



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

 www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem

 <https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem>

Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Colin Moon
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

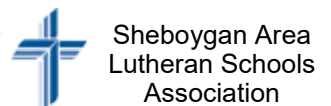
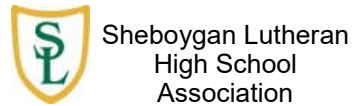
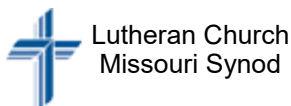
WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Times
Saturday - 5:30pm
Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am
Wednesday - 6:00pm

Bible Studies
Saturday ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm
Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Oct 2021

MEMBERSHIP



October 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm Community Concert Event 7:30pm LHS
3 LWML Sunday Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am	4 Bible Class 6:30pm	5 Quilters 9:00am LWML 7:00pm	6 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	7 Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	8 School Picture Re-take Day	9 Bethlehem Golf Outing—Millers Glen 2:00pm Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
10 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Youth Group 4:30pm & 6:00pm	11 Fall Sampler Concert 7:00pm @ LHS	12	13 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	14 November Visitor Deadline Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	15	16 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
17 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Packer Potluck Noon	18 PTL Meeting 6:00pm Bible Class 6:30pm Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm	19 Quilters 9:00am	20 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	21 LWML Fall Rally 6:00pm Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	22 Auction Preview Night @ BLS 3:00-7:00pm On-line Auction Begins 7:00pm	23 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm On-line Auction Ends 8:00pm (pick up your items on Sunday 9:00am- 1:00pm)
24 & 31 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am (24th) Youth Group 4:30pm & 6:00pm (31st) Reformation Rally 3:30pm LHS	25 Deadline for Coats For Kids (drop off new coats to BLS lobby) Bible Class 6:30pm	26 Bible Study Workshop 5:00-9:00pm	27 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	28 Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	29 Bethlehem Bash 5:30-7:30pm	30 "Truth at All Costs" Reformation Conference 8:30am @ LHS Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

THE LORD'S PRAYER: KIDS OF THE KINGDOM!

Kids of the kingdom; That's what we are
Kids of the kingdom; That's what we are
We love Jesus; We love the Lord
We love Jesus; We love the Lord



I grew up going to Vacation Bible School, Lutheran School gatherings, Sunday School, and a Lutheran camp. I sang the above lyrics more times than I care to count. Seriously. So. Many. Times. Still. Have. Nightmares.

The sentiments of the above children's tune are admirable, but they are a little misleading. We are "kids of the kingdom", that is true. However, we are not kids of the kingdom because we love Jesus. We are kids of the kingdom because Jesus loved us. And died for us. And rose for us. And called us through baptism. And enlightens us with His Word and Spirit. And feeds our faith with His holy Supper. Because Jesus loves us and does all these things... because we have been made part of His kingdom, we seek to love Jesus with all our heart and all our mind and all our soul.

Throughout Scripture, the English word kingdom is used quite often. It is usually in reference to the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. However, the connotations that go along with kingdom are different than our present conceptions. The term had much more to do with the reign of a king (i.e. their specific actions of rule) as opposed to a delineated physical kingdom. It dealt more with the actions of the king to care for his people and territories. Luther takes this kind of approach in his explanation of the second petition of the Lord's Prayer.

Thy kingdom come. What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also. How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

God's kingdom comes among us when God visits us with His grace and favor, and when that grace and favor empowers us to live as His people showing love and mercy to one another. The work of the Holy Spirit is active in extending God's kingdom through His means of grace. Through these actions of God, we see His reign in our lives. It is an impressive and ever present power that gives us comfort in all of our vocations.

As a pastor, I am quite positive that God is working through me to be His instrument in this world. Proclaiming law and Gospel. Forgiving sins. Administering the Sacraments. As a father, I am a vehicle for God's reign as I teach my children God's Word. As I instruct them in the faith, the reign of God is reaching yet another generation. It is so wonderful when God gives us glimpses of His kingdom amongst us. When we are hidden from it or distracted from seeing it, we can still be sure that His promises are sure for He commanded us to pray in this way. May the peace and comfort of God's reign visit you each and every day!

