



**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN**  
1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

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**CONNECT WITH US**

**Bethlehem Lutheran**

1121 Georgia Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

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[infochurch@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:infochurch@ourbethlehem.com)

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 [www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)

 <https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem>

Rev. J. Patrick Niles  
*Administrative 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 2023

**MEMBERSHIP**



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Sheboygan Area  
Lutheran Schools  
Association

# May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<b>1</b> Bethlehem Auction / Gala meeting 6:00pm	<b>2</b> Quilters 9:00am  LWML meeting Special speaker 7:00pm	<b>3</b> Partners in Reading 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voters' meeting 7:00pm	<b>4</b> Bethlehem's Upper Grade Musical 6:00pm  Book Fair 6:45-7:30pm in the library	<b>5</b> Bethlehem's Upper Grade Musical 2:15pm	<b>6</b> Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm  Book Fair 6:30-7:30pm in the library
<b>7</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am (Staff anniv. 8:00) Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am Book Fair 9:00-noon in the library Youth Group Brat Fry Take-Out 9:00-noon	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Partners in Reading 1:00pm  Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Altar Guild meeting 9:30am  Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>14</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am  <b>Mother's Day!</b>	<b>15</b> PTL meeting 6:00pm	<b>16</b> Quilters 9:00am  SALSA Spring Band Concert @ LHS 7:00pm	<b>17</b> Partners in Reading (Final one for this school year) 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>18</b> June Visitor Deadline (noon)	<b>19</b> SALSA Track Meet Howards Grove High School	<b>20</b> Grade School State Track Meet  Confirmation Pictures 9:00am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>21</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am CONFIRMATION 1:30pm	<b>22</b> Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	<b>23</b> 8th Grade Class Trip	<b>24</b> 8th Grade Class Trip  Worship w/HC 6:00pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!</b> Closing service 8:30am  School Picnic (after closing service) Kiwanis Park	<b>27</b> Bible class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>28</b> Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am	<b>29</b> Memorial Day  School & Church offices closed	<b>30</b> Quilters 9:00am	<b>31</b> Worship w/HC 6:00pm			

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

### Faithfulness and Finances

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” ~Matthew 6:19-21~*

Our year-long focus on stewardship brings us to the one topic that everyone has been dreading - Financial Care of the Kingdom. If this topic makes you uncomfortable... if it makes you roll your eyes... if it makes you grumble or sigh, I have only one question. Why? Why does talk about the management of our finances always make us bristle? Is it because the church “always talks about money”? Is it because our financial management is not anyone else’s business? I will ask it once again, why? If you are still reading this, I would encourage you to keep reading.



My questions above are not meant to be sarcastic or cynical. They are honest questions. I also realize that everyone might have a different answer to this question. I could not begin to assume your answer. I only know my answer. The reason I often bristle when people (including myself) talk about money in the church is telling and quite convicting. Idolatry. I am daily tempted by the devil, the world, and my own sinful nature to believe that the financial blessings that I have come from my work... my effort... my skill. It comes in the form of checks made out to me. It sits in my bank account. Therefore, I should spend it on that which I want to spend it. I am tempted to believe that I am the source of this blessing. However, Scripture tells us something quite different. The above passage, along with many others, remind us that our lives and every blessing that comes with our life, comes from the hand of God. My money is not mine. It is God’s blessing given to me of which I am a steward. It was given to me for His glory. We also learn from 1 Timothy that the will and glory of God is that *“all people be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.”* This happens through the blessings of God’s church. It happens when the Word of God is preached and taught. It happens when the Sacraments are administered. It happens when the people of God gather and are equipped for lives of service in the world. As God’s people, we support the mission of the church because it is where the will of God is accomplished through baptism, teaching and the Lord’s Supper.

Let us not get it backwards. God does not need our money. However, God has promised to work through His church. The mission of the church needs to be supported. When we give joyfully as we are able, God’s kingdom is furthered through the marks of the church. As we continue to move forward, may we remember who we are, and who God is. May God work in us to help remove idols and obstacles from following Him. May we put everything in our lives in the proper place. May we put our heart and trust in God... not in anything temporary like money.

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

April 24, 2023

Greetings from The Hispanic Outreach!

**Fundraising report from this past Saturday:** The event was a complete success thank God! We are super happy with the results of this event. About 150 people came to our doors this past Saturday. To the point that we had to get more tables and chairs to accommodate those who attended. We spent a pleasant time in fellowship, enjoying delicious food and good music.

**We raised \$3007** at the event! Thanks to the Lord. We thank God because in addition we received a donation of \$452 from the Good Shepherd women's quilting group from the sale they had there.

