

Bethlehem Lutheran

CHURCH & SCHOOL



1121 Georgia Ave. 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](http://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)

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

Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Jeremy Hanson
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Times

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday - 6:00pm

Bible Studies

Saturday evening ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Jan 2024

MEMBERSHIP



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p>1</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p> <p>Church & school offices are closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BACK TO SCHOOL!</p> <p>LWML meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p> <p>Board of Assimilation meeting 6:00pm</p>			<p>6</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible classes 9:15am</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Rick Zeuner Bible study @ LHS 6:00pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bethlehem Night & Hot Shots at LHS basketball games (JV begins at 5:50)</p> <p>Adult Choir practice 7:00pm</p>		<p>13</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible classes 9:15am</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>Youth Group 4:00-5:30pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Rick Zeuner Bible study @ LHS 6:00pm</p>		<p>17</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>February Visitor Deadline (noon)</p> <p>Adult Choir practice 7:00pm</p>		<p>20</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Kick-Off to Lutheran Schools Week</p> <p>WORSHIP 10:00AM</p> <p>Brat Fry (following worship)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Rick Zeuner Bible study @ LHS 6:00pm</p> <p>Board of Christian Day School meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Parent-Teacher conferences</p> <p>Adult Choir practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Parent-Teacher conferences</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible classes 9:15am</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Rick Zeuner Bible study @ LHS 6:00pm</p>		<p>31</p> <p>Reading Partners 1:00pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p> <p>Voters' meeting 7:00pm</p>			

From the desk of Pastor Niles

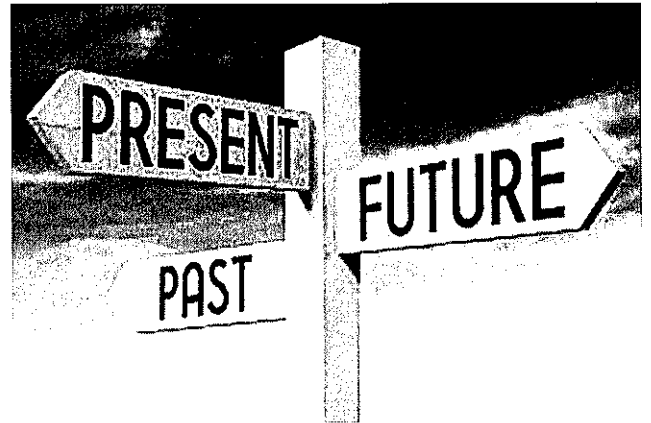
A New Year but the Same Hope

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

~ Philippians 3:12-16 ~

As we begin another new year, it is normal to simultaneously remember the past and look toward the future. For those who have had a rough year, the prospect of the future can bring with it hope and expectation. "Well, it can't be as bad as last year, can it?" For those that have had an exciting and exhilarating year, the prospect of the future can bring with it angst and trepidation. "We had a good year, didn't we? I wish we could do it again." Context is always interesting. It can color how we see things in the past, and it can tint how we are looking into the future. Our failures, successes, trials, and triumphs often cause us to elevate our feelings about our future, and, thus, obscure our focus and direction.



OUR SURE HOPE IN
CHRIST

No matter what our context, our Lord has promised to always preserve and keep us in His grace and favor. He continues to love us and show us mercy despite being in the midst of predicaments or joys. Paul's words to the Philippians, reminds us to lift our focus up away from ourselves. He reminds us to keep our eyes on the ultimate prize of the Christian faith. This prize does not rely on our circumstances, good years, bad years, or any context of the here and now. Our future is not bound up in uncertainties of finances, health, or family. Our future consists of one hope, and it is the same hope that drives us from year to year and

decade to decade. It is the hope of the new heaven and new earth. It is the hope of the death of sin and the end of pain. It is the hope of eternal life and the resurrection of our glorified bodies.

So, as we approach a new year, keep your eyes focused on the cross of Christ that won for us salvation and eternity. Keep your eyes focused on His Word and Sacraments that give you a foretaste of the feast to come at the throne of the Lamb. Keep your eyes focused on the one hope that we have as God's people.

