

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

1121 Georgia Ave. 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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Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Jeremy Hanson
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

Mar 2024

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

March 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
3 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	4 Rick Zeuner Bible study @ <u>Bethlehem</u> 6:00pm PTL meeting 6:00pm	5 Quilters 9:00am LWML meeting 7:00pm	6 Lent worship 8:30am Reading Partners 1:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Lent worship 6:00pm	7 Board of Assimilation meeting 6:00pm LWML Planning meeting 6:30pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	8	9 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm TRIVIA NIGHT 6:00pm
10 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am PTL Family Skating Party 5:00-7:00pm	11 Rick Zeuner Bible study @ <u>Bethlehem</u> 6:00pm	12	13 Lent worship 8:30am Reading Partners 1:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Lent worship 6:00pm	14 April Visitor Deadline (noon) Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	15 LHS Musical Bye Bye Birdie 7:00pm	16 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm LHS Musical Bye Bye Birdie 7:00pm
17 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes & Sunday School 9:15am Elders mtg 11:45am LHS Musical, Bye Bye Birdie 2:00pm	18 Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	19 Quilters 9:00am	20 Lent worship 8:30am Reading Partners 1:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Lent worship 6:00pm	21 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	22 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	23 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
24/31 (3/24)*Palm Sunday worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am *Bible classes & Sunday School 9:15am (3/31)*Easter worship w/HC 6:00, 8:00 & 10:30am *Breakfast 7-10am *NO Bible class	25 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	26 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	27 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	28 NO SCHOOL Spring Break Maundy Thursday worship w/HC 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	29 NO SCHOOL Spring Break Church and school offices closed Good Friday worship w/HC 1:00pm & 7:00pm	30 NO Bible class Easter Vigil worship w/HC 5:30pm

The Abundant Blessings of God

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.. ~Ephesians 3:20-21~

In the midst of our daily lives, it's easy to overlook the countless blessings that surround us. From the air we breathe to the relationships we cherish, each moment is infused with the grace and generosity of our Heavenly Father. As Lutherans, we hold a deep appreciation for the manifold gifts that God bestows upon us, gifts that are both tangible and spiritual, earthly, and eternal.

First and foremost, we recognize the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. In His boundless love, God sent His only Son to redeem us from sin and death, offering us the promise of eternal life. This gift is freely given to all who believe, a testament to God's unending mercy and grace. We are also grateful for the gift of the Means of Grace. The Word of God, as revealed in Holy Scripture, allows us to encounter the living Word, which guides, instructs, and comforts us on our journey of faith. It is through Scripture that we come to know God's will for our lives and find strength to persevere in times of trial. Though the Sacraments, God bestows His grace, favor, and strength to us. Furthermore, God blesses us with the gift of community, both within the Church and beyond its walls. In fellowship with one another, we find support, encouragement, and accountability as we seek to live out our faith in the world. Together, we bear one another's burdens and share in each other's joys, reflecting the unity and love of Christ.



God's gifts are not limited to the spiritual realm; He also provides for our physical needs with abundant generosity. From the food we eat to the shelter over our heads, every good thing comes from His hand. As stewards of these earthly blessings, we are called to use them wisely and share them generously with others, recognizing that all we have ultimately belongs to God. Finally, we mustn't forget the gift of God's presence in our lives, manifested through the Holy Spirit. As believers, we are never alone; God dwells within us, guiding, comforting, and empowering us to live lives that honor Him. With His Spirit as our constant companion, we can face any challenge with courage and confidence, knowing that we are never separated from His love.

