



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sheboygan Falls, WI
Permit No. 11

Address service requested

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://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)



[https://twitter.com/
ourbethlehem](https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem)

Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Colin Moon
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Times

Saturday - 5:30pm

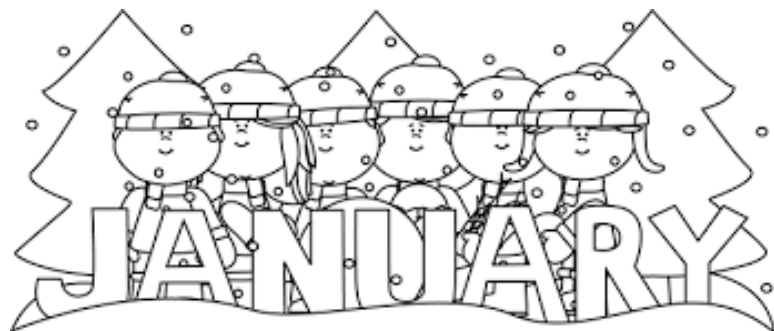
Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday - 6:00pm

Bible Study

Saturday ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am



MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

JANUARY 2021

Have a Blessed New Year

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 No School	2 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
3 <i>Epiphany Observed</i> Worship w/HC 8am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	4 Classes Resume	5 LWML 7pm	6 Epiphany <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Conf. 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6pm	7	8	9 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
10 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> Worship w/HC 8am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am Jr Youth Group 5pm Sr Youth Group 6pm	11	12 Quilters 9am	13 <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Conf. 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6pm Planning Council 7pm	14	15	16 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm w/HC
17 Worship w/HC 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship 10:30am	18 Bible Class 6:30pm	19	20 <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Conf. 3:30pm Worship 6pm	21 <i>February Visitor Deadline Noon</i>	22	23 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm
24 Worship 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am Bd of Elders 11:45am Jr Youth Group 5pm Sr Youth Group 6pm	25 Bible Class 6:30pm	26 Quilters 9am	27 <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Conf. 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6pm	28	29 No School	30 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm
31 Worship 8am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am						

Check for the most updated information on the Bethlehem website at
www.ourbethlehem.com

The Bethlehem Visitor - January 2021

Good Bye 2020!!!

"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)

Good bye 2020!!! I was set on being one of the first ones to be declaring this statement of farewell on December 31st. To say that I have not been a fan of this last year is the understatement of the year. So many activities and gatherings canceled. So many things that were going well at the church came to a screeching halt because of guidelines, shut-downs, and safety precautions. I would say that they did not train us for this at the Seminary, but, the truth is, none of us have been trained for something like this. How to handle pandemics is not covered in home economics classes, algebra classes, or biology classes. All of the stuff that I have been griping about this year is the same stuff that you have had gripes about also. So make no mistake about it! As the new year approached, I could not wait to say "good riddance to the bad rubbish of 2020!"

For months, I had been pining for the new year, but something unexpected happened. I sat down to write the obligatory family Christmas letter this year. I began to go through all of the pictures that I took over the course of the year to find some to put in the newsletter. As I did so, something became abundantly clear. With the exception of there being masks visible in almost every picture, the pictures were not the gloom and doom I was feeling. They were pictures of hikes that we took because we there everything was closed. They were pictures of crafts and projects being done around the house, because we had time to do them. Playing in leaves. Making pies. There were smiles. I began to see that there were blessings that were happening throughout the year also. In the midst of the trials and obstacles of 2020, our God still provided blessings... many times in the little things.

However, these blessings were not limited to just me and my family. On the church side of life, we were able to take time to focus resources on things that have been put on the back-burner for a while. We were able to start providing online avenues for people to encounter God's Word. We started live-streaming our worship services. And the final step in this process was finally completed just before Christmas when we had the new camera system finally installed in the sanctuary. It should be so much better now! We have had a members step up and care for one another in ways that would not have been necessary before COVID. We have been creative in gathering, in worship, in ministry, and in showing love and support. Yes... there have been blessings!

We spend so much time concentrating on the obstacles, the bad, the struggles, and the trials that we forget those are the places where our God works. God promises to bear us through the hard and trying times. No doubt, 2020 is a year that I will be glad to have in the rear-view mirror. And I can not promise that 2021 is going to be unicorns and rainbows. But I can tell you that the same God who bore you through this year with blessings in the midst of trials, will never leave or forsake you!

Have a blessed new year!

In Christ,
Pastor Niles



From the Desk of Pastor Moon

Love Up Close

I vividly remember a conversation with a good friend from the seminary. He confessed to me that there was a classmate of ours that he couldn't get himself to like as a person as hard as he tried. He had done his best to approach this classmate to get to know him better and had high hopes that by getting to know this young man that their relationship would improve. Not at all the case. Their personalities didn't click together well at all and he found himself getting frustrated by every conversation. He eventually threw up his hands as a sign he had given up and proclaimed, "I'll just love him as a brother in Christ from a distance!"

