



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
1121 Georgia Avenue, 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

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

 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

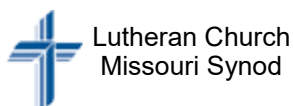
Bible Studies

Saturday ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Dec 2021

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

December 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm</p> <p>Mid-Week Advent Worship (7th & 8th Grade) 6:00pm</p> <p>Voters Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>New Scrip policy begins today. (all orders need to be turned in by Friday at 3:00pm)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Guest: Pastor Meador</p> <p>Bible Class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Guest: Pastor Meador</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>Elders Meeting 11:45am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>LWML Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm</p> <p>Mid-Week Advent Worship (3K, 4K, 5K) 6:00pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible Class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>Youth Group Christmas Party (combined Junior & Senior) 4:00-6:00pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PTL Meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm</p> <p>Mid-Week Advent Worship (1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade) 6:00pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>January Visitor Deadline</p> <p>Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p> <p>"A Lutheran High Christmas" Concert 7:00pm</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>"A Lutheran High Christmas" Concert 2:00pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Mid-Week Advent Worship (4th, 5th, 6th Grade) 6:00pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>24</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u> Christmas Eve</p> <p>4:00pm: Worship Sunday School</p> <p>6:00pm: Worship w/ HC, Family Service</p> <p>11:00pm: Worship w/ HC, Candlelight</p>	<p>25</p> <p>A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!</p> <p>Worship w/HC 10:00am</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Worship w/HC 10:00am</p> <p>Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am</p>	<p>27</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>28</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>29</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>30</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>31</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

Forward and Backward - The Life of a Christian

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

Have you ever noticed that we as humans are not content with the present?

We are so eager to live in the past and dwell in our “glory days”. We are equally ready to look ahead to our future and wish the present away for the sake of what the future might hold. We rarely are ok with just living in the present context of our lives. This is far from a personal mindset. This is a mindset that affects many people on a daily basis. As Christians, we are called to live in the present with a trust in our God who provides for all that we need for this body and life. As Christians, we are also called to look at the past and remember the promises of our faithful God. As Christians, we are also called to look ahead to the fulfillment of the promises that God makes to each and every one of us. As Christians, we are called to live with an eye to all three of these time periods. This is vividly shown during the season of Advent.



In Advent, our attention is drawn to the anticipation of the Old Testament people of God awaiting the promised Messiah. They awaited the Messiah and all He was promised to do. God told promised His people that the Messiah would restore the relationship between them and their Creator that was severed in the fall of Adam and Eve. When Jesus is born, He was born as the hope of Israel. God's plan to save humanity was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger. Just as God had fulfilled every promise to His people in the Old Testament, this baby was the fulfillment of His greatest promise. This promise was not only to the Old Testament people but it was made to us also. This baby would save us from our sins in His death and resurrection.



In Advent, our attention is also drawn forward to the hope that still awaits us. That babe in Bethlehem who died, rose, and ascended is also coming (adverting) again at the end of time. At that time, all of the promises that God has made to us in Christ, will be fulfilled. This broken heaven and earth will pass away. Our broken bodies will be resurrected in His glory. We will be with the Lord forever in the new heaven and new earth. Our lives in Advent are full of looking forward and backwards.

However, Advent also calls us to focus on the present also. During Advent, we recognize that our Lord is still with us. He still provides us with all we need for our bodies and our souls. He also calls us to continue to trust in His promises. His promises in our Baptisms tell us that He has redeemed our souls and the crown of life is waiting for us. His promises in the Supper tell us that He continues to forgive and strengthen us with His own body and blood. In His Word, we receive the assurance of what awaits us in Christ's return.

As you journey through this Advent season, do not forget Jesus who calls us to be His people: past, present, and future!

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

Overjoyed by the Star—an article on Stewardship

In Matthew 2, we read about the Visit of the Magi. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped Him. "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh" (Matthew 2:10-11)

What did the Wise Men from the East know about this Baby or His Family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor Him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. "They were overjoyed."

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before Him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the Wise Men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? It is seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But are we "overjoyed" when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the only thing Christmas is about is the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including the visiting of sick and the homebound, the baking of goodies for food banks, the sharing of financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. Let us "open our treasures" and worship Him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.

Bible Class Information

WHAT IS YOUR WORLDVIEW?

Through what "lens" do you filter the happenings in your life, the decisions you make, etc.? As Christians, how do we know if our "worldview" lines up with God's? Actually, He gives us everything we need to know in His Word, so doesn't it make sense that we should prioritize getting to know the Bible?

Joining a Bible class is the easiest way to accomplish this. Watch the Visitor and weekly bulletins for what's available and when.

