



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
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CONNECT WITH US

Bethlehem Lutheran

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Church: (920) 452-4331
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Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Colin Moon
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

Apr 2022

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

April 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
3 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Special Voters Meeting, Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Youth Group (Junior & Senior) 5:30-7:00pm	4	5 Quilters 9:00am LWML Meeting 7:00pm	6 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship - Lent 8:30am & 6:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm	7	8 Preview Night LHS Auction	9 Easter Egg Hunt 9:00am (gym) Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm LHS Dinner Auction (doors open at 4:30)
10 Palm Sunday Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am	11 PTL Meeting 6:00pm	12	13 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	14 Maundy Thursday Worship w/HC 6:00pm	15 NO SCHOOL Good Friday Worship w/HC 1:00pm & 7:00pm	16 <u>NO</u> Bible Class Easter Vigil Worship w/HC 5:30pm
17 EASTER Worship w/HC 6:00am, 8:00am & 10:30am Easter Breakfast (after 6:00am service - 10:00am) <u>NO</u> Bible Class	18 NO SCHOOL	19 Quilters 9:00am	20 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	21 May Visitor Deadline (noon)	22 Fun Fair (sponsored by PTL) 5:00-7:00pm	23 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm Trivia Night (sponsored by Youth Group) 5:45pm
24 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Youth Group (Junior & Senior) 5:30-7:00pm	25 Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm	26	27 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voter's Meeting 7:00pm	28 Bethlehem Picnic Planning Kick-off Meeting 7:00pm	29 Youth Group Brat Fry @ Miesfeld's Brat Hut 9:00am-2:30pm	30 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

He is Risen - So Don't Be So Serious!

Caveat: Please read this article with the intent in mind! It is not meant to say that our faith is a joke. It is the most serious of items in our life. Because the truths of our faith are serious, it also means that there is room for joy and levity. Joy and levity are gifts of God also! So breathe!

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes. ~John 20:1-10~

I have always found this passage amusing. Throughout his gospel account, John never names himself in the account. He always refers to himself as "the other disciple" or "the disciple that Jesus loved". There could be numerous reasons for this about which many commentaries have spilled a lot of ink. I only bring this up to show that the two disciples that run to the tomb are Peter and John. In the middle of the most important part of his gospel account, John takes an aside to mention the fact that he beat Peter in the race to the tomb. Why would John add this to the account. It seems frivolous. It seems that, as the youngest of the disciples, he is kind of taunting Peter a little bit. However, I find it fascinating that in the midst of all that transpired during the previous days, John finds this as something worth mentioning in the light of Jesus' resurrection.

The disciples had been put through the wringer during the last weeks of Jesus' life on earth. They had seen their rabbi, teacher, confidant, friend, and the one whom they thought to be the Messiah put to death by the ones from whom He was supposed to rescue them. And He died one of the most grotesque, agonizing, and humiliating execution methods in the history of mankind. They spent the hours since His death worried that the same would happen to them. However, when they arrived at the tomb, they saw that He was alive. The linens were not strewn across the tomb as if grave-robbers had just ransacked the tomb. They were organized and neatly folded as if someone took great care in taking them off. The account of Mary was true. That means that He really did appear to her. He really was alive. He had risen from the dead! An excitement and joy had started to rise within them. So as John recounts this most important event in his gospel, he does not recount the sorrow, anxiety or worry. There was only one emotion that he remembered - joy. It allowed him to remember with humor, joy, and levity that he had beat Peter to the tomb, and now it is memorialized in Christian theology.

We do not know this for sure. John does not include his motives in including this information. The fact that this could be a possible explanation should mean a lot for us. It means that, as Christians, we have a reason for levity, joy, and humor. The source of this reason is the fact that Christ has risen! He has risen, indeed! Alleluia! No matter what context we find ourselves in, we have do not need to be downcast, anxious, worried, gloomy, or depressed about our world or our lives, because Christ has conquered sin, death, and those things that distress us! We can smile. We laugh. We can make jokes. We can have joy as people for whom Christ died and rose! So this Easter, don't be so serious! Remember that John took time to gloat that he won the Resurrection Run! Take some time to have fun with the people of God, because we will be together for eternity! **He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

Shout for Joy

I came across an interesting article the other day, and I would like to share some findings.

A study was published in 1999 by two people named Martin and Kuiper. They reported that laughter is 30 times more likely when people are together as opposed to if they are alone. The conclusion they were willing to draw from this information is that laughter is a social activity and furthermore that joy is meant to be shared.

Now I have no idea if Martin or Kuiper are Christians or not, but for myself this comes as no surprise. When Paul talks over and over again about the way Christians are supposed to share in their joy and sorrow, happiness and hardship, it makes sense that these are behaviors that even gentile-pagans would notice in people. In other words: we were designed that way. God intended us to live in community in these ways.

In the same article, another study (this time published by Bainum, Lounsbury, and Pollio in 1984) says that the same type of analysis is true of children. Only 5% of smiles or laughs occurred when a child is alone. The remaining 95% occur when children are together. Again the conclusion to be drawn from this information is that joy is meant to be shared.

