



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

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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

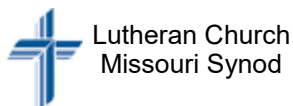
Bible Studies

Saturday ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Nov 2021

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

November 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 Bible Class 5:30pm	2 Quilters 9:00am PTL Fundraiser Pick-Up 3:00pm LWML meeting 7:00pm	3 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	4 Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	5 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	6 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
7 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am	8 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> - Teacher Conference	9 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> - Teacher Conference	10 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	11 Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	12 Craft/Vendor Fair Set-Up	13 Altar Guild 9:30am Craft/Vendor Fair 9:00am-2:00pm Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
14 LHS Sunday at Bethlehem Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am	15 Bible Class 5:30pm Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm	16 Quilters 9:00am	17 Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Parish Planning Council Meeting 7:00pm	18 December Visitor Deadline Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	19	20 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
21 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Junior Youth Group 4:30-6:00pm Senior Youth Group 6:00-7:30pm	22 Bible Class 5:30pm PTL Meeting 6:00pm	23	24 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> CHURCH & SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED - Thanksgiving Break Worship w/HC 6:00pm	25 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> CHURCH & SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED - <u>Happy Thanksgiving!</u> Worship w/HC 10:00am	26 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> CHURCH & SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED - Thanksgiving Break	27 LHS Wreath Pick-Up 9:00am-Noon Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
28 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am	29 Bible Class 5:30pm	30 Quilters 9:00am				

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

Who are These, Clothed in White Robes?

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:13-17)

The first Sunday in November is normally celebrated as "All Saints' Day". This is the day when we take time to remember the saints who have come before us and now rest from their labors. We rejoice that God used their earthly life for preservation of the kingdom through the teaching of the faith. The reading above is one of the appointed readings for All Saints' Day.

This reading, year after year, strikes me with a profound awe and wonder at the mercy of the Lord. John is led to see a vision of an uncountable number of people from every tribe and nation standing in praise before the Lamb of God (Jesus). They were all wearing white robes.

Then an elder comes and asks John, "Who are these people?" John replies that the man should tell him who they are. Then the man says some of the most beautiful words in Scripture, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This myriad of people are all of those who lived their lives with faith in Jesus. Every diaper change, every balancing of the checkbook, every job application, every moral lesson, every Bible story read, every



dinner made, was done in faith in Christ and service to the neighbor. In this world, they had tribulations and trials. They had failures and issues. But Jesus' blood has washed them clean. John gets a vision of **the entire company of saints of all time and place** in the presence of the Lamb! This means that when John was looking at this crowd, he saw your face in the myriad. Those white robes washed in the blood of the Lamb are yours! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Since those robes are given to us we have even more coming to us!

"...[H]e who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

May this All Saints' Day not only remind you of the saints who have come before us, but may it also remind you that you are also a saint. Your life and death is bound up in Christ alone!

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

From the Desk of Pastor Moon

Pastor Niles and I went to the pastors' conference a few weeks ago. For all intents and purposes it was my first real exposure to the "political" landscape of our church body. I must admit, I kind of enjoyed myself. I got to meet plenty of brother pastors, some of them who live closer to home than I thought! I caught up with old friends. I ate my fill of good food. I even got to rub elbows with the big wigs. It was all around a pretty good time.

There was one thing that struck me though. The conversations I was having fell into two categories. There were the excited and the burdened. The conversation I had with Pastor A was filled with excitement. I could tell just from the way he was describing his congregation, his people, and the future of the ministry in that place, that he was ready to get moving on things. On the other hand, my conversation with Pastor B was very different. Pastor B was burnt out and it showed. Rather than excitement, he bemoaned the situation he was in and was praying for something to change very soon.

I found myself getting excited alongside Pastor A and feeling sorry for Pastor B. I wasn't sure what else to do but tell them "I pray your ministry succeeds." But then I really started to consider what I meant, or rather, what I wanted to mean when I said that. When I sat down to pray that evening, how would God interpret and understand my prayer?