VERY SPECIAL BIBLE CLASS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 4TH & 5TH

On Saturday, December 4th at 4:15pm or on Sunday, December 5th at 9:15am, Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador invites you to join him in the Century Room for a fresh perspective on the sometimes unpopular subject, "Stewardship". Could we, "Mr. or Ms. Average Church-member", really be missing something? Let's listen to Dr. Meador and find out.

PASTOR NILES PLANS A STUDY OF CHRISTIAN HYMNODY TO START ON 12/12

The Lutheran Church has long been known as a "singing church". Luther, himself, wrote many hymns to help people grasp and remember basic Christian concepts. Pastor Niles will delve into this fascinating subject on December 12th. The series will run for 6 weeks. Mark your calendar!

December News

LWML NEWS

Get in the holiday spirit early! All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on December 7th at 7:00pm in the Century Room, for an evening to celebrate Christmas in story and song and to enjoy some delicious holiday treats. Members are reminded to bring their miniature Christmas stockings filled with mite donations too. Won't you join us for some merry fun?

THANK YOU!

The Bethlehem PTL Craft Fair Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped this year's craft fair become a huge success. Thank you especially to Katie Scholz for designing and making the banners, Dave Kanz for your cheese donation, the Social Ministry board for your wisdom and guidance, Amy Weir for helping coordinate applications, the Youth Group for putting together a delicious bake sale, and finally to ALL the Bethlehem volunteers who helped out with promotion, set up, clean up, admissions, concessions, raffles, and other miscellaneous duties. Because of everyone's help, we had a wildly successful craft fair and are already looking forward to 2022. Thank you again!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO A GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 12th, 2:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 824 Wisconsin Ave, Sheboygan
Rev. Donald Hougard is the guest preacher. The service will be in German and English. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Coffee, hot cider, hot chocolate, German Christmas desserts and pastries will be enjoyed by all after the service. Bring your family, invite your neighbors, friends and acquaintances to celebrate and keep alive the German traditions (holiday, family, church) in our hearts and our community.

SCRIP SALES AND UPDATES!

Scrip sales will continue to be "*Scrip on the Go*" only. **Beginning December 3rd, all orders need to be in by 3:00pm Friday afternoon.** Orders will be filled over the weekend. Filled orders can be picked up Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-3:30pm. If requested, you will be contacted when your order has been filled and is ready for pick up (please provide a phone number). Weekend sales will continue to take place after Saturday evening worship and also from 9:00—10:15am on Sundays, in the church office.

IMPORTANT: December 3rd at 3:00pm will be the last day to order Scrip in time for Christmas!

SOCIAL MINISTRY IS LOOKING TO HELP LOCAL NURSING HOMES

Items we are looking for are adult coloring books, large-print word search books, perfume/cologne, lotions, hand creams, nail polish, lipsticks, clip earrings, pins, packaged handkerchiefs, individual wrapped hard candy, bagged candy, and sugar-free candy. We are also collecting gripper-type socks & slippers, regular socks, diabetic socks, men's t-shirts and men/women sweatshirts (XL and especially XXL and XXXL). Please place your donated items in the Food Barrel located in the back of church or in the Social Ministry basket in the Century Room, by the end of this month. Please note that these items must be new and unused. As always, thank you for helping us!

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY GIVING FOOD BARREL

Is now in the back of church and will remain there for the remainder of the year. Social Ministry asks your help in providing food for all who need help, be it family, church, or school members, or through Community Outreach programs. Non-breakable jars are appreciated. Items of great need are canned fruit (we currently have plenty of vegetables), boxed dinners, kid-friendly food (cereal, snacks, canned pasta, etc.)

++We cannot accept any food or boxes that have been opened or any partially used items++

SOCIAL MINISTRY HAS OTHER RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND TOILETRIES

City Market Place is held at City Church on 31st and Main, the third Thursday of the month from 5:00-7:00pm. It is a \$22 donation per share for roughly two laundry baskets of food items—this is set up as a drive through.

Working Families Bread Basket is held on Saturday mornings and is a combination of breads, meats, and cheese from local establishments. This is free, held in-person and requires a pay stub to participate. Check-in starts at 7:45am with distribution starting at 8:30am and is located at Christian High School on Greenfield Ave.

Please bring coolers or baskets as there are limited boxes available. Other food pantries are available and Social Ministry will provide a calendar for dates/times/places upon request. Please contact Pam Crneckiy at 920-980-3659 with questions. God bless our church family!

More Dec. News

ACOUSTIC GUITARS NEEDED FOR SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

Bethlehem is planning on expanding its music program beyond band. Band has long been an important curriculum at Bethlehem. This expansion is in no way intended to replace or interfere with band. The fact of the matter is that not all students have an interest in playing a band instrument. Some students may have an interest in playing the guitar. The school is asking our members to consider donating acoustic guitars. Donations are tax deductible and will become the property of the school. Expanding the school's music program to guitar initially would be similar to those students playing volleyball, basketball or soccer after school or early evenings. Lessons will be given in the school's music room at no cost to the student. All materials and string replacements will be provided. What an awesome Evangelism opportunity for Bethlehem as well. This will also be a great opportunity for those students wishing to learn to play and read music. The program will begin as soon as donations are received. Any questions, please contact our principal, Mr. Pat Vanic, at 920-452-5071.

