



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

Sept 2021

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools

September 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	2	3	4 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
5 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	6	7 Quilters—Kick Off of their 6th Year! 9:00am LWML Meeting 7:00pm	8 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	9	10	11 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm LHS Community Family Fair 3:00-7:00pm
12 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am New Member Class Sunday School Begins Worship w/HC 10:30am	13 Bible Class 6:30pm	14	15 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	16 October Visitor deadline	17	18 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
19 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	20 Bible Class 6:30pm PTL Meeting 6:00pm Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm	21 Quilters 9:00am	22 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	23	24	25 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
26 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am Elders Meeting 11:15am	27	28	29 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	30		

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Hardest Part is the Best Part

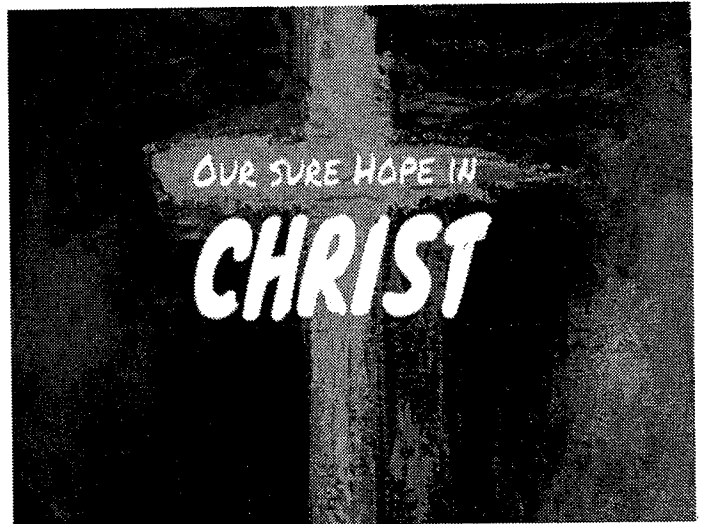
We are so accustomed to praying the Lord's Prayer that we often go through the words without a second thought. However, in light of the recent reports regarding the persecution of Christians in Afghanistan, this phrase has often caught me unawares and off-guard. Being a Christian, can often seem to be a losing battle. We pray and pray for God's will to be done on earth. Yet, all around us, we see the devil with all of his rage and spite. We pray for God's will to be one on earth as it is in heaven, and we see violence and death. We see what we often take to be the very opposite of God's will. We see His people suffering.

We do not even have to look overseas to get that feeling. Our own lives are racked and full of the evidence of the will of the devil and his minions. Divorce. Domestic disputes. Addiction. The death of a loved one. Abused children. Battered wives. Emotional wounds that leave deep scars. Lost jobs. Tanking economies. And, yet, we are encouraged to pray all the more:

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

So what gives? If God's will is to break and hinder every plan of the devil, why does it seem like evil is holding sway in the world? Why does it seem like Christians are the ones who are suffering? This can often be the hardest part of the prayer to pray... when we think like the world.

However, as people of God, we also know that our hope and our comfort is beyond this world because this world is doomed to destruction. Our hope is in the will of God that is seen in Christ. God's will is seen in Christ as He dies on the cross, as he rises from the dead, as He comes back one day in the future. This world will pass away but the words and promises of God are forever. The promises that our sins are forgiven and that through baptisms, proclamations of the Word, and through His Supper, God's will is done in this world. What is that will of God? That all men are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4).



The violence should not surprise us. Luther has the following to say in the Large Catechism:

And let no one think that we will have peace; rather, we must sacrifice all we have on earth – possessions, honor, house and farm, spouse and children, body and life. Now, this grieves our flesh and the old creature, for it means that we must remain steadfast, suffer patiently whatever befalls us, and let go whatever is taken from us. ...Such a prayer must be our protection and defense now to repulse and vanquish all that the devil, bishops, tyrants, and heretics can do against our gospel. Let them rage and try their worst, let them plot and plan how to suppress and eliminate us so that their will and scheme may prevail. Against them a simple Christian or two, armed with this single petition, shall be our bulwark, against which they shall dash themselves to pieces. We have this comfort and boast: that the will and purpose of the devil and of all our enemies shall and must fail and come to naught, no matter how proud, secure, and powerful they think they are. For if their will were not broken and frustrated, the kingdom of God could not abide on earth nor his name be hallowed.

