



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
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CONNECT WITH US


Bethlehem Lutheran

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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

Jan 2023

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

January 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	2 Offices Closed	3 Back To School!! LWML meeting 7:00pm	4 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Brat Fry meeting 6:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	5 Youth Board meeting 4:30pm	6	7 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
8 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Youth Group 5:30-7:00pm	9 Bible class 6:00pm PTL meeting 6:00pm	10 Quilters 9:00am	11 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	12 Bethlehem Congregation Night at LHS JV & Varsity boys Basketball 5:50pm	13	14 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
15 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	16 Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	17	18 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	19 February Visitor Deadline (noon)	20	21 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
22 National Lutheran Schools Week Worship w/HC 10:00am (note: 1 service) Brat Fry 11:00am Youth Group 5:30-7:00pm	23 Bible class 6:00pm	24 Quilters 9:00am	25 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voters meeting 7:00pm	26	27	28 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
29 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	30 Bible class 6:00pm	31				

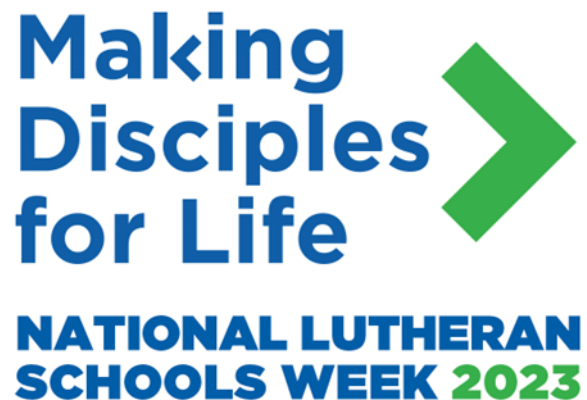
FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Next Generation: Stewards of Children

Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ~Acts 16:30-33~

In this text from Acts, Paul and Silas were in jail for preaching the Gospel message. They were praying to the Lord for His will to be done, and there was a mighty earthquake that broke open their chains and cells. The jailer, thinking everyone had fled and that he had failed his station, was about to kill himself rather than suffer his fate with his superiors. But Paul and Silas did not flee. They stopped the jailer's actions and told him about Christ. Then the rest is accounted in the excerpt above. I do not mention this text because of the salvation of the jailer alone, but it is interesting that the entirety of his family and household were baptized. The jailer, using his authority as the head of his house, had his entire family educated in the faith and baptized.

January is one of my favorite months. Not only do we get to celebrate Epiphany, but we also get to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW). NLSW is a time when all of the Lutheran schools throughout the country celebrate the joys and blessings of Christian education in their midst. Bethlehem is honored to be a part of that tradition in Sheboygan. Every day throughout the school year, children from all walks of life enter our doors to learn a host of necessary knowledge that will benefit them in life. Math, science, history, and language arts are instrumental in our children being able to pave their way forward in life. But what makes Lutheran schools different? Why would someone pay to come learn the things that they could learn for free at the public schools? Why do the members of Bethlehem sacrifice their money, volunteer hours, and sweat equity in order to operate a school when there is already a plethora of them in the area?



The real blessing of Lutheran schools is not what they teach the children for this life, but what they teach children about the life to come. In the midst of science, language, art, music, math, history, and all of the subjects, the children also learn about their Lord and Savior who loves them... who died and rose for them... who is returning for them... who will be with them forever. They learn about their salvation. Eternity matters at Lutheran schools. Bethlehem Lutheran Church has prioritized partnering with families to educate them and their children toward salvation through Bethlehem Lutheran School. Children will never learn anything as important as what they learn about Jesus from the Holy Scriptures. And we have a responsibility to teach them. But every parent also has a responsibility to make sure they are teaching the faith to their children as well. Children are blessings to parents, and to the church. They are blessings of which we are stewards. We endeavor to tell the next generation of God's blessings, so that many, in the future, may come to faith and eternity. May God continue to bless these opportunities amongst us!

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

A New Thing?

God's immutability has always been a difficult concept for me to grasp. It's one of the core attributes of God we are taught from early on. Immutable, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, righteous all of these words describe what Yahweh our God is like. I understand what these words mean, but I certainly do not want to even begin to pretend I understand how they function.

What I do know is God tells us that if He desires to change things, He can. At least from our limited and fallen human perspective. It's the same thing when we pray. Do we expect God to change his mind to grant us what we want? I think we should, as long as it aligns with those things God has told us are in alignment with His will.

And that's really what is behind this apparent "changing of things" is God's hidden will and plan for the events of history. We are given a piece of it; an important piece to be sure. But we so often want to ask for God to reveal things we have not been given.

Isaiah 43

*But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing **a new thing**; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise."*

God planned from the beginning to send a savior to take away the sin of the world. This plan unfolded slowly by our standards, but God continued to reveal things bit by bit. The promises were slowly given and faithfully kept until one day this "new thing" was finally revealed.

Jesus was always going to die on the cross and rise from the dead. God's plan of salvation has already been set in motion and there is one more big event we look forward to see. The Judgement Day has been promised as well. We will once again see a "new thing".

After Jesus returns in Judgement we will live in the new heavens and the new earth with Him forever. There will no longer be a separation between God in all His glory and his people in all their brokenness.

So until we experience the complete joys of those days yet to come, we trudge through the old things in this old life. Please never lose the hope you have in the redemption won for you by Jesus. We will continue to gather as God's people and rally around the gifts He has graciously given to us for the sustenance we need until we are called home.

Peace of the Lord,

-Pastor Moon

January News

LWML WELCOMES PASTOR MOON IN JANUARY

The January 3rd meeting of the Bethlehem LWML will feature a visit by Pastor Moon. He will present the topic “*The Bread of Life*” - which, incidentally is the meaning of the word “Bethlehem”. Although LWML sometimes invites specific ladies to get to know us, anyone is very welcome to attend. Just drop in to the Century Room at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday of any month. Our friendly group is waiting to welcome you.