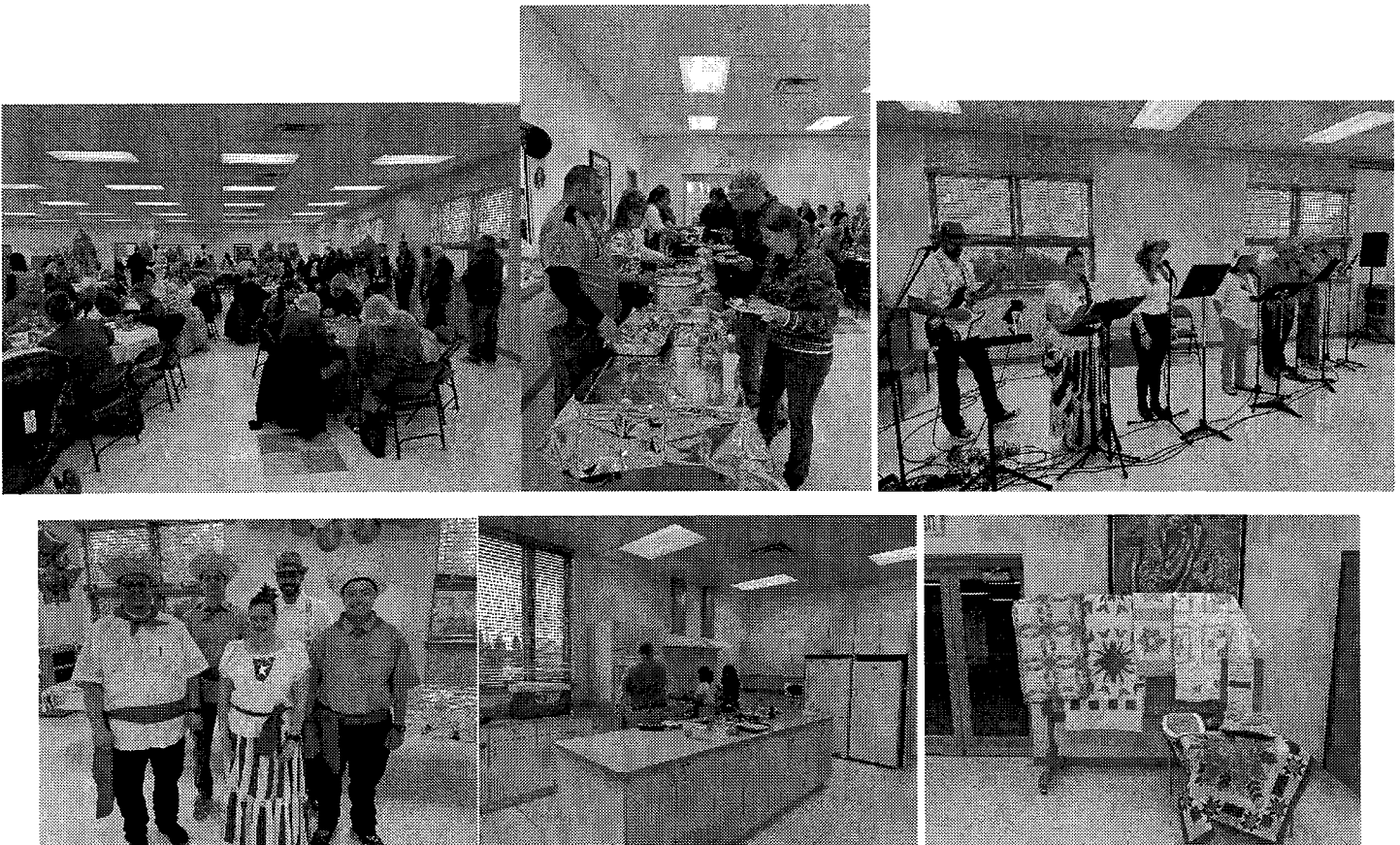
**First, I want to thank God** for the success of the event. I want to thank all the people who came to our event to help us financially. Thanks to all the volunteers, to those who cooked, to those who served food, to those who worked on the decorations, to those who were in the kitchen, to those who helped with cleaning, to those who contributed financially to buy food and materials, to those who sang, to those who donated cookies and desserts, thanks to the person who worked to design and prepare all the flyers, to everyone who helps in any capacity. Blessings to all of you.

**Thanks to all the sister churches** for helping us in promoting the event. Part of our success we owe to you. God bless you.

Thank you for reading this letter! Thank you for your continuing support for OUR Hispanic Ministry! Thank you for partnering with us. Please continue to pray for us! May God richly bless you!!! Looking forward to what the Lord has for us!

Serving Christ through His humble servant and yours,  
Rev. David Blas

Here are some photos of the event:



# May News

## MEN AND WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM, YOU'RE INVITED

On Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00pm in the Century Room, LWML invites you to hear a special speaker, Lydia Steinhaus, granddaughter of our own Judie Schuette. She will share her extraordinary experiences as a Concordia University student who was able to shadow a missionary in the Czech Republic, study at a Lutheran Seminary in England, and support missionaries in Cambodia. Come and hear how unity in Christ can be found across cultures and continents.

