



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. 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

See Important Information Inside on
The return of Bible Class



MEMBERSHIP



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



October 2020



Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Worship w/HC - 5:30pm
4 Worship w/HC – 8am Bible Class - 9:15am New Member Class 9:15am Worship - 10:30am	5	6 LWML 7pm	7 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship - 6pm	8	9	10 Worship - 5:30pm
11 Worship - 8am Bible Class - 9:15am New Member Class 9:15am Worship w/HC - 10:30am Jr Youth Grp – 5pm Sr Youth Grp – 6pm	12 Bible Class 6:30pm	13 Bd of Evangelism 6:00pm	14 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC - 6pm	15	16	17 Worship w/HC - 5:30pm
18 Worship w/HC – 8am Bible Class - 9:15am New Member Class 9:15am Worship - 10:30am	19 Bible Class 6:30pm BCDS 7pm	20	21 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship - 6pm	22	23  BETHLEHEM BASH 5-7pm	24 Worship w/HC - 5:30pm
25 Worship w/HC- 8am Bible Class - 9:15am New Member Class 9:15am Worship w/HC - 10:30am Jr Youth Grp – 5pm Sr Youth Grp – 6pm <i>Reformation Observed</i>	26 Bible Class 6:30pm	27	28 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC - 6pm	29	30 <i>No School</i>	31 Worship – 5:30pm

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

The Bethlehem Visitor - October 2020

This Is The Time For You!

*“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
(Esther 4:14)*

The above verse comes from what might be the most peculiar book in all of the Scriptures. Esther is the only book in the entire canon that does not expressly mention God by name. It is simply the account of the life a Jewish woman living in exile in Persia. Her account is quite extraordinary, and one who believes in the existence of the God of the Scriptures can easily see His fingerprints all over the events in the account. Esther goes on to be blessed by God so that her actions could lead to the saving of Jewish lives in the face of extermination. At a moment when she is questioning how involved she should be, her cousin offers the following advice: *“Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”*

The profundity of this statement is not without application in our own day and time. Each one of us lives each day with the blessings that God gives us. We live in unique situations, unique places, unique families, and unique trials. However, These unique aspects of each of our existences are not random or coincidental. The outcome of our present time is not random or coincidental either. Just as a believer can read the Scriptural accounts of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the faith and see God’s care and providence (even when He is not expressly mentioned), a believer can look with hope and certainty at their own lives and see God’s care and providence.

This evidence is made abundantly clear when God comes to us with His blessings and love in the Divine Service. His Word is there for your encouragement, and as a faithful proclamation of the lengths through which God would go to have you as His child. The font stands before our eyes as a monument to the ever-present help our God promises to give us in our unique situations. The bread and wine are there as means through which the body broken and the blood shed on Calvary are applied to you. You sit in the midst of the body of Christ to be built up and strengthened in your vocations and callings that God has given to you. And who knows whether you have not come to this place for such a time as this? As a matter of fact, you should know for certain that you have come to this place for such a time as this.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles



From the Desk of Pastor Moon

Routinely in the Word

My morning routine has always been special to me. I am a morning person by nature. I enjoy watching the sun come up. I enjoy the smell of freshly brewed coffee (my mom drank it while I was growing up). I enjoy having peace and quiet for a few moments before the hustle and bustle of the day begins. There was, however, a time in my life when that morning routine was interrupted. Once I got into High School, my dad started taking me to the gym to work out before school. I certainly know it was good for me, but at the time I missed my morning routine tremendously. Years later I became good friends with a man who travelled for work. There were weeks, sometimes even months, where he spent more nights sleeping in a hotel bed instead of at home. One time I asked him how he keeps himself from getting homesick while he's on the road. The answer for him was simple: a morning routine. His morning consisted of waking up early, reading a chapter in Psalms, and listening to a hymn. Once he checked all the boxes he was ready for the day ahead.

It wasn't until this conversation that it dawned on me why I missed my own morning routine so much. I found comfort in something. I had relied on the peace and quiet of the morning to set my mind straight before the day began. This is the type of reliance we should all have on God's Word. It can be in the morning getting us ready for what lies ahead. It can be in the evening helping us unwind from what stands behind.

I have to be honest, doing the daily devotions on Facebook has been one of the highlights of my ministry so far. At first I was skeptical. 2:30 PM is definitely not primetime for Pastor Moon. But the longer I have been here at Bethlehem, the more I look forward to 2:30 every afternoon for the opportunity to listen to Pastor Niles, or share my own thoughts on a section of scripture.

