

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

1121 Georgia Ave. 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



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ourbethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)



[https://twitter.com/
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Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Jeremy Hanson
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. 2025

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

January 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 NO SCHOOL (offices are closed) NO WORSHIP SERVICE	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL	4 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
5 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Bible Study Task Force 11:30am	6 Back to School	7 Quilters 9:00am PTL meeting 6:00pm LWML meeting 7:00pm	8 Read. Part. 1:00pm Confirm. Class 3:30 Worship w/HC 6:00pm Stewardship meeting 7:00pm SALSA Spelling Bee @ LHS 7:00pm	9 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	10	11 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
12 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	13 Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm	14	15 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm LHS Open House 6:00-8:00pm	16 February Visitor Deadline (noon) Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	17	18 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
19 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	20 Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	21 Quilters 9:00am Board of Evangelism meeting 5:00pm Bethlehem Night @ LHS basketball 5:50pm	22 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voters' meeting 7:00pm	23 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	24	25 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
26 National Lutheran Schools Week Worship 10:00am Youth Group event @ Sheb Falls Aquatic Center noon-2:00pm	27 Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm	28	29 Reading Partners 1:00pm Confirmation class 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	30 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	31 NO SCHOOL	

✠ From the desk of Pastor Niles ✠

Epiphany - Celebrating the Light that Makes Us Lights

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ~Matthew 2:9-11~

As we enter the season of Epiphany, we are reminded of the light of Christ that shines into a world darkened by sin. For Epiphany is a time to reflect on the manifestation of Jesus as the Savior of all nations. The term "Epiphany" itself means "revelation" or "manifestation," and it is traditionally observed on January 6, marking the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. At Bethlehem we will be celebrating in services on January 11th, 12th, and 15th. The account of the Magi in Matthew 2 reveals profound truths about God's plan of salvation. These wise men from the East were drawn to Bethlehem by the light of a star, and their journey symbolizes the call of the Gentiles to worship the Messiah. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh—treasures that acknowledge Jesus' kingship, divinity, and sacrificial death.



Epiphany is a season that encourages us to proclaim the Good News that Christ is the light of the world. As Isaiah proclaims, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you"* (Isaiah 60:1). This theme of light is carried throughout Epiphany, as we reflect on how Jesus reveals Himself as the Son of God through His teachings, miracles, and the events of His ministry. For us, Epiphany is a call to mission. Just as the Magi were drawn to Christ, we are reminded of our role in pointing others to the Savior. The light of Christ that has been revealed to us is not meant to be hidden but shared. In a world searching for hope and meaning, the message of salvation through Jesus is more relevant than ever. The light of Christ shines into our dark world through us! We become lights of Christ where He has called us and placed us.

During this Epiphany season, challenge yourself in the following ways:

Worship with Joy: Like the Magi, we are drawn to our Savior in worship. We become observers and, also, partakers of His salvation as we receive His gifts of faith, forgiveness, and salvation.

Shine the Light of Christ: Just as the Magi returned home to love and serve, we reflect the light of Christ to those around us through our love and service to our neighbors. The same joy, forgiveness, and care that God shows us in Christ, we can show to the people in our lives.

Share the Gospel: Epiphany is a perfect opportunity to renew our commitment to evangelism, sharing the story of Christ's love with our neighbors. We never know when God will give us the opportunity to share Him with others. However, we can be intentional about looking for those opportunities. We need not fear about sharing the Gospel, because, like the Magi, God has promised to take care of us.

As we journey through this season, let us rejoice in the light of Christ that has come into the world. May our lives be a reflection of His grace, shining brightly for all to see. *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"* (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Blessings to you during this Epiphany season, as we celebrate the revelation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to all nations.

