



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

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CONNECT WITH US

Bethlehem Lutheran

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Sheboygan, WI 53081

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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

Sept 2022

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

September 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 NO SCHOOL	3 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
4 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	5 Labor Day NO SCHOOL	6 Quilters 9:00am LWML Meeting 7:00pm	7 Partners in Reading begins 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	8 Board of Young People's Work meeting 4:30pm	9	10 LHS Community Family Fair 2:00-6:00pm Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
11 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class (New Member Class) 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am Youth Group kick-off @ beach 4:00-6:00	12 Monday Night Bible class begins 6:00-7:00pm	13 Board of Public Relations meeting 6:30pm	14 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	15 October Visitor Deadline (noon)	16	17 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
18 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am Sheboygan Lutheran Fiesta @ LHS 12:30pm	19 Bible class 6:00-7:00pm PTL meeting 6:00pm Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	20 Quilters 9:00am Board of Stewardship meeting 6:00pm	21 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	22	23	24 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm THE STAR GALA dinner & auction 5:30pm
25 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	26 Bible class 6:00-7:00pm	27	28 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	29	30	

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

Rediscovering the “S” Word

HA!!!! Now, I've got you reading my newsletter article! I pray that you just keep reading! Obviously, I am not talking about any kind of foul language. However, I find that there is a biblical word and concept that we often treat like foul language. There is a word that, whenever it is brought up, Christians often scoff, shake their heads, are turned off, and stop listening or reading. That word is “stewardship”. NO!!!! Don't put this article down, and please keep reading. Stewardship, when it is properly understood, is the foundation of our lives in Christ in the world. The problem is that stewardship is not properly understood, and is often not properly taught.

The LCMS website defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God's family—the church—in managing life's resources for His purposes.” I want you to think for a minute on the blessings that you receive from God. On a piece of paper or in the margins of this article, start listing the blessings that God has given you in your life. Go ahead... take a couple of minutes.

Now, what kind of things are on your list? Does your list include gainful employment, family, or income? Does it include hobbies, talents, or possessions? Does it include anything that cannot fall under any of these categories? What about the air that you breath? Sunshine? Food? The complex gravitational forces that keep the earth and the universe functioning in their highly complex and organized ways? When we truly think about this subject, we become increasingly aware that our very life is a blessing from God, from our beating hearts to the bees that pollenate the flowers, to air that we breathe. All of these items are blessings and resources that our God has given to us. They come from His hand. This also means that nothing is truly ours. Our entire life has been gifted to us by God of which God has called us to be stewards.



Please notice that I am about half-way through this newsletter article, and I have yet to talk about money or giving. To assume that stewardship is only about money short-changes the impact of stewardship in our lives. It also gives us a short-sided view of all of the blessings and resources that God gives us. Certainly, finances and tithing are part of stewardship, but they are only one piece of a million-piece jigsaw puzzle that is our Christian life. So over the course of the next year, we are going to be focusing on different aspects of stewardship each month. This month, we are talking about the fact that we are stewards of everything.

The dictionary definition of a steward is “a person employed to manage another's property”. This is precisely what we are as God's people. From the time Adam and Eve were put on this earth, God's people have been called to manage our heavenly Father's creation. We are not, nor have we ever been, perfect in this calling. However, our Lord forgives us our shortcomings, our pride, our selfishness, and our vanity. He cleanses us of our sins and calls us to new life in Himself. He continually calls us to be stewards of His grace, His blessings, and His creation. So, as God's people, take some time over the coming months to take an inventory of all the gifts and resources that God has given you in respect to your time, your talents, and your abilities. Give yourself an assessment of how you are using them. Pray for guidance and an attitude of thanksgiving for all God gives you. Draw up a game plan of how you can manage life's resources for His purposes. Whatever you do, don't stop listening or reading when you come across the “S” word!

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

You Fool, YOU FOOL!!

No this is not an attack towards you, dear friends in Christ. The title comes from Luke's Gospel chapter 12 the Parable of the Rich Fool. I had the opportunity to preach on this text when I did pulpit supply for a local congregation over the summer. Something new presented itself to me as I was preparing for that Sunday Morning.

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." **14** But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" **15** And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." **16** And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, **17** and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' **18** And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" **20** But God said to him, '**Fool!** This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' **21** So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Notice where "**FOOL**" is located in the text. The rich man does not earn the title of fool until he has decided in his heart to waste the gifts God has given him. The rich man is not a fool because he is rich. The rich man is not a fool because he planned to build larger barns (at least that's how it seems when reading it). These things are good, right, and salutary. He has an opportunity to be a great service to his neighbors who might be in need.

Think back to Joseph in Egypt. The 7 years of plenty were used as sustenance for the 7 years of famine. If it were Joseph instead of the rich man dealing with these crops he very well might have built bigger barns **in order to serve his neighbors**.

But the parable plays out differently. It is as if the rich man said "I will be lazy and that will make me happy. I will live all the rest of my days with no worries!" And God said "Absolutely, my friend, because today is your last." And I picture Jesus laughing like a maniac as he tells this parable. (He didn't, but I find it very funny.)

The Christian people I have met who are the most "successful" in this life are the ones who have generous hearts. They are great stewards. They are not successful because they have a tight grip on their wallet. They are not successful because they are cutthroat in their business practices or their management styles. They are not successful because they are ruthless task masters. They are successful because God has blessed them, and they realize the gift that it is to be successful. They are willing to lay up treasures in Heaven before dealing with the early gift that is "success".

That Sunday at the local church we sang a hymn that I have not heard in a long time and it fit so well with this text from Luke's Gospel.

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. May we Thy bounties thus, As stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou
blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give.