## HOW ABOUT BECOMING A VOTING MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION?

Did you know that any communicant member of Bethlehem Church can become a voting member?

It's not hard to do. Here's the plan in 4 easy steps:

- 1). Attend a Voters' meeting (The next one is May 3rd at 7:00pm).
  - 2). Sign the attendance book and tell David Ames or Pastor Niles of your desire to become a voting member.
  - 3). At your first meeting, just listen.
  - 4). At any subsequent meeting, feel free to express your thoughts, ask questions and also vote.
- We hope to see you on May 3rd!

## VOTERS' MEETING

The next Voters' meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:00pm. Please plan to attend.

## BRAT FRY, ORGANIZED BY THE YOUTH GROUP

Join us on Sunday, May 7th from 9:00am-noon.

Head to the Century Room after worship and purchase brats, hamburgers and baked goods.

Please note that this is a **TAKE-OUT event only**.

Thank you for supporting the youth group and the Alaska Mission Trip team!

## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Attention Altar Guild ladies: your presence would greatly be appreciated at the next meeting, which will be held on Saturday, May 13th at 9:30am.

## THE 2023 BETHLEHEM STAR GALA PRESENTS: "AN EVENING OF DENIM AND DIAMONDS"

Save the date: Saturday, September 23rd, 2023!

## UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

5/2—5/6 = lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs, 50% off

5/9 = 30% off everything in the store

5/10—5/13 = shoes and socks, 50% off

5/16—5/20 = books, 50% off

5/23—5/27 = CD's and videos, 50% off

5/30—6/3 = hats, scarves, ties and belts, 50% off

## 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 18th, 2023. Please feel free to email [amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com) or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

## WELCOMED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM

Madelynn Mae Hemschemeyer - April 2, 2023

Beau Mark Bintzler - April 8, 2023

Cal David Ames - April 23, 2023

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

*Romans 15:13*

# **CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO OUR 14 CONFIRMANDS**

Confirmation will take place on Sunday, May 21st at 1:30pm

**Nylomah Cecelia Marie Albertin**

**Psalm 37:5-6**

*Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.  
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.*

**Easton Zachary Bauer**

**Psalm 119:105**

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

**Keira Alice Biever**

**Psalm 73:26**

*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

**Samuel Michael Detlaff**

**Colossians 3:17**

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

**Margaret Sue Faucher**

**Matthew 14:27**

*But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."*

**Emma Grace Krueger**

**John 16:33**

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

**Jet William Kubow**

**Revelation 2:10**

*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

**Oliver James Leibham**

**Philippians 4:13**

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

**MaKenna Lorraine Lindsay**

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you.  
He will not leave you or forsake you.*

**Nolan William Roeh**

**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.*

**James Peter Schulze**

**Revelation 2:10**

*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

**Isabella Jean Smith**

**Hebrews 13:5**

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "  
I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

**Joseph Raymond Vanic**

**Revelation 2:10**

*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

**Benjamin Nicholas Verhagen**

**Hebrews 13:5**

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "  
I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF**

**February 28, 2023**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Feb 2023</b>	<b>Jan 2023</b>	
Cash	\$ 239,680	\$ 225,997	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 6,558,905</b>	<b>\$ 6,523,911</b>	Includes buildings & land
 <b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 91,249	\$ 125,630	
SYNOD	\$ 1,668	\$ 834	
Lutheran High School	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <b><u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,559,446	\$ 1,567,697	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,801,731</b>	<b>\$ 1,842,244</b>	
 <b><u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)</b>			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 61,998	\$ 87,615	
Tuition	\$ 20,080	\$ 23,891	
School Choice Program	\$ 143,832	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 237,267	\$ 122,605	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 151,233	\$ 126,918	
<b>Total Monthly NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 86,033</b>	<b>\$ (4,313)</b>	
<b><u>TOTAL REVENUE 2023</u></b>	<b>\$ 359,872</b>	<b>\$ 122,605</b>	
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2023</u></b>	<b>\$ 278,152</b>	<b>\$ 126,918</b>	
<b><u>NET INCOME 2023</u></b>	<b>\$ 81,720</b>	<b>\$ (4,313)</b>	

Our cash position at the end of February is in good shape at \$239,680. Comparing our net income against Feb 2022 \$115,244 we dropped by \$33,5243 to \$81,720. This drop is mainly due to adult envelopes dropping by \$25,000 in February this year. Thanks for continuing to support Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School.

**Thank God for all you're support! Please check out the new calendar page on our website. Just hit Calendar in the menu bar.**

# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES**

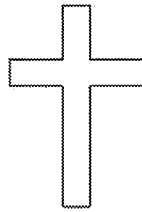
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **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](http://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.

### **Congregational Sponsors**

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

Bev Fischer  
Bob & Lori Gottowski  
Linda Nikisch  
Beverly Bauer

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Cliff & Gail Schlegel  
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