Pastor Niles

**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF**

November 30, 2024

ASSETS	Nov 2024	Oct 2024	
Cash	\$ 223,297	\$ 52,071	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 961,103	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,411,096	\$ 7,255,663	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 103,447	\$ 41,408	
SYNOD	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,750	
Lutheran High School	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,683	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,381,828	\$ 1,390,478	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,615,424	\$ 1,558,958	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 75,467	\$ 72,112	
Tuition	\$ 16,535	\$ 17,896	
School Choice Program	\$ 162,684	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 262,408	\$ 100,677	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 198,548	\$ 170,396	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ 63,860	\$ (69,719)	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2024</u>	\$ 1,951,127	\$ 1,688,718	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2024</u>	\$ 1,986,823	\$ 1,788,275	
<u>NET INCOME 2024</u>	\$ (35,696)	\$ (99,556)	

Adult giving for November was at \$75,467, just under our budget estimate. Accounts payable rose to \$103,447. We received the WI Voucher payment for \$162,684. Our net income improved by \$63,000. Please remember to worship on a weekly basis and encourage our fellow Christians to do the same. It is important that we spend time together strengthening each other in our faith. Hope you had a Blessed and Merry Christmas !

Thank you for your support!

January News

DO YOU NEED TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE?

If you're not sure, do any of these statements sound familiar:

*"I really want to come to church more regularly; maybe when the kids are older."
"Bible studies sound really interesting; maybe when the kids aren't so involved in sports."
"I'd love to help out around church or school; maybe when I'm not so busy."*

Do any of these statements sound like you? Maybe you need to simplify your life. What's holding you back? The expectations of other people? A time-consuming hobby? Stuck in the past? What do you need to let go of? The Bible says that everything is permissible, but not everything is helpful. Ask God to help you decide how to make Him number one in your life.

AN EXCITING NEW LOOK AT CREATION STARTS JANUARY 13

Master-teacher Rick Zeuner begins an 8-session series entitled *"Is Genesis History?"*, beginning on Monday, January 13 from 6:00-7:00pm in the Century Room. This will not be a heavy, intellectual study too deep for most people to understand. Rick knows how to meet his participants where they are in knowledge and understanding, and he welcomes questions. Come and enjoy his informal, friendly style.

Why not invite a friend to join you?

A "WINTER WONDERLAND" OF BIBLE STUDIES SOON TO BE REVEALED

Weekend Bible studies are currently under development for January and February. Soon you will see posters on the walls of the Century Room, bulletin inserts, Facebook posts, and BLS newsletter announcements. Keep an eye out and decide which to attend. You won't be sorry!

LWML INVITES YOU TO HEAR A SPEAKER FROM ANCHOR OF HOPE

On Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00pm in the Century Room, LWML will welcome a special speaker from Anchor of Hope. Her presentation will follow a short opening devotion. Anyone interested (male or female) is invited to attend. Anchor of Hope is a faith-based, life affirming, community non-profit, dedicated to providing free medical and support services to women and families facing unintended pregnancies.

This is a regular meeting of the Bethlehem LWML and anyone who wants to stay for the meeting to follow, is welcome. We hope that some of the ladies will stay and get to know LWML a bit better, however, you will be free to leave after the speaker finishes. Mark your calendar for February 4.

ALTAR GUILD FLOWER UPDATE

Please note that due to the increase in flower costs at Caan's, the cost to sponsor an altar arrangement here at Bethlehem has now increased to \$35.00. The 2025 flower board is up and ready - feel free to sign up at any time. Please continue to make your check out to *Altar Guild*. Thank you.

VOTERS' MEETING

Please plan to attend the next regular Voters' meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 22 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

JANUARY YOUTH GROUP EVENT

Bethlehem's youth group has been invited by our friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sheboygan Falls to join them on Sunday, January 26 from noon-2:00pm at the Sheboygan Falls Aquatic Center.

This will be a free swim event, so please plan on participating in the fun & fellowship!

More January News

BETHLEHEM BADGER BASKETBALL SEASON IS UNDERWAY!

There are several ways to help and support this program.

