



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
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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

Feb 2022

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

February 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 LWML Meeting 7:00pm	2 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	3	4 BLS Girls A Team Basketball Tournament	5 BLS Girls A Team Basketball Tournament Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
6 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am New Member Class Begins Youth Group (Junior & Senior) 5:30-7:00pm	7 <u>NO BIBLE CLASS!</u> PTL 5:30pm	8 Quilters 9:00am	9 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	10 Board of Evangelism Meeting 6:00pm	11 Student Council Babysitting Night 4:00-7:00pm	12 Altar Guild 9:30am Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm Frank Marzano, The Pizza Man 6:30pm
13 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Sunday School	14 <u>NO BIBLE CLASS!</u> Happy Valentine's Day	15	16 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Board of Assimilation Meeting time TBD	17 March Visitor Deadline (noon)	18	19 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
20 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Celebration of Pastor Kubow Coffee Hour Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Elders Mtg 11:45am	21 NO SCHOOL Bible Class (Rick Zeuner) 6:00-7:00pm	22 Quilters 9:00am	23 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	24	25	26 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
27 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Youth Group (Junior & Senior) 5:30-7:00pm	28 Bible Class (Rick Zeuner) 6:00-7:00pm Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm					

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Intersections of Life

Have you ever stood at the on-ramp of your life and observed the traffic flow? How is that for an abstract beginning to a blog post?

Seriously, though. Does your life ever feel like a highway where every little title/hat/job that you have is like a long line of traffic all trying to get to the same place or exit at the same time? No? Well, I guess I am the only one. In that case, just stop reading and I hope my next post is more applicable. However, I find this to be one of the most difficult and most constant struggles in my life. Wife, children, personal time, congregational needs, professional responsibilities, hobbies, past-times, etc., etc. There are times when I



feel as if I am managing the traffic flow quite well. Most of the time, however, I feel like a semi has jackknifed across three lanes, there is an SUV on fire on the shoulder, and a school bus with a flat tire in the other lane. In the midst of all of these vocations... somewhere deep down in the midst of all the traffic, you find Patrick. Most of the time it is a lonely place, a scary place.

And down there, in that lonely and scary place is one of the truly and exquisitely beautiful truths of Lutheran theology – the doctrine of vocation. The doctrine of vocation states that God has given us callings in life. These callings usually revolve around our identity (i.e. parent, sibling, occupation, spouse, Christian, etc.). Within those callings, we have responsibilities. Our problems often come when we sacrifice one set of responsibilities for another. A proper understanding of the doctrine of vocation does not make problems go away. There will still be time-management problems. There will be issues with devoting too much time to one area and not enough in another. This is life on this side of eternity. However, a proper view of vocation gives us a different starting point. Instead of seeing our life as the freeway, we begin to see our life as the car. What? Stay with me for a minute. Check it out:

I am always a father. I am always a husband. I am always a pastor. I am always an avid basketball fan. I am always an aspiring writer. The problem is when I try to separate them, because it is like separating and denying part of my identity. I am one car driving down the highway of life negotiating turn after turn. There are times when I veer into oncoming traffic. There are times when I forget to check my blind-spot. These mistakes cause damage... sometimes, it is damage that I cannot repair on my own. That is where Jesus comes in and takes the wheel (I know. That metaphor made me sick too.) Jesus comes in with the grace given us in our baptisms, His supper to nourish and strengthen our lives in vocation, His Word to guide and direct us, and forgiveness. The forgiveness spreads out into our vocations and begins to heal the damage from our “accidents”. Jesus is who He is, and because of His forgiveness, we are who we are. We begin our vocations each day as forgiven children of God. We live in our vocations as forgiven children of God. We lay our head on our pillows at night as forgiven children of God.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong. Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

A beloved children's song. A go-to that many a Christian across the world can sing (perhaps in a different language). I wonder why so many of us "grow up" and try to fool ourselves by deeming simple songs like these "for kids". At VBS over the last summer even school aged children had already deemed the songs we were singing were below them. You could clearly see it in their faces. I was there at one time in my life.

I was once the cocky middle school idiot kid who didn't want to sing or go along with the hand motions. That was for the little kids (I thought). But the more I've aged, the more I think those songs and even the actions and memories connected with them are foundational to the rest of Christian living.

You know the passage well:

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

It's the passage that we read for the baptismal liturgy. Mark 10 is a great reminder that Jesus is there for the weak and helpless. Like the song says! I'm sure you have felt weak and helpless at one time or another. What did you do about that? Did you try and fix things on your own, or did you reach out for help?

