



**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. Colin Moon  
*Associate Pastor*

Patrick Vanic  
*Principal*

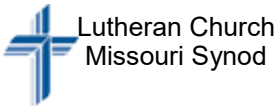
**WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Worship Times**  
  
Saturday - 5:30pm  
  
Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am  
  
Wednesday - 6:00pm

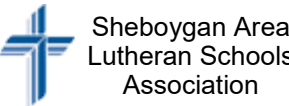
**Bible Study**  
  
Bible Classes are suspended until further notice

**September**

**MEMBERSHIP**



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



# September

**2020**

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School

| Sunday   | Monday                      | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday          | Saturday                     |
|--|-----------------------------|---------|--|----------|-----------------|------------------------------|
|  |                             | 1       | 2<br>Worship<br>6:00pm   | 3        | 4               | 5<br>Worship w/HC<br>5:30pm  |
| 6<br>Worship w/ HC<br>8:00am<br>Worship<br>10:30am | 7<br>Labor Day<br>No School | 8       | 9<br>Public School<br>Confirmation<br>3:30pm<br><br>Worship w/HC<br>6:00pm | 10       | 11              | 12<br>Worship<br>5:30pm      |
| 13<br>Worship<br>8:00am<br>Worship w/HC<br>10:30am | 14                          | 15      | 16<br>Public School<br>Confirmation<br>3:30pm<br><br>Worship<br>6:00pm     | 17       | 18              | 19<br>Worship w/HC<br>5:30pm |
| 20<br>Worship w/HC<br>8:00am<br>Worship<br>10:30am | 21                          | 22      | 23<br>Public School<br>Confirmation<br>3:30pm<br>Worship w/HC<br>6:00pm    | 24       | 25<br>No School | 26<br>Worship<br>5:30pm      |
| 27<br>Worship<br>8:00am<br>Worship w/HC<br>10:30am | 28                          | 29      | 30<br>Public School<br>Confirmation<br>3:30pm<br>Worship<br>6:00pm         |          |                 |                              |

Check for the most updated information on the Bethlehem website at  
[www.ourbethlehem.com](http://www.ourbethlehem.com)

# The Bethlehem Visitor - September 2020

## O God, Forsake Me Not!

*The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:15-18)*

During my morning study the other day, I came across this gem. It is hymn # 730 in Lutheran Service Book.

O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me;  
Lord, lead Your helpless child; Your Holy Spirit send me  
That I my course may run. O be my light, my lot,  
My staff, my rock, my shield – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Take not Your Spirit from me;  
Do not permit the might Of sin to overcome me.  
Increase my feeble faith, Which You alone have wrought.  
O be my strength, my power – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!  
In every evil hour Help me resist temptation;  
And when the prince of hell My good conscience seeks to blot,  
Be then not far from me – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Yours forever.  
O keep me strong in faith That I may leave You never.  
Grant me a blessed end When my good fight is fought;  
Help me in life and death – O God, forsake me not!

It occurred to me that we often pray this prayer corporately in worship and individually in private. It might come in different forms with different words, but our prayer remains the same. For the Christian, a life without God in your corner is a life that is full of fear and trepidation. So our prayer is often, “God, help me”, or “God, don’t forget about me”, or “God, be with me”, or simply, “GOD!!!!” Many times, our prayers are simply one-word exclamations because we do not know what to say.

I have, often, preached that God holds true to His promises to never leave or forsake His people. I have, often, pointed to the date of baptism and the Lord’s Supper as places where we see the presence of God in our lives. His washing us. His feeding us. However, it occurred to me that the Word is a vital weapon of the Christian that oft goes overlooked. We know about the Scriptures. We know the accounts of the Scriptures. But there are many times when we fail to see the Scriptures containing the wisdom and the power of God. For this is precisely what the Gospel message contains (Romans 1:16). It is the confidence that God has not forsaken us. He is here for us in time and eternity with His Holy Word. It is a Word that, at its center, conveys the salvation of God’s people through Jesus. It is a Word that saves. It is a Word that encourages. It is a Word that teaches. It is a Word that endures. May the Word of God always be the power of God’s salvation in your life. May you read it. May you cherish it. Always.