Please use the following link if you are interested in donating items to the concession stand
OR if you would like to work a shift or two in the concession stand.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050445A8A72CA2FB6-concession>

Cheer on the Badgers by finding a seat in the stands. Here are some upcoming home games:

- ◆ January 9: 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30
 - ◆ January 15: 4:30, 5:30
- ◆ January 20: 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30
 - ◆ January 22: 5:00, 6:00

BETHLEHEM CONGREGATION & HOT SHOTS NIGHT

The Crusader boys basketball teams will take on Roncalli in the LHS gym on Tuesday, January 21, and we invite members of Bethlehem to attend the game free of charge!

Plus, Bethlehem Badgers will compete in Hot Shots during halftime of the varsity game.

JV tips off at 5:50pm, with varsity to follow at 7:15pm. We hope to see you in the gym!

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

- 1/2-1/4: purses, duffels and luggage, 50% off
- 1/7-1/11: hats, scarves, ties, and belts, 50% off
- 1/14: everything in the store, 30% off
- 1/15-1/18: linens, 50% off
- 1/21-1/25: furniture and lamps, 50% off
- 1/28-1/31: shoes and socks, 50% off

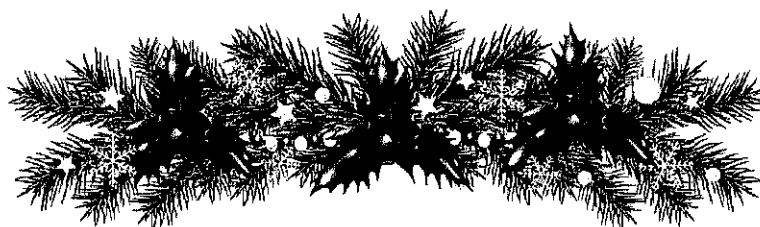
BETHLEHEM FACILITY RESERVATIONS

If you are an individual or group looking to reserve space at Bethlehem (Century Room, library, gym, kitchen, cafeteria, etc.) please make sure to call the church office. Thank you for your cooperation.

FEBRUARY VISITOR DEADLINE

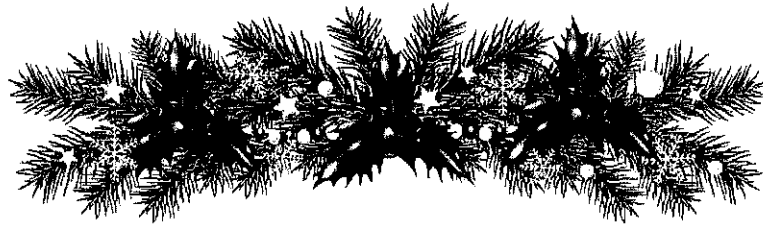
If you would like to submit information for the February Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note that it is for the Visitor.





Christmas Decoration Fund

- + Sharyn Grider Mondloch, in memory of Billy Gene Grider and Bill Mondloch
- + Joan Osthelder and Sarah, in memory of Robert "Bob" Osthelder
- + Amy Weir, Natalie, Andrew & Courtney, in memory of John Weir
- + Wayne & Linda Thiel, in memory of John Weir
- + Jon, Heidi, Andrew & Emma Krueger, in memory of John Weir
- + Janice Widra, in memory of Earl Widra and Herbert Haack
- + Mark & Diana Steffen, in honor of Lee & Bev Steffen
- + Sherry Baalke, in memory of husband Tom
- + Sherry Hunt, in memory of Curtis Hunt, Judy Rische, and Elwood & Virginia Splittgerber
- + Steve Pautz family, in memory of Victor, Marilyn and Anna Pautz, and Jodi Cannon
- + Ralph & Daniela Dottai, in memory of loved ones
- + Jeff Radtke, in memory of sister Suzanne
- + Dorn family, in memory of Pete & Beverly Dorn
- + Bintzler family, in memory of Dale Bintzler
- + Barb, Steve & Matthew Nitsch, in memory of John Viney, Marion Viney, Bill Nitsch, and Vera Nitsch
- + Jim & Judy Heinecke, in memory of Harrison & Betty Brueggemann and Harold & Ada Heinecke
- + David & Linda TenDolle, in memory of Susan Kaesermann, Ken & Sharon Thimmig, and Lloyd TenDolle
- + Tom Pilgrim, in memory of Marion M. Pilgrim
- + Stielow family, in memory of Robert & Julia Stielow, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bartzen, Kathy Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Schultz, and Terry Johnson
- + Kittelson family, in memory of Joe Kittelson and all loved ones
- + Dave Strohschoen, in memory of grandparents Edward & Ida Behnke and William & Martha Strohschoen, parents Leonard & Evelyn Strohschoen, and brother Robert Strohschoen
- + Luther & Kay Bajus, in memory of our parents and Scotty Viesselmann and Lynn Viesselmann
- + Linda Herber, in memory of Carla Borstad, George Brown, and Bob Herber
- + Peggy Wesener-Timm family, in memory of Richard Wesener Sr., Lillian Raml, and all loved ones
- + Alice Brown, in memory of husband, son, and all family members who have passed
- + Sariñana family, in memory of Sotero, Beto, Carmen, and Jose Sariñana
- + Sariñana family, in honor of Maria Ryan
- + Richard Gehr, in memory of Elmira and Timothy
- + Catherine, Ruth & Robert Meyer, in memory of Eric Meyer
- + Penny Weber, in memory of Gary Weber, Edward & Gertrude Diener, Erna Zurheide, and Marie Diener
- + Judi Knier family, in memory of Terry Knier and James & Ruth Behrens
- + Tyler Schaefer, in memory of Henry & Beverly Schaefer