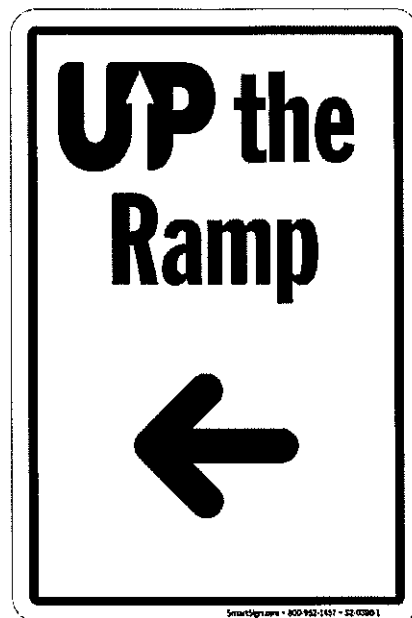
As we journey through Lent and reflect on the abundant gifts of God, let us offer Him thanks and praise for His unfailing goodness and grace. May we be ever mindful of His blessings in our lives and seek to share them with others, that all may come to know the richness of His love seen through the death and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

Nestled “up the ramp” from the main school hallway, you’ll find some interesting things happening. In the double classroom space, we host our 5K-8th grade students for art classes each week, and have daily 5th grade homeroom, as well as 5th & 6th grade ELA classes. Loads of imaginative thinking in reading, writing and creating happen up there.

This year in ELA, we have been focusing on settings and main characters as we read, for our book reports. Together we have traveled to Naomi, Florida with India “Opal” and Winn Dixie in Because of Winn Dixie; to Lister, Florida with Rob Horton and Sistine Bailey in The Tiger Rising; to Copenhagen, Denmark with Annemarie Johansen and Ellen Rosen in Number the Stars; and to Hampton, Virginia with Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan in Hidden Figures. Our travels are not over, as we will continue on to Camazotz when we read A Wrinkle in Time, and to England and Giant Country in The BFG.

In our art classes, all students have been working together for a collaborative art installation that will be going up after our spring break. We have been exploring the depths of the ocean and crafting many kinds of oceanic creatures from friendly looking seahorses to attitude filled angler fish. We have been drawing, painting, gluing, and cutting – and best of all with loads of neon and fluorescent paints, colors, and papers. You’ll have to check it out when it’s displayed. It’s sure to get “glowing” reviews.



Artists at work on their ocean projects.

March News

LWML MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF LWML: HELP IS NEEDED!

Since the Bethlehem LWML is hosting the Zone 8 Spring Rally on Thursday, April 18th, we will be devoting a significant amount of time at our next meeting to make plans for that rally. Our objective is for attendees to enjoy themselves and also learn more about the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Please be in the Century Room on Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00pm.
Help us plan and offer your services.

"SCRIPTURE SATURDAYS" IS NOT JUST FOR SATURDAY WORSHIPPERS

Saturdays from 4:15-5:15pm can be viewed as a "stand-alone" activity. No matter which worship service you usually attend, wouldn't it be helpful to know something about the scripture readings included in the current week's church services? One of our pastors will be on hand each Saturday to share information and take your questions. Why not give this idea a try?

WHAT'S KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT?

Is it something that happened in the past? Maybe it's something in the future you're worrying about. How about the stress of just getting through the day. No matter what's bothering you, beginning on March 3rd from 9:15-10:15am in the Century Room, Pastor Niles' discussion of "*Grief and pain under the cross: care and strength from Christ alone*" is sure to give you some answers;
words from God's heart straight to yours.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS RUNS THROUGH MARCH 11TH

Even if you didn't start this series in February, how about taking in the last 2 Monday night sessions. From 6:00-7:00pm in the Century Room on March 4th and March 11th, Rick Zeuner will unlock some "*Mysteries of the Bible: people we don't often talk about*". We run across quite a few unfamiliar and sometimes unpronounceable names in the Bible. Who are these people? Why are they mentioned by name?
Drop in and find out.

WOMEN'S ONLINE STUDY GROUP STARTS MARCH 4TH

Been meaning to sign up for this study but haven't gotten around to it? Well, it's not too late. This is an 8-week study from a book entitled, "*God's Provision in a Wilderness World*", by Lindsay Hausch. It is available for purchase from Concordia Publishing House or from Amazon. Here's what it's about in the author's own words: "The Christian life can be a tug-of-war between recognizing our abundant God while also feeling the yank of our human hearts that ache with unmet needs, disillusionment, and longing for more. We know there are seasons when God's blessings are bountiful, but how do we deal with those stretches that leave us winded and wondering if God is as present in our suffering as He is when life is going our way." To sign up for this inspiring study, email maryjocyr4@gmail.com or call 920-912-2532.