I totally understood what he meant too. There are people that won't be "my cup of tea" and others who won't be yours. This is when it is the most challenging to live the Christian life we have been called to live.

Next we throw in the current situation of the world and it is difficult if not impossible to show our love to even those we want to hold close. I know 2020 has been difficult on my parents who want to spend as much time with my daughter Zoey as they possibly can. Alas, my dad is a teacher and my mom works in the health field which leads them to love us from a distance.

The church services held in parking lots were a neat way to "be together" while remaining safely distanced and isolated at the same time. Unfortunately it is now winter in full force which makes a service like that undesirable.

If you feel lonely right now and in need of love, you are not alone in that feeling. Also be reminded that you are not alone at all! Jesus came down at Christmas to be with his people. His life was all about living amongst the sinners, the rejected, and the lonely. Although he rose into Heaven to sit at his Father's right hand, he remains with us even still. His word continues to shape lives and comfort broken hearts. His presence is everywhere, even on the days that it is not felt.

Jesus doesn't need to love us from a distance! Jesus is always close. His love is limitless and eternal.

Peace of the Lord,

Pastor Moon





January News



January 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 21, 2021. 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 January *Visitor*.

Youth Group Upcoming Dates

Jr and Sr youth groups please mark your calendars for January 10th and 24th as these will be the next meeting dates. The Jr Youth meets with Pastor Moon from 5-6pm and the Sr Youth meets with Miss Rinkinen from 6-7pm. If you have any questions about Jr youth contact Pastor Moon at colin.moon@ourbethlehem.com, any questions about Sr youth contact Miss Rinkinen at jenna.rinkinen@ourbethlehem.com.

2021 Church Envelopes

Your 2021 church envelopes are now available in the Century Room for pickup. Please make sure that you DO NOT use your 2020 envelopes in 2021 because you will have a different number than last year.

2021 Flower Chart

The 2021 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 that you signed up for. *Please print first and last name(s) when signing up.*

2021 Coffee Fellowship Hour

The new 2021 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. Just note that info when you sign up. All you need to do is provided some yummy baked goods, coffee, and some juices/milk. We can show you what needs to be done if you have never sponsored a Coffee Hour before. It is real easy! All we ask is that you please individually bag or wrap your goodies.

2021 Bulletin Sponsor

The 2021 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. You can pay on or prior to the weekend that you signed up for. *Please print first and last name(s) when signing up & note the special occasion if it applies.*

Uneasy About Trying An Online Bible Study?

Doing something unfamiliar is always challenging, but joining an online Bible study could very well be easier than you think. One obvious advantage is that you can participate from home; and most studies do not require you to be on your computer at a specified date and time. See the full page in this issue describing our post-Christmas offerings. Follow the sign-up directions. Then sit back and wait for the facilitator to contact you and guide you through the process. 2021 could be a great time to "think outside the box!"

Have You Lost A Loved One Recently?

If you loved one's funeral did not take place at Bethlehem, your church might not even know about it. We want to help you deal with your grief. Bethlehem's Grief Ministry would like to send you a series of four uplifting short books to support you on your grief journey. Just contact the Church Office and make a request. Help is a phone-call or email away!!

LWML Meeting

Ladies, won't you join us in welcoming in the new year at our meeting on Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00pm in the Century Room? New officers will be installed and Pastor Moon will lead us in a timely devotion. Masks will be worn and social distancing will be practiced.

Check Out MusicFest 2020 Online

MusicFest 2020: You heard that right! Bethlehem's MusicFest committee had to postpone the traditional September, in-person concert but that didn't keep spirits down. Bethlehem's 15th Annual MusicFest will be a virtual Christmas concert. Access to the video will start Saturday, December 19 through the Church website and Bethlehem Facebook page (you do not need a Facebook account to view the video). Since this concert is pre-recorded, there is no set time on when or how many times this performance can be viewed. Featured performers include Lakeshore Trio, Bruce and Marcia Timm, a variety of Bethlehem grade levels, and Cold Soda Club.

Baptisms

Raphael Martinez, son of Joel Martinez and Tara (Federer) Sarmiento
Jefferson Lee Haack, son of Austin and Hannah (Even) Haack
Zyair Jamie Wagner, son of Ashley Wagner

NEW POST-HOLIDAY BIBLE CLASSES STARTING

ONLINE

Participate from home--day or night
Sign up for either or both classes at
bethlehemsheboyganFB@gmail.com

Sign-up Deadline: Friday, Jan. 15
Indicate which class or classes you want.
Your leader will contact you.

