office and let them know if there is a concern. Talk to a friend about Christ and if they have kids talk about enrolling them in our school. It's important to worship regularly and spend time together as fellow Christians. Worshiping together keeps all of us stronger in our faith!

**Thank you for your support!**

# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES**

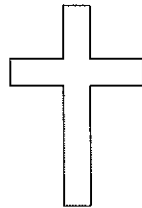
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **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. Scroll down to see a calendar of important items. Find helpful information by clicking on the various tabs under *Church* and *School*.

## **JUNE VISITOR DEADLINE**

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

### **Congregational Sponsors**

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