



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

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CONNECT WITH US

Bethlehem Lutheran

1121 Georgia Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

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 www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem

 <https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem>

Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Colin Moon
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

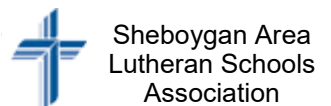
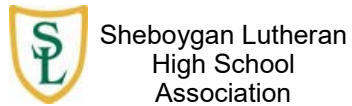
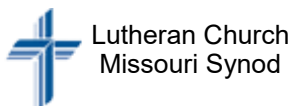
WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

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

Aug 2022

MEMBERSHIP



August 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p>1</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30am-11:45am</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30am-11:45am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30am-11:45am</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Vacation Bible School 8:30am-11:45am</p> <p>Family Picnic Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Bible Class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible Class 9:15am</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bethlehem Cookbook Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p> <p>School—New Family Orientation 4:00pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Board of Evangelism Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Altar Guild Meeting 9:30am</p> <p>Bible Class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible Class 9:15am</p> <p>Elders Meeting 11:45am</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PTL Meeting 6:00pm</p> <p>Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm</p> <p>Board of Parish Fellowship Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>School Faculty Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Full Staff Meeting</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p> <p>Parish Planning Council Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>September Visitor Deadline (noon)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Bible Class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Bethlehem's Family Picnic Kiwanis Park 10:00am</p> <p>Installation and re-dedication of staff, during the service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Back To School Night 6:00pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>24</p> <p>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! (full day)</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bible Class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible Class 9:15am</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p> <p>Voters Meeting 7:00pm</p>			

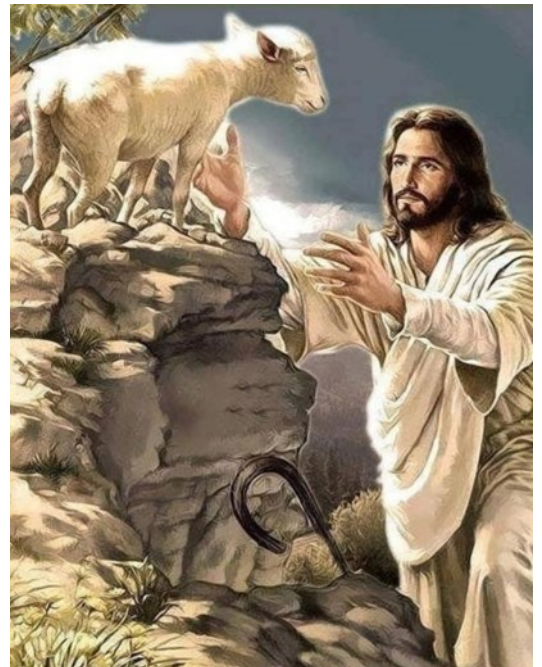
FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Uncommon Shepherd

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ~ Luke 15:3-7 ~

There are times when familiarity with something causes it to lose its "shock value". Think of repeatedly watching a movie or reading a book that contains a huge plot twist. Once you know the plot twist, it loses its value. You see all the clues and foreshadowing leading up to it. It makes you miss what the author or screenwriter wanted you to feel or experience. Bible verses are not immune to this either. The "Parable of the Good Shepherd" is actually one of those passages. Many of us have heard this passage read more times than we can remember. We have sat through sermons at church services, funeral services, etc., expounding on this text. We know that Jesus seeks and saves the lost. We know that He cares about us so much that He seeks us out with His grace and favor. We know the plot twist which causes us to miss the absurdity of what Jesus is actually saying.

Jesus begins by asking a simple question, "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?" We know the plot twist, which cause us all to want to raise our hand. "I do! I would leave and search for that one! That's what a good shepherd does!" But is it really what a good shepherd does? Leave 99 sheep in the open country where they can wander off, get stuck, or get attacked by predators? For the sake of one? This is bad business sense. It does not make economic sense to risk losing 99 for the sake of one. There is not one person in the crowd that Jesus is speaking to that would have raised their hand! They would have looked at Him like He was crazy. And that is really the point. Jesus is not common. He is not ordinary. He is not only the Good Shepherd... He is the Uncommon Shepherd.