GO MAKE DISCIPLES!

A fresh look at familiar resources together
with exploration of recent research
5 part study facilitated by Pastor Moon
via email

Starts week of Jan. 17

"REEL" PARABLES--

A Biblical view of classic movies available
on Netflix, Disney, or Amazon.
4-5 part study facilitated by Martha Becker via email
Resource material for all ages provided online
to spark family discussions of Biblical connections
Starts week of Jan. 17

(please save for future reference)

IN PERSON

No advance registration. Drop in's welcome
Social distancing of participants. Mask-wearing mandatory.

DE-MYSTIFYING REVELATION

Sundays 9:15-10:15A Sanctuary

Starts Jan. 17-ongoing

Pastor Niles leads a study on the Book of Revelation.

A LUTHERAN DEEP DIVE

Sundays 9:15A-10:15A Century Room

Starts Jan. 17-ongoing

Pastor Moon leads a look at the chief parts of the faith.

THE WHOLE COUNCIL OF GOD

Saturdays 4:15P-5:15P Century Room

Starts Jan. 16-ongoing

Pastor-led study on Scripture readings
planned for worship services in 2021-22

BE ON GUARD AGAINST FALSE PROPHETS

Mondays 6:30P-7:30P Century Room

Starts Jan. 18: 4 sessions

Barbara Nitsch leads a study of 2nd Peter.



If you have any questions, contact
Audrey Braatz at dobraatz@yahoo.com
or call (920) 452-7706

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

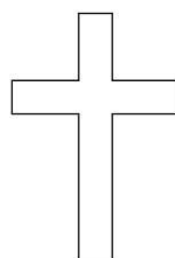
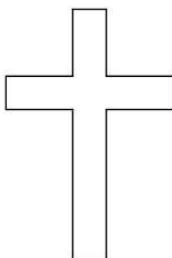
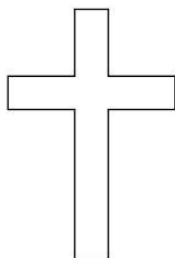
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

Room Reservation Reminder For Heads of Boards

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
Bethlehem MusicFest
Joan Osthelder

Bob & Lori Gottowski
Leonard Johnson
Dennis and Nancy Bearn

Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Bev Fischer
Sandra Fischer

Commercial Sponsors

Advanced Comfort Systems

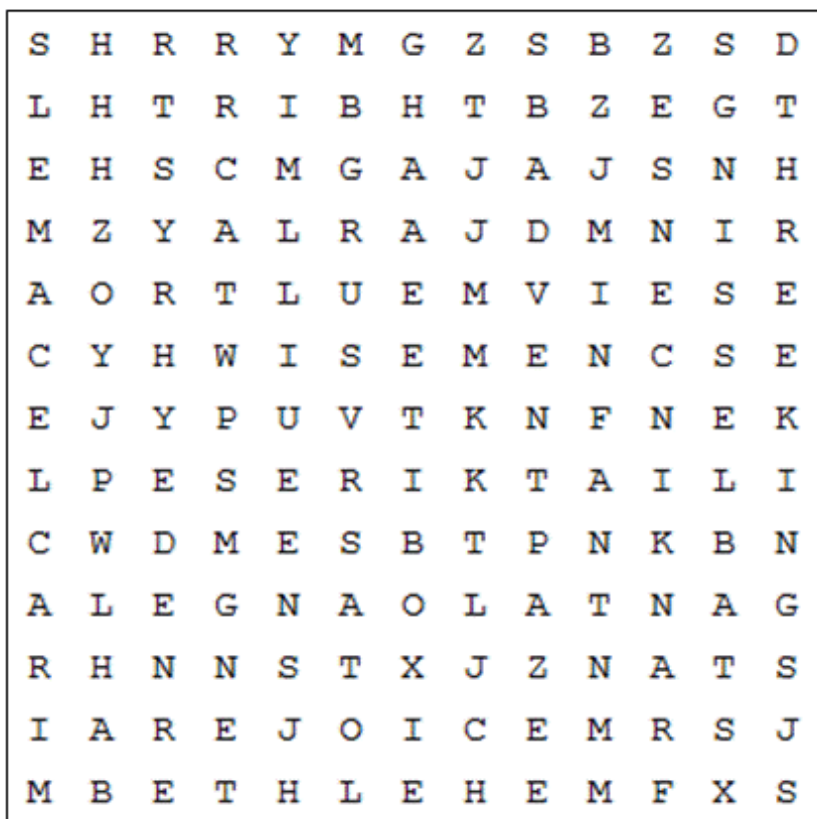
Irish Roofing

Boneck Printing

Keith Wyckoff Siding



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN

