

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

1121 Georgia Ave. 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



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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

May 2024

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

May 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Easter Concert @ Holy Name 7:00pm	2 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	3 LHS Prom	4 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
5 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am New Member recognition (8:00) & coffee hour Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	6 GALA meeting 6:00pm Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week	7 Board of Properties meeting 6:00pm LWML meeting 7:00pm	8 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm LHS Honors Night 6:00pm	9 Ascension Worship * 8:30am- Bethlehem * 6:30pm- Bethany, Kohler Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	10 SALSA Track Meet Howards Grove HS	11 Altar Guild meeting 9:30am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
12 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Happy Mother's Day!	13 PTL meeting 6:00pm Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	14 Quilters 9:00am	15 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm LHS Pops Concert 7:00pm	16 June Visitor Deadline (noon) Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	17 LHS Graduation Ceremony 7:00pm	18 Confirmation pictures 9:00am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
19 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Confirmation 1:30pm	20	21	22 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	23 SALSA Graduation @ LHS, 7:00pm	24 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! Bethlehem School Picnic at Kiwanis Park	25 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
26 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible classes 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	27	28 Quilters 9:00am	29 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	30 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	31	

The Day is Now Far Spent

“So they drew near to the village to which they were going. [Jesus] acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:28-35)

Have you ever had one of those days where every ounce of your energy was zapped out of you by the events of that day? Every bit of physical energy gone. Every bit of mental energy gone. Every bit of emotional energy gone. You get home, take your shoes off, go into your bedroom, lay down, and wake up the next morning. In my life, I have only ever had a couple of those days, but they are seared into my memory. As exhausting as any of those days have been in my life, they would not have even compared to just one day of the week that the disciples just had. These followers of Jesus on the road to Emmaus would have had consecutive days of exhausting existence. The man who they had been following, the man in whom they had hoped and trusted, the man who would save them, was dead, in an excruciatingly drawn out process. The culmination of their last few years that was supposed to end in triumph ended in defeat. So when they said “the day is now far spent”, there was so much more wrapped up in that phrase than we could ever know or imagine.



“Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” This was how they urged this stranger to accept their hospitality. This stranger was not just someone they did not know, he was actually strange. He was oblivious of the very public events of the last week. He knew the Scriptures with extreme precision and accuracy. He spoke as one who had authority... kind of like... no... that memory was way too painful. It was too soon. They were too exhausted. “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” And stay with them he did.

So they prepared a bite for dinner; the staples of a dinner in that culture. Unleavened bread because it kept longer. Wine because why not? After the previous week, it would be good for their hearts. Then this stranger, in true form, did something strange. He took the bread, blessed it, gave it to them... just like... no... that memory was too painful... but as they looked up, that memory was right in front of them. The stranger was no longer strange. The stranger was Jesus. But he was dead. But he was in front of them. Maybe the rumors were true. Could he be alive? Obviously he could be, because he was right there. Until he was not. Sooner than they could wrap their minds around everything, Jesus was gone. However, Jesus was not really gone because He was alive. He would always be with them. This was true more than they could have ever known or imagined.

This same Jesus is here for you in the exact same way He was there for the disciples 2000 years ago. He is here for you in the opening of the Scriptures, the breaking of the bread, and at your request after a day, a week, a lifetime far spent. May you always seek Jesus where He always is. On every far-spent day, may you find rest and comfort in Him.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

For Such a Time as This!

As many of you have heard, seen, and continue to see, Bethlehem has embarked on an emphasis, entitled "For Such a Time as This!" This emphasis is meant to be a time of reflection and recommitment to the ministry and mission here at Bethlehem. To keep us on task for the work to be accomplished in the next couple years, we are adding this section to the Visitor each month.

God has richly blessed Bethlehem in the past. However, the church and our community are not the same as it has been in the past. It is ever-changing, ever-growing, and ever-becoming more complex. For decades, Bethlehem has been understaffed. In order to protect workers from burnout and to assist in dealing with the growing ministry that God is bringing to our door, the congregation approved money to call a Director of Christian Education (DCE). Some of you may not know what a DCE is. DCE's serve as lifespan ("cradle to grave") Christian educators, who typically serve within congregations and their ministries. Through their leadership and service, they assist and support pastors as they teach the faith to children, youth and adults. This position at Bethlehem will help facilitate integrating school families into the church and church families into the school. It will assist the pastors in all the educational opportunities at Bethlehem. It will also help to build, strengthen, and support our youth ministry. These are areas of Bethlehem's ministry that have not been given enough attention in the past, yet they are crucial to uniting, strengthening, and supporting the people that call Bethlehem home.

However, to accomplish this, we need to raise the funds to support this worker in our midst. As we continue to discuss how God has brought us to this place for such a time as this, please continue to pray. Pray for the ongoing ministry at Bethlehem. Pray that God would lead people to His Word and saving grace. Pray that God would use you to work in His field. Pray about how you can financially support the mission of Bethlehem.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!

NAME: _____

GOD HAS BLESSED ME, AND I INTEND TO INCREASE MY
SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY AT BETHLEHEM TO.....

AMOUNT \$ _____ PER WEEK

*PLEASE RETURN TO THE BOX IN CHURCH OR THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER
THAN MAY 12TH.*

*"EACH ONE MUST GIVE AS HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS HEART, NOT
RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL
GIVER" (2 CORINTHIANS 9:7).*

May News

ANYONE CAN ATTEND "SCRIPTURE SATURDAYS"

Even if you usually attend worship services on Sundays or Wednesdays, you are welcome to attend the Saturday Bible class from 4:15-5:15pm in the Century Room. One of our pastors will be on hand to clarify the Scripture readings you'll hear read at church services. Wouldn't that be a great way to prepare for worship?

