

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



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



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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

Sept 2023

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

September 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 NO SCHOOL	2 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
3 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	4 NO SCHOOL Church & School offices closed	5 Quilters 9:00am LWML meeting 7:00pm	6 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	7	8	9 LHS Community Family Fair 2:00-6:00pm Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
10 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class (New Member) 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Junior & Senior Youth Group kick-off @ beach 5-7:30pm	11 Bethlehem's "Back to School" Night 5:00-7:00pm Bible class 6:00-7:00pm	12	13 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	14	15	16 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
17 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	18 Bible class 6:00-7:00pm	19 Quilters 9:00am	20 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	21 LHS Homecoming (brat fry, soccer game, pep rally & bonfire) 4:30pm—?? October Visitor Deadline (noon)	22	23 NO Bible class Worship w/HC 5:30pm "Denim & Diamonds" GALA 5:00pm LHS Homecoming Dance 8:00pm
24 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	25 Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm	26	27 Reading Partners 1:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	28	29	30 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." ~ Ephesians 2:10

When craftsmen create an object, they do so with a function in mind. A chair is meant to have people sit on it. A desk is created to have work done on it. A house is meant to have someone live in it. These objects did not create themselves. Nor did they have any input on their function. Their creation is due to their creator. Their meaning and function are also given to them by their creator. A desk cannot decide that it wants to be a house. A chair cannot decide that it wants to be a car. They exist and have their being due to the gracious work of their creator.



The Holy Scriptures give us the same picture of our own creation and function. God created humanity for the sake of His love and His glory. In the Garden of Eden, our ancestors became distracted about their creation and function. They wanted to be the masters of their own domain. They wanted to do and be something that was not for which they were created. We continue to live with these same distractions and false delusions. We do not want to be God's workmanship. We want to be our own workmanship.

Thankfully for us, God did not just write us off, and leave us to our own devices. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the perfect workmanship to save us. Through the work of Christ, applied to us in Word and Sacrament, He has recreated us in His image. He has given us our original identity as His creation. He has also called us back to our original function of showing forth His love and glory.

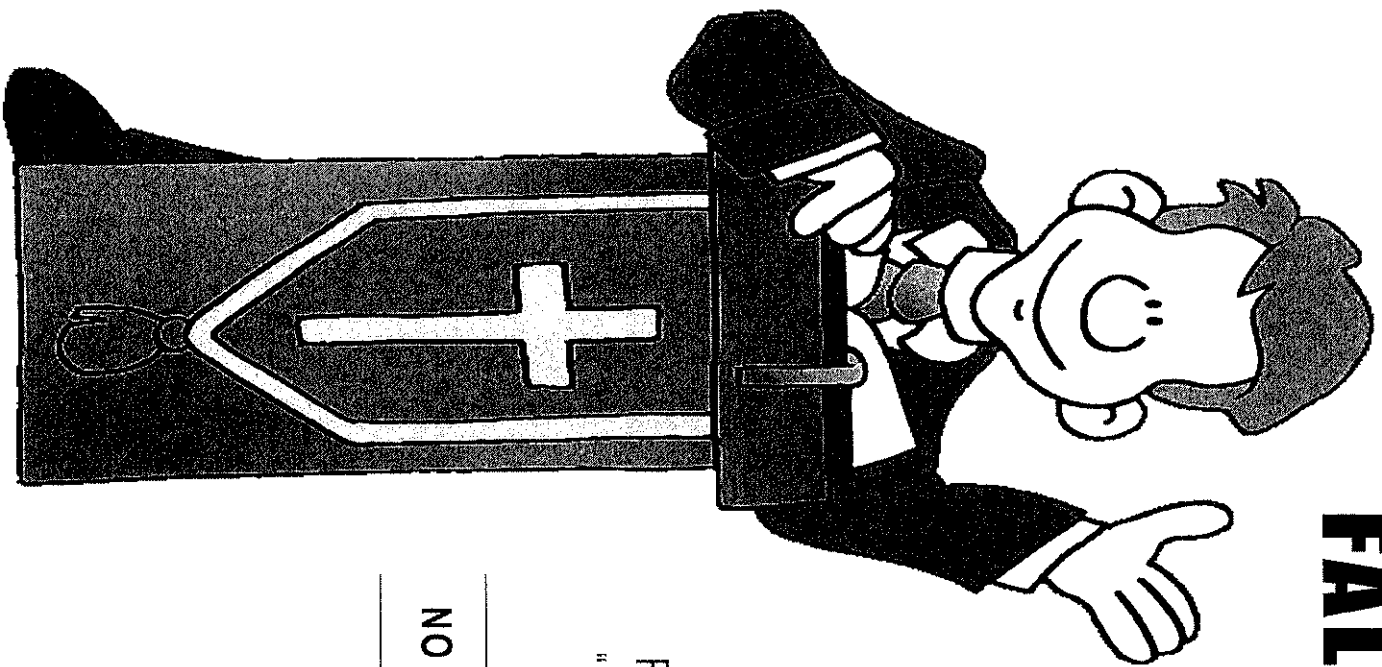
Many of us are well-acquainted with Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* This is a beautiful revelation of God's work for us. However, we must not forget what this work of God means for our everyday life. It means that we are God's people... His creation... reflections of His glory. Ephesians 2:10 finishes the picture of our existence. We exist for purpose outside of ourselves. When we get distracted by selfish desires and worldly affairs, we lose sight of our identity to do God's work... to serve, care for, and love our neighbors, for the sake of them knowing Jesus Christ and the glory of God.