My daughter is just over a year old and she has taught me so much over the last 2 months. When she is having trouble with something, she typically comes to find one of her parents. There is no embarrassment on her face when she does this, she simply holds up whatever is giving her trouble and makes some adorably incoherent sounds to signal that she wants help.

St. Paul describes us like toddlers in this way:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

Our entire life should be like this. We are going to need God's help for our entire lives so why not embrace the opportunity to cry out incoherently to our Father in Heaven.

Beloved Children of God, take comfort in the knowledge that Jesus loves you. And he loves you even in your childlike weakness, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

Peace of the Lord,
Pastor Moon

February News

LWML NEWS

Ladies, come and join us on Tuesday, February 1st at 7:00pm in the Century Room for a thought-provoking Bible study and discussion. We will also continue planning for some spring events. Drop in and spend some time with other friendly Christian women in a relaxed atmosphere. Add it to your calendar!

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Attention Altar Guild Ladies—your presence would greatly be appreciated at the next Altar Guild meeting on Saturday, February 12th at 9:30am.

PLEASE DON'T SKIP READING THIS ARTICLE

It might seem as though the Red Record of Fellowship is mostly a sort of “Guest Book”; however, it is actually a valuable source of information for certain Administrative Boards of ours. The Board of Evangelism follows up with visitors, the Board of Assimilation follows the attendance of those who have recently joined our church, and the Board of Elders keeps an eye on the attendance of longer-term members. Your church cares whether or not you attend worship. If there's a problem, we'd like to address it with you. Please make it a habit to sign in every time you attend worship and pass the book along your row so that everyone's included. Your Board members would really appreciate your cooperation.

“NEW-MEMBER CLASS” CAN BE A MISLEADING TITLE

A better title would be “WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE”. On February 6th, from 9:15-10:15am, Pastor Moon will begin a 5-week review of Luther's Small Catechism. Although designed for new members, anyone who would like a comprehensive review of basic Lutheran beliefs and practices is welcome to attend. Maybe that's you; and as a bonus, you get to meet the new members.

DO YOU SEEM TO BE LIVING IN “THE ASPIRIN AGE”?

Are you finding yourself over-booked, over-worked, over-tired? Maybe you feel you just don't have time for learning more about what God has to say to you. (a.k.a. Bible Study). However, you might be over-looking a convenient option—an ONLINE study—something you could do from home at any time of the day (or night) that suits you. Content would be posted on a private Facebook page where you could comment (if you wish) and/or read other participants' comments. You're sure to have an “aha” moment or two along the way.

READ ON TO SEE WHAT'S BEING OFFERED.

- 1). “Sceptic to Believer” could be an alternative title for the 4-week study for both men and women to be facilitated by Ben Steffen. Follow Josh McDowell, author of “More Than a Carpenter” as he sets out to prove that Jesus is a fraud and ends up convinced that Jesus really is everything He ever said He is. This study starts February 1st. Sign up ASAP: bensteffen92@gmail.com
- 2). A 4-week study for women, facilitated by Mary Jo Cyr begins on February 28th and runs through March 8th. It will be a “Write-The-Word” study focusing on JOY. Sign up ANYTIME: maryjocyr4@gmail.com

KIDS THESE DAYS! PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Parenting styles have changed over the years. However, God's Word has always provided the same counsel, wisdom, and responsibilities to parents and to grandparents. Here's a little Q and A:

- 1). Do you feel overwhelmed?
- 2). Do you feel like you don't know what you're doing?
- 3). Do you feel like you should fight against the culture?
- 4). Are you afraid you wouldn't know where to start?

Answer: Join Pastor Niles on Sundays in February from 9:15-10:15am as we look to God's Word to find encouragement, wisdom, and hope.

“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES” SATURDAYS RETURNS

For an in-depth look at the Scripture readings appointed for each weekly worship service, be in the Century Room from 4:15-5:15pm on Saturday evenings, beginning February 5th. One of our pastors will lead a discussion on the background of the readings and how they fit into the whole context of the week's worship service. What a great way to prepare before ever stepping into the sanctuary.

More Feb. News

MARCH VISITOR DEADLINE

**** PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER DATE FOR THIS MONTH ****

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

FEBRUARY SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

2/1—2/5 = All clothing is \$1.00 2/8 = 30% off everything in the store 2/9—2/12 = Linens, 50% off
2/15—2/19 = Toys, Games & Puzzles, 50% off 2/22—2/26 = Jewelry, 50% off

STUDENT COUNCIL BABYSITTING NIGHT

This event is for Bethlehem School families The Student Council would like to babysit your children on Friday, February 11th from 4:00-7:00pm. This is for children in grades 3K—4th (children need to be potty trained). Dinner will be provided. Activities will include an art project, scavenger hunt, watching a movie, playing games, and more! The cost is a free will donation. For questions or to obtain the RSVP form (deadline is Feb. 7th), contact Katie Schallock at katie.schallock@ourbethlehem.com or 414-708-1112.