Take heart! Many still believe in the midst of persecution. Your faith is still present and strong enough for your trials. You have all you need. You have Christ, and He has you.

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

From the Desk of Pastor Moon

The Beginning of Wisdom

There are several passages in scripture that proclaim, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." This proclamation has always served me well because it teaches so much in such a short and catchy phrase. What makes someone truly wise? Faith in Jesus Christ. When do we reach peak wisdom? We never do; instead we meet our earthly end.

This phrase has been prominent in our services these past few weeks and I have been giving a lot of thought about how this passage is preparing our hearts to return to school. School is the place where we most associate the gaining of knowledge and wisdom. This is true to an extent. Worldly knowledge and wisdom are wonderful things to gain. A quality education should be a goal for everyone. Some people learn skills with their hands, others keep track of complicated numbers, and others manage the resources of any given location.

But the wisdom gained through study of scripture is far more important than any of the worldly knowledge or experience we could achieve. Not to mention that all of us are religious in one way or another regardless of our education or area of expertise.

As we approach the school year and it inevitably gets underway, make sure that your routine includes time to advance in true wisdom. Be sure to read God's Holy Word. Read on your own and in the assembly of believers. Read quietly and out loud. Read morning and night time.

These efforts will be fruitful. A constant entrenchment in scripture will always lead to closer understanding of God in Jesus Christ. And do not be intimidated by a passage that may not be clear on the surface. That very moment is one reason why you have pastors to lead the congregation. Come to us with questions. Pastor Niles and I find great joy in reading scripture with you. We look forward to 2:30 PM every week day when we dive into a section of scripture. We look forward to 4:15 PM on Saturdays and 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. Those are some of the most blessed conversations we will ever have and we would love to have those conversations with you.

Peace of the Lord,
-Pastor Moon

September News

Don't Miss The Full-Page Ad On Fall Bible Studies

Included in this issue of the Visitor is a description of the array of Bible classes being offered this fall. Please save the page for future reference since start-dates vary quite a bit.

Does A Spiritually-Mature Christian Really Need A Bible Class?

Maybe you've been thinking, "I've been a Lutheran all my life — went to Lutheran grade school (maybe even high school), Sunday School, confirmation class, and I'm in church almost every Sunday. I think I know all I need to know about Jesus." Sounds reasonable, doesn't it? However, consider this: maybe you're depriving yourself of those "I never thought of it that way before" moments that often occur when Christians study Biblical truths together. Why not put this theory to the test? Resolve to regularly attend a fall Bible class and see what happens!

Spread The Word! New-Member Class Starts September 12

Do you know someone who is planning to join Bethlehem Church? Or maybe you know someone who might be thinking about joining. Now is the time to reach out to these potential or probable members. Have them contact Amy Mullens in the church office by either calling 920-452-4331 or emailing amy.mullens@ourbethlehem.com, in order to get the process rolling.

Neat Repeats

Check out these upcoming sales: **8/31-9/4** = 50% off Pictures & Frames, **9/7-9/11** = 50% off Baskets & Vases, **9/14** = 30% off everything in the store, **9/15-9/18** = 50% off CDs & DVDs, **9/21-9/25** = 50% off Books.

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!

LHS Community Family Fair

Saturday, September 11 from 3:00-7:00pm. Everyone is welcome to this community-wide event. Children of all ages can enjoy a great variety of inflatable play structures, festival games with prizes, and skill-challenging games. Enter the pie-eating contest, drop your name in our family-fun basket drawings, and enjoy food and beverages under the tent. Tickets are \$1 each and are available at the event Welcome Tent. Full event information can be found on the LHS website at www.lutheranhigh.com.

Bethlehem Mission Quilters

They will "kick off" their 6th year on Tuesday, September 7. They would love for you to join! Come for an hour or two or stay for the entire time (9:00am-3:00pm in the Century Room). They will have refreshments. There are many things to do, including cutting, sewing, designing, tying, ironing and assembling. They will put your talents to good use - the more hands, the better!

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.

LCMS Foundation

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you get your eternally focused plan together. Contact Craig Toerpe to facilitate this conversation or other questions you may have regarding how you can financially support the Lord's work. 262-707-3005 or craig.toerpe@lfnf.org.