May you have a happy and blessed new year -

Pastor Niles

THIRD GRADE NEWS



Students spent December preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth. Joining the 1st, 2nd, 7th grades to lead an advent service is an **honor and highlight** of the year. Opportunities to share our faith, especially the good news of God's kept promises is enjoyable. This class **loves to sing** praises. 🎵 They just might sing through their day.



In the classroom, we started multiplication! Flash cards, timed tests, games, etc. there are SO many ways to practice learning our facts. Third grade is the year that students read to learn vs. learning to read. Book reports are completed at home each quarter. January 11 is not only near the end of second quarter, but also when **biography reports** are due.

School is for **learning!** Learning is often a challenge, but there are definitely parts we enjoy. On Wednesday afternoons, students read with **READING PARTNERS** from the congregation. Thank YOU, **Bethlehem Members!!** Third graders are also puzzlers! There is often a 1,000-piece puzzle on the back table for fast finishers. Spanish, art, gym, music, choir round out the normal schedule as students study the normal academic areas. Watch us grow!

2023-2024

CONNECTED

Bethlehem Lutheran School - John 15:1-5



January News

PASTOR HANSON TO VISIT LWML

Ladies, would you like to know a little more about our Associate Pastor? How did a man who spent 20 years of his life caring for the physical health and welfare of our nation's people feel the call to care for the spiritual health and welfare of God's people? At the request of LWML, Pastor Hanson will tell his story. Join us in the Century Room at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 2nd. LWML loves company!

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN HOW TO RAISE OUR HAND IN THE AIR?

When we were kids and knew the answer to a question, we eagerly raised our hand, hoping to be called on. But now that we're adults, when someone asks for help with an activity or project, are we slinking down in our chair and avoiding eye contact? Maybe we think we wouldn't really know how to be of help. We forget how God works in us. He takes ordinary people and makes them capable.

So, the next time you see a need, don't be afraid to offer your services, whether it be to help with an activity, sponsor a coffee hour, serve on a board, or something else. God needs workers in His vineyard. He's waiting for you to raise your hand and say, "*Here am I. Send me!*"

WHAT'S THE REAL REASON YOU HAVEN'T ATTENDED A BIBLE CLASS? TRY THIS Q&A:

1. Do I know enough about the Bible to get something out of class?

Answer: Bible classes are for learners, not experts. No one will ever call on you for an answer.

2. Will I be bored during Bible class?

Answer: Bethlehem is blessed with energetic and knowledgeable leaders. Try a class and see for yourself.

3. We drop the kids off for Sunday School and then we go out for a private coffee time.

Thought: As important as it is to have some "adult-only time", have you considered the importance of setting an example of family Bible study for your children?

4. Fill in your own questions or thoughts here. Do any of these deserve another look?

WHAT'S NEW IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR JANUARY 2024?

Take a look at the flyer in this edition of the Visitor for a rundown of upcoming, interesting Bible study options for the beginning of 2024. Why not pick one and give it a try?

SAVE THE DATE - PIZZA MAN RETURNS!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 10th.

Join the Board of Assimilation for an evening of delicious pizza, great stories, and fellowship!

Details and a sign-up sheet will be coming out soon, so please watch your bulletin News & Notes.

Please note that due to space & planning, payment will be due at the time of sign-up (not the evening of).

Questions can be directed to Brenda Kanz at 920-912-3086.

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

1/2—1/6 = 50% off books

1/9 = 30% off everything in the store

1/10—1/13 = 50% off hats, scarves, ties & belts

1/16—1/20 = 50% off linens

1/23—1/27 = 50% off pictures & frames

WELCOMED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM

Jace Michael Scheele - December 17, 2023

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Lillian Lorfeld - December 6, 2023

Jo Ann Mary Zelko - December 6, 2023

More January News

BETHLEHEM NIGHT AT LHS

Lutheran High School invites all Bethlehem congregation members to the boys basketball games on Thursday, January 11th. The JV game begins at 5:50 pm, with Varsity to follow. Your admission that evening is FREE. Cheer on the Crusaders and also cheer on the Bethlehem basketball players who will participate in the Hot Shots competition at halftime of the varsity game.

YOUTH GROUP

Join us for our next youth group meeting, which will be on Sunday, January 14th, from 4:00-5:30pm. This is for both junior and senior youth group. Bring a friend!

FEBRUARY 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 on Thursday, January 18th, 2024. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note that it is for the Visitor.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LCMS FOUNDATION

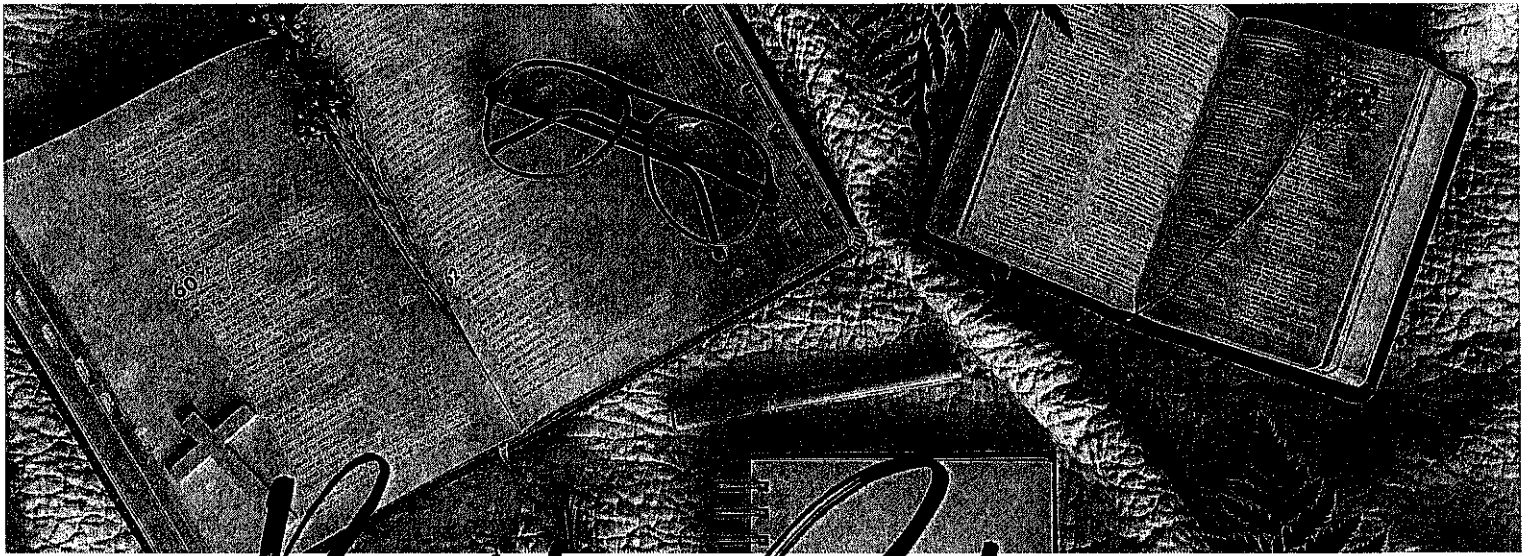
The goal of estate planning is to bring order and simplicity to those you leave behind.

Louis and Brett were having coffee, the day after Christmas. Both shared with each other how much their families have changed, over the years. Children are talking about retirement. Grandchildren are out of college and advancing in their careers. Brett said to Louis, "When Sally and I put our estate plan together 25 years ago, we felt a great responsibility to provide for our family, as they seemed to have so many needs. But now our priorities are different, and our children are doing well. In fact, even our youngest grandchild is better off financially than I was at their age. But I do have a grandchild with special needs, and we are wondering what we should do for her. We also think a lot about our Church and its future as times are changing. We are also stirred by the LCMS missionary who talked about the impact of the Gospel on families over in Kenya. We know we need to update our plan, but it seems so complex and chaotic. We just do not know where to start."

