

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

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 [https://twitter.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

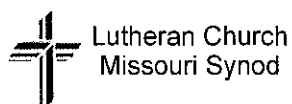
Bible Studies

Saturday evening ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Oct 2024

MEMBERSHIP



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

October 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | 1 Quilters 9:00am LWML meeting 7:00pm | 2 Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00 PPC meeting 7:00pm Stewardship 7:00pm | 3 | 4 | 5 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 6 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes & Sunday School 9:15am New Memb Welcome Coffee Hour Elders meeting 11:45am | 7 NO SCHOOL PTL meeting 6:00pm Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm | 8 | 9 Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm | 10 | 11 | 12 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm |
| 13 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am | 14 Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm | 15 Quilters 9:00am LHS Fall Sampler Concert 7:00pm Evangelism meeting 5:00pm | 16 Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm | 17 November Visitor Deadline (noon) | 18 | 19 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm Sheboygan Pops Concert @ LHS 7:00pm |
| 20 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am | 21 Pastor's Conference Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm | 22 Pastor's Conference | 23 Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Assimilation 6:00pm | 24 | 25 Bethlehem Bash 5:30-7:00pm  | 26 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm |
| 27 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am REFORMATION & LWML Sunday Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am | 28 Bethlehem Forensics 3:15-4:30pm Board of Christian Day School meeting 6:00pm | 29 Quilters 9:00am Parent-Teacher Conferences | 30 Parent-Teacher Conferences | 31 | | |

◇◇ Tischreden with Pastor Hanson ◇◇

Welcome to Table Talk with Pastor Hanson! Pull up a chair and let's talk about the Reformation and the legacy of Christian Education in our congregation!

The Lutheran Reformation and the need for a Director of Christian Education in our Church.

This year, as we approach Reformation Sunday, we are reminded of the pivotal moment in church history when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This act in 1517 sparked the Lutheran Reformation—a movement that reshaped Christianity and laid the foundation for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Luther's commitment to God's Word and the authority of Scripture inspired a return to biblical truth, reforming not just worship practices but also the way Christians are taught and nurtured in the faith. This month, as we celebrate the Reformation, we find ourselves reflecting on how Luther's teachings continue to inform the mission of our church—particularly in the area of Christian education.

One of the core principles of the Reformation was the priesthood of all believers, a concept that highlighted the importance of every Christian being able to engage with God's Word. Luther believed that everyone—children, adults, laypeople, and clergy—should have access to the Scriptures and be educated in their faith. This belief is why Luther not only translated the Bible into the vernacular but also emphasized the importance of Christian education for all. He understood that a church grounded in God's Word needed to equip its members with a deep understanding of Scripture, a task that requires intentional education and discipleship.

Luther's commitment to education is a legacy that still influences the LCMS today. In our congregation, we seek to honor this legacy by providing sound biblical teaching for all ages—from Sunday school for children to Bible studies for adults. Yet, as our church continues to grow and as society becomes more complex, the need for dedicated leadership in Christian education has never been more pressing. This brings us to a crucial conversation about the role of a Director of Christian Education (DCE) in our church community.

A DCE serves as a leader in developing and coordinating Christian education programs. Just as Luther sought to make sure every Christian was grounded in Scripture, a DCE helps ensure that our members—young and old—are growing in their faith through well-planned, intentional programs. Whether through youth ministries, confirmation classes, adult Bible studies, or outreach efforts, a DCE provides the expertise and passion needed to build a Christ-centered foundation for every stage of life. This ministry goes beyond simply managing programs; it is about fostering discipleship and helping individuals grow as followers of Jesus.

(continued.....)

In today's world, Christian education faces challenges Luther could never have imagined. Our children are growing up in a culture that often conflicts with biblical values. Many adults struggle to navigate life's complexities with a firm grounding in their faith. In these times, it is essential that the church offers robust and relevant education to equip believers for everyday life. A DCE is crucial in meeting these needs. By focusing on biblical literacy, faith formation, and life application, a DCE ensures that our congregation is not only learning about the Bible but also living it out in real and meaningful ways.

