



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

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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

May 2022

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

May 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

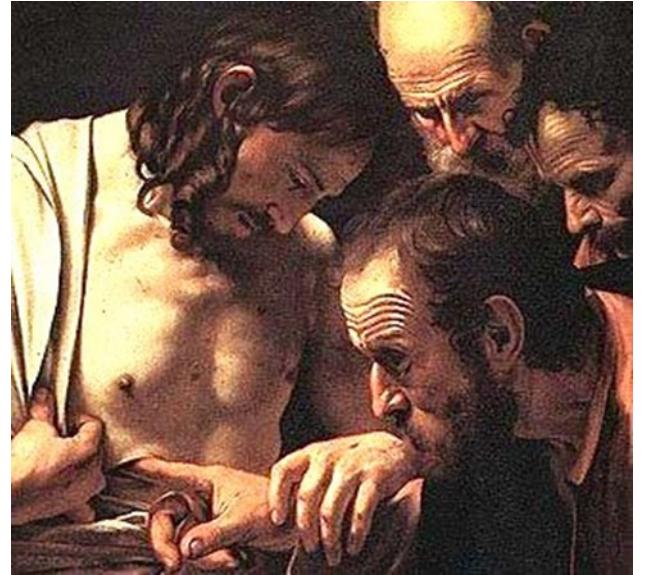
1 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Brat Fry (sponsored by the Youth Group) *after services* *To-Go orders only*	2 Pastor's Conference	3 Pastor's Conference LWML Meeting * Guest Speaker * 7:00pm	4 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	5 BLS Grade School Musical (Grades 1-5) 6:00pm	6 Grandparents Day 8:00am-Noon	7 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
8 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am	9	10	11 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	12 Bethlehem Family Picnic Meeting 7:00pm	13	14 Altar Guild 9:30am Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
15 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Confirmation 1:30pm	16 PTL Meeting 6:00pm Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm	17 Quilters 9:00am	18 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm LHS Pops Concert 7:00pm @ LHS	19 June Visitor Deadline (noon)	20 SALSA Track Meet @ Howards Grove High School LHS Graduation 7:00pm	21 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
22 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Last Day of Sunday School (ice cream) 9:15am Youth Group Junior & Senior 5:30-7:00pm	23	24	25 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	26	27 NO SCHOOL	28 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
29 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	30 Memorial Day NO SCHOOL Church & School offices are closed	31 Quilters 9:00am				

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Proof that You Need

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ~John 20:26-29~

Thomas stood in front of the risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was flabbergasted that the other disciples were actually telling the truth. This was no figment of the imagination. This was no ghost or apparition. This was actually THE Jesus. The one that hung on the cross. The one that Thomas saw dead. The one that was laid in the tomb. And now, THAT Jesus was standing in front of him. Jesus was holding out his hands to Thomas beckoning him to come forward and place his fingers in the gaping holes in Jesus' hands. Jesus moved his robe to the side to reveal the hole from the spear. Once again, Jesus beckons Thomas to come and put his hand there. Thomas should not have been surprised at Jesus' actions. This is what Thomas said he needed. "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."



Can you imagine being Thomas at this point? What do you do? Do you actually go up and put your finger in the holes of his hand? Do you actually put your hand in his side? It would seem kind of silly wouldn't it? I mean what other proof would you need? Jesus is standing right there! John does not tell us what Thomas actually does. John just tells us what Thomas says to Jesus' invitation. "My Lord and my God!" When confronted with the proof, Thomas is left with only one response - to admit that he was faithless. Thomas confesses Jesus in the face of the resurrection. Jesus shows up to make Thomas an example for us. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." That is us.

However, we have our little bouts with unbelief just as Thomas did. God, why is this happening to me? God, where are you? God, why don't I feel your presence? God, can you really forgive what I have done? Or maybe we get to the point where we do not even ask the question anymore. We just live our life with a God-sized chip on our shoulder in perpetual anger or apathy toward Him, and the blessings He gives. He shows up with His promises attached to the water. He shows up with His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. Yet, we prefer to go after the things we see. We try to find comfort in them. We try to define ourselves with them because we can see them. But Jesus shows up again and reminds us, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." He forgives. He shows us Himself. Time and time again.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

Momentary

Sometimes a good old fashioned “Alleluia!” is just what we need. I can’t for the life of me remember an Easter that was more joyous or felt more celebratory than this, the year of our Lord 2022. It might have been personal circumstances within the past year which led to this feeling. It might have been the particularly dreary weather throughout the tail end of Lent. It might have been the extra contemplative and existential nature of conversations with members of our congregation in recent weeks. Or maybe it’s something totally unrelated and I will never know for sure! Which is fine, this Easter was incredible, I’m not going to complain.