COULD THIS BE YOUR TIME TO SERVE?

You've heard that a Nominations Committee has been formed and will soon be looking for candidates for offices and appointees to administrative boards. What if someone approaches you?
What if you feel you should offer your services but are reluctant to do so?
Could the following be similar to a prayer you might offer?

"Lord, you have called me to minister in a way I never have before. I feel so inadequate for this task. My qualifications are few and my reasons to say 'no' are many. Are You sure that they have connected with the right person? Maybe You need them to talk with a more likely candidate."

Instead of that prayer, how about trying this? "Lord, you have called me to minister in a way I never have before. Hesitantly I take that first step of faith. Here I am, Lord. I will try. Amen."

More March News

EVER HEARD OF AN "E-VITE"? WELL, THIS IS A "PRE-VITE"

On Thursday, April 18th, the Bethlehem LWML is hosting a Zone 8 Rally and you're all invited - men, women, anyone who's interested. We plan to provide delicious refreshments, information about LWML, a humorous "melodrama" with group participation, and an interesting speaker. The speaker is Carol Flanary of the Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, serving troubled individuals and families online and in-person.

To support this worthwhile organization, LWML is conducting an ingathering of things to help. We're asking you to help us gather together the following items: **Legos, UNO cards, Playdough, dolls, puppets, and Bingo dabbers**. All items can be placed in the designated collection box located in the Century Room. Thank you in advance for your support!

ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be served immediately following the Easter sunrise service and will continue until 10:00am. As in previous years, the cost of the breakfast is a free will donation. We are in need of volunteers to help with set-up & prep on Saturday, March 30th from 9:00am-noon and then also on Easter Sunday, March 31st from 6:30-10:00am (cook, serve & clean-up). Volunteers do not need to stay the entire time; any and all help is appreciated. The menu will include scrambled eggs with various toppings, cheesy hashbrowns, sausage links, fruit, baked goods, milk, juice, and coffee. We are also asking for donations of baked goods. These can be brought to the kitchen on Saturday, March 30th between 8:30-10:00am. If you are able to help with this event, please contact Megan Boerger at 920-889-0056 or m-boerger@hotmail.com

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

- 3/5-3/9: all picture frames, \$0.25
- 3/12: 30% off everything in the store
- 3/13-3/16: vases, \$0.50 and scarves, \$0.50
- 3/19-3/23: jewelry, 75% off
- 3/26-3/30: Easter decorations and baskets, 50% off

SPRING NEW MEMBER CLASS

Would you like to become a member of Bethlehem or do you know someone who is interested? Join Pastor Niles for the New Member classes on 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 & 5/5. They will be held from 9:15-10:15am in the library.

UPCOMING FUN EVENTS TO KEEP IN MIND

- 3/9: Trivia Night, sponsored by the Senior Youth Group (RSVP required)
- 3/10: Roller skating event, sponsored by the PTL (RSVP required)
- 4/5: Mother-Son GLOW BINGO (RSVP encouraged)
- 4/12: SALSA dance for grades 6-8
- 4/13: LHS Auction (RSVP required)
- 4/19: Fun Fair, sponsored by the PTL

APRIL VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the April Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, March 14th, 2024. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note that it is for the Visitor.

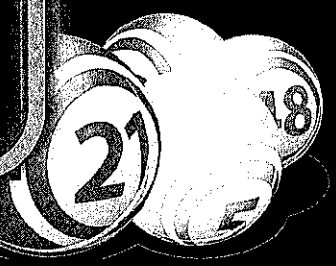
WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Phyllis Barts - January 25, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

••••• INVITES YOU FOR A FUN NIGHT OF •••••

GLOW
BINGO
WITH THE BOYS



MOTHER & SON EVENT
(Open to members of Bethlehem Church or School)

Friday, April 5th
5 - 7:30pm - Bethlehem Cafeteria

wear white & neon



Register
FREE
Here



FUN prizes
and pizza provided





**LCMS
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
HISPANIC OUTREACH**

February 27, 2024

Greetings from The Hispanic Outreach members! The Lord continues His work doing great things through the Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County. Our average attendance for the month of January and February was 43. Our highest weekly attendance was 48. Thanks be to God! So far in 2024 we have 15 new visitors.