Pastor Niles



## *Devotion from Pastor Moon*

### Joyful Celebration

Happy Fall everyone! This is a bittersweet blessing I extend to you this day. Fall is a beautiful time of year to be sure. There will soon be cooler weather. The leaves will turn vibrant shades of red and orange. Pumpkin spice flavored everything (one of my guilty pleasures). We have fun holidays on the horizon to celebrate. Halloween means costumes and candy. Thanksgiving means family, friends, food, and football! Well, we can hope and pray this year. I guess that's one reason I say this fall season will be bittersweet.

Perhaps you will miss the warmth of the summer. I prefer when the weather is cool enough to wear a jacket, but you might be different. I prefer when the leaves are vibrant colors, but perhaps you enjoy the deep green of June. Thanksgiving is my favorite secular holiday and pumpkin pie is my favorite dessert, but maybe you would rather rewind time and grill out for Memorial Day or stay up late to watch the fireworks for the 4th of July.

Those holiday celebrations felt different this year. The weather has been sunny and warm for the most part, but there has been a cloud casting a long and dark shadow over all these celebrations, and that cloud is called Covid - 19. I cannot speak for you, but my celebrations this year were far from joyful the way they have been in the past. At times, it feels like we skipped the past 6 months entirely. Other times have felt like time was standing still and we long for the ability to celebrate the way we have in the past.

In these times of darkness and uncertainty I want to share a section of Psalm 118:

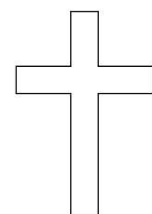
This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.

Two familiar passages that we often forget are intertwined. The "cornerstone" passage, and the "rejoice in today" passage. We may be tempted to wait for Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and all it means for us (another holiday that felt different this past year), but the psalmist reminds us that we can rejoice daily because Jesus is our cornerstone. Jesus is our joy. The joy he brings puts all other joyful holidays to shame.

So at the end of the day, it doesn't matter what day you read this, Jesus Christ is risen today, ALLELUIA! Amen. Let us celebrate with joyful hearts.

Peace of the Lord,

Pastor Moon





# September News



## Next Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the October *Visitor* please have your information to the church office no later than noon Thursday, September 17, 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 October *Visitor*.

## Thank You

We would like to thank Phyllis Barts for her many years as the Partners in Reading volunteer coordinator. She has been a BIG blessing to Bethlehem and its students.

## 8th Grade Brat Fry

Bethlehem 8th grade class will be sponsoring a Brat Fry at Miesfeld's Meat Market on Saturday, September 12 and 19 to help defray costs for their trip to Chicago at the end of the school year. Baked goods will also be available.

## Youth Group Is Back



If you are entering 6th through 12th grade, we want to invite you to join us for Youth group. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 13 from 6 to 7pm at North Point Beach by the fire rings for a devotion, s'mores and games. Pastor Moon and Miss Rinkinen will be there to welcome back both youth groups. Be appropriately dressed for the weather. We will give further details about Youth group as the year progresses. COVID precautions will be taken to ensure a safe and enjoyable time. All are welcome to join!

## Public School Confirmation Class

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 9 from 3:30-4:30pm for 6th, 7th and 8th grade public school Confirmation classes. Please meet in the Century Room. If you have any questions please contact the church office at 452-4331.

## LWML Info

Grab your masks and mite boxes and join the LWML ladies on Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00pm in the Century Room for a socially distant meeting. We will learn how to become "Movers and Shakers" in God's kingdom.

Although the Fall Retreat has been canceled we will be collecting the following ingathering items for the Concordia Theological Seminary co-op. *Baby items: diapers, wipes, soap, shampoo and over the counter children's medicine.* Please bring your donations to the meeting or congregational members can drop off items by September 17th in the basket in the Century Room located under the LWML bulleting board. Thanks for your help.



## Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages

### ***Baptisms:***

Evren Ernest Krueger, son of Gabrielle A. Krueger

### ***Deaths:***

Arlene Zastrow, age 84, passed away on July 22, 2020

We have some new Board members that were elected at the last Voter's meeting. Their term runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022. Please welcome them.

### **Executive Director**

David Ames

### **Assistant Executive Directors**

George Haecker  
Bob Irish

### **Treasurers**

Mike Gries  
Mark Steffen

### **Purchasing Agent**

Bruce Becker

### **Board of Assimilation**

*Directors:* Jim Leibham & Jon Irish

*Members:*

Audrey Braatz  
Jeri Gundlach  
David and Brenda Kanz

### **Board of Christian Day School**

*Director:* Randy Holler

*Members:*

Ryan Detlaff  
Judy Heinecke  
Allen Holzheimer  
Holly Leibham  
Dave Strohschoen  
Josh Ursprung

### **Board of Church Properties**

*Director:* Josh Bintzler

*Members:*

Phil Ditter  
Terry Knier  
Steve Kress  
Josh Kubow  
Andy Littman  
Ryan Payne  
Dave Reuter  
Gary Schallock  
Keith Wyckoff

### **Board of Elders**

*Director:* Pete Nikisch

*Members:*

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Steve Brown      | Jeffrey Crneckiy |
| Ryan Cyr         | Phil Ditter      |
| Brian Hasenstein | Doug Hasenstein  |
| Bob Irish        | Dave Kanz        |
| Greg Kramer      | William Lang     |
| Tom Markelz      | Michael Quam     |

### **Board of Evangleism**

*Acting Director:* Laura Lienau

*Members:*

Megan Boerger  
Jeri Gundlach  
Crystal Payne

### **Board of Parish Education**

*Director:*

*Members:*

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Martha Becker | Kyle Bjorn     |
| Audrey Braatz | Tim Grasse     |
| William Lang  | Laura Lienau   |
| Barb Nitsch   | Dustin Stielow |
| Katie Wheelan |                |

### **Board of Parish Fellowship**

*Acting Director:* Laurie Reuter

*Members:*

Yolanda Graf  
Evie Grasse  
Sue Kubow  
Gail Milatz  
Ellen Vanic

### **Board of Social Ministry**

*Acting Director:* Cheryl Senkbeil

*Members:*

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Pam Crneckiy     | Andrew Engelhardt |
| Debra Engelhardt | Bev Fischer       |
| Donna Gibeault   | Jackie Hasenstein |
| Cristel Hodges   | Mary Holler       |
| Brenda Kanz      | Barb Quam         |
| Jessica Usadel   |                   |

### **Board of Stewardship**

*Director:* Mary Kress

*Members:*

Jennifer Gottowski  
Brenda Kanz  
Ann Kress  
Sue Kubow

### **Young People's Work**

*Director:* Jenna Rinkinen

### **Public Relations**

*Director:*

*Members:*

# 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**

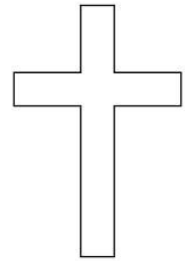
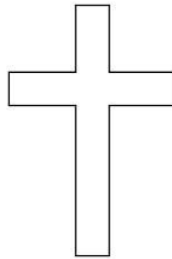
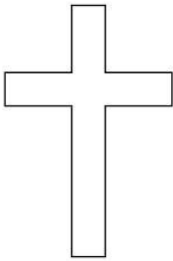
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email [jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com) with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **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  
Joan Osthelder

Dennis & Nancy Bearns  
Cliff & Gail Schlegel  
Leonard Johnson

Bob & Lori Gottowski  
Bethlehem MusicFest  
Bev Fischer

## **Commercial Sponsors**

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