I would also like to add to their findings. These are anecdotal of course, but my observations on the playground at schools throughout the years are filled with laughter and joyful shouts. Why do the little children shout on the playground? As long as they haven't fallen off the swings or the monkey bars it's because they are overflowing with joy, and something inside themselves (that they probably don't even notice, and couldn't explain) wants to share it with their friends.

The following passage is from Psalm 33:

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

I am convinced that this passage is meant for the assembly. The Hebrew grammar of this passage is in full support of this. "O you righteous" is plural. It could also be translated as "All you righteous people". It is certainly a wonderful thing to sing praises while you're alone in the car or the shower, but the people of God are at their most joyful when they are with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we march closer to the cross of Good Friday and the glorious resurrection of Easter Sunday, let us continue to share in mourning our sins, but let us not neglect or forget to share in our joy. It's good for us, and furthermore it's how our Gracious Father created us.

Peace of the Lord,

-Pastor Moon

April News

LWML NEWS

Happy Spring everyone! Now that the days are getting longer won't you join us on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00pm in the Century Room? We will be exploring the back story on several familiar hymns that we will be hearing this Easter season. Do you like to hear interesting speakers? Do you like celebrations? Do you like donuts? Be on the lookout for news of exciting events that relate to all of the above, happening in May and involve the entire congregation!

COFFEE HOUR CONVERSATIONS

What do you do during Coffee Hour once you have grabbed your coffee and perhaps a treat? If you're like most of us, you look for people you know and carry on a comfortable conversation with them until it's time for Bible class. But what about the person or family who's standing alone, off to the side of the group? Do we ever think of approaching them, introducing ourselves and starting a casual conversation? It really doesn't matter what you say. Something as mundane as, "How about this weather?" will suffice. Often this will lead to more substantive and interesting conversation. But, whether it does or not, it's very likely that the ones you approached will remember the gesture long after they've forgotten what was actually said. Why not give this idea a try? You might be surprised at what happens.

WHAT'S YOUR CONCEPT OF "CHURCH"?

Does "church" seem like a place you go or an event you attend? How about considering the following: The Church is a spiritual family you belong to. This concept is important because the greatest privilege in life is to be able to say, "I'm a member of God's family—a child of God." Doesn't that make you want to be in God's House each and every week? Answer in your heart.

PTL FUN FAIR

"Save The Date" for the PTL Fun Fair this year. The fair will be held on Friday, April 22nd from 5:00-7:00pm in the parish activity center.

ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST

Will be served immediately following the 6:00am sunrise service and will continue until 10:00am. The cost of the breakfast will be a free will donation. Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, April 16th for setup and prep, from 9:00am-noon and on Sunday, April 17th from 6:30-10:00am to cook, serve and clean up. All help is welcomed, for any amount of time. Please consider donating your time and talents to help keep this tradition going. Donations of baked goods are appreciated and can be brought to the kitchen on Friday after school or Saturday morning between 8:30-10:00am. Contact Megan Boerger at 920-889-0056 or m-boerger@hotmail.com if you can help in any way. Join us Easter morning for this fellowship gathering!

YOUTH GROUP DATES FOR APRIL

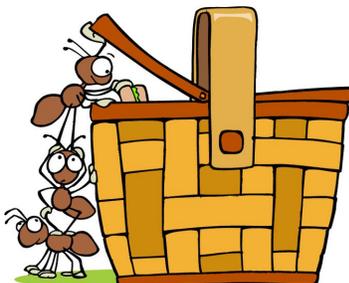
Please plan on joining us for Youth Group on April 3rd and April 24th.
Junior and Senior Youth **will meet from 5:30-7:00pm.**

PICNIC NEWS

Bethlehem's Family Picnic will be on August 21st. Organizers are needed!

The kick-off meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28th at 7:00pm in the Century Room.

The picnic committee will need ideas for food, games, crafts, entertainment, tournaments, and even participation in the service. Please email Laura Lienau at ljlienau@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping or have questions about the planning details or the meeting.



More April News

APRIL SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

4/1-4/2: furniture and lamps 50% off 4/5-4/9: books 50% off
4/12: everything in the store 30% off 4/13-4/16: Easter decorations 50% off
4/19-4/23: all clothing \$1.00 4/26-4/30: shoes and socks 50% off

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please note that there will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday (4/17), but there will be Easter breakfast! Enjoy Easter breakfast after the 6:00am sunrise service up until 10:00am. The last Sunday School class of the 2021-2022 year will be May 22nd, 2022. We are thankful for all who could attend Sunday School this year. We will celebrate with *Sundae Sunday!* Join us for ice cream and games!

A MESSAGE FROM ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

GriefShare is a Christian based, weekly seminar and support group designed to rebuild your life after the loss of a loved one. There is a video presentation each week with grief experts and people who have participated in GriefShare, discussion and a workbook for personal study and reflection. It lasts 13 weeks, from Wednesday, April 20th—July 13th (10:00-11:30am). It will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1019 North 7th St., Sheboygan. Enter the church off the parking lot east of the church, as it will be held in the adult education room. The cost is \$15.00 for the workbook, which will be returned when you complete the classes. Call Carolyn at 920-458-4343, ext. 104 with questions or to register.

