



**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](http://www.ourbethlehem.com)

Church: (920) 452-4331  
[infochurch@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:infochurch@ourbethlehem.com)

School: (920) 452-5071  
[infoschool@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:infoschool@ourbethlehem.com)

 [www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)

 <https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem>

Rev. J. Patrick Niles  
*Administrative Pastor*

Rev. Alan D. Kubow  
*Associate Pastor*

Patrick Vanic  
*Principal*

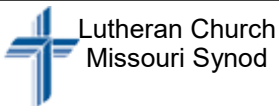
**WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Worship Times**  
  
Saturday - 5:30pm  
  
Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am  
w/Sunday School at 9:15am

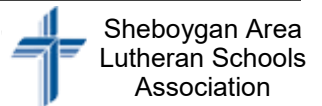
**Bible Study**  
  
Sunday Morning - 9:20 to 10:15am  
  
Monday - 6:30 to 7:30pm  
  
Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast  
7:00 to 7:45am



**MEMBERSHIP**



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Please check out the most updated calendar on our website at  
[www.ourbethlehem.com](http://www.ourbethlehem.com)



# The Bethlehem Visitor - February 2020

## Do You Know What Love Is?

In 1994, the critically acclaimed movie, *Forrest Gump*, was released and quickly rose to prominence in pop culture. There were many reasons why this movie became the second-highest grossing movie of the year. Among the top of these reasons was the numerous quotable lines that were in the script. From that point on in history, people were told to “Run, Forrest! Run!”. Everyone knew about 30 different ways to prepare shrimp, the reason that life is like a box of chocolates, and that 15 Dr. Peppers will make you well when you have to use that bathroom. But one of the other noted lines in the movie came at a dramatic point when Forrest says to Jenny (his love interest), “I may not be a smart man, Jenny, but I do know what love is.” As we embark upon the month of February and Valentine celebrations, it is important for us to remember what God has to say about love. It also should make us think about how we would define love. Do we know what love is?



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The first epistle of John states, *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:7-12)*

In this section of Scripture, we learn that love is not an emotion, a feeling, or something that you fall in or out of. Love is an action. It is something that we do. More importantly, it is something that God has done for each of us. We only know how to love through the loving service that God has provided through the death of Jesus for our sins to make us right with our Creator. Our love is to model that of Christ. No, we are not to go around dying for the sins of the world; Jesus already did that. However, we are to love by serving and sacrificing for others. Our imperfect love only stands as a beacon pointing the way to the love of God through which all might come to know true love. I am afraid that Forrest was a little confused on his definition of love. However, we as Christians should be clear on our definition of love and how we get that definition.



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May the Love of Christ dwell in you richly!

Pastor Niles

# SNOW MUCH FUN



is planned for YOU at Bethlehem Lutheran School's **Early Childhood Night**

**Friday, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 FROM 5:30-7 PM**

ALL children 2-6 years old, parents and siblings are invited to join us as we shovel up a load of exploration, hands-on fun, and a flurry of activity.

## RSVP APPRECIATED!

Fill out the bottom form and return to teacher or contact the School Office by **Thursday, January 30, 2020.**

Phone #  
920-452-5071  
email:  
infoschool  
@ourbethlehem.com



## Schedule:

- \* **5:30 PM** – Pizza Dinner in the Century Room
- \* **6:00 PM** – Welcome!
- \* **6:15-7:00 PM**
  - Families will rotate classrooms together
  - 3K, 4K, 5K teachers will lead everyone in an exploration of all things..., **SNOW!**
  - Explore hands on activities ...and do a make and take activity.
- \* **7:00-7:30PM** – Teachers available for questions about our Early Childhood Program.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ YES! We will be there!  
Number of family members attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sorry, we cannot attend.



# The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

### Newsletter Article – February 2020

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

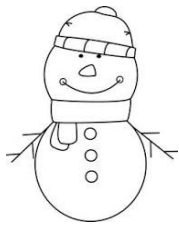
“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.



# February News



## Next Visitor Deadline

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

## New Website

If you haven't heard Bethlehem has a new website, you can check it out at [www.ourbethlehem.com](http://www.ourbethlehem.com) Please bear with us as we are still in the learning curve with our new website.

## 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.

## Altar Guild Meeting

Attention Altar Guild Ladies: we will be having a meeting on Saturday, February 8 at 9:30am. Your attendance is greatly appreciated.

## New Book In The Church Library

For your reading enjoyment please check out the most recent addition to our church library a book entitled "Down In The Woods", by Rev. James H. Nelesen (a cousin of Bethlehem's own Lee Steffen).

## 2019 Offering/Scrip Credit Statement

The 2019 offering statements are ready for pickup in the Century Room. Also if your Scrip credit went to Bethlehem Lutheran Church General Fund, Bethlehem Special Appeal or Bethlehem Guardian Angel Program, you can claim any profit on your income taxes. If you would like a copy of your report, please let us know. You can let one of the Scrip seller know, you can send an email to [BethlehemScrip@hotmail.com](mailto:BethlehemScrip@hotmail.com) or you can call Brenda Kanz at 912-3086.

## Is Your "Blue Christmas" Hanging On?

You thought things would be better after the holiday; but, if anything, you feel more lonely and depressed than ever. Even your church seems to have forgotten that you're grieving the loss of a loved one. Truth be told, your church family might not even know of your loss; but we want to help. The Bethlehem Grief Ministry wants to send you four inspirational books over the course of the year. Others in your situation have found them a source of hope and comfort; and we pray you will too. Just contact the church office and request this service; and, before you know it, help will be on the way.

