



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

Patrick Vanic
Principal

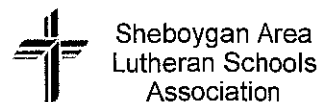
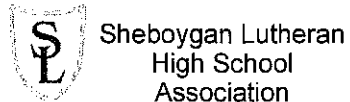
WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

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

July 2023

MEMBERSHIP



July 2023

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<p>1</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Coffee hour, recognizing Pastor Niles' 15 years in ministry 9:00am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Church and school offices are closed</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p> <p>Ice cream social after worship</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Ice cream social coffee hour, recognizing Jenna Rinkinen</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p> <p>INSTALLATION 4:00pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Star Gala meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>August Visitor Deadline (noon)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p> <p>30</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class 9:15am</p>	<p>24</p> <p>31</p> <p>Vacation Bible School begins! 8:30-11:30am</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>

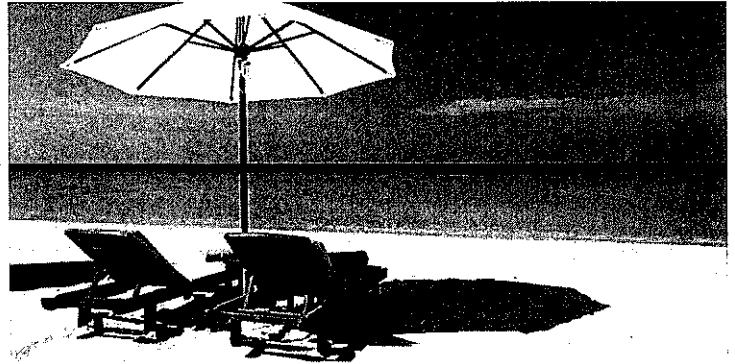
FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Blessings of Leisure, Rest, and Worship

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. ~Genesis 2:1-3~

In the midst of our bustling lives, it is hard to settle down, and to remember that leisure, rest, and rejuvenation are important gifts from God of which we are called to be stewards. These gifts can be a beautiful tapestry that enables us to nourish our souls, and be given balance in our daily walk in faith. All of these things, when seen as ends unto themselves, can lead to apathy, laziness, and misplaced priorities. Rest and leisure must always be understood in light of God's relationship with us.

Leisure, often misunderstood as mere idleness or entertainment, can be a profound source of rejuvenation for our souls. When we engage in purposeful leisure activities, we give ourselves the opportunity to experience joy, creativity, and renewal. It is during these moments that we step away from the demands of work and responsibilities, allowing our hearts and minds to find respite and find delight in the blessings around us.



Rest, on the other hand, encompasses more than just physical relaxation. It involves intentional stillness and surrendering ourselves to the restorative power of God's presence. As Christians, we are reminded of God's own rest on the seventh day of creation. In His wisdom, He designed a rhythm of work and rest, demonstrating the importance of finding balance in our lives. Resting in God's embrace replenishes our weary souls, granting us the strength to face life's challenges with renewed vigor and a deeper trust in His providence.

However, it is in worship that leisure and rest find their fullest expression. Worship is not limited to a designated time or place but permeates every aspect of our lives. In worship, we humbly acknowledge God's sovereignty, offer Him our gratitude, and seek His guidance and transformation. Whether we gather as a congregation in a church sanctuary, join in fellowship with fellow believers, or engage in personal devotions, worship opens our hearts to encounter the living God.

Within the context of worship, leisure and rest are intertwined. Through heartfelt praise, prayer, and the hearing of God's Word, we find solace, inspiration, and a deeper connection with our Heavenly Father. In worship, we are invited to lay down our burdens, surrender our anxieties, and receive His grace and peace. It is a time where our souls find rest in His loving presence, and our spirits are lifted to new heights.

As Lutherans, we are blessed to have a rich heritage of liturgy, hymns, and spiritual practices that guide us in our worship. These cherished traditions provide a framework for us to engage in communal worship, fostering unity and a shared sense of belonging within the body of Christ. Furthermore, worship extends beyond the walls of the church, permeating our everyday lives as we strive to honor God in all that we do.

In a proper perspective of these gifts, God provides spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of His love. May we prioritize leisure as a means of rejuvenation, embrace rest as a divine gift, and approach worship with hearts of reverence and joy. In doing so, we are stewards of the great blessings of God, we are fed by His Word and Sacrament, and we are rejuvenated to be blessings to those around us.

Let us be a community that embraces the beauty of leisure, seeks rest in God's loving arms, and worships Him wholeheartedly. In this harmonious journey, may our souls find nourishment, our spirits find renewal, and our lives become a sweet offering unto our Heavenly Father.

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

JOYFUL RESPONSE[®] Electronic Offering Program

Enrollment/Change Form

Complete this form and **return it to the church office** to begin or change your current stewardship offering. Your offering will be made automatically from your bank account or your LCEF StewardAccount[®].

Check the appropriate box:

- New enrollment
 Offering change
 Account information change

Please Print in Black Ink

Member Last Name	First Name	MI	Daytime Telephone
Mailing Address	City, State, ZIP		Email Address
Congregation Name		Congregation Telephone Number	
Congregation Mailing Address		City, State, ZIP	

Fund Designations:	Amount:
1. General Fund _____	\$ _____
2. Building _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____	

Debiting Account

- Debit from:**
- Checking
 Savings
 LCEF StewardAccount

Account Number _____

Routing Number (First nine numbers in bottom left-hand corner of check) _____

- Transfer Date (check one):**
- Weekly (Monday)
 Semi-monthly (1st and 15th)
 Monthly on the 1st
 Monthly on the 15th
 Other _____
 (As approved by church office.)

Start date: ____/____/____

End date (if any): ____/____/____

Authorization	
I authorize the above-named organization to process debit entries from my account. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization or until the last specified payment date.	
Authorized Signature for Account _____	Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY CHURCH OFFICE	
Member ID# _____	Initials _____
Vanco Client ID# _____	Date _____

Attach void check or savings deposit slip here.

July News

DO YOU THINK OF BETHLEHEM AS YOUR CHURCH FAMILY?

As God's adopted sons and daughters, we are really all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Being an active part of God's family comes with many benefits.

Here are three ways belonging to the church family blesses you:

- 1). It helps you focus on God's word.
- 2). It helps you face life's problems. You are not alone.
- 3). It fortifies your faith.

We have a "family reunion" at every worship service. Will we see you soon?

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Join your Bethlehem family for the Freedom Fest Parade! Bethlehem Church & School will once again be participating in Sheboygan's 4th of July parade, held on Tuesday, July 4th. We would love to have as many church and school members as possible representing Bethlehem, so please consider joining us. All ages are highly recommended! We will meet across the street from City Green on New York Ave. at 8:30am. All participants should wear patriotic or Bethlehem clothing. We will march together behind the Bethlehem banner. We are also looking for candy donations to pass out to parade watchers. All donations can be placed in the labeled bin in the Century Room. Please, no chocolate. Thank you everyone for your participation.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

After all services on Saturday, July 8th and Sunday, July 9th, ice cream and toppings will be provided by the Board of Parish Fellowship. Additionally, on Sunday, members will be given the opportunity to thank and write a note to Miss Jenna Rinkinen. After 8 years of service as the youth group leader and 1st grade teacher, we send her off to Traverse City, MI, assured that God continues to use her mightily.

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR JEREMY HANSON

The installation service will be held at Bethlehem on Sunday, July 9th beginning at 4:00pm. A catered dinner will take place following the service. If you'd like to stay for dinner, **an RSVP is required.**

Please RSVP by calling the church office (920-452-4331), by emailing the church office

(amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com) or by using the following link: <https://forms.gle/YYUnXaQ5KUjJamV28>

To help defray the cost of the meal, we are requesting \$10 per person (\$30 max per family). There will be a collection point for meal costs at the dinner; please feel free to pay at that time.

Also, the congregation would like to shower the Hanson family with grocery gift cards. If you'd like to contribute, please drop off gift cards to the church office no later than July 7th (Festival, Piggly Wiggly, Pick n Save, Walmart or Meijer).