Christmas Decoration Fund

- + Sandra Fischer, in memory of Roger Fischer Sr.
 - + VanEngen family, in memory of Don & Carol VanEngen
 - + Dean & Virginia Evans, in memory of Roger & Patricia Evans
 - + Bob & Linda Zimbal, in memory of Richard & Marlene Klein and Robert & Audrey Zimbal
 - + Jeff & Mary Henning, Amy & Brett Schwarz, Marsha & Tim Nachtwey, and Rhonda & Joe Sharpe, in memory of Carol Henning and Ronald Henning
 - + Audrey & Jodi VanDixhorn and Kim & Jeff Nack, in memory of Jack VanDixhorn, Carl & Martha Knorr, and Chris & Laura VanDixhorn
 - + Kris Strauss, in memory of Dean Strauss
 - + David & Brenda Kanz, in memory of Fred & Muriel Klafit
 - + Mary Lampe family, in memory of husband Orville, son Bruce, son Joseph, and granddaughter Naomi
 - + Louise Forward, in memory of Dale and Joe Forward
 - + Doug & Nancy Hasenstein, in memory of Margie, Dennis & Bernice Hasenstein, Arne & David Olsen, and Wilbert, Margaret & John Buhler
 - + Linda Nikisch, in memory of husband Don
 - + Judy Zimmermann, in memory of husband Terry and daughter Stacy
-
- + Mike Klee family, for blessings received
 - + Janice & Roger Wegner, for blessings received
 - + Steve & Nancy Brown and family, for blessings received
 - + Dan Blackburn, for blessings received
 - + Alice Brown, for blessings received
 - + Earl & Sheri Constien, for blessings received
 - + Schulze family, for blessings received
 - + Sandra Fischer, for blessings received
 - + Ron & Gail Goldmann, for blessings received
 - + Heidi & Matt Wallner, for blessings received
 - + Al & Krisi Mondloch, for blessings received
 - + Mike & Gloria Klein, for blessings received
 - + Steve & Peggy Hotz, for blessings received

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

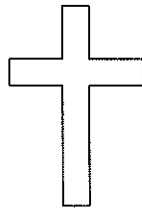
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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 the 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.

Dennis & Nancy Bearn
Sandra Fischer
Leonard Johnson
George & Karen Haecker
Linda Hulbert-Ertel

Congregational Sponsors

Bev Fischer
Bob & Lori Gottowski
Linda Nikisch
Beverly Bauer

Jim & Judy Heinecke
Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Anita Krimmel
Keith & Christine Wyckoff
James Schmidt

Advanced Comfort Systems
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