YOUTH GROUP DATES FOR FEBRUARY—NOTE THE NEW TIME!

Please plan on joining us for Youth Group on February 6th and February 27th. Junior Youth (6th-8th grade) and Senior Youth (9th-12th grade) **will now meet at the same time, 5:30-7:00pm.** We look forward to seeing you!

BETHLEHEM'S DAILY DEVOTION

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

USED BOOK COLLECTION

Trinity Sheboygan will be holding their first annual *Nearly New Book Sale* this spring. They are looking for donations of gently used children and young adult's books, including board books, early readers and chapter books. A donation box is available in the Century Room. For questions or larger donations, please contact Liz Ekblad at ekblad@trinitysheboygan.org or 920-917-7295. More details on the sale will be forthcoming. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE: BETHLEHEM PICNIC WILL BE AUGUST 21ST, 2022

A special thank-you to everyone that volunteered and helped with the picnic last year. Without your help the event would not be possible. Please consider volunteering for the planning of this year's picnic. With your time and talents, we can make this year's picnic spectacular! Volunteer events will be starting in March.

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST, SPONSORED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Once again the Sunday School teachers, aides and volunteers will be hosting the FAMILY, JESUS LOVES YOU Sunday School pancake breakfast on February 13th, 2022. Please join us for this fun event. In addition to pancakes and sausage, there will also be crafts and games for the family. All families are welcome; consider bringing friends and relatives to join in on the fun.

THE BOARD OF ASSIMILATION WELCOMES FRANK MARZANO, THE PIZZA MAN

Saturday, February 12th at 6:30pm in the Parish Activity Center.

Frank will entertain you with stories of his youth and re-create the pizzeria experience, tossing the dough and making the pizza right before your eyes. Cost is \$15/person, which includes pizza and dessert. Please bring your own drinks (beer, wine, soda, water). The sign-up sheet is in the Century Room (deadline is Feb. 6th). This event is limited to 60 people. Call Dave Kanz 920-207-1011 or Brenda Kanz 920-912-3086 with questions.

SOCIAL MINISTRY THANKS YOU!

Thank you to the Bethlehem Family who made donations this past holiday season. Whether it was food, gift cards, cash, household items, quilts or toys, it was greatly appreciated. It was another successful distribution for families, homebound, nursing home residents, schools and community outreach programs. You helped make the holidays festive for those in need. Please note that food & monetary donations are accepted throughout the year. Please help the Board of Social Ministry continue serving in our Father's name.

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

DECEMBER 31, 2021

ASSETS	December	November	
Cash	\$ 158,600	\$ 170,022	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,354,417	\$ 6,369,091	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 43,767	\$ 24,846	
SYNOD	\$ 0	\$ 1,333	
Lutheran High School	\$ 0	\$ 2,683	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,678,267	\$ 1,686,251	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,723,303	\$ 1,720,393	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 84,170	\$ 75,450	
Tuition	\$ 14,359	\$ 23,320	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 125,384	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 123,413	\$ 262,863	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 151,969	\$ 152,380	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ (28,555)	 \$ 110,483	
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u>	 \$ 1,868,928	 \$ 1,745,514	
 <u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u>	 \$ 1,841,018	 \$ 1,689,049	
 <u>NET INCOME 2021</u>	 \$. 27,909	 \$ 56,465	

We finished the year \$27,909 in the BLACK! Our cash position at the end of December is good at \$158,600. Our general accounts payable stand at \$43,767. Adult envelopes jumped up to \$84,170. We are current with Synod and Lutheran High School. **We need everyone at Bethlehem to be involved as a volunteer. If you're involved, get a friend to help; the more hands helping, the easier the project. Thank God for all of you and we hope you had a Blessed Merry Christmas!**

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!

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*.

SCRIP INFORMATION

If your Scrip credit went to Bethlehem Lutheran Church General Fund, Bethlehem Special Appeal or Bethlehem Guardian Angel Program, you can claim any profit on your income taxes. If you would like a copy of your report, please let us know. You can let one of the Scrip sellers know, you can send an email to BethlehemScrip@hotmail.com or you can call Brenda Kanz at 920-912-3086.

SCRIP PAYMENTS FOR 2021

Bethlehem Tuition = \$17,331.50
Lutheran High Tuition = \$7,186.37
Concordia University = \$1,275.02
Bethlehem Church General Fund = \$2,866.04
Guardian Angel Fund = \$558.69
Bethlehem's Commitment to LHS = \$760.98

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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