



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. Alan D. Kubow
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship:

Saturday—5:30 pm

Sunday—8 am & 10:30 am

Wednesday—6 pm

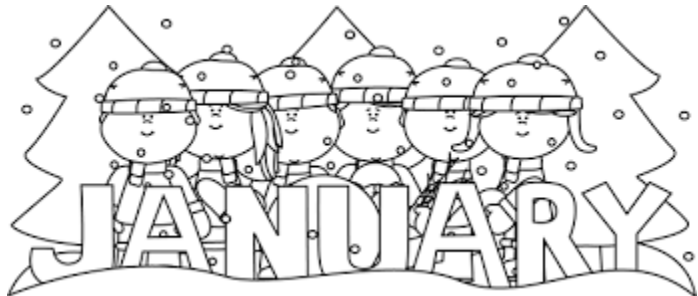
Sunday School:

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

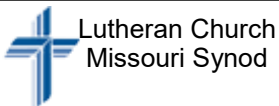
Bible Study

Sundays 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Biblical subjects - Century Room

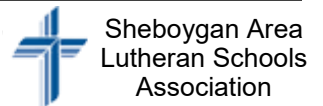
Wednesdays-7am
Prayer Breakfast - Century Room



MEMBERSHIP



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Updated January calendar at www.ourbethlehem.com



The Bethlehem Visitor - January 2020

A New Year But The Same Hope

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own.

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

~ Philippians 3:12-16 ~

As we begin another new year, it is normal to simultaneously remember the past and look toward the future. For those who have had a rough year, the prospect of the future can bring with it hope and expectation. "Well, it can't be as bad as last year can it?" For those that have had an exciting and exhilarating year, the prospect of the future can bring with it angst and trepidation. "We had a good year, didn't we? I wish we could do it again." Context is always interesting. It can color how we see things in the past, and it can tint how we are looking into the future. Our failures, successes, trials, and triumphs often cause us to elevate our feelings about our future, and, thus, obscure our focus and direction.



No matter what our context, our Lord has promised to always preserve and keep us in His grace and favor. He continues to love us and show us mercy despite being in the midst of

predicaments or joys. Paul's words to the Philippians, reminds us to lift our focus up away from ourselves. He reminds us to keep our eyes on the ultimate prize of the Christian faith. This prize does not rely on our circumstances, good years, bad years, or any context of the here and now. Our future is not bound up in uncertainties of finances, health, or family. Our future consists of one hope, and it is the same hope that drives us from year to year and decade to decade. It is the hope of the new heavens and new earth. It is the hope of the death of sin and the end of pain. It is the hope of eternal life and the resurrection of our



glorified bodies.

So as we approach a new year, keep your eyes focused on the cross of Christ that won for us salvation and eternity. Keep your eyes focused on His Word and Sacraments that give you a foretaste of the feast to come at the throne of the Lamb. Keep your eyes focused on the one hope that we have as God's people.

May you have a happy and blessed new year!

STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – January 2020

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Cor. 8:7).



January News



Next Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the February *Visitor* please have your information to the church office no later than noon Thursday, January 16, 2020. You can email it to jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the February *Visitor*.

2020 Church Envelopes

Your 2020 church envelopes are now available in the Century Room for pickup. Please make sure that you DO NOT use your 2019 envelopes in 2020 because you will have a different number than last year.

2020 Coffee Fellowship Hour

The new 2020 sign up sheet to host coffee hour is in the hallway by the Century Room. Please consider helping out with coffee hour, you can sponsor a coffee hour just because, or in memory or in honor of your/ someone's anniversary/birthday, etc. All you need to do is provide some yummy baked goods, coffee, and some juice and/or milk. We can show you what need to be done if you have never sponsored a Coffee Hour in the past. It is real easy!