Brett's predicament is common. Most people find that their life situations and the tug of the Gospel urge them to update their gift plans. We certainly live in an ever-changing world. It is therefore a good practice to review the gift plan within one's estate plan every so often, whenever you feel life has changed. That look may certainly bring some effort. But that is just good stewardship of God's things. We want to do well with God's gifts, to make sure our families see Jesus through our care for them, and the world sees Jesus through our support of ministry.

In a bigger project, having some help always makes it easier. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you create a roadmap for working through this process. In the end, you will have peace of mind knowing you are doing the Lord's will. To get started on your journey, contact Craig Toerpe, Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation. He will help get your plan started and to facilitate these important conversations while assisting you to make end of life gifts for the family you love and the ministries you care about at 262-707-3005 or craig.toerpe@lfnf.org





Bible Studies

for the new year

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Saturdays beginning January 6 | 4:15-5:15 p.m. | Century Room
Led by Pastor Niles or Pastor Hanson

NOAH - THE MAN, THE ARK, THE FLOOD!

A 4-session study including the "aftermath"
Sundays beginning January 7 | 9:15-10:15 a.m. | Century Room
Led by Pastor Niles

THE GREAT DECEIVER

A 4-week study on how to fight temptation & the devil
Sundays beginning February 4 | 9:15-10:15 a.m. | Century Room
Led by Pastor Niles

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

A 4-week study on the book of Esther - how her story points to God's promise to send us a Savior
Monday evenings, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 6-7 p.m. | At Lutheran High School
Led by Rick Zeuner & Jacob Glewen



Love You to the Moon & Back

DADDY - DAUGHTER

Dance

February 16, 6-8 pm

Bethlehem's Parish Activity Center

All Bethlehem church or school girls & their father figures are invited.

Scan to RSVP!



HOSTED BY BETHLEHEM'S PTL & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Bethlehem Lutheran

CHURCH & SCHOOL



JOYFUL RESPONSE[®] Electronic Offering Program

Enrollment/Change Form

Complete this form and **return it to the church office** to begin or change your current stewardship offering. Your offering will be made automatically from your bank account or your LCEF StewardAccount[®].

Check the appropriate box:

- New enrollment
 Offering change
 Account information change

Please Print in Black Ink

Member Last Name	First Name	MI	Daytime Telephone
Mailing Address		City, State, ZIP	Email Address
Congregation Name		Congregation Telephone Number	
Congregation Mailing Address		City, State, ZIP	

My Offering

Fund Designations:	Amount:
1. General Fund _____	\$ _____
2. Building _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Debiting Account

Debit from:

- Checking
 Savings
 LCEF StewardAccount

Account Number _____

Routing Number (First nine numbers in bottom left-hand corner of check)

Transfer Date (check one):

- Weekly (Monday)
 Semi-monthly (1st and 15th)
 Monthly on the 1st
 Monthly on the 15th
 Other _____
 (As approved by church office.)

Start date: ____/____/____

End date (if any): ____/____/____

Authorization

I authorize the above-named organization to process debit entries from my account. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization or until the last specified payment date.

Authorized Signature for Account _____

Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY CHURCH OFFICE

Member ID# _____	Initials _____
Vanco Client ID# _____	Date _____

Attach void check or savings deposit slip here.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

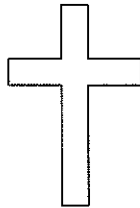
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

ROOM RESERVATION REMINDER

Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know 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. Please also visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com. Check out the main page where you will find information about upcoming events and activities. Scroll down to see a calendar of important items. Find helpful information by clicking on the various tabs under *Church* and *School*.



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 920-452-4331.

Dennis & Nancy Bearns
Sandra Fischer
Leonard Johnson
George & Karen Haecker
Jim & Ruth Behrens

Congregational Sponsors

Bev Fischer
Bob & Lori Gottowski
Linda Nikisch
Beverly Bauer
Linda Hulbert-Ertel

Jim & Judy Heinecke
Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Anita Krimmel
Keith & Christine Wyckoff
James Schmidt

Advanced Comfort Systems
Irish Roofing

Commercial Sponsors

Boneck Printing
Irish Studios

Irish Hauling
Knier Storage