

**Bethlehem Lutheran**  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

1121 Georgia Ave. Sheboygan, WI 53081

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Sheboygan Falls, WI  
Permit No. 11

Address service requested

**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)



[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

**Oct 2025**

**MEMBERSHIP**



Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Sheboygan Area  
Lutheran Schools  
Association

# October 2025

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

			<b>1</b> Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00 Assimilation 6:00pm Stewardship 7:00pm	<b>2</b> Pastor Blas Spanish Class 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC LWIM Weekend 5:30pm
<b>5</b> Worship w/HC LWIM Weekend 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am Task Force 11:45am Bethlehem Golf Outing 1:30pm	<b>6</b> Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm PTL meeting 6:00pm BCDS meeting 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Endowment meeting 6:00pm LWIM meeting 6:30pm	<b>8</b> Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>9</b> Pastor Blas Spanish Class 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>12</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am Confirmation meeting 11:45am	<b>13</b> Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>14</b> Quilters 9:00am	<b>15</b> Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>16</b> School picture retake day Pastor Blas Spanish Class 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>19</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am New Memb: 8:00am Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am New Memb Welcome Coffee Hour Elders 11:45am	<b>20</b> Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm Pastor's Conference	<b>21</b> November Visitor Deadline (noon) Pastor's Conference	<b>22</b> Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>23</b> Pastor Blas Spanish Class 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	<b>24</b> <b>Bethlehem Bash 5:30-7:30pm</b>	<b>25</b> Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>26</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am Reformation Service @ LHS 3:00pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Quilters 9:00am	<b>29</b> Reading Partners 1:00pm Public school Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>30</b> Pastor Blas Spanish Class 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	<b>31</b>	

# From the desk of Pastor Niles

## Evil in the World and the Christian Life

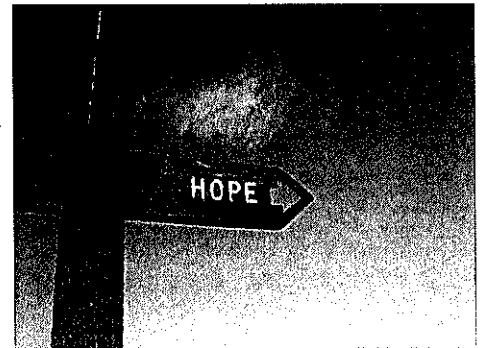
It is hard to be a Christian during last few weeks in our country, and not be aware of the evil that surrounds us in this world. From an assassination to a school shooting to the vitriol and rhetoric used in our country, evil is right before us. It is covered on our 24-hour news cycles, written about in our newspapers, and seen in blogs and articles online. It is tempting and easy to think that we are living at the worst time in our country. It is easy to despair, become frustrated, or become angry. However, if we look at the history of our country (and our world), it will not take us long to see that evil and violence has been interwoven into the human experience since the fall into sin. The very first account after the fall into sin in the Scriptures is about a man killing his brother out of jealousy. Evil has reared its head throughout history in assassinations, genocide, tyrants, war, and conquest. So instead of throwing up our hands in despair, maybe we should look at what God's Word says about living as Christians in an evil world.

In John 16:33, Jesus says, *"In the world you will have tribulation.*

*But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

Jesus is very explicit that evil is a condition of the world. Evil seeks to extinguish anything and everything that is good. This means that evil will always try to extinguish the church. But we are called to remember that Christ has already won the war against evil, even if we have to still fight the skirmishes on this side of eternity.

A friend of mine posted the following on social media a week ago: *"Paul was greeted in heaven by the martyrs that he had put to death... and they were rejoicing."* While there are evil thoughts, evil ideologies, evil circumstances, and evil actions, it is important that we not think of people as evil. To think of humans as anything but souls for whom Christ died, dehumanizes them. It makes it easier to hate them, hurt them, and get rid of them. Christ does not commend us to behave in this way. Paul lays out the following way of Christian life in Romans 12: *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*



We are called to live in the confidence of our future in Christ. We are called to be positive influences on all that is around us. However, we are not to seek vengeance. We are not to be quarrelsome, rude, or off-putting. We are called to do good to all that are around us, because everyone around us is someone for whom Christ died. They are someone who God wants "to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). There is evil in the world, but Christians are called to be good in the world... God's good. The proclamation of the Gospel and the forgiveness of sins is the work of the church. It is what we are called to "be about" as God's people.