This makes all the difference in the world. In this world, the devil will continually come after you and your faith. He will constantly try to convince you that you are not good enough for Jesus to save. Why would Jesus want you, when there are 99 other people that are more intelligent, more pious, and better Christians than you are? That doesn't make sense! That's just bad business. It is down-right crazy! However, Jesus does not work like the world works. Jesus uncommonly cares for each individual sheep. He can do this perfectly because He is God! He brings new sheep into His fold, searches for the lost sheep, and maintains the 99 all at once! Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He is the Uncommon Shepherd. He shepherds like no one would dare because His power is ultimate.

So when the devil tries to convince you that you are not worth saving, remember that your Good and Uncommon Shepherd says otherwise. You are worth everything... even His own life!

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

Jesus Wept

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus!

I have been looking forward to this new school year with a hesitant anticipation. On the first day of class I always give the 7th grade religion students a short questionnaire which asks questions about themselves. Here are a few examples I used in the past:

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Who is your favorite famous person (athlete/actor/musician etc.)? What was the highlight of your summer? Then I have the class share what they wrote as well as give my own answers.

Of course, because I am their pastor I have to ask: Who is your favorite person from the Bible (excluding Jesus)? What is your favorite Bible verse? Why did you pick those?

These are the answers that I am most concerned with at the end of the day. The others are fun, certainly, but I have learned a lot about the students as well as my friends and family based on how they answer these questions.

The reason I feel hesitant as I look forward to the coming fall, is I might have to change my personal answers. Which I do not feel great about doing... Who in their right mind changes their favorite Bible verse?!? I guess Pastor Moon does.

I used to find great comfort in the story of David. Not so much the grossly selfish mighty king who killed a man and stole his wife, but rather the smallest of [35] brothers (exaggeration for dramatic effect) who answered God's call to fight a [21 foot] tall man (again exaggeration for effect) and actually prevailed. As the Veggie Tales interpretation goes: little guys can do big things!

God has always worked that way. From Abraham to Moses to David to Peter. All strange and unexpected choices. If this truth encourages you today that is wonderful! Thanks be to God.

I find myself clinging to another passage these days. "Jesus wept." John 11:35 Shortest verse in the Bible. Easiest memory passage for a homework assignment. That's NOT the reason I cling to this passage. This passage is the human side of Jesus shown to us.

John chapter 1 tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. John 11:35 **SHOWS US** that reality. Jesus was tempted like we are. Jesus got hungry like we do. Jesus laughed just like us. Jesus was filled with great sorrow at the loss of his friend Lazarus, just like we feel when we lose a loved one.

Even more than our sorrows, Jesus experienced our sin. He felt the sorrow from the sin that took Lazarus's life and Jesus did as only he could. He raised Lazarus and then he died in Lazarus's place. He died in your place too. And if you had been there instead of Lazarus, Jesus would have wept all the same.

The same love, the same hurt, the same compassion. Jesus spoke and felt and did all of it for your sake. So when you feel broken, hurt, or sorrowful know that you have a friend in our Lord Jesus. The hope and joy of his cross are yours to cling to. Take heart, dear Christian friends.

Peace of the Lord,
-Pastor Moon

August News

THIS IS US—(NOT THE TV SERIES)

Have you ever heard someone around church make a comment similar to: “THEY” plan to do _____ (fill in the blank)? Did you ever stop to think that the “they” referred to is actually “us”? In churches like ours, the “heavy lifting” is not done by a select few influential people; but rather by an array of administrative boards, each of whom has authority to make decisions in their area of responsibility.

The Planning Council is a planning, not a decision-making entity.

Where could you fit in? How has your life-experience equipped you to serve on an administrative board, or to give your ideas or suggestions to one or more boards? Talk to one of our pastors or to our Executive Director, David Ames, about participation. Remember what the Bible says: “The harvest is plentiful; but the laborers are few”.

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD LADIES

Your presence would greatly be appreciated at the next Altar Guild meeting on Saturday, August 13th at 9:30am.

LWML NEWS

A big THANK YOU to all who donated to the collection for Safe Harbor which serves victims of domestic abuse, child abuse, and sex trafficking. The grand total of food and kitchen items collected at the LWML June convention was 1,728!