2020 Bulletin Sponsorship

The 2020 Bulletin sponsor chart is now available on the hallway bulletin board. Please consider sponsoring the bulletin in memory/honor of someone, birthday, anniversary, etc. The cost is \$25, make your check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and drop off in the church office. You can pay on or prior to the weekend that you sign up for. *Please print first and last name(s) when signing up and note the special occasion if it applies.*

2020 Flower Chart

The 2020 Flower Chart is now available on the hallway bulletin board for you to sign up for your special day. Please consider sponsoring the altar flowers in memory/honor of someone, birthday, anniversary, etc. The cost is \$20, or more if you wish, make your check payable to Bethlehem Altar Guild. You can pay on or prior to the weekend you signed up for. *Please print first and last name(s) when signing up and note the special occasion if it applies.*

New Additions to the Church Library

We have been gifted 2 new books from Dial 452-PRAY entitled, "Christ In Our Home – Vol. I & II. Check them out in the church library.

Attention Directors Of Bethlehem Boards

Please get your 2020 meeting dates and the place you would like to have your meetings/events/activities to the church office ASAP so they can be put on the calendar to avoid any conflicts as Bethlehem is a happening place. You can email your dates to jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Bethlehem Teachers Retiring

Luther Bajus and Sandra Kasten will be retiring at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. With these retirements we will be searching for new faculty members for the 2020-2021 school year. We will be looking for people in the areas of music and science. If you have any names of potential teachers please contact Patrick Vanic at patrick.vanic@ourbethlehem.com. The formal search will take place starting in January 2020. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Mark Your Calendars for the Last Songs of the Seasons Concert

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we invite you to the 20th and final Songs of the Seasons concerts on February 2 at First Congregational Church, 310 Bluff Avenue and on February 9 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1121 Georgia Avenue. Both concerts begin at 2:00pm. The selection of songs will consist of some favorites from previous years as well as some that are new. The concert is directed by Sandy Kasten and accompanied by Bill Born. A free-will offering will be collected.

More January News

LWML NEWS

Happy New Year Ladies! Start your new year right by participating in a thought provoking Bible study led by Pastor Niles. Also help us make plans for some exciting upcoming LWML events. See you in the Century Room on January 7th at 7:00pm.

Look What's Ahead for January Bible Studies!

Want to spend time studying God's Word with other believers? Sunday morning Bible study and the Wednesday morning prayer breakfast continue meeting through the winter, and two new studies are starting in January at familiar times.

Adult Bible Study meets year-round between services Sunday mornings (9:20-10:15) in the Century Room. There will be a special series on stewardship starting January 12th.

How We Got the Bible will meet Monday nights 6:30-7:30pm starting January 13th. This is a video series with discussion facilitated by Tim Grasse.

Prayer Breakfast meets Wednesday mornings from 7-7:45am in the Century Room. Led by Pastor Kubow.

The Lutheran Difference will meet from 4-5pm Saturdays in the Wolter Library before Saturday night service. The pastors will be leading this study starting January 18th.

Baptism, Deaths, Marriages

Baptisms:

Sailor Elizabeth Zastrow

Daughter of Jacob J. and Amanda J. (Laganowski) Zastrow, baptized November 24, 2019

Huxley Stuart Bintzler

Son of Joshua E. and Brenda H. (Lutzke) Bintzler, baptized December 14, 2019

Deaths:

Rocky L. Blindert, 61, passed away on November 26, 2019

Frederick H. Fibiger, 96, passed away on December 1, 2019

Darrell O. Widder, 73, passed away on December 8, 2019

February News

Annual Chili/Soup Event

Saturday, February 1 and Sunday, February 2



Carry out a 32oz. container of “delicious chili” or “mouth-watering” chicken soup, which includes: cheese, crackers and bars with every container, all for a cost of only \$7.00 per container.

Advanced tickets may be purchased before and after services on both Saturday and Sunday during the month of January or by calling Jackie Hasenstein at 459-8047.
*(There will be a limited amount of extra soup/chili available **without** a ticket).*

*Pick up is scheduled for 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 1
and
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 2*

There is free delivery to the homebound

All proceeds will go to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Pastoral Care

When you are hospitalized, please notify the church office (or have a family member or friend notify us). Due to privacy laws the hospitals no longer contact the church.

Personal Information Changes

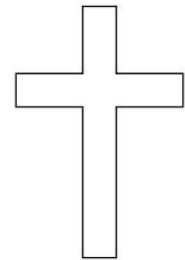
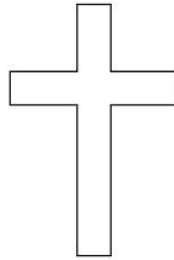
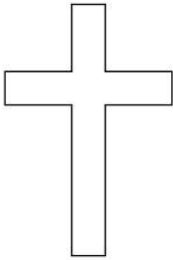
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

Room Reservation Reminder

Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know ASAP 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.com. Look for updates and information by typing Bethlehem Lutheran School. For more school information, please visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com.