## Are You Taking Pastor Niles' Challenge?

Recently, Pastor Niles challenged each of us to try one new thing in 2020. What's your new thing? Is it to exercise more? Lose weight? Pay off bills? How about trying a Bible Class (usually pastor led) or a Bible Discovery Group (usually layperson led)? You wouldn't have to make every session. You'll never be called on to read aloud or "recite." (It's OK to just listen). How about making the group study of God's Word your "new thing" for this year?

## *Every One His Witness*<sup>®</sup> — Workshop February 22

Witnessing. What's it all about? The *Every One His Witness* Lutheran evangelism program puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with people in our everyday lives. Participants learn: What is witnessing? Why do we witness? And the "how-to" of witnessing using the LASSIE approach — Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage. Please consider attending this informative workshop being held at Bethlehem on February 22. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Century room.

# LWML NEWS

## **More Sins Please!**

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, February 4th at 7:00pm in the Century Room to explore this intriguing topic. Also, help us make plans for a joint Zone 8 & 9 Lenten Prayers Service in March here at Bethlehem. Look for more information next month.

## **Mite Box Collection Time!**

Any congregational members who have mite boxes, please empty them into the large display mite box (located in the Century Room) during the month of February. We will be collecting your mites periodically throughout the year (February, May & October). Thanks for supporting our mission work!

## **A New Way To Use A Mite Box**

Maybe you've thought about taking a mite box from the LWML display in the Century Room and supporting mission projects both at home and abroad by dropping coins into it, and saying a prayer for missionaries; but you put off doing so because you're pretty sure you wouldn't remember to "feed the box." Here's any idea! Put the box in your car. Then when you get that pesky change, just drop it in the mite box on your way home. No muss, no fuss, no forgetting! Why not give this idea a try?

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## **Bible Studies in February**

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 there are special series on Monday evening and before Saturday night service.

**Adult Bible Study** meets year-round between services Sunday mornings (9:20-10:15) in the Century Room. A special series on topics in Christian Stewardship led by Cesar and Kirsten Lemus continues through Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**How We Got the Bible** meets Monday nights 6:30-7:30pm through Feb. 17th. This is a video series from Lutheran Hour Ministries 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** meets from 4-5pm Saturdays in the Wolter Library before Saturday night service. The pastors will be leading this study continuing through Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.



LIVING IN *love*, BEARING FRUIT

2020 LWML Prayer Service, ***Living in Love, Bearing Fruit.***

Authored by The Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Walton, President of the LCMS Florida-Georgia District

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you* (John 15:16).

Prayer Service  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
10:00AM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1121 Georgia Ave  
Sheboygan WI

Men and Women invited; sponsored by Zone 8 of the LWML for all of the Sheboygan area. Refreshments to follow.



# 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**

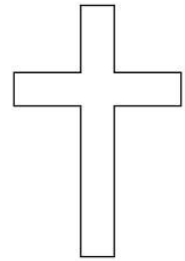
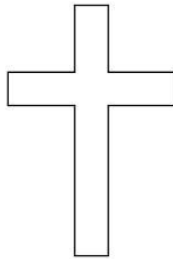
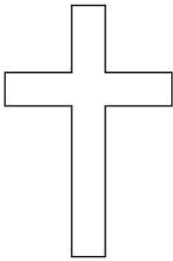
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email [jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com) with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **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](http://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  
Sandy & Roger Fischer

Dennis & Nancy Bearns  
Cliff & Gail Schlegel  
Leonard Johnson

Bob & Lori Gottowski  
Bethlehem MusicFest  
Bev Fischer

## **Commercial Sponsors**

Advanced Comfort Systems

Irish Roofing

Boneck Printing

Keith Wyckoff Siding

## **GREETERS SCHEDULE**

February 2020

**February 1, 5:30pm**  
Bev Fischer &  
Wilma Kasten

**February 2, 8:00am**  
Jeff & Peggy Jensen

**February 2, 10:30am**  
Matt & Heidi Wallner

**February 8, 5:30pm**  
Mary Jo Cyr &  
Joan Strohschoen

**February 9, 8:00am**  
Alice Brown &  
Irene Nelson

**February 9, 10:30am**  
Ellen, Ben, David & Nate Vanic

**February 15, 5:30pm**  
Linda Herber &  
Dave Strohschoen

**February 16, 8:00am**  
Jane Halverson &  
Darlene Nardi

**February 16, 10:30am**  
Robb & Tricia Roeh

**February 22, 5:30pm**  
Roxy Mueller &  
Lewis Hartmann

**February 23, 8:00am**  
Janelle Gooding &  
Larry Harmelink

**February 23, 10:30am**  
Mike and Dawn Roelse

**February 29, 5:30pm**  
Peter & Jennifer Nikisch

March

**March 1, 8:00am**  
Dan & MaLou Blackburn

**March 1, 10:30am**  
Nina Altenberger &  
Kathy Fricke

Thank you to all greeters who are there on their assigned weekend. It's a pleasure to see you all! Any new greeters would be welcomed!

*Cristel Hodges, Greeter Chairlady*  
Phone: 920-458-3670  
Email: [grandmatito@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

### **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

### **March 7/8**

5:30 p.m.—Jack Karpinski; 8:00 a.m.—Elliot Leibham; 10:30 a.m.—Bradley Van Engen

### **March 14/15**

5:30 p.m.—Lucas Ehaney; 8:00 a.m.—Andrew Krueger; 10:30 a.m.—Sophia Lieftring

### **March 21/22**

5:30 p.m.—Brandon Nikisch; 8:00 a.m.—Brookelyn Nachtwey 10:30 a.m.—Nathan Fischer

### **March 28/29**

5:30 p.m.—Isaiah Cyr; 8:00 a.m.—Cheyenne Stirdivant; 10:30 a.m.—Erika Bohlman



*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*