LWML members: our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 6th at 7:00pm in the Century Room. All ladies are invited to join us for “September Surprise” and for the planning of our fall activities. Come and get involved with this mission focused group!

PICNIC NEWS

The Bethlehem Family Picnic is August 21st. Tickets will go on sale, after worship services, starting in August. There will also be a ticket donation opportunity (Safe Harbor).

Please watch for SIGN UP sheets, which will be coming out in August as well. Helpers and volunteers will be needed in a variety of areas, including food service.

Bring family, friends and neighbors to the picnic, it is going to be FUN!



BETHLEHEM COOKBOOK—ORDER NOW!

The order form is available to reserve your Bethlehem 2022 Cookbook. Sign up today with the form located in the Century Room. Individual cookbooks and bundle options are available. Pay at pick-up, which will be around Thanksgiving (you'll have your items in-hand for Christmas gift-giving).

Contact martha.becker.96@gmail.com with questions.

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE (FORMERLY KNOW AS THE NEW MEMBER CLASS)

September 11th is the day! 9:15am-10:15am is the time!

What DO Lutherans believe? This class informs you of Bethlehem's teachings and tells a bit of our history. This class is for those who have transferred in, those wishing to become members, and current members who would like a refresher. This class is for you—join us! Here is an opportunity to get answers to questions you may have and also to spend some quality time with Pastor Niles, who will be leading the class. Feel free to participate as much as you'd like or just come and listen.

If you are a new member transferring from another congregation, would like to become a member of Bethlehem, or know someone who like to become a member, please contact the church office, as we would like to touch base and answer any questions prior to the first class. We would love to see you on Sunday, September 11th!

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

- ◆ 8/2-8/6: shoes and socks, 30% off
- ◆ 8/9: 30% off everything in the store
 - ◆ 8/10-8/13: linens, 30% off
- ◆ 8/16-8/20: toys, games and puzzles, 30% off
- ◆ 8/23-8/27: baskets and vases, 30% off
- ◆ 8/30-9/3: purses, bags and luggage, 30% off

More August News

OPERATION BACKPACK

For the school year 2022-2023 is sponsored by the Hispanic Outreach. The distribution date is August 13th from 1:00-3:00pm at Good Shepherd. If you're interested in being a part of this, please bring the new school supplies to Good Shepherd (1614 S. 23rd St.). You can also mail a donation check to *Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach (memo: Operation Backpack)*, 730 County Rd PPP, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.

If you know of a family who may benefit from this event, please share the information. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. David Blas at 630-229-2455.

CHILD CARE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

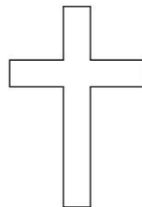
Trinity Lutheran Child Care, 824 Wisconsin Ave., Sheboygan, is seeking highly motivated child care teachers. Qualified applicants...

- ◆ Are lead teacher certified (Associate Degree or Technical Diploma) and hold a State of WI Registry certificate
 - ◆ Actively participate in a Christian church
 - ◆ Embody positivity, patience, and compassion
 - ◆ Demonstrate a strong work ethic
 - ◆ Communicate effectively with parents and peers
- ◆ Dedicate themselves to the children, school, and church
 - ◆ Hold CPR / AED / First Aid certifications

Come join our Trinity Lutheran Child Care family! To apply, call Mrs. Ann Rahn (920-458-8248, ext. 417) or email us at rahn@trinitysheboygan.org

SEPTEMBER VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the September Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, August 18th, 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.



Welcomed through Holy Baptism

- ◆ Levi Andrew Moon — July 3, 2022
- ◆ Gianna Grace Cervantes — July 17, 2022

Well done, good and faithful servant

- ◆ Irene Nelson — June 24, 2022
- ◆ Bonnie Greupink — June 27, 2022
- ◆ Esther Goetsch — July 12, 2022
- ◆ Angeline Bartz — July 13, 2022
- ◆ Kenneth Thimmig — July 24, 2022

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!

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 920-452-4331.

Congregational Sponsors

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