JULY SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

- 7/5—7/8: Kitchen items, 50% off
- 7/11: Everything in the store, 30% off
- 7/12—7/15: Baskets and vases, 50% off
- 7/18—7/22: Shoes and socks, 50% off
- 7/25—7/29: Toys, games and puzzles, 50% off

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 31st — Thursday, August 3rd
8:30am — 11:30am

Children going into 4K through 5th grade are invited.

Youth going into 6th through 8th grade are invited to attend and join the S.W.A.G. Youth Group.

Volunteers are needed, from high school age to adult.

Registration for attendees and volunteers can be found on our website: www.ourbethlehem.com



More July News

CELEBRATE 45 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AT LHS!

Join us for an Open House Celebration in the atrium of Lutheran High's Performing Arts Center on Saturday, August 5th, 7:00-10:00pm. All are invited to reminisce, reconnect and give thanks for 45 years of blessings. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. Additionally, there will be an All-Class Reunion for all LHS alumni at 3 Sheeps Brewing Company on Friday, August 4th beginning at 6:30pm.

Learn more and kindly RSVP to these events by July 28th at lutheranhigh.com/45th-anniversary.

OPERATION BACKPACK

Planning continues for the 2023-2024 school year. The distribution day is August 5th from noon-2:00pm at Good Shepherd. The collection of backpacks and school supplies is happening now. If you're willing to contribute, please bring the items to Good Shepherd. You can also send a donation check with a memo (Operation Backpack) to: Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach, 730 County Rd PPP, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.

For further information, contact Rev. David Blas at 630-229-2455.

BETHLEHEM'S CHURCH PICNIC

The Bethlehem Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 20th. Please join your Bethlehem family for the service at 10:00am at Kiwanis Park, followed by food, games, and activities. We'll be having a cornhole tournament, beer tasting, golf activities, kid's activities, and BINGO. Please watch the bulletin and Facebook for more posts leading up to the event. We will need several volunteers to help make this event successful.

Watch for sign-up sheets in the Century Room.

We are also looking for some donations. Please consider helping out and donating a food item for the picnic. Sign-up sheets for items will be out in the Century Room mid-to-end of July. Watch for the food donation bin that will be placed in the Century Room towards the end of July. Gift cards are always appreciated as well.

Please have all items you choose to donate in the bin by August 13th.

Non-perishable items needed: Hamburger pickles (6-8 jars), brown mustard (6 bottles), yellow mustard (3 bottles), squeezable mayonnaise (4 bottles), ketchup (4-6 bottles), Bushes Baked Beans, Original Variety (8 10oz cans), Lawry's seasoned salt (2 containers), and squeezable Miracle Whip (2 containers). Again, gift cards are always welcome and we will take care of purchasing the perishable items. Gift cards can be turned in to the church office. Thank you in advance for your help!

THE STAR GALA PRESENTS AN EVENING OF DENIM AND DIAMONDS

Save the date: Saturday, September 23rd, 2023.

Watch your mail for the invitation. Start rounding up a table of friends and family. Gents put on your best denim and ladies wear your sparkles and diamonds for a fun evening, supporting Bethlehem Church and School. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are looking for donations for both the silent auction and the live auction.

Please let the sponsorship committee know if you are able to donate a basket, items, gift cards or an experience by emailing thestargala@ourbethlehem.com. Donated items can also be dropped off in the church office. The

deadline for these donations is September 1st, 2023. Awesome items are already coming in!

If you own a business, we want to showcase you! Please email thestargala@ourbethlehem.com and we will provide you with the available sponsorship opportunities and levels.

AUGUST VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the August Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, July 20th, 2023. 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.

WELCOMED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM

Brinley Ann Usadel - June 4, 2023

Cooper Timothy Menzer - June 11, 2023

Scarlett Ann Radloff - June 21, 2023


WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Janet Holler - June 1, 2023

Gladys Kroening - June 16, 2023

Ardyth Gross - June 17, 2023

Pamela Fischer - June 18, 2023

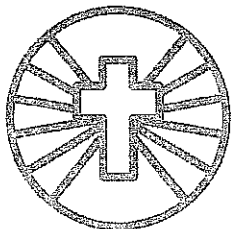



ALASKA MISSION
FOR CHRIST IS AN LCMS
ORGANIZATION THAT
WORKS TO PROCLAIM AND
PRACTICE THE LOVE OF
JESUS THROUGHOUT THE
STATE OF ALASKA



NORTHERN

NEWS





A group of 13 youth and adults recently returned from a mission trip to Nenana, Alaska. It was a week full of blessings as we worked together towards a common mission. I often get asked why Alaska? Hopefully this will help answer some of those questions.