The Rich Fool serves as a good reminder that everything, EVERYTHING we have is from God's gracious hand and we are called to be godly stewards of those gifts.

Peace of the Lord,

-Pastor Moon

September News

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Be sure to read the full-page ad on fall Bible studies, found in this edition of the Visitor.

MEET ERICH SCHMIDT—OUR FALL, MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Some of you might remember Erich as the “man in black” who sat at the end of the front row in the Century Room during his good friend, Rick Zeuner’s Bible classes. Erich hails from Serbin, Texas—a little ranch town near Houston. He comes from a family of “preachin’ and teachin’”. His dad is an LCMS pastor and his mother and sisters are trained Lutheran educators.

After finishing his degree at Concordia, Nebraska, he accepted a call to Sheboygan Lutheran High School (8 years ago), where he teaches New Testament studies, Robotics, and Computer Programming.

You might also have seen him running the light and sound boards for performances in the LHS auditorium.

Bethlehem is looking forward to Erich’s 8-session series on Revelation 1-3, which begins on Monday, September 12th from 6:00-7:00pm in the Century Room. Read the full-page ad in this Visitor and watch future bulletins for more details. You might want to mark your calendar for this study!

IS THE TERM “BIBLE CLASS” OFF-PUTTING TO YOU?

Perhaps it conjures up a vision of a room full of “Bible study experts” just waiting to display their vast knowledge.

Or, perhaps you think of a dry lecturer droning on about something you don’t understand. Well, take heart, brothers and sisters in Christ. Nothing could be further from the truth! Our Bible studies are populated by friendly learners, not experts. Our leaders are knowledgeable, interesting and kind. Take a leap of faith. Plan to regularly attend an in-person study, or sign up for an online offering. You won’t be sorry.

LWML NEWS

Ladies, here’s your chance! On Tuesday, September 6th at 7:00pm in the Century Room, the Bethlehem LWML will be hosting “*Guest Night*”. Ever wondered about what we stand for and what we do? Do you want to get to know others on a more social level, more than just a hello on Sunday morning? Or maybe you just need some “adult conversation”! Come check it out. Light refreshments will be served.

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 from 1:00-3:00pm. Contact Jim or Judy Heinecke at 920-458-6678 for more information or to become a volunteer.

Partners in Reading will begin on September 7th.

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE (FORMERLY KNOW AS THE NEW MEMBER CLASS)

September 11th is the day! 9:15am-10:15am is the time!

What DO Lutherans believe? This class informs you of Bethlehem’s teachings and tells a bit of our history. This class is for those who have transferred in, those wishing to become members, and current members who would like a refresher. This class is for you—join us! Here is an opportunity to get answers to questions you may have and also to spend some quality time with Pastor Niles, who will be leading the class. Feel free to participate as much as you’d like or just come and listen.

If you are a new member transferring from another congregation, would like to become a member of Bethlehem, or know someone who like to become a member, please contact the church office, as we would like to touch base and answer any questions prior to the first class. We would love to see you on Sunday, September 11th!

CALENDARS NEEDED

The Board of Social Ministry is requesting 2023 calendars. Thrivent calendars are colorful, beautiful, have large print, and are well received. Thrivent members must order their calendars by August 31st, by sending in the postcard which can be found in the Thrivent magazine.

Otherwise, go to www.thrivent.com/simplejoys or call 800-847-4836. Thank you in advance for your help!

More Sept News

COMMUNITY FAMILY FAIR AT LUTHERAN HIGH

This event will be held on Saturday, September 10th from 2:00-6:00pm. 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 at www.lutheranhigh.com

THE STAR GALA DINNER AND AUCTION

Don't forget to register for this evening of fun and fellowship! Join us on Saturday, September 24th, beginning at 5:30pm in the Parish Activity Center. Admission to the Gala is \$50 per person and includes table served salad and buffet style dinner. Bid on both silent auction and live auction items. Come see what else the committee has in store for you! Please register for this event at <https://ourbethlehem.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/TheStarGala2022/tabid/1315253/Default.aspx>

Please email thestargala@ourbethlehem.com with any questions, including inquires on registration or donations.

***** The registration deadline is September 9th—don't delay! *****

BETHLEHEM'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 2nd! The golf outing will be held at Riverdale Golf Course, beginning at 2:00pm. The cost is \$42/person or \$32/age 18 and under. This includes 9 holes of golf, a cart and a hamburger/brat meal afterwards. Please note that there is a maximum of 18 teams of 4 allowed for this event. Please sign up either in the church Century Room or by emailing jleibham@hotmail.com

COLLEGE STUDENTS—DO YOU LIKE GETTING MAIL?

If so, Bethlehem's Board of Young People's Work would love to stay in touch with you. Please provide them with your "home away from home" information by going to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEOB8FHSIK-zLDt1OQdtdBy1VzVCxy18xRzOqwdUrFMxNfFA/viewform?usp=sf_link

OCTOBER VISITOR DEADLINE

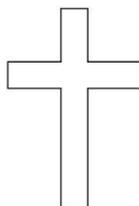
If you would like to submit information for the October Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, September 15th, 2022. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

- ◆ 8/30-9/3: purses, bags and luggage, 30% off
- ◆ 9/6-9/10: candles and candle holders, 30% off
 - ◆ 9/13: 30% off everything in the store
- ◆ 9/14-9/17: hats, scarves, ties and belts, 30% off
 - ◆ 9/20-9/24: clothing, 50% off
- ◆ 9/27-10/1: pictures and frames, 30% off

THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN!

Welcome back Bethlehem Badger students, faculty and staff. Let's make it a great year!



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!

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 920-452-4331.

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