MONDAY NIGHT IS “RICK ZEUNER” NIGHT!

Starting on January 9th from 6:00-7:00pm in the Century Room, Rick will lead the topic, “*Genesis in January—Starting at the Beginning*”. It will be an 8-week series but there will be 2 Mondays “off”. Here’s the schedule so that you can mark your calendar:

- ◆ January 9th, 23rd & 30th
- ◆ February 13th, 20th & 27th
- ◆ March 6th & 13th

Bring your friends with you. A Rick Zeuner series is not to be missed. You’re sure to end up seeing Genesis with fresh eyes.

NEW SATURDAY AND SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES BEING DEVELOPED

Both Pastor Niles and Pastor Moon are working on new Bible studies for weekend adult-education hours. Watch future bulletins for more details.

BIBLE STUDY “MYTH BUSTERS”

Myth #1: I need to really know the Bible in order to be comfortable in a Bible class.

Truth: We’re all Bible learners. No one is ever made to feel uncomfortable in class.

Myth #2: I went to Bethlehem School and Sunday School. I know all I need to know about the Bible.

Truth: The Bible itself says it best: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I reasoned like a child; but now I have put away childish things (or concepts).

Myth #3: I need to be a Bible scholar in order to lead a class as a layperson.

Truth: No one expects a layperson to be a Bible expert. Most layperson-led studies are topical and come with Leader Guides.

Conclusion: What is God calling you to do?

DO YOU ORDER PIZZA OR OTHER FOOD TO BE DELIVERED?

Do you have Amazon deliver products you purchased online?

Well, how about having a Bethlehem at-home Bible study at your fingertips—delivered right to your phone or computer? Bible Studies Task Force is wanting to develop a casual, online Bible studies ministry.

But we need help! We need:

- 1). Persons who are willing to learn to lead an online study. Prepared materials with Leaders’ Guides are available and Martha Becker is willing to mentor anyone who is willing to give this a try. How often you lead would be up to you.
- 2). Persons willing to participate in an online study. Your leader would show you how to get started.
- 3). Let’s talk it over. Email Audrey Braatz at dobraatz@yahoo.com or call her at 920-452-7706.

ADULT CHOIR

The adult choir practices every Thursday evening at 7:00pm.

Are you interested in joining? Contact the church office.

SALSA CONGREGATION NIGHTS FOR LHS BASKETBALL SEASON

Special nights at the home basketball games for the Association Congregations is a small way to say 'thank you' for the support you give to Lutheran High School.

All members of our congregation will be admitted free of charge on our church's night!

Bethlehem Night: Thursday, January 12th (Boys basketball game vs. Elkhart Lake).

JV begins at 5:50pm and Varsity begins at 7:30pm.

More Jan. News

SCRIP MESSAGE

We now have Kwik Trip Grocery only cards. These cards come in \$25 denomination and have a 15% profit. They can only be used for groceries (no gas, alcohol, tobacco, or lottery tickets). We also have McDonald's cards in \$10 or \$25 denominations. They have a 2% profit.

YOUTH GROUP DATES FOR JANUARY

Attention Junior & Senior youth! Please plan to attend our two youth group get-togethers this month. The dates are Sunday, January 8th and Sunday, January 22nd from 5:30-7:00pm.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

Will occur January 22-28, 2023!

Join us for worship on Sunday, January 22nd at 10:00am for our Lutheran Schools Week Kick-Off! All students will be singing. Invite family and friends! (*please note the 1 worship service time on this Sunday*).

Monday-Thursday will be filled with dress-up days and fun events for the students. Get ready to show your Bethlehem spirit on Thursday, January 26th!

MIX & MINGLE BRAT FRY

You are invited to a brat fry on Sunday, January 22nd, after the 10:00am service.

Per the National Lutheran Schools Week message above, we will have 1 worship service this day. Please stay for a brat fry lunch. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.

BETHLEHEM'S PTL

PTL is a great way for new or existing Bethlehem families to be involved in student life and we welcome anyone who would like to join. We meet once a month for an hour to plan our events and you can be involved as much as you would like. If you are interested, feel free to reach out to any Bethlehem staff member or Wendy Haas at whaas1116@gmail.com and we would be happy to share all the great things we have done and are working on for this year.

A RECAP OF THE EVANGELISM SERVANT EVENT AT NEAT REPEATS

Volunteering at Neat Repeats on November 26th was great! Working along side awesome co-workers and helping with the \$6 bag of clothes event made for a fun day. The baggers enjoyed watching the customers smile as we tried to "squeeze it all in" and still tie the bag shut! We learned a lot, but some of us first-timers found out just how much we didn't know. We have shared our experience with others, including the ladies at the Christmas LWML meeting.

Neat Repeats counts on donations and this makes the whole volunteer process special. We hope that more Bethlehem members will consider volunteering at Neat Repeats throughout the year!

PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR 2023 CALENDAR

The Bethlehem Church family picnic will be held on August 20th, 2023.

FEBRUARY VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the February Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, January 19th, 2023. 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.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

- ◆ Sharon Becker — December 13, 2022
- ◆ Keith Suprick — December 25, 2022

WELCOMED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM

- ◆ Antonio Robert Sarinana — December 11, 2022

A New Year — New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo—painter, sculptor, and poet—and Thomas Jefferson—architect, statesman, and scientific farmer—come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the *Parable of the Talents* pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities—that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

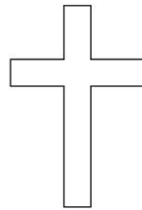
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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!

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*.



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.

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