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE COFFEE & CAKE NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Sunday, May 5th is the date, from 9:15-10:15am in the Century Room. Meet and greet our new members! Enjoy delicious refreshments and view the "History of Bethlehem Church" video. Don't miss this joyous occasion.

PASTOR NILES RETURNS TO THE CENTURY ROOM ON MAY 12TH

Join Pastor Niles in the Century Room from 9:15-10:15am to participate in a new Bible study on "How We Got The Bible". Here's an opportunity to delve into an intriguing subject you might not have thought about before.

THE LORD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE A "LONE RANGER" CHRISTIAN

Sometimes we hear a person say, "I don't have to go to church to be a good Christian. I read the Bible and pray alone at home". As admirable as that may be, the Lord wants us to experience Christianity in a group setting. In the Bible He tells us plainly not to forsake the gathering of ourselves together. That means corporate worship and corporate Bible study. In what group setting will we see you?

THE STAR GALA MEETING

Come and join us for The Star Gala meeting on May 6th at 6:00pm in the library. We will recap last year's event and begin discussing plans and needs for this year's event. We are excited for this year's Blue & White Ball, taking place on September 21st - Save The Date!

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Attention Altar Guild ladies: your presence would be greatly appreciated at the next Altar Guild meeting, which is taking place on Saturday, May 11th at 9:30am.

JOIN THE QUILTERS

The next quilting dates are May 14th and May 28th.

A MESSAGE FROM FRESH MEALS ON WHEELS

Do you know someone who has difficulty getting out of the house? Consider referring them to Fresh Meals On Wheels. Our verified volunteers deliver fresh homemade meals Monday through Friday. We offer seven medically-tailored diets and folks get a choice daily. We serve people of all ages and income levels. To learn more, please call Meals On Wheels at 920-451-7011 or visit FreshMealsOnWheels.org. Also, if you or someone you know would like to deliver meals for an hour a month, please call us!

BETHLEHEM MEMBERS WHO ARE GRADUATING SENIORS

Join us on Sunday, June 2nd during the 8:00am worship service as we recognize you.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Check out the flyer in this edition of the Visitor. Mark your calendar for July 29th—August 1st!

JUNE VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the June Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, May 16th, 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.

Bethlehem Lutheran VBS



Mon July 29 - Thur Aug 1

8:30 - 11:30 AM

Children going into 4K - 5th Grade

6th - 8th Grade Youth SWAG VBS

High School - Adults Helpers Needed!

Sign up today!



SCAN ME 

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

January 31, 2024

ASSETS	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	
Cash	\$ 122,867	\$ 147,832	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,444,767	\$6,444,187	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 55,742	\$ 84,715	
SYNOD	\$ 1,750	\$ 0	
Lutheran High School	\$ 2,500	\$ 0	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,467,454	\$ 1,475,911	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,659,512	\$ 1,692,377	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 130,034	\$ 93,595	
Tuition	\$ 23,955	\$ 15,359	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 173,504	\$ 143,666	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 170,586	\$ 185,448	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ 2,918	 \$ (41,782)	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2024</u>	\$ 173,504	\$ 2,028,698	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2024</u>	\$ 170,586	\$ 2,056,604	
<u>NET INCOME 2024</u>	\$ 2,918	\$ (27,906)	

We received strong financial support in January to get our financial year off to a good start. FYI - We increased our support to Synod/District in our budget for 2024 by \$11,000. We increased from \$10,000 a year to \$21,000 a year. One our goals from our Vision was to get our support to 1% of our budget.

Thanks for your support!

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

February 29, 2024

ASSETS	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	
Cash	\$ 189,041	\$ 122,867	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,557,641	\$6,444,767	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 33,608	\$ 55,742	
SYNOD	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,750	
Lutheran High School	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,458,978	\$ 1,467,454	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,632,214	\$ 1,659,512	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 67,640	\$ 130,034	
Tuition	\$ 26,910	\$ 23,955	
School Choice Program	\$ 163,234	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 276,186	\$ 173,504	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 168,144	\$ 170,586	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ 108,041	 \$ 2,918	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2024</u>	\$ 449,690	\$ 173,504	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2024</u>	\$ 338,730	\$ 170,586	
<u>NET INCOME 2024</u>	\$ 110,960	\$ 2,918	

We received our WI Voucher check making February a strong month. Year-to-date we our up \$110,960, and our cash is good at \$189,041. Accounts payable is down to \$33,608. March will be a 3 -payroll month adding an extra payroll to our expenses. Please, reach out to members you don't know and start a conversation with them. Let's all work together to strengthen our ministry at Bethlehem.

Thank you for your support!

✘ CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO OUR 18 CONFIRMANDS ✘
Confirmation will take place on Sunday, May 19th at 1:30pm

Connor James Barts - Job 28:28

And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'

Samantha Desiree Briones Quezada - Psalm 23:4

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Shinji Chang - Joshua 1:9

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

Lauren Mary Cyr - Isaiah 43:2

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*

Madisyn Mary Jane Haas - Joshua 1:9

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

Isaac Cole Hasler - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Luciana Mae Lemus - Psalm 91:1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

McCoy Jeffrey Michael - Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Anthony Nack - Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Isaiah John Niles - Psalm 23:4

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Brayden James Reimer - Psalm 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Jaxon Levi Scheidel - Exodus 14:14

The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.

Graysen Timothy Michael Seyferth - Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Sawyer Clifford Smith - Isaiah 41:10

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Callie Paige Suprick - Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Cylee Faith Wegner - Psalm 37:4-5

*Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.*

Leonidas Kenneth Wenzel - John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Kyler Joseph Zeman - Joshua 1:9

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

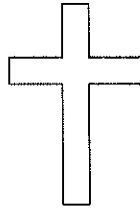
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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.

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