As Luther taught, education is a lifelong endeavor. We need consistent, faithful teaching to grow as Christians and to face the spiritual and moral challenges of our day. A DCE can provide the leadership to help our congregation not only remain rooted in the Reformation's principles but also to thrive in today's ever-changing world.

The legacy of the Reformation is more than a historical moment—it's a living tradition that calls us to continually renew our commitment to Scripture and to the teaching of the Christian faith. By calling a Director of Christian Education to serve in our congregation, we honor Luther's vision of an educated and engaged church, one where the Word of God is central in the life of every believer.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday this year, let us reflect on Luther's example and the importance of Christian education in our church. And let us prayerfully consider how a DCE could strengthen our mission to teach, disciple, and nurture the faith of all members of our congregation. Together, we can ensure that Luther's vision of a church grounded in God's Word continues to thrive in our church and in our community for generations to come.

In Christ's service,

◇< Pastor Hanson



Reformation Sunday is October 27th.

Bethlehem worship services: 8:00am and 10:30am

Reformation Rally: 4:00pm at Lutheran High School

October News

HAVE YOU NOT HEARD? HAVE YOU NOT SEEN OUR NEW SIGNAGE?

Have you taken a good look at the Georgia Ave. side of our church and school lately? If not, make a point of strolling or driving by. Flanking the church entrance you'll see two eye-catching blue & white signs.

Also, over the school entrance you'll see a gorgeous blue & white sign identifying the building as BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL. All of this new signage enhances the appearance of our buildings and announces to the community (and especially our neighborhood) that we are here for them. It invites them to "Come to Bethlehem and see".

DO YOU TAKE TIME TO LOOK AT (OR EVEN PHOTOGRAPH) OUR POSTERS?

The Century Room is ablaze with colorful posters advertising the many and varied events occurring at our church and school. Of ongoing interest is the beautiful fall leaf poster, which lists our adult education Bible Study opportunities. In October both of our pastors will lead topics with broad appeal.

Where will we see you?

- ◆ Pastor Hanson will continue with *"Acts of the Apostles"* as they face danger, imprisonment, etc., while also laboring tirelessly to spread the Gospel.
- ◆ Pastor Niles will continue delving into Proverbs under such intriguing subjects as *"Fruits of Foolishness"* and *"An Ode to a Wise Wife"*.

DO YOU FORGET TO REMEMBER?

Some time ago there was a popular love song featuring the words "But you forgot to remember". It was a love song in which the rejected lover said, "You promised that you'd forget me not; but you forgot to remember".

Do we do that to the Lord? The Bible tells us to remember a lot of things, like, "Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy". Or how about communion where the Lord says "This do in remembrance of me". Do we remember to continue in the study of His Word or to physically come together each week to worship?

You can probably think of other examples; so let's ask the Lord to help us in order that we don't "forget to remember" Him.

"COATS FOR KIDS"

Bethlehem Lutheran School and the Bethlehem Board of Social Ministry is working with Reinbold-Novak Funeral Home and the Salvation Army Corp. to help collect items for the winter season. We will have a collection station in the front lobby of school for NEW coats, hats, gloves, snow pants and scarves for children, as well as NEW adult sized coats. The Salvation Army will distribute these coats to Sheboygan County residents who would otherwise go without. We will be collecting the items from September 1, 2024 through November 4, 2024.

JOIN THE QUILTERS

The upcoming quilting dates are October 1st, October 15th and October 29th, beginning at 9:00am in the Century Room.

BETHLEHEM SPIRIT WEAR

Scan the QR code from the posters located around the building. This will take you right to the store, where you can purchase a variety of Bethlehem gear. The information is also found on our website's home page.

Items are also on display in the trophy case located in the school first floor hallway.

Church and school families - Happy Shopping!

VOTERS' MEETING

Please plan to attend the next Voters' meeting, which will be held in the church on Wednesday, November 20th @ 7:00pm.