More Sept. News

SAVE THE DATE—Sunday School Starts September 12

The 2021-2022 Sunday School year will kick-off on Sunday, September 12. We will welcome the Sunday School students in church and introduce the teachers. Please plan to have your children attend this awesome year of Sunday School. The registration form (found in this issue of the Visitor) can be dropped off in the church office now until September 12. The requested email address will be used to notify parents of changes or cancellations.

LWML NEWS

Calling all ladies of the congregation! After a summer hiatus we are back in person. Won't you join us on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00pm in the Century Room, to hear all about the Bethlehem Youth Group's "Mission Adventure in Alaska"? Our speaker will be Ms. Jenna Rinkinen, Bethlehem's 1st grade teacher and youth group leader, who will describe the experiences had in the 49th state. We will also make plans for LWML Sunday (Oct. 3) here at Bethlehem and the Zone 8 Fall Rally which will be held at Bethlehem on Oct. 21. Don't be left out! We need your input for these exciting upcoming events.

SAVE THE DATE — Auction Time!!

The Bethlehem Auction will be held on October 23. You won't want to miss it! Stay tuned for more information.

Partners in Reading

Do you enjoy working with children? Do you have 2 hours a week to read to a child or have a child read to you? ***Partners in Reading*** is looking for volunteers to be at Bethlehem School on Wednesday afternoons for 2 hours, from 1:00-3:00pm. 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.

October Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the October Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, September 16, 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.

Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County

They plan to return to a "new" version of daily meal delivery on September 20. The new delivery model will maximize safety for the vulnerable population they serve, with MOW vehicles being utilized for deliveries and masks being worn when delivering meals. Contact Jenn at volunteers@FreshMealsOnWheels.org, or call 920-451-7011.

Evangelism Angels

Be on watch during the last week in September. The Evangelism Committee is inviting you to join them for a unique event. There will be Angel Keychains available at Bethlehem on those days. These keychains will serve as a physical reminder of the evangelism we can do in our everyday lives. Here is how it works: take one or two Angels home with you. Think of one person in your life who is not a part of a church family and pray for that person. Next, write the name of that person on the keychain and write a short message to them. The next time you run into them give them the keychain and share the Gospel message with them. The Angel will serve as a reminder to them that they were in your prayers.

ONLINE

Women's Study Facilitated by Marilyn Cyr

*WRITE THE WORD-PSALMS 1-42
(via private group on Facebook)

Read a daily posted portion of a Psalm, participate in online discussion questions (if desired), take time for prayer (optional). Join anytime by emailing maryjocyr4@gmail.com September 27 - November 19

A Series for both Men and Women

12 ORDINARY MEN facilitated by Martha Becker
(via private group on Facebook)

Learn why Jesus chose fishermen and tax collectors to be His followers.

Explore what their experiences say to us "ordinary people" today.

Join anytime by emailing martha.becker.96@gmail.com September 19 - November 6

IN-PERSON

No advance registration. Drop-in's welcome

THE WHOLE COUNCIL OF GOD

Saturdays 4:15 - 5:15P Century Room
Ongoing

Pastor-led study of Scripture reading planned for upcoming worship services

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

Sundays 9:15 - 10:15A Century Room
Pastor Niles conducts a comprehensive 5-week review of Christian Basics, Christian Growth, and Christian Life. Although originally designed for new members, anyone is welcome to attend.
Sept. 12, 19, 28 Oct. 3, 10

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A CHRISTIAN

Sundays 9:15 - 10:15A Century Room
A four-session overview of the entire life-span of a Christian. Conducted by Pastor Niles Starts October 17

IS EVERY CHRISTIAN TRULY CHRIST'S WITNESS?

Sundays 9:15 - 10:15A Sanctuary
Pastor Moon conducts a 5-week look at a Lutheran approach to evangelism.
Sept. 12 - Oct. 10