I guess my point in dwelling on this feeling and the nature of my experience is this: I pray you had a wonderful Easter just like I did. If life has been getting you down, I pray the news of Jesus’ resurrection brought a much-needed light to your day and a brilliant smile to your face. If you got bad news from the world, (finances, health crisis, loss of family or friends, etc.) I pray the Spirit was there to remind you of the Truth. Neither life, nor death, angels or demons, nor height nor death or anything else in this world can separate us from the Love of God that is yours in Christ Jesus the Risen Lord. He has made us victors alongside Himself. (*Moon translation of Romans 8:36-39*)

I was having a conversation with a friend from college about the nature of emotions in this life. “Why can’t we always be happy as Christians?” was his question. He already knew the answer, but it was a good primer for our conversation the rest of the afternoon. We came to the conclusion that our sin will always plague us in one way or another. The devil is constantly trying to remove the hope and joy we have in Jesus and His Gospel message.

Then our conversation took an interesting turn. We bemoaned the fact that the moments which bring us joy are always so fleeting. Easter morning goes by like a flash, wouldn’t you agree? The joyful songs we sing are only minutes long and in the moment they feel shorter than they truly are. Time flies when you’re having fun I suppose. And seriously how is “At the Lamb’s High Feast” only 8 verses?

Even simple things that bring joy like a well-timed joke with a friend, a smile shared between family members, the cheers of supporting your kid or nieces/nephews playing sports or musical instruments, the delightful taste of your favorite restaurant food; all these things are momentary. Holding on to these is like trying to squeeze water in your hand: it’s eventually going to slip right through your fingers. These things will never last, and that’s ok too because they are imperfect.

Our hope is that in the resurrection, these moments will be magnified and extended to eternity. The joy we feel now will pale in comparison to that which will be. Every time you feel these moments slipping through your fingers, where joy is replaced by disappointment, be encouraged by the promise of the resurrection. Jesus is alive. That is a joyful message which will never disappoint and will never end.

Peace of the Risen Lord, Alleluia, Amen

-Pastor Moon

May News

LWML NEWS

Collection time!

Congregational members, your help will be appreciated by the LWML with the following projects.

- 1). Collection for Safe Harbor during the month of May. Items needed are boxes of Hamburger Helper, Rice-A-Roni, mac and cheese, kitchen tools (can openers, spatulas, etc.), aluminum foil, Saran wrap, granola bars, fruit snacks, pretzels, chips and cans of soup. Please place your donations in the basket below the LWML bulletin board in the Century Room, anytime in May.
- 2). The quarterly collection of mite boxes will be held on May 7th & 8th. Drop off your mite box in the LWML mailbox or at the coffee hour refreshment table on Sunday, May 8th and enjoy a donut!

THE 8TH FOR 80!

Help the LWML celebrate 80 years of God's grace on May 8th at the coffee hour and donut sale, featuring delicious purple glazed donuts. From 1942-2022 the LWML has focused on spreading God's word through mission work both nationally and internationally. Proceeds raised on May 8th will go toward the expenses of hosting the national LWML convention in Milwaukee in 2023. Was your mom or grandma a member? Let's honor her with a free will donation on May 8th!



WHAT DOES "RETIREMENT" MEAN TO YOU?

(The following thoughts were inspired by the writings of Pastor Rudolph F. Norden)

When you retire from your job, does it seem you should lead a life of leisure and retire from all productive labor—even God's work? Consider this: God gives a special promise to those approaching the eventide of life. In Isaiah He declares, "Even to your old age and gray hairs, I am He, I am He who will sustain you". What a wonderful promise! Doesn't it fill our hearts with thankfulness?

Senior citizens, your congregation needs you. You have the advantage of life experience to "bring to the table". What have you spent time learning to do? How can you contribute to your faith community? Could you serve on a board or temporary committee? Could you help at our school? In Psalm 92, we read, "They will still bear fruit in old age". What's your "fruit"?

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! BECOME A VOTING MEMBER!



In the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, the congregation has significant responsibilities. Although the pastors bear responsibility for all things spiritual, the congregation charts the course for secular matters. Any communicant member of Bethlehem congregation can become a voting member.