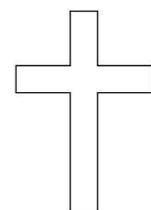
Deuteronomy 6 has a few things to say about our routine:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

In other words: it is never a bad time to be in God's Word. The important part is that we are constantly being spiritually fed. If your routine is to read scripture in the morning, Great! If your family shares a devotion around the dinner table, Wonderful! I would encourage you to always find time. Make it part of your routine. The Lord will bless the fruits of your labor.

Peace of the Lord,

Pastor Moon





October News



Next Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the November *Visitor* please have your information to the church office no later than noon Thursday, October 22, 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 November *Visitor*.

Thank You Notes

Dear Members of Bethlehem School and Church,

I want to sincerely thank all of you for the kind words, cards, and gifts that were given to me in celebration of my retirement alongside my two coworkers. I was very touched by everyone's thoughtfulness. My 30 years as a teacher here at Bethlehem have been blessed in so many ways. I always felt lucky and in awe of having the privilege to work with my home congregation and the school in which I grew up. So many memories of so many children and families that are close to my heart. I will always cherish them! I pray for God's infinite blessings to the school and am grateful for my continued music ministry in this church. May God bless and protect each of you in the upcoming days as we serve our Lord together. ~ Sandy Kasten

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, "May grace and peace be multiplied to you." (1 Peter 1:2b) Thirty-nine years in the ministry have gone by in a flash! I have been privileged to serve God's people at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hunter, Kansas; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Nortonville, Kansas; and (for the last 32 years) Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Serving God's people with His Word and Sacraments has been a privilege and a joy. Susan and I will always be thankful to Him for your love, support and encouragement. We have been overwhelmed by your cards, gifts and well-wishes over the past weeks. Please accept our sincere thanks. Bethlehem is truly "home" for our whole family – children and grandchildren. We look forward to our fellowship with you for many years to come. ~ Yours in Christ, Pastor Alan & Sue Kubow

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School for their cards and gifts upon my retirement from the teaching ministry.

The book of Jeremiah tells us, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord." As I look back on my ministry I see that many times God's plans were greatly different from mine. I am thankful God's plans for me included 43 years of service at Bethlehem.

Again thank you for your cards, gifts, and prayers.

Please continue to remember all churches and schools in your prayers. ~ In HIS service, L.J. Bajus

Sunday School Update

Sunday School for 2020-2021 plans are underway and announcements will be sent out soon. If anyone is interested in joining our faithful volunteer team or teachers or aides—or if you have any questions in general, please contact Laura Lienau, ljlienau@hotmail.com or call 920-783-8114.

Thank You To Everyone Attending The 2020 Bethlehem Picnic

The Lord blessed us with a beautiful sunny Sunday. We worshipped together in song and praise on August 16, 2020 at Kiwanis park. We also celebrated the time and talents of Bethlehem's faithful servants Pastor Alan Kubow, Sandra Kasten and Luther Bajus.

The Easter breakfast was wrapped up, literally, and available as a breakfast burrito before service. The picnic menu included brats and burgers from Brockmans, egg rolls, German potato salad, baked beans and refreshments.

Special thank you to all those who volunteered during the picnic to help serve! And those who answered the call (emails) during the planning: Ron Stubbe and the volunteer fryers, Brian and Jackie Hasenstein for refreshments, along with Chris & Emily Cyr Family, Pat Vanic Family for planning, setup and service, Mark Steffen and Matt Opgenorth for transportation and setup of the Church equipment, Tom Behrens and Boneck Printing for tickets, Boerger's, Payne's, Ellen Vanic and Darlene Nardi for food service, and our faithful worship leaders, Pastor Niles and Pastor Moon.

A New Look For The Bash!

The Bethlehem Bash is still on for the year! However, it is going to look a little different. We are having Trick-or-Treating around the block and other outdoor activities. We need your help to make this event successful. The bash is scheduled for October 23rd from 5:00 until 7:00. We are asking for volunteers to decorate a table and hand out candy. Volunteers are encouraged to provide their own candy. If you would like to help but need candy provided, please let Jessica know when signing up. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Jessica Usadel at jessi-ca.usadel@ourbethlehem.com or (920) 207-3260.





October News Con't



Herb Kohl Education Foundation Nominations Are Now Open

Nominations are now open for the Kohl Teacher Fellowship program. If you would like to nominate one of our Bethlehem teachers go to <https://www.kohleducation.org/teacherfellowship/religiousindependent/> and/or our Principal go to <https://www.kohleducation.org/principalleadership/religiousindependent/>

Submit your nomination(s) by Tuesday, October 13, 5:00pm Central Time.