In Christ -
Pastor Niles

From the Desk of Pastor Moon

The Sojourner

If you haven't heard yet, Emily and I bought a new house here in Sheboygan. We will be moving in the coming days. We might even have a new address by the time you read this letter! As we have been busy packing and making arrangements there is a word that keeps coming to my mind: sojourner. Someone who wanders because they have no home.

Going off to college and then seminary for nearly 10 years of my life came with a large collection of different spots I called "home", but of course I knew full well that none of them truly were. I was a sojourner.

My childhood bedroom no longer felt the way it had before. Every subsequent dorm came with its own quirks and oddities that I had to get used to whether I wanted to or not. Every new chapter in life meant living amongst new people which took time to navigate. Every time I took a step forward in life it meant a change of scenery, and it seemed like those steps were coming faster all the time.

Sojourners are mentioned in the Old Testament several key times. Abraham and his family were sojourners for a time. The people of Israel spent 40 years as sojourners in the desert wilderness. God also encouraged His people to take care of those who sojourn in their midst.

It is fitting that God prepared His people to receive the most profound sojourner of all time. Jesus left his home in Heaven in order that he might take up temporary residence amongst those very people who had once been sojourners themselves. What is less fitting is how they treated him.

Beaten for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. That is the treatment given to the sojourning God-Man, Jesus Christ during his time spent on this earth. Thanks to God for his willingness to go through with this experience on our behalf.

My sojourning in life has been nothing like that which Jesus endured. My sojourning has typically been met with excitement and encouragement rather than scorn and mockery. My peers and colleagues have always been supportive instead of critical.

But here's the thing: this entire Christian life is that of a wanderer; a sojourner. There is no point during this life in this world that a Christian is truly at home. We still live in a place that sees us the way they saw Jesus during his life. Living a Christian life will not be easy. There will be no hospitality for people like us.

I know not everyone shares this kind of experience with me. Perhaps you have lived in the same place for your whole life. Whether you have lived in the same place all your life or never really found a place to call your home, take refuge in Jesus rather than a house or any other physical place.

I'm but a stranger here. Heaven is my home.

Peace of the Lord,

-Pastor Moon

October 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.

What's Keeping You From Participating in a Group Bible Study?

- * Do you think you might get "called on" to give an answer? No worries here. All comments are voluntary and it's OK to just listen.
- * Does a flexible work schedule keep you from attending every session? This is not a problem. Just come when you can or sign up for an online class, in which you can participate on your own time.
- * Do you limit your contact with groups due to COVID concerns? An online class is your answer. You can work from home.
- * Look for the full-page ad in last month's Visitor for a full list of Bible class offerings and take your pick. Where will we see you?

Neat Repeats

Check out these upcoming sales: **10/5-10/9** = All Clothes is \$1, **10/12** = 30% off everything in the store, **10/13-10/16** = 50% off Hats, Scarves, Ties & Belts, **10/19- 10/23** = 50% off Halloween Decorations & Costumes, **10/26- 10/30** = 75% off Halloween Decorations & Costumes.

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 shut-in 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 Devotions

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

Collection Time!

Congregational members: do you have a little mite box sitting in your house gathering dust? Put all that loose change in there and bring your full mite box to church the weekend of October 2nd & 3rd. Place it on the LWML display table in the narthex and exchange it for a new empty one. The next collection date will be in the spring. Let's see how many boxes can be filled by then! Remember, all monies collected will go to missions.

LWML News

Put this on your calendar! All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00pm in the Century Room, as we take a light-hearted musical look at Luther and the Reformation. We will also finalize plans for the Zone 8 Fall Rally, featuring our own Pastor Moon. This will be held here at Bethlehem on Thursday, October 21st at 6:00pm. Join in the fun with our friendly group of ladies and don't be left out!

Bethlehem Lutheran Winter Craft & Vendor Fair

The craft & vendor fair is back! Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 13 from 9:00am-2:00pm. If you are interested in reserving space, please contact the church or school office to obtain the form. Questions? Please contact Gail at craft_fair@ourbethlehem.com.