Alaska Mission for Christ is an LCMS organization that places missionaries all over the state of Alaska to share Jesus. Bethlehem began supporting and sending a group on this mission in 2017.

Sending a group 5 times to the same area may seem like it is time to go somewhere else. And while this is certainly a possibility and would provide opportunities to visit new places and help others, here is how we have seen God at work in Nenana.

We have spent time serving in Anchorage and Nenana. This was the 3rd year in Nenana. As we reflected on our first year, we really had to work on building trust and relationships with the people in the community. Nenana is a town of 358 people. They must have been pretty reluctant to have a group of 13 new people stay in their community for 10 days.

We spent time talking to the people. We built trust and an understanding with families. We visited local shops and learned about their history. We listened and built relationships. This is the first step in sharing Jesus.

Fast forward to this past summer, the ground work had been done. When we return to Nenana, it is now visiting friends we have not seen in a year. We are greeted with "Welcome back! We missed you!"

This is how God works. He calls us to be His disciples by sharing His love with those around us. This is done by building trust, by communicating, and serving one another. While it takes time, everything is done in God's perfect timing.

We serve and God does the work, and we certainly have seen Him at work! Our group worked with a large population of Mormons, other denominations, and others who do not have an understanding of God at all. This may seem like an unsurmountable task, but God has given us the words to say to find common ground to have conversations as serve one another. This year we saw a record number of kids attend VBS. We are confident God remains at work!

So, thank you, Bethlehem! Thank you for your support over the years to make this trip happen. It is providing an opportunity for your youth to get out and intentionally share their faith. It provides them with ways to find common ground to share Jesus. And most importantly, it gives them a chance to do the work God has called all of us to do. Keep finding ways to serve in your daily tasks. God is faithful and will provide!

-Jenna Rinkinen

**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF**

June 30, 2023

ASSETS	June 2023	May 2023	
Cash	\$ 105,234	\$ 105,234	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,465,382	\$ 6,465,382	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 52,051	\$ 52,051	
SYNOD	\$ 4,170	\$ 4,170	
Lutheran High School	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,534,582	\$ 1,532,582	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,744,038	\$ 1,744,038	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 60,782	\$ 60,782	
Tuition	\$ 13,284	\$ 13,284	
School Choice Program	\$ 143,832	\$ 143,832	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 260,494	\$ 260,494	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 170,282	\$ 170,282	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ 63,178	 \$ 63,178	
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2023</u>	 \$ 948,288	 \$ 948,288	
 <u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2023</u>	 \$ 800,212	 \$ 800,212	
 <u>NET INCOME 2023</u>	 \$ 25,451	 \$ 25,451	

Our cash position at the end of May stands at \$105,234. Adult envelopes are under our estimated budget monthly amount by \$13,890. We received our last 2022 - 2023 school year voucher pmt this month for \$143,832. 2022 Net Income was 41,551 compared to this year at \$25,451, we are down a difference of \$16,100. We need to keep encouraging other members to attend on a weekly basis, and keep supporting our church.

Thank God for all your support!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

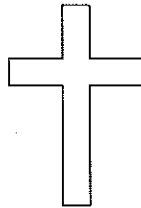
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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!

VISIT US ONLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is 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.

Congregational Sponsors

Dennis & Nancy Bearns
Sandra Fischer
Leonard Johnson
George & Karen Haecker
Jim & Ruth Behrens

Bev Fischer
Bob & Lori Gottowski
Linda Nikisch
Beverly Bauer

Jim & Judy Heinecke
Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Anita Krimmel
Keith & Christine Wyckoff

Commercial Sponsors

Advanced Comfort Systems
Irish Roofing
Thrivent / Cesar & Kirsten Lemus

Boneck Printing
Irish Studios

Irish Hauling
Knier Storage