More October News

SEMINARY STUDENT GIFT CARDS

Bethlehem will again be collecting gift cards for students at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We will be collecting the cards during the month of October. These gift cards will be distributed to the students to help provide a joyful Christmas for them and their families. It is asked that gift card denominations be no larger than \$50. This makes it easier to divide the gift cards equally. For convenience, you can purchase gift cards through our Scrip program. Feel free to leave your cards with the Scrip sellers or they can be turned in to the church office. If you leave your donation in the church office, please attach a note indicating that it is for the Seminary students. Some suggestions are Walmart, Target, Meijer, Old Navy, Kohls, JCPenney, Olive Garden, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Texas Roadhouse, Buffalo Wild Wings, BP, Shell, Marathon, Speedway. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Any questions, please call Brenda Kanz at 920-912-3086.

UPCOMING NEAT REPEATS SALES

10/1-10/5 - craft kits & beads 50% off
10/8 - everything in the store 30% off
10/9-10/12 - jewelry 50% off
10/15-10/19 - shoes & socks 50% off
10/22-10/26 - Halloween decorations & costumes 50% off
10/29-11/2 - Halloween decorations & costumes 75% off

BETHLEHEM'S FORENSICS PROGRAM

If you enjoy working with children, if you enjoy listening to public speaking, such as dramatic presentations, or if you have helped with children's musicals or plays, you may be just the **RIGHT** person to help volunteer in Bethlehem's Forensics program. Students in grades 5-8 will learn to expressively read or act out a piece of literature in front of an audience and in competition with other students their own age. We will meet in the Century Room on the following Mondays (Oct. 28th, Nov. 11th & Nov. 18th) from 3:15-4:30. If you are interested in helping, please call Laurie Schultz at 715-212-3522 or email her at laurie.schultz@ourbethlehem.com by October 11th. Thank you!

BETHLEHEM'S CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR IS ALMOST HERE!

If you have any questions regarding this event, please email craft_fair@ourbethlehem.com. Please mark November 9th on your calendar and plan to attend! You'll enjoy shopping the 50+ vendors and crafters for a wide variety of items.

NOVEMBER VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the November Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, October 17th, 2024. 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.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Gwen Kolbe - September 2, 2024
Geraldine Rusch - May 23, 2024
Janice Trempe - May 5, 2024
Barry Siech - April 11, 2024
Marion Pilgrim - March 16, 2024
Judith Reinemann - March 13, 2024
Dawn Liebergen - March 9, 2024
Al Hilpertshauer - March 3, 2024

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

August 31, 2024

| ASSETS | August 2024 | July 2024 | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cash | \$ 81,886 | \$ 108,646 | |
| Endowment Funds – Principal Only | \$ 840,123 | \$ 840,123 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 6,944,822 | \$ 6,436,964 | Includes buildings & land |
| <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u> | | | |
| General Accounts Payable | \$ 77,098 | \$ 98,998 | |
| SYNOD | \$ 3,500 | \$ 0 | |
| Lutheran High School | \$ 5,000 | \$ 1,750 | Monthly Pmt \$2,500 |
| <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u> | | | |
| Mortgage Thrivent | \$ 1,407,718 | \$ 1,416,310 | Monthly Pmt \$11,778 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 1,625,717 | \$ 1,652,597 | |
| <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts) | | | |
| Adult Envelopes | \$ 77,469 | \$ 94,364 | |
| Tuition | \$ 43,892 | \$ 6,759 | |
| School Choice Program | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | |
| Total Monthly Income | \$ 134,302 | \$ 119,940 | |
| Total Monthly Expenses | \$ 209,982 | \$ 180,158 | |
| Total Monthly NET INCOME | \$ (75,679) | \$ (60,217) | |
| <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2024</u> | \$ 1,302,440 | \$ 1,168,138 | |
| <u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2024</u> | \$ 1,435,511 | \$ 1,225,528 | |
| <u>NET INCOME 2024</u> | \$ (133,070) | \$ (57,390) | |

FYI – We will adjust our Thrivent Mortgage for the next five years on April 1, 2026. Adult giving for August was at \$77,469, came in at our budget estimate. Accounts payable are a little more than our cash at this time. At the end of September or early Oct we will receive our first WI Voucher payment for the new school year. We had three payrolls in August dropping our net income lower. Please remember to worship on a weekly basis and encourage your fellow Christians to do the same. It is important to spend time together strengthening each other in our faith. For those of you who supported our Gala for 2024, Thank You!