Good news! The Lord continues to enlarge His family through the efforts of the LCMS Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach. On February 18th, 2024, Ana Sofia Duarte Solano and Victoria Isabella Duarte Solano were baptized at Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor in Sheboygan. Watch out, Jesus is at work in Sheboygan!

This past Sunday February 25th, 2024, was a Sunday of celebration at the LCMS Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach. Ten new members including: one Mexican, two Colombians and seven Venezuelans were confirmed at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sheboygan after completing membership and confirmation classes. The Lord is doing great things in Sheboygan! This ministry continues growing thanks to Jesus!

Don't forget Operation Backpack is on Saturday, August 3rd, 2024, at Good Shepherd Sheboygan. We are already collecting supplies. If you're willing to be part of this, please bring the school supplies to Good Shepherd. You can also send a donation with a memo: Operation Backpack, to Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach, 730 County Rd PPP, Sheboygan Falls Wisconsin 53085. For further info contact Rev David Blas 630-229-2455.

Thank you for reading this letter! Thank you for your continuing support for OUR Hispanic Ministry! Thank you for partnering with us. Please continue to pray for us! May God richly bless you!!! Looking forward to what the Lord has for us!

Serving Christ through His humble servant and yours,
Rev. David Blas





CHURCH DECORATION FUND for EASTER



Please consider donating a monetary gift to the Altar Guild's Church Decoration Fund. All donor names, along with the designation as to whether the gift is being given in memory of, in honor of or for blessings received, will be published. ***Please designate which category, by circling in memory of or in honor of.***

Please return to the church office. Make checks payable to **Bethlehem Altar Guild.**

**Deadline for submitting donations is
noon on Friday, March 22, 2024**

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ for blessings received

Given by: _____ for blessings received

FINANCIAL NOTES - February 2024

ENDOWMENT FUND

As of December 31, 2023 the endowment fund has a principal balance of \$892,722.00. Our objective from our Vision 23-25 is to have a principal balance of 1 million by December 31, of 2025. Any gifts are appreciated. The interest from one of these funds helps by supporting some of our students with financial aid.

A thought. Have you included Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in your estate planning? If not, please prayerfully consider a gift to Bethlehem. Thank you.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES

We signed a contract for another stained-glass window to be done. The Voters' Assembly approved the project at the November 2023 Voters' meeting. The window will be paid for out of the undispersed fund from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund loan. The next window to be done on our list is the large stained-glass window just east of the Pulpit. The contracted cost is \$17,524.38.

We recently received another donation for the stained-glass window project for approximately \$10,700. We feel confident that we will be able to get another stained-glass window restored this year through donations. So far, we have had 10 windows restored at an approximate cost of \$115,000. The remaining windows total over \$200,000.

If you are interested in donating to the stained-glass window project you can put your over and above regular gift into the offering plate or turn it into the church office. Please designated your gift for the stained-glass window restoration project.

BOARD OF ELDERS

The Board of Elders put forth a resolution that was approved by the Voters' Assembly to call a Director of Christian Education (DCE). Our pastors put in 60 plus hours a week and are stretched thin. To be able to expand the teaching of God's word and better serve our membership, we need additional help.

Our 2024 adopted budget challenges our congregation to fund the DCE position and several other important items. We need everyone to review their time, talents and treasures and see how else we can help further God's work.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

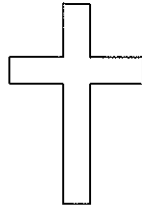
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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
Linda Hulbert-Ertel

Jim & Judy Heinecke
Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Anita Krimmel
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