OLD TESTAMENT HEROES OF THE FAITH

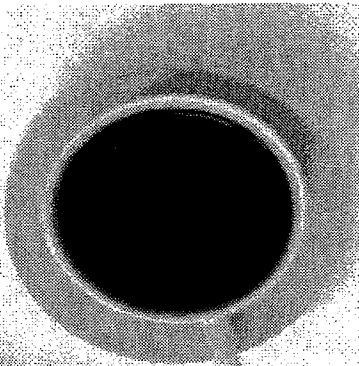
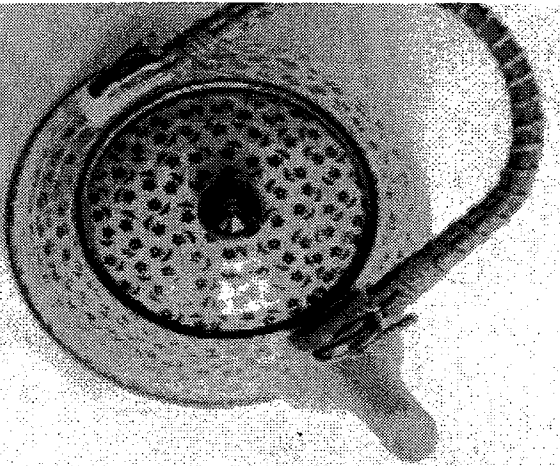
Sundays 9:15 - 10:15A Sanctuary
Pastor Moon introduces us to some forgotten heroes.
Oct. 17 - Nov. 28

THE WALLS, MIRACLES, AND LEADERS

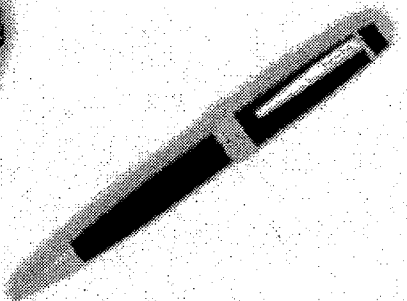
(a study of Nehemiah)
Mondays 6:30 - 7:30P Century Room
Rick Zornier, of the LHS faculty, leads a 5-session study ways in which God accomplishes the unthinkable, and how this applies to us today.
Sept. 13, 20 Oct. 4, 18, 25

GOD HAS A CURE FOR YOUR WORRIES

Mondays 5:30 - 6:15P Century Room
BLS teacher, Heidi Wallner, leads an exploration of God's treatment plan for anxiety as found in Philippians
Nov. 1 - Nov. 22



Contact - Audrey Braatz
452-7706
dobraatz@yahoo.com



BIBLE STUDY

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

July 31, 2021

ASSETS	JULY	JUNE	
Cash	\$ 81,152	\$ 122,171	
Endowment Funds—Principal Only	\$ 323,827	\$ 323,827	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,277,351	\$6,318,474	Includes building & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 49,113	\$ 45,860	
SYNOD	\$ 666	\$ 1,999	
Lutheran High School	\$ 106	\$ 0	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	\$ 0	\$ 7,610	Heating Air Conditioning
Mortgage Thrivent	\$1,718,008	\$1,725,902	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$1,768,414	\$1,781,929	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 61,711	\$ 74,730	
Tuition	\$ 11,796	\$ 7,635	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 97,137	\$ 90,220	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 135,134	\$ 140,434	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ (37,996)	\$ 78,590	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u>	\$ 1,021,142	\$ 924,009	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u>	\$ 1,038,479	\$ 903,540	
<u>NET INCOME 2021</u>	\$ (17,336)	\$ 20,468	

Our cash position is still good but, getting lower at \$81,152. Adult envelopes came in below budget at \$61,711. Our accounts payable increased a little in July to \$49,133. We paid off the Lutheran Church Extension Fund Loan and it shows as a 0 above. The next voucher check will be in the fall. August is here and tuition will start coming in, helping to end the Summer Slump. School started on August 26 and Georgia Ave. is finished. **Thank God for all of you and all that you do for Bethlehem!** We have two great treasurers, Mike Gries and Mark Steffen!

Bethlehem Sunday School Registration

Parents Name _____

Address _____

Emergency Contact _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Child's Name _____ Grade (2021-22) _____

Birthdate _____ Baptism _____

Allergies/Other Special _____

Child's Name _____ Grade (2021-22) _____

Birthdate _____ Baptism _____

Allergies/Other Special _____

Child's Name _____ Grade (2021-22) _____

Birthdate _____ Baptism _____

Allergies/Other Special _____

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

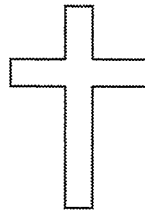
Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

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

Jaylie Jo Usadel, 8/15/21
Kylie Murie Usadel, 8/15/21
Cedric Alejandro Schmidt, 8/29/21



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

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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Irish Roofing

Boneck Printing
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Irish Hauling
Keith Wyckoff Siding