Thank you for your support!

Winter Vendor & Craft Fair

Bethlehem Lutheran School

1121 Georgia Ave, Sheboygan, WI

Saturday, November 9th

9:00—2:00

50+ Vendors & Crafters

Raffles* • Bake Sale

Food & Beverage Concessions

**Get one free raffle ticket with each*

\$2 entrance fee

(purchase additional raffle tickets for \$1 each)

Eliminate shipping delay worries...

SHOP LOCAL for Christmas!

Finishing up a round of golf, Sam complained about being so busy that he cannot golf as much as he wanted to in retirement. “My game is still bad, and I can’t play enough to get better. Between doctor appointments, meeting with my financial advisor, attending the two boards I serve on at Church, and all the projects my wife gives me, I just can’t play.” Frank replied, “I know what you mean. My wife wants us to redo our estate plan, but I keep telling her that I’m too busy already. I think we should just hand it over to the kids and let them worry about it.”

This sentiment is far too common, as the task of creating or updating a Christian estate plan seems daunting with the thought of hard work and expense. There is both work and expense involved, but the time invested in your estate is of high value. In the gift plan you create, you are directing the gifts God has given you to steward. He has entrusted them into your care. With that trust comes responsibility to put together a well laid out plan. Your plan will include choosing responsible representatives to ensure accountability, and to make sure the plan God has placed on your heart, is additionally carried out through your legal documents and beneficiary designations.

You do not have to go through this process alone. You have help and resources to help you through this process. You have a friend. In fact, if you start on this project and begin to organize all of your thoughts and wishes, you will find it wasn’t really that bad after all. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be that friend. For help, Contact Craig Toerpe, Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation to help facilitate these important conversations at 262-707-3005 or craig.toerpe@lcmd.org

✘ Director of Christian Education (DCE) ✘

DCEs serve as lifespan (“cradle to grave”) Christian educators, who typically serve within congregations and their ministries. Through their leadership and service, they assist and support pastors as they teach the faith to children, youth, and adults.

We have been giving out information on Sunday mornings regarding the possibility of calling a DCE to serve at Bethlehem. It has inspired some questions in terms of what is needed to accomplish this task, or “how do we get this done?”

So....how DO we get this done?

When discussing a position, such as a DCE, there are many layers to bringing in another staff position. We certainly can’t discuss all of them in this small space. All of these layers have many moving parts that can cause issues to arrive along the way. However, none of these issues are insurmountable, and all of them require unity of support and dedication from the members of the congregation. After all, the church’s workers are here to serve their God by serving you. Let us take a look at just three of these layers, and begin to work through them.

Process - A DCE would be a called position in our church. This means that the Voters’ Assembly would need to approve the calling of a DCE. Upon that permission, a call committee would be formed and begin the work of identifying, interviewing, and recommending a person to fill this position. The Voters’ Assembly would extend a call to that person, and that person can either accept or decline it. There is also a chance that we could call a new graduate from one of the LCMS colleges.

Cost - Any new staff position in the church or school is going cost \$60,000-\$80,000 once you factor in benefits. We did write some of this money into the budget for this year. As stated in the bulletin insert a couple of weeks ago, the congregation has responded in faithful stewardship. We do have work still to do, and the challenge is still before us. We have to make sure that we can fund this position into the future to complete the work that God has given us to do.

Timeline - This depends upon the congregation and the call process. Once the congregation is willing to take on the financial responsibility of a DCE and gives authority to begin the call process, a conservative estimation would be that the process could take 6-18 months. There are a lot of variables to shorten or lengthen that time frame.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

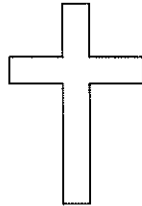
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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. 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 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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Sandra Fischer
Leonard Johnson
George & Karen Haecker
Jim Behrens

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