I came to the conclusion that what I had originally intended by these words was less than ideal. "I pray your ministry succeeds." = "I want your church to grow and your life in ministry to get easier." This is certainly not a BAD prayer, but I couldn't shake the feeling that I had missed something crucial.

As I pondered further, my thoughts wandered to the apostles. We have been reading through the book of Acts for our online daily devotion, so that was to be expected. What made their ministry so fruitful? Why did the early church grow by leaps and bounds? Then it clicked. The apostles cared very little about the number of people they had converted. They did not keep track and boast of their work to other apostles. Paul even writes to the church in Corinth to clear this up. The people bicker and argue saying that some follow Paul and some follow Apollos and some only follow Jesus. It is NOT a competition. The apostles also had difficult lives. Many of them were brutally executed. Stephen was stoned, Peter was crucified upside down just to name a few. The joy that they found through faithful proclamation of the Gospel was astonishing. Paul was at his most joyful as he wrote to the Philippians from prison.

Rather the apostles remained faithful in the midst of trials and found joy.

My prayer for successful ministry sounded different. Now what I really mean to say is: "I pray that you find joy as you serve faithfully."

It would be wonderful if Pastor A's church would introduce new programs for niche parts of the ministry and it would be delightful if Pastor B's church grew by 50% but if they were ever to forsake God's Will (for all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the TRUTH) and forget Paul's encouragement (keep the faith) then they would have become just another earthly club.

It is my prayer that Bethlehem would be a place filled with faithful disciples who find joy.

Peace of the Lord,

-Pastor Moon

November News

WHY SIGN THE RED RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP ANYWAY?

Have you ever had the feeling that no one cares whether or not you're present at a meeting or an event? Well, your faith community, Bethlehem Congregation, is not one of them! We care so much that we keep accurate attendance records so that we can reach out to you if something seems amiss. Please make it a habit to look for that red folder at the end of the pew and "sign in" every time you're at worship.

HOW MUCH DO YOU READ THE WEEKLY BULLETIN AND THE VISITOR?

If your answer is, "not so much", here's why you should. As laypersons, we are not like passenger cars on a train (just along for the ride), we are the engine. WE are the church! Exciting things are happening at Bethlehem and we need to know what they are and how we can help. How about making it a habit to read the Bulletin announcements the day you attend a worship service. How about reading the Visitor the day it arrives at your home. Doing these two things are sure to energize and inspire you.

DO I REALLY NEED TO BE IN A GROUP BIBLE STUDY?

Whether you've studied what the Bible says for years, or you're just getting started, one of the best ways to do it is with a small group. In an online group, you'll do guided Biblical readings. An in-person group will have some type of presentation by the pastor or facilitator. You'll be encouraged to share your thoughts, whether in written form online or in person. Perhaps you'd prefer to just see what others have to say. In any event, you're sure to gain insights you'd miss on your own. Why not make group study a part of your devotional life?

NOVEMBER BIBLE STUDIES ARE UP AND RUNNING

Here's what's happening—take your pick!

- ◆ Ongoing: Saturdays from 4:15-5:15pm—A look at weekly Scripture readings.
- ◆ Pastor Moon: Sundays from 9:15-10:15am—*Meet Old Testament Heroes of the Faith*.
- ◆ Pastor Niles: Sundays from 9:15-10:15am—*The Life and Death of a Christian* will complete on November 7th. He will not have class on November 14th or 21st. He will surprise us with an interesting topic, to be announced on November 28th.
- ◆ BLS teacher Heidi Wallner: Mondays from 5:30-6:15pm—"God Has a Cure for Your Worries", a 4-session look at Philippians 4:8

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild ladies—please mark your calendar for Saturday, November 13th at 9:30am, as we will meet in the Century Room. Please plan on attending as there are important issues that will be discussed and voted on.

