



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

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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. 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 Study

Bible Classes are suspended until
further notice

August

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

The Bethlehem Visitor - August 2020

Strengths and Weaknesses

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
(Romans 8:26-30).*

How are you doing?

That is a common question that we have grown accustomed to hearing. It has been a question that is asked so often that we often ask it without any care of what the answer actually is. It has almost become a greeting and lost its sincerity as a question. It has become a simple greeting. But I am genuinely asking you... how are you doing? Think about this for a second before you continue reading.

I have always been tempted and succumbed to giving a response like "Wonderful" or "Great" without any thought to an honest answer. However, in recent days, this question has caused some introspection. The response in light of the context of our world is "I am weak". Trying to advise and lead through this time of unrest and pandemic has worn me down. I am sure that I am not alone in all of this. Trying to hold together the large range of opinions, fears, and worry that exists within our family, friends, and church has worn us all down. And Paul reminds us of the truth of the matter, we are all weak. All creation is weak. So the question is what do we do with our weaknesses?

While Paul reminds us that we are all weak, he also reminds us that we are not alone in our weaknesses. The Holy Spirit is active and working in the lives of God's people.

Lately, I have had people comment that they do not even know what to pray for anymore. But the Holy Spirit is active in our prayers to make our requests known to God. He intercedes into our words of weakness and makes them acceptable to our God. Sometimes prayers are simply, "Lord you know what I need." God gives us grace in times like this. He gives us hope. He reminds us that in our weaknesses, God's strength shines through in our lives. God continues to work through His Word and Sacraments to strengthen us and mold us into His people.

Finally, Paul reminds us that we will not always be weak. Our hope and our attention, as Christians, should not just be on the here and now. Our hope and attention should always be focused on the fulfillment of our salvation. Jesus will come back and make all things new. Jesus will come back to make us new. This truth gives us strength in the midst of our worry, angst, and weakness. It gives us focus outside of ourselves and our contexts. It gives us courage to continue to seek God where He is found - His Word and Sacraments. We are weak but Christ is strong. Please continue to keep us and the whole congregation in your prayers as you all are in ours.



In Christ,
Pastor Niles

Devotion from Pastor Moon

Blessed is the Righteous One

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

The blessed man. He has quite the checklist of amazing things that could be said about him. He does not listen to the advice wicked men try to offer. He does not associate with those who indulge in sinful ways. He does not try to come across as better than you, and he will certainly not hold it over your head that he is indeed better. Rather than these attributes the blessed man finds joy in doing the will of God! What a beautiful expression of that joy it is for the blessed man to meditate day and night on the law of the Lord namely, “the Torah of Yahweh”.

We may be tempted to try and check these boxes ourselves to strive toward earning this blessed status. It might even seem like we could achieve it once in a while. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but it simply does not work like that. Even on our best days, we fall into temptation and sin. Sometimes we do not even know what we have done or left undone. I can tell you with certainty that the blessed man is not me.

Even if we could keep this law perfectly and check every box on our way to becoming this blessed man, we would still miss out on the salvation that our Heavenly Father so greatly desires for us. The Ten Commandments give us a fabulous picture of how God wants us to live, but they leave out the part about what God was going to do about sin and this fallen creation.

I bear bad news, but I also bear good news. This reality leaves only Jesus as the blessed man. Jesus is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. There is no doubt about it! Jesus is the man who delights in the law of the Lord, and meditates day and night on the Torah of Yahweh. The Ten Commandments say nothing of how salvation will be offered, because the Ten Commandments are for us to follow, and only God himself can do the work of redemption.

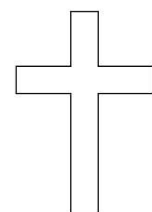
The Hebrew word “Torah” which is often translated as “law” does not fully capture the idea here in Psalm chapter 1. “Law”, “will”, “desire”, “instruction” all of these words are represented in the Hebrew “Torah”. So it was God’s good and gracious will that His only son would be the sacrifice which redeemed our fallen and broken world.

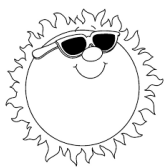
Jesus is the blessed man, but he is also the one who brings blessing. He has righteousness in himself, and he blesses you and me with that same righteousness. As we daily repent of those times we sin in thought word and deed, Jesus is always there to bless us with the righteousness that we simply do not deserve.

So even though we are not the blessed man being described here in the first psalm, do not lose hope. We are invited to cling to the righteous one who IS blessed. It is his desire that through him you would be blessed now and into eternity with him.

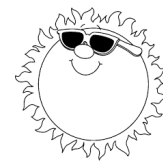
Peace of the Lord,

Pastor Moon





August News



Next Visitor Deadline

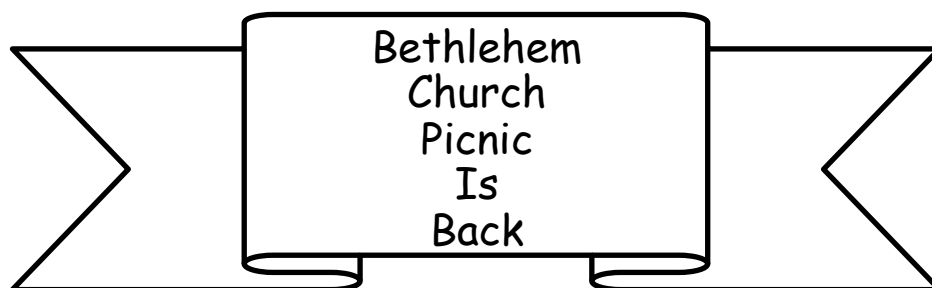
If you would like to submit information for the September *Visitor* please have your information to the church office no later than noon Thursday, August 20, 2020. You can email it to jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the September *Visitor*.