More Oct. News

Reformation Weekend 2021 Information

The “Truth at All Costs” Conference will be held on Saturday, October 30th from 8:30am-2:30pm in the LHS Worship and Fine Arts Center. The conference will feature Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa, Senior Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA, speaking on his latest book, “Faith that Engages the Culture”. Your registration fee of \$20 will include a light breakfast, water, coffee, a boxed lunch, as well as a brand-new copy of Rev. Dr. Espinosa’s book. Space at the conference is limited to 80 guests, so please register as soon as possible. For more details and to register for the conference, please visit lutheranhigh.brushfire.com

The Reformation Rally Worship Service will be held on Sunday, October 31st in the LHS Worship and Fine Arts Center. The service will begin at 3:30pm with doors opening for seating at 2:45pm. Music, under the direction of Matthew Thiel, music director at LHS, will be a prominent part of the service, with participation by the LHS band and choir, including some adults and a Lutheran grade school choir. The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa, Senior Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA.

Voters Meeting

Will be held on Wednesday, November 17th at 7:00pm. Please plan to attend.

Auction Time!!

Come preview the auction items on Friday, October 22nd from 3:00-7:00pm, in the gym. Enjoy some games, desserts and a cash bar. We then ask that you bid online, starting at 7:00pm. Online bidding will end on Saturday, October 23rd at 8:00pm. Please come to the gym on Sunday, October 24th from 9:00am-1:00pm to pick up any items that you secured!

Partners in Reading

Partners in Reading is looking for volunteers to be at Bethlehem School on Wednesday afternoons, from 1:25-3:00pm. 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.

November Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the November Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, October 14, 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 Dates for October

Please plan on joining us on October 10th and October 24th. 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.

Bethlehem Bash

Will be held on Friday, October 29th from 5:30-7:30pm in the church/playground parking lot. It will be moved indoors if the weather does not cooperate. If your family would like to reserve a table space for “Table or Treat”, please email Jessica Usadel at jessica.usadel@ourbethlehem.com Please bring your own wrapped candy to hand out and feel free to decorate your table space. Food/concessions will be available, along with various games and activities. We hope to see you there!

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

August 31, 2021

ASSETS	AUGUST	JULY	
Cash	\$ 87,409	\$ 81,152	
Endowment Funds—Principal Only	\$ 323,827	\$ 323,827	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,222,001	\$6,277,351	Includes building & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 9,500	\$ 49,113	
SYNOD	\$ 1,333	\$ 666	
Lutheran High School	\$ 106	\$ 106	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$1,710,095	\$1,718,008	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$1,721,446	\$1,768,414	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 74,946	\$ 61,711	
Tuition	\$ 20,839	\$ 11,796	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 125,651	\$ 97,137	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 143,240	\$ 135,134	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ (17,588)	\$ (37,996)	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u>	\$1,146,794	\$1,021,142	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u>	\$1,181,719	\$1,038,479	
<u>NET INCOME 2021</u>	\$ (34,924)	\$ (17,336)	

Our cash position is good at \$87,409. Adult envelopes picked up to \$74,946; we were above our monthly budget by \$3,000. Our accounts payable dropped from \$39,613 to \$9,500. The first voucher check of the new school year arrived on September 13, 2021 for \$158,384. It will be included on September's financials. If we included the voucher check in August's financials, we would be positive for the year by \$123,457. Remember, October is a 3-paycheck month that adds about \$43,000 to our expenses. **We need everyone at Bethlehem to be involved. If you're involved, get a friend to help as well. The more hands helping, the easier the project. Thank God!**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Personal Information Changes

If you have changed your name, address or phone number 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 For Heads of Boards

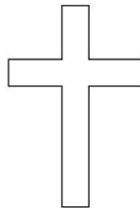
Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

Visit Us Online

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is on Facebook. Look for updates and information by typing Bethlehem Lutheran School. For more school information, please visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com

BAPTISMS

Veronica Rose White, 9/19/21



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

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