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

Jim & Judy Heinecke
Ardyth Gross
Bethlehem MusicFest
Bev Fischer

Dennis & Nancy Bearns
Richard & Marge Hahn
Sandy & Roger Fischer
Joan Osthelder

Bob & Lori Gottowski
Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Leonard Johnson

Commercial Sponsors

Advanced Comfort Systems

Irish Roofing

Boneck Printing

Keith Wyckoff Siding

GREETERS SCHEDULE

January 2020

January 4, 5:30 p.m.
Peter & Jennifer Nikisch

January 5, 8:00 a.m.
Steve & Deborah Schlelein

January 5, 10:30 a.m.
Laura Lienau &
Crystal Payne

January 11, 5:30 p.m.
Phyllis Barts &
Roxy Mueller

January 12, 8:00 a.m.
Tim & Evie Grasse

January 12, 10:30 a.m.
Shaun & Cory Brachmann

January 18, 5:30 p.m.
Jessica Usadel &
Aaron Cannon

January 19, 8:00 a.m.
Yolanda Graf &
Darlene Nardi

January 19, 10:30 a.m.
Kathy Fricke &
Katie Scholz

January 25, 5:30 p.m.
Jeanette Gast &
Linda Herber

January 26, 8:00 a.m.
Dan & Malou Blackburn

January 26, 10:30 a.m.
NLSW-Worship in Gymn

February 2020

February 1, 5:30 p.m.
Bev Fischer &
Wilma Kasten

February 2, 8:00 a.m.
Mike & Shelly Scheele

February 2, 10:30 a.m.
Matt & Heidi Wallner

New Years blessing to all the faithful greeters! May you all have a successful and joyous year! I'm always pleased to see everyone with bright smiles and words of welcome! This month we welcome Tim & Evie Grasse and Matt & Heidi Wallner to the Greeters roster, thank you for joining!

Cristel Hodges, Greeter Chairlady
Phone: 920-458-3670
Email: grandmatito@yahoo.com



Acolyte Schedule for Seventh and Eighth Grade Confirmation Students

Please be in the Sacristy 10-15 minutes before the time of service to robe up and prepare to serve at the Lord's altar.
(Please find a Pastor or an Usher if you need help robing and for instruction on lighting the candles for that service)

If you are unable to serve on the date or time assigned, it is your responsibility to contact another 7th or 8th grader from the list that you received in the mail to replace you.

January 4/5

5:30 p.m. - Isaiah Cyr; 8:00 a.m. - Elliot Leibham; 10:30 a.m. - Lucy Brown

January 11/12

5:30 p.m. - Cheyenne Stirdivant; 8:00 a.m. - Sophia Lieffring; 10:30 a.m. - Hunter Adams

January 18/19

5:30 p.m. - Brookelyn Nachtwey; 8:00 a.m. - Caden Roth; 10:30 a.m. - Ezrabella Kubow

January 25/26

5:30 p.m. - Lucas Ehaney; 8:00 a.m. - Erika Bohlman; 10:30 a.m. NLSW (worship in gym)

February 1/2

5:30 p.m.—Cheyenne Stirdivant; 8:00 a.m.—Ben TenPas; 10:30 a.m.—Maxwell Lemus

February 8/9

5:30 p.m.—Karson Wyckoff; 8:00 a.m.—Dalton Zeman; 10:30 a.m.—Quinn Littmann

February 15/16

5:30 p.m.—Kaitlyn Barts; 8:00 a.m.—Lindsey Fischer; 10:30 a.m.—Raymond Scholz

February 22/23

5:30 p.m.—David Vanic; 8:00 a.m.—Logan Grasse; 10:30 a.m.—Chloe Walford

February 29/March 1

5:30 p.m.—Caden Roth; 8:00—Adrianna Saxon; 10:30 a.m.—Aleithea Adams



In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven—Matthew 5:16 ESV