Have You Lost A Loved One?

Grieving is always a difficult process; but the restrictions of the pandemic have made it even more so. If your loved one's funeral was not held at Bethlehem, your church family might not know about your loss; but we want to help. Bethlehem's Grief Ministry would like to send your four inspirational booklets over the next several months to help you cope with your feelings. Just call the church office at 920-452-4331 and make a request. These booklets have been a help to others, let them help you too.

Summer Scrip Sales

Only Scrip-On-The-Go only is being accepted during the summer months. Scrip-On-The-Go has returned. All orders and payment must be in by 8:00am on Monday mornings. You can either order online using Presto Pay or drop off your order form in the Scrip drop box. Filled orders may be picked up in the school office on Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00am until noon. Because of a decrease in sales, we will not be able to order from our supplier every week. With that being said, we will only be filling orders from our inventory on hand. There will be no weekend sales until further notice.



**Join us for the Bethlehem Family Picnic
Sunday, August 16 at Kiwanis Park Field House
Worship at 10:00am**

Food and Beverages will be served following the service until 2:00pm. Because of the uncertainty of sanitizing and distance restrictions and recommendations, there will be no organized activities this year. However, the Kiwanis playground and area are available for fellowship and fun. Families are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and sports supplies to enjoy at the park after the service. We are looking for people to help during the picnic with selling tickets and serving food and drinks. Please contact Megan Boerger at 920-889-0056 or email m-boerger@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping.

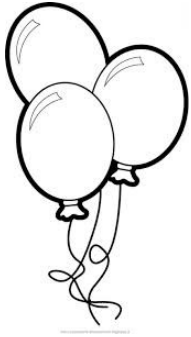


Good Luck in High School

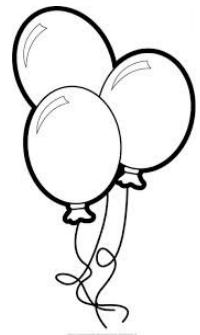
Congratulations to the following Bethlehem students who had their graduation ceremony on July 1st

Hunter David Adams
Josephina Rose Mae Albertin
Analisa Rose Arriens
Sienna Jean Boerger
Logan Thomas Grasse
Annalise Kate Hasler
John Kakuzi
Jack Ryan Karpinski
Elliott James Leibham
Devyn Jeffrey Mentink
Liam Michael Pfannkuch

Evan William Reinemann
Landin Kennith John Reinemann
Caden Allen Roth
Raymond Roger Scholz
Riley Thomas Stelter
Kathryn Elizabeth Stroede
Benjamin John TenPas
Kara Marie Thimmig
Winter Michael Tinkle
Bradley Jacob Van Engen
David Thomas Vanic



Congratulations Graduates



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is asking for our help with their Operation Backpack for the 2020–2021 school year. You can drop off your donations at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1614 S. 23rd St., Sheboygan or contact Rev. David Blas at 630–229–2455. School supply items that they are looking for include:

Pens	Bottle of glue	Backpacks (especially boys)
Pencils	Black dry erase markers	Highlighters
Plastic pencil box (8.5x5.5)	Wide lined composition notebooks	Colored Pencils
Erasers	Spiral wide-ruled notebooks	One inch 3-ring binder
Crayon box	Pocket folders	Two inch 3-ring binder
Children's scissors	Box watercolor paints	Pkg lined index cards
Glue sticks	Washable markers	Coloring books

Backpack with school supplies will be distributed to those in need on August 8 from 1–3pm at Good Shepherd. Kids must be present. Supplies are limited. First Come, First Served. Curbside Pickup.

Baptisms

Baptisms:

Isabella May Wagner, daughter of Michael and Kayla (Ehane) Wagner, baptized July 19, 2020.

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

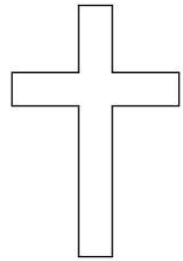
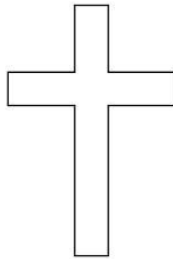
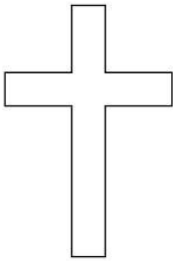
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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
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Bev Fischer

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The Book of Matthew

B Y A V O D R O L V O S Q R G M D U L N
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BAPTISM

FIG

MOUNT

SERMON

BEATITUDES

GETHSEMANE

NINEVAH

SUPPER

BETHANY

HEALS

PARABLES

TALENTS

BIRTH

JONAH

PHARISEES

TOMB

CRUCIFIXION

JOSEPH

RESURRECTION

DEATH

JUDAS

REWARDS

DISCIPLES

LEPER

SADDUCEES

EGYPT

MARY

SCRIBES