VOTERS MEETING

Will be held on Wednesday, December 1st at 7:00pm. Please plan to attend.

JANUARY VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the January Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, December 16th, 2021. 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.

YOUTH GROUP DATE FOR DECEMBER

Please plan on joining us for our Youth Group Christmas get-together on **December 12th**. This will be a combined event, both Junior Youth (6th-8th grade) and Senior Youth (9th-12th grade) will meet from 4:00-6:00pm. Get your friends together, invite someone new—we look forward to having a great turn-out!

ADVENT SERVICES

Please join us on Wednesdays in December for our Advent Services. They are held at 8:30am and 6:00pm. Soup suppers will begin at 5:00pm in the school cafeteria. Here is the schedule for the services:

- ◆ Wednesday, December 1st = Presented by grades 7 and 8
- ◆ Wednesday, December 8th = Presented by grades 3K, 4K and 5K
- ◆ Wednesday, December 15th = Presented by grades 1, 2 and 3
- ◆ Wednesday, December 22nd = Presented by grades 4, 5 and 6

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

“A Lutheran High Christmas” will be presented on Saturday, December 18th at 7:00pm and Sunday, December 19th at 2:00pm in the Worship and Fine Arts Center at LHS. Tickets are free but are required for reserved seating. Please visit www.lutheranhigh.com/events to check out additional holiday concert opportunities.

SOCIAL MINISTRY ANGEL BOARD

It's that time of the year and Social Ministry has the Angel Board up! We will once again be going the way of gift cards. While we know that some like to shop for gifts, a gift card helps eliminate COVID exposure for our board members and the families. Angel board angels will also provide an opportunity for community outreach donations, which include Bridgeway, local schools and nursing homes. Depending on the response from the congregation, we may be able to look at additional community organizations. We highly suggest purchasing the gift cards from the SCRIP program; along with helping a family in need, your SCRIP purchase benefits Bethlehem. Aside from gift cards, monetary donations via cash or check made out to Social Ministry (memo: Angel Board) are accepted.

When selecting an angel, please write your name next to the corresponding number on the sheets. Place your purchased items under the tree no later than 10:00am on December 12th. If you know of a family in need, please call Pam Crneckiy at 920-980-3659 and contact will be made. Thank you for your support. God's blessings and Merry Christmas to all!

BETHLEHEM'S DAILY DEVOTION

Hop online! Check out our Facebook page, daily at 2:30pm!

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

October 31, 2021

ASSETS	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	
Cash	\$ 122,227	\$ 194,934	
Endowment Funds—Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,300,490	\$6,315,083	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 73,054	\$ 20,966	
SYNOD	\$ 666	\$ 2,000	
Lutheran High School	\$ 2,606	\$ 2,606	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$1,694,217	\$1,702,165	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$1,776,476	\$1,728,278	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 57,924	\$ 65,888	
Tuition	\$ 18,761	\$ 14,500	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 158,384	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 89,549	\$ 246,307	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 208,897	\$ 146,385	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ (199,328)	 \$ 99,921	
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u>	 \$ 1,482,651	 \$ 1,393,101	
 <u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u>	 \$ 1,536,669	 \$ 1,327,771	
 <u>NET INCOME 2021</u>	 \$ (54,018)	 \$ 65,330	

Our cash position at the end of October is good at \$122,227 but our general accounts payable are high at \$73,054. Adult envelopes were down for the month. Remember, October was a 3-paycheck month that adds about \$43,000 to our expenses for the month. The next WI voucher check should arrive in November. **We need everyone at Bethlehem to be involved as a volunteer. If you're involved, recruit a friend to help. The more hands helping, the easier the project. Thank God for all of you!**

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.mullens@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

ROOM RESERVATION REMINDER

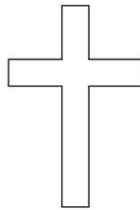
Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

VISIT US ONLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School 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*.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE CHURCH & SCHOOL NEEDS / WISH LIST?

Contact the church office or go to our website, www.ourbethlehem.com Under the *Church* Tab, Click on *Giving for Mission and Ministry*, then *Donate*, then *October 2021 Needs List*.



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.

Congregational Sponsors

Dennis & Nancy Bearns
Sandra Fischer
Leonard Johnson
George & Karen Haecker

Bethlehem MusicFest
Bob & Lori Gottowski
Linda Nikisch
Beverly Bauer

Bev Fischer
Jim & Judy Heinecke
Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Anita Krimmel

Commercial Sponsors

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