So this month, let us pray. Let us pray for our country, its leaders, and the tensions that exist in the political sphere. Let us pray for the disadvantaged, the poor, and the destitute. Let us pray for our enemies and the courageous opportunity to witness to them. Let us pray for safety and peace. Let us pray for the hope that endures to eternity.

In Christ,

Pastor Niles



September 22, 2025

**Greetings** from The Hispanic Outreach members! The Lord continues His work through the Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County. Thanks to God for His continue work in our midst!

***Evangelizing at the Latin Barber Shop – Friday, September 19th***

Last Friday, September 19th, I visited the Latin Barber Shop in Sheboygan. As part of my ministry, I like to visit places where Hispanics gather, to meet new people and seek opportunities to share the Gospel with them. I spent about three hours there and had the chance to talk with several individuals. I always wear my clerical collar so people can identify me as a church worker.

While I was there, one person pulled me aside to a corner because he needed someone to talk to. He began sharing the struggles he was facing. I gladly listened, offered him advice, and when he asked, I prayed for him. After the prayer, I gave him a hug, and he left. I could see how that man, who initially seemed tired and troubled, walked away filled with joy—blessed by God right there in that barbershop! I thank God for placing me in the right place to share His words of life and encouragement.

Later, I met a 20-year-old young woman. We spent quite some time talking about God. At one point, she asked if I was a Catholic priest. I told her I wasn't—that I'm a Lutheran pastor. She explained that she had been looking for a Catholic church to visit but hadn't found one she liked yet. I told her, "God put you in my path today so you can find the right place. I want to introduce you to a church where the Gospel is preached exactly as it is, and the sacraments are administered according to the Lord's intention."

She responded, "What is it like? Tell me more. What is the Lutheran Church?" I explained what we believe, teach, and confess in the Lutheran church. She said, "That sounds interesting."

I invited her to our Sunday service, and she replied, "I'll be there, God willing." And she came! Not only that—she brought her mother and younger sister too. After the Divine Service, I asked them, "How did you like it?" and all three said they really enjoyed the service and would come back. Praise God for bringing them to His house!

Later that day, I sent them a message thanking them for joining us. They replied, "We are really happy to have been in God's house today," and also asked, "Can you say a prayer tomorrow? It's our mother's birthday." I responded, "Yes, with great pleasure." Early the next morning, I prayed for her and sent her a written birthday prayer.

The work with this family will continue. I thank God for placing them in my path so that His Kingdom may continue to grow.

**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! May God richly bless you!!! Looking forward to what the Lord has for us!

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

# October News

## **NEW NAME. NEW MEETING TIME. SAME MISSIONARY ZEAL!**

If you're wondering what group this could be, it's a long-standing group in the fabric of Bethlehem Church, which you know as the Bethlehem LWML. We have embraced the new name adopted by our national group and we will be known as "Lutheran Women in Mission" (LWIM).

We feel that this name better describes our core purpose.

Our meeting time is the first Tuesday of the month, September through May.

Sensing a preference at Bethlehem for an earlier meeting time, we will now begin at 6:30pm.

In this edition of the Visitor, you will find a description of our new, closer-to-home missionary project. We hope that all of our congregation members will get involved. The collection of funds, via Mite Boxes, will continue, since they do a "mite-y" fine job of financing larger projects. Pastor Niles is working with our group to insure that the chosen Mission of the Month projects are worthy of our support.

Will you get on board with Lutheran Women in Mission?

## **UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS**

9/30-10/4: pictures and frames, 50% off

10/7-10/11: hats, scarves, ties, and belts, 50% off

10/14: everything in the store, 30% off

10/15-10/18: vases, 50% off

10/21-11/1: Halloween decorations and costumes, 50% off

## **AN INVITATION TO A FUN TIME**

Ladies, you're invited to a "thrift store morning".

On Saturday, October 25 at 10:00am, the LWIM Fall Rally of Zone 8 will lead off with a presentation by a rep from Neat Repeats, the thrift store that supports LHS. This will immediately be followed up with a Neat Repeats Style Show, put on by the host society. Doesn't that sound like fun?

**Place:** St. Thomas Lutheran Church, corner of M & N in Waldo.

**When:** October 25 at 10:00am.

**Activities:** Speaker, style show, short meeting, and light luncheon.

You don't have to be a member to attend. Come one, come all! Let's learn how to look good on a budget!

## **LEADING WITH MISSION**

The Bethlehem Lutheran Women in Mission, formerly known as LWML, have chosen a South Wisconsin District Mission Grant for November, which is a Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailer.

Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) serve families and individuals in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, and tornadoes. When deployed, LERT teams traditionally use congregations in the disaster areas as their base camp. The host congregation provides a place for the LERT team to sleep, eat, rest, recover, and receive spiritual care during their time of service.

One challenge for team members has been a lack of showers and laundry facilities at the host church. The mission grant request is to help offset the cost of 2 combination bathroom / shower / laundry trailers, to be used during disaster response work.

If you would like to learn how to become a LERT-trained volunteer, visit the SWD LCMS website.

Please support and pray for this worthy mission.

## **DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LIKE THIS?**

A man I know told me that he had presented the gospel to a very intelligent man, a college professor.

The simple gospel is that we gain eternal life by believing and trusting in Jesus alone.

After much discussion, the professor said that he would not believe the Bible until he understood it.

My friend then told the professor "My friend, then you will die and spend eternity in hell because you will never understand it until you believe it".

Do you know someone who is the professor in this story?



**Bethlehem Lutheran**  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

W I N T E R  
**VENDOR & CRAFT**  
*Fair*

**Sat. November 8th, 2025**

9am to 2pm

1121 Georgia Ave. Sheboygan WI

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Over 50 Vendors & Crafters**  
**RAFFLES - BAKE SALE**  
**CONCESSIONS**



*Get 1 FREE raffle ticket with*  
**\$2 entrance fee**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Shop local. Support small business.  
Find something for everyone.

This year's Church Picnic planning committee would like to share information received from the survey results, along with the revenue/expense data.

## **Church Picnic Survey (46 surveys returned)**

1). Do you plan to attend the Church Picnic this summer on August 17 at Kiwanis Park?

Yes: 36

No: 8

Maybe: 2

2). If you DO NOT plan to attend, why?

Age/mobility issues on uneven (grass) surface: 2

Work schedule: 1

On vacation: 1

It's a cost the church does not need: 1

It seems rushed; help is clearing tables too soon: 1

Other commitments: 2

3). What types of youth or adult activities do you enjoy doing most at the picnic? (i.e. kid games, face painting, closest-to-pin, beer tasting, bags tournament, socializing, bingo)

All: 1

Socializing: 23

Listening to polka band: 1

Beer tasting: 6

Bags: 10

Closest-to-pin: 6

Bingo: 18

Volunteering / serving / assisting: 2

Kid games: 5

Face painting: 3

Basketball: 1

Comments:

- The absence of outdoor table seating encouraged families to 'circle up' the seating. This practice discourages 'cross socialization'.
- I usually attend service, eat, and leave.
- Listening to a polka band.

4). What types of youth or adult activities do you wish were available at the picnic? (i.e. softball, volleyball, tug-of-war, bounce house)

Bounce house: 6

Trivia: 1

Volleyball: 9

Karaoke: 1

Board games: 1

Card games: 2

Softball: 4

Tug-of-war (pastor vs. pastor): 7

Pony rides / petting zoo: 1

Kickball: 1

Comments:

(1)

- No to tug-of-war, bounce house not worth cost.
- Any activity that will get members to interact with each other is good.
- I'll watch, but won't participate.
- Would PTL sponsor something?
- Craft table with any leftover supplies from VBS?
- Tug-of-war could be named 'Earl Zastrow Memorial Tug-of-War'.

5). Are you willing to donate money to help offset any extra activities? (i.e. bounce house, balloon lady)

Yes: 16

No: 5

Maybe: 4

6). What sort of music do you prefer we have during the fellowship portion of the picnic? Live polka band or a variety played over the speaker?

Variety: 26

Polka band / live music: 9

Either / no preference: 6

Country: 1

Comments:

- Prefer live, but since people are busy doing other things and not listening intently, recorded music is ok (freeing up money for other things).
- If polka band is local, would support.

7). Do you enjoy the current food options or would you like to see any other options offered?

Current options are fine: 40

Hot dogs: 2

Grilled cheese: 1

Corn on the cob: 1

Ice cream truck or sundae bar: 1

Brat on a stick: 1

Oostburger (brat / hamburger combo): 1

Comments:

- Hamburgers are yummy.
- Picnic fare is great but hot foods must be able to be kept hot and cold foods cold.
- Menu options have shrunk over the years.

8). The City of Sheboygan has become more restrictive with park spaces and added additional costs. If the picnic was held at Bethlehem, utilizing our facilities and green space, would you be more or less likely to attend?

More likely: 13

Less likely: 6

Will attend either: 21

Comments:

- Holding event at Bethlehem would lose the atmosphere of a picnic. Is cost at all parks the same?
- Build it and they will come.
- Space issues / parking could be a problem. Would St. Peter Claver be available for parking?
- Depends on day.



- Likely to attend – same. Preference – city park.
- More likely, but prefer Kiwanis.
- Use 11<sup>th</sup> St. / block party. Reserve with police dept to block off.
- More likely to attend at Bethlehem, especially if table seating on the playground could be offered.
- Will attend either, but enjoy park for the kids.
- Ok, if necessary.

9). Are you willing to serve on the Church Picnic planning committee?

Yes: 8

No: 10

Possibly: 2

---

## **Bethlehem Church Picnic 2025**

### **Revenue**

• Ticket Sales	3163.00
• Congregation Donations	1388.00
• Thrivent Card	250.00
• Kwik Trip Donation, gift cards	40.00

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4841.00</b>
----------------------	----------------

### **Expenses**

• City of Sheboygan, facility & table rental, beer license	925.00
• Beer, soda, water	416.75
• Epic Rental, bounce house	213.53
• Brockman's, brats, hamb, rolls, potato salad, onions	1259.34
• Boneck Printing, picnic tickets	104.76
• Matt Wallner, slushie supplies	60.00
• Performance Food Service, chicken	155.05
• Home Depot, charcoal, lighter fluid	207.55
• Quasius Equipment, post driver rental	83.34
• Tent	600.00
• Egg rolls	400.00
• Chips and candy	90.00
• Misc, roaster liners, broth, coffee creamers, groceries	262.61
• Prizes for cornhole, closest to the pin, KT gift cards	40.00

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4817.93</b>
-----------------------	----------------

<b>Net profit / loss</b>	<b>23.07</b>
--------------------------	--------------

(3)

# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES**

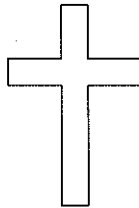
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **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*.

## **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 Tuesday, October 21, 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**

Dennis & Nancy Bearns  
Sandra Fischer  
Leonard Johnson  
George & Karen Haecker  
Linda Hulbert-Ertel

Bev Fischer  
Bob & Lori Gottowski  
Linda Nikisch  
Beverly Bauer  
Steve & Peggy Hotz

Jim & Judy Heinecke  
Cliff & Gail Schlegel  
Anita Krimmel  
Keith & Christine Wyckoff  
James Schmidt

### **Commercial Sponsors**

Advanced Comfort Systems  
Irish Roofing

Boneck Printing  
Irish Studios

Irish Hauling  
Knier Storage