THRIVENT CALENDARS FOR 2022

Any Thrivent members who receive the Thrivent magazine, please consider completing the form to receive a wall calendar to donate to Social Ministry. These calendars are delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents at Christmas. If you are not a Thrivent member, but a member of another organization that gives free calendars, we will also accept those if you are interested in donating. When you receive the calendar, please put it in the food basket located in the Century Room. Thank you and Blessings to all! ~ Social Ministry

BETHLEHEM'S DAILY DEVOTION

Spend some time online with Pastor Niles or Pastor Moon! Check out our Facebook page, daily at 2:30pm!

LWML NEWS

All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, November 2nd at 7:00pm in the Century Room to hear Priscilla Pilgrim and Penny Progress "talk turkey", in a light-hearted skit about Thanksgiving. We will also be making plans for our Christmas themed meeting in December and looking ahead to 2022. Won't you make some time in your schedule to join this group of friendly, fun, mission-minded ladies?

BETHLEHEM'S CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

The Craft & Vendor Fair is fast approaching! Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 13th from 9:00am-2:00pm. Shop for Christmas gifts, enjoy lunch and baked goods and check out the raffle! Questions? Please contact Gail at craft_fair@ourbethlehem.com.

More Nov. 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.

PARTNERS IN READING

Partners in Reading would be happy to have more volunteers to be at Bethlehem School on Wednesday afternoons, from 1:15-3:00pm. Contact Jim or Judy Heinecke at 920-458-6678 for more information.

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW GRIEVING A LOSS?

Should you find yourself in this difficult situation, your faith family would like to help. Over the course of a year, we would like to send you four inspirational and helpful booklets to assist you in dealing with your loss. If your loved one's funeral was not at Bethlehem, we might not know of his or her passing. Just inform the church office at 920-452-4331 and your first booklet will soon be on its way.

DECEMBER VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the December Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, November 18th, 2021. Please feel free to email amy.mullens@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

SCRIP SALES

Scrip sales will continue to be "*Scrip on the Go*" only. All orders need to be in by 8:00am Monday morning. 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.

YOUTH GROUP DATE FOR NOVEMBER

Please plan on joining us on November 21st. Junior Youth (6th-8th grade) will meet from 4:30-6:00pm in the gymnasium. Senior Youth (9th-12th grade) will meet from 6:00-7:30pm in the youth room.

REINBOLD-NOVAK FUNERAL HOME

Invites you to their 31st Annual *Handling the Holidays Program*.

Richard J. Obershaw, a nationally recognized Grief Therapist and Founder & Director of the Grief Center in Lakeville, Minnesota, will be the featured speaker.

In a relaxed, casual atmosphere, Mr. Obershaw will blend gentle humor with practical advice on how to cope, how to memorialize your loved one, and new ways to participate in holiday celebrations.

A candle lighting ceremony and refreshments will conclude the program. There is no charge for the evening, but reservations are appreciated. R.S.V.P. (920) 452-7711

Join them: Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 at 6:30pm, at Blue Harbor Conference Center (725 Blue Harbor Dr.)

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

September 30, 2021

ASSETS	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST	
Cash	\$ 194,934	\$ 87,409	
Endowment Funds—Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 323,827	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,315,083	\$6,222,001	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 20,966	\$ 9,500	
SYNOD	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,333	
Lutheran High School	\$ 2,606	\$ 106	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$1,702,165	\$1,710,095	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$1,728,278	\$1,721,446	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 65,888	\$ 74,946	
Tuition	\$ 14,500	\$ 20,839	
School Choice Program	\$ 158,384	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 246,307	\$ 125,651	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 146,385	\$ 143,240	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ 99,921	\$ (17,588)	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u>	\$1,393,101	\$1,021,142	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u>	\$1,327,771	\$1,181,719	
<u>NET INCOME 2021</u>	\$ 65,330	\$ (34,924)	

Our cash position is strong at \$192,934 at the end of September. Adult envelopes were down for the month. The first voucher check of the new school year arrived on September 13, 2021 for \$158,384. Remember, October was a 3-paycheck month, which adds about \$43,000 to our expenses. **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

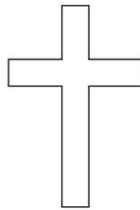
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email amy.mullens@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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*.



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

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

Commercial Sponsors

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