Here's how:

- 1). Attend a voters' meeting
 - 2). Sign the attendance sheet
 - 3). Tell the Executive Director or a pastor that you wish to become a voting member.
 - 4). At your first meeting, just listen
 - 5). At any future meetings, feel free to make comments and to vote on the business at hand.
- Will we see you at the next voters' meeting?

YOUTH GROUP DATE FOR MAY

Please plan on joining us for Youth Group on May 22nd. This will be the last meeting due to summer break.
Junior and Senior Youth will meet from 5:30-7:00pm.

ALTAR GUILD

Attention Altar Guild ladies (or anyone interested in joining Altar Guild) - your presence would greatly be appreciated at the next Altar Guild meeting on Saturday, May 14th at 9:30am.

More May News

MAY SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

5/3-5/7: linens 50% off 5/10: everything in the store 30% off
5/11-5/14: toys, games and puzzles 50% off 5/17-5/21: jewelry 50% off
5/24-5/28: purses and bags 50% off 5/31-6/4: candles, candle holders and vases 50% off

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The last Sunday School class of the 2021-2022 year will be May 22nd, 2022. We are thankful for all who could attend this year. We will celebrate with *Sundae Sunday!* Join us for ice cream and games! Sunday School will resume in the fall.

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

Bethlehem Family Picnic will be held on August 21st, 2022. Organizers are needed! The kick-off meeting date has changed and will now be held on Thursday, May 12th at 7:00pm in the Century Room. Ideas will be needed for food, games, crafts, entertainment, tournaments, and even participation in the service. Please email Laura Lienau at l.lienau@hotmail.com if you have questions.

EASTER CONCERT

You are invited to an Easter Concert by the Konzertchor of Sheboygan Lutheran High School and the Children's and Adult Choirs of Trinity Lutheran Church (downtown Sheboygan) on Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00pm, at Holy Name Catholic Church (807 Superior Ave.). The choirs and orchestra will be presenting Vivaldi's *Gloria in D* and *Easter Cantata* by Lutheran composer David von Kampen. Admission is free. A punch and cookie reception will follow the concert. Come and celebrate the Easter season!

JUNE VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the June Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, April 21st, 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.

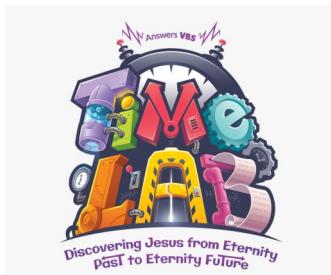
A MESSAGE FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

"*Time Lab—Discovering Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Future*" is an upcoming co-op Vacation Bible School, being held at Good Shepherd, June 27th—June 30th, from 10:00am-noon. The cost is free and this will be for children Kindergarten through 6th grade.

All lessons, games, etc. will be done in English. Come join the fun! Register as soon as possible so that materials and snacks can be planned accordingly. Walk-ins welcome.

To register, go to lutheranhigh.com and click on "Summer Camps" under the Activities tab. Scroll down to find Vacation Bible School and click on VBS Registration.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Teachers, craft helpers, snack helpers, group leaders, games leader/helpers, music leader. Helpers can be 7th grade—adult. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Pastor Blas at 630-229-2455.



GOD'S DRAFT CHOICES

Two of the most highly watched sporting events on television are not when teams or athletes are competing against each other; rather they involve the drafting of players for the National Football League (NFL) and National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. For many hours, fans of professional sports will watch intently to see whom their favorite teams will draft.

Most of us won't be drafted by professional football or basketball teams, but, as Christians, we receive a greater calling. We, in essence, are God's draft choices. "*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit*"(John 15:16). God has made us a part of His team. We are not chosen by God because we are successful in our careers, great athletes, or wealthy. God chooses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. "*But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to mollify the things that are*"(1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

Through faith, we understand that we are among the foolish and weak through whom God carries on His life-saving work. "*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us*"(2 Corinthians 4:7). God entrusts us—clay jars—with this treasure—the Gospel. Even though we are frail and unworthy of our tasks, God has chosen us to carry His message of love to the world. As humble people of faith, we are empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He transforms and molds us. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*"(2 Corinthians 5:17). It is God who does the drafting and the changing. Through faith, we will stay on God's team, and we will bear the fruit that He calls us to bear.

The professional athletes who are drafted are expected to perform. They are paid large sums of money to do very athletic things. As God's chosen people, we may not receive large compensation, but our benefits are out of this world! Therefore, we are eager to use our lives and resources in God's service for His glory. Paul wrote, "*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*"(Ephesians 2:10).

What a privilege it is to be part of and serving on God's winning team!

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!

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 452-4331.

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