Food Donations for Social Ministry

We are so thankful that donations are still coming in from the congregation and school families. Due to COVID-19 we now need to ask for closed packages. We will be unable to accept open packages of food items and toiletries. All donations need to be in a sealed package, including toilet paper or paper towels. Our Board would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to help our church families and to share with other food pantries in the community. This is a wonderful community outreach project for our board. You truly are making a difference in the lives of families who are in need that have lost employment or under employed, and trying to make ends meet. As always if you know of a family who might need some assistance, please call the church office or Cheryl Senkbeil at 920-980-9427. This information is confidential and we will reach out to the family. Other resources for food and toiletries are The Sheboygan Food Bank. On Friday and Monday mornings from 10am-12pm at the Glacier Transit building off of Weeden Creek, it is a free drive through and you may request more than one share. City market place is held at City Church on 31st and Main on the third Thursday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. It is a \$20 donation per share for roughly two laundry baskets of food items and set up as a drive through. Working Families Bread Basket is held on Saturday mornings as a drive through, starting at 9am at Christian High. Other food pantries are available and we will provide a calendar for dates, time and place upon request.

No Reformation Rally This Year

The planning committee for the annual Sheboygan County Reformation Rally has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's service due to concerns related to COVID-19. The current plan is to hold both a Reformation Theology Conference with speakers on the morning of Saturday, October 30, 2021 and the next Reformation Rally church service in the new LHS Worship and Fine Arts Center on Sunday, October 31, 2021 at 3:00pm.

Upcoming Youth Group Dates

Mark your calendars for October 11 and 25. Junior Youth for 6th-8th grade will meet with Pastor Moon from 5-6pm in the BLS gym and cafeteria (please enter through the gym doors); the Senior Youth for 9th-12 grade will meet with Miss Rinkinen in the Youth room from 6-7pm (please enter through the Century Room). If you have any questions please email Pastor Moon at colin.moon@ourbethlehem.com or Miss Rinkinen at jenna.rinkinen@ourbethlehem.com



Bethlehem's LWML Sunday will look "a little different" this year!! Due to the public gathering restrictions of Covid 19, we will NOT be having a coffee hour between services and the LWML choir will not be singing at any of the services. Also, we will not have special display tables or our interesting "world map" in the Century Room. We WILL have collection plates and our large mite box to receive donations, as well as the individual mite boxes for you to take home on our display table at the end of the main aisle into church. As with many groups and organizations, our MITE donations nation wide are down. We would greatly appreciate ANY monies you could put in the collection plate or MITE box. It is amazing what the LWML MITES can accomplish



in spreading God's word and helping people/organizations in need around the world! NO amount is too small! Our Bethlehem LWML is "up and meeting." Our second meeting is Tuesday, October 6th at 7pm in the Century Room. We practice "social distancing" and wear masks. Please join us and bring another gal along and check us out. We are a friendly group of Christian women and we would love for you to "come and try us out" with no obligation to join. See if our group is right for you too! We would love to have you! ~ Bethlehem LWML

WHICH BIBLE STUDY IS FOR YOU?



ONLINE

Participate from home - day or night.

Sign up for either or both classes at:
bethlehemsheboyganFB@gmail.com
Signup Deadline: Friday, Oct. 16
Indicate which class/classes you want.

WE THE PEOPLE: CITIZENS OF TWO KINGDOMS
Explores the proper relationship between Church and State.
Three part study facilitated by Pastor Moon.
Starts week of Oct. 18.

THE RELUCTANT WITNESS (for ages 20-35)
Describes 21st century ways of witnessing.
8 part study facilitated by Martha Becker.
Starts week of Oct. 18

IN PERSON

No advance registration.
Drop-in's welcome!
Social distancing of participants.
Mask-wearing mandatory.
Bring your own Bible.

GATHERED GUESTS: A GUIDE TO LUTHERAN WORSHIP
Sundays 915A - 1015A - Now through Nov. 15
Pastor Moon leads a study on the meaning of the liturgy.

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE
Sundays 915A - 1015A - Now through Nov. 15
Pastor Niles conducts a comprehensive review of the Catechism. Anyone may attend.

VIDEO-BASED SERIES (title TBD)
Mondays 630P - 730P Starts Oct. 12th
BLS teacher Jeff Wegner will lead a video-based series.

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

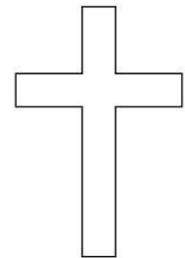
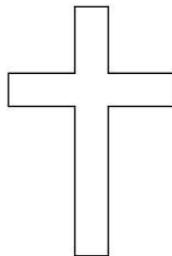
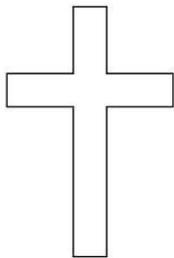
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

Room Reservation Reminder

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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Bob & Lori Gottowski
Leonard Johnson

Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Bev Fischer

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