A MESSAGE FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HOWARDS GROVE

They are looking to hire an organist and/or pianist. For more information, please contact Toni Post at 920-565-3669.

AUCTION DINNER AT LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Reservations are open for the annual Crusade for Bids Auction Dinner, April 9th, 2022, to be held in the LHS gymnasium. Early-bird prices good through April 1st. Register online at www.lutheranhigh.com, under the *Ways to Give tab / Dinner Auction*.

We will have an in-person event this year and offer simultaneous online bidding on Saturday night from 4:30-8:00pm for those unable to attend the event.

Friday, April 8th: Auction Preview Night, features booklet pickup, Friday-only opportunities, and light entertainment. All are welcome to stop in on Friday night for FREE and see all we have to offer, even if you're not registering for the dinner.

Saturday, April 9th: Auction Night, highlights include Locker Wars, a Meat Raffle, Hank Aaron autographed baseball bat, Badger Football tickets, Jimmy Buffet, REO Speedwagon, and Smokey Robinson concert tickets, and more! View a more complete list of items on our website including sporting event dates and vacation packages at lutheranhigh.com/auction

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ April 9th = Bethlehem's Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ April 9th = Lutheran High School's Dinner Auction
- ◆ April 23rd = Bethlehem's Trivia Night (to benefit the Youth Group's upcoming trips)
- ◆ April 29th = Youth Group Brat Fry @ Miesfeld's (to benefit the Youth Group's upcoming trips)

MAY VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the May Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, April 21st, 2022. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

2022 BETHLEHEM COOKBOOK

Would you be interested in helping Bethlehem create a new church cookbook? We are putting together a team of individuals to help organize, type, and create an engaging collection of recipes submitted by our members. You do not have to be good at cooking to help with this project. Contact Martha Becker at martha.becker.96@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

Bible Class and Speaker News

PASTOR NILES INVITES YOU TO "ASK THE PASTOR"

For the next few weeks, anyone who attends Pastor Niles' Sunday Bible class may ask him anything they wish. No subject is "off-the-table". Here's a rare, not-to-be-missed opportunity. Just be in the Century Room from 9:15-10:15am to see what happens. You may ask your question verbally during class or submit it in writing. Pastor Niles' email address is patrick.niles@ourbethlehem.com
Let's fill the Century Room!

DIVE INTO A LOOK AT SELDOM-STUDIED EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

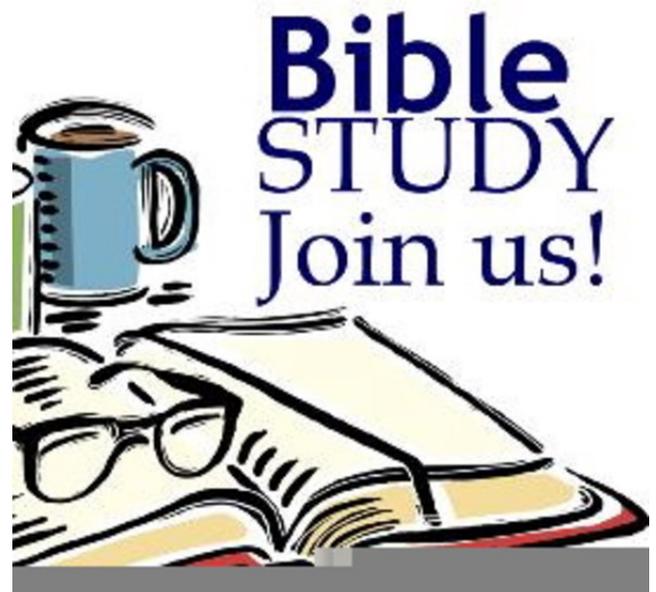
Join Pastor Moon in the library on Sundays from 9:15-10:15am as he conducts a study of some of the men whose writings form the basis of creeds which contain some of the basic Christian beliefs we hold dear today. Meet Augustine, Athanasius, and other early church fathers we seldom hear about. Hear what they had to say!

WATCH FOR NEWS OF THE MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

Plans are under way for a relatively short series of Monday night classes which will take place post-Easter. Watch the "News and Notes" page of the weekly worship bulletin for details.

YOU'RE INVITED TO HEAR A SPECIAL SPEAKER ON MAY 3RD

Tim Unsinn, of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, will share how a stay at this special ranch helps children at high risk of getting in serious trouble, set a positive course for their future. Although this program is sponsored by the Bethlehem LWML, we welcome both men and women to attend at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 3rd. Look for more detail in next month's Visitor.



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 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!

BETHLEHEM'S DAILY DEVOTION

Take a moment each day to get online! Check out our Facebook page, daily at 2:30pm!

VISIT US ONLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School are 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 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 452-4331.

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