Do not forget who you are and that for which you were made!

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

FALL ADULT BIBLE CLASSES



SATURDAYS: 4:15-5:15 PM - Century Room

A discussion of the Scripture readings (aka "lectionary") of the week led by one of our pastors. Starts September 9th.

SUNDAYS: 9:15-10:15 AM - Century Room

Pastor Niles leads a 5 session study on "What Lutherans Believe" in conjunction with the new member class. Also an excellent "brush up" for current Bethlehem members. Starts September 10th.

MONDAYS: 6-7 PM - Century Room

Rick Zeuner, LHS staff member, leads an 8 session discussion on "Mysteries of the Bible; people in Scripture we seldom talk about". Starts September 11th.

NO ADVANCE REGISTRATION NEEDED FOR THE ABOVE CLASSES

ONLINE

Mary Jo Cyr will be leading a women's group from Sept. 25 - Nov. 1 based on the book "Leaning On Jesus" by Deb Burma - "a study of God's strength".

Participants will need to buy the book and also sign up by emailing maryjocyr4@gmail.com.

September News

LADIES: HOW ABOUT GIVING LWML A CHANCE?

Here's why:

1. Our main goal is supporting mission projects, in Sheboygan and nationally.
 2. A small group like ours gives you the chance to make new church friends.
 3. Everything is voluntary—monetary contributions, attendance, volunteerism, etc.
 4. Don't let our "gray-hair reputation" put you off. We actually are a friendly, mixed-age group.
- Check us out by coming to the Century Room at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 5th. We'll be viewing a video which shows how our mites are helping people in need. Will we see you then?

DON'T MISS THE FULL-PAGE AD!

Make room "on your plate" for a generous helping of God's Word. Bethlehem has several great Bible studies starting in September. Each one will be lead by an interesting and knowledgeable leader. Read all about them and take your pick!

WHAT DO LUTHERANS BELIEVE?

This Bible class, formerly known strictly as the New Member class, will begin on Sunday, September 10th at 9:15am. This class will inform you of Bethlehem's teachings and will also give you a bit of our history.

This class is for those who have transferred in, those wishing to become members, and current members who would like a refresher. Pastor Niles will lead this class.

Feel free to ask questions or just come and listen.

If you are a new member transferring from another congregation, or you would like to become a member of Bethlehem, or you know of someone who would like to become a member, please contact the church office as we would like to touch base and answer any questions that you may have, prior to the first class.

DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS ON THE MOVE—ANGELS ARE BACK!

Check out the Evangelism cart in the Century Room. Each month there will be an item available to share. The month of September will feature the Praying Angel keychains. Pray for a relative, neighbor, friend or co-worker and then give them the gift of the angel keychain.

All tools and items from past months will remain on the cart, while supplies last.

MYSTERY MONTH

If you have too many good books to choose from, sometimes it's hard to pick one at all. A section of the church library now has a solution for you! **Mystery Month** offers a unique way to select your next book.

These books are wrapped and are located near the Century Room elevator. Select your mystery book, take it home with you, and leave your notes or doodles in the margins. Return the book for the next person to read and add to your thoughts. Books can be borrowed by anyone in the community.

SEPTEMBER AT NEAT REPEATS

- 9/5 - 9/9 Linens, 50% off
- 9/12 Everything in the store, 30% off
- 9/13 - 9/16 CD's and videos, 50% off
- 9/19 - 9/23 Pictures and frames, 50% off
- 9/26 - 9/30 All clothing, \$1.00



More Sept. News

THANK YOU FROM THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

What a STELLAR group we had at VBS this year! Over 80 kids attended VBS. They sang, danced, played, laughed, created, and learned together, Shining Jesus' Light!

** A huge THANK YOU to the Bethlehem congregation for all of the support and donations.

** THANK YOU to this awesome group of VBS volunteers: Sienna Boerger, Emma Krueger, Allysen Morrelle, Brennan Hackbarth, Maddie Hackbarth, Nicole Dean, Max Lemus, Sofia Lemus, David Strohschoen, Sarah Hanson, Abigail Hanson, Larissa Hanson, Mikayla Hanson, Jozie Albertin, Nylah Albertin, Sonia Tenpas, Holly Leibham, Keeli Johnson, Jon Krueger, and Amy Weir.

** THANK YOU to this amazing VBS committee that says "yes" to helping, planning and organizing a great week here at Bethlehem: Rose Albertin, Sue Kubow, Katrina Niles, Ann Wegner, Teresa Weisfeld, Katie Wheelan, Jessica Ursprung, and Pastor Hanson.

Remember that at ALL times ~ Shine Jesus' Light! ~~ Katie Schallock ~~

THANK YOU FROM THE CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC COMMITTEE

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's church picnic happen. We thank everyone who donated food, money or supplies. Thank you to those who volunteered their time to run activities, fry the meat, donate baked goods, or serve the food and drinks. We'd also like to thank everyone who set up for the event and those who helped clean up. This is such a special tradition for Bethlehem Church and we are so thankful for all of the volunteers. See you in 2024!

LHS COMMUNITY FAMILY FAIR

Saturday, September 9th, from 2:00-6:00pm.

Enjoy giant inflatable play structures, carnival games, dunk tanks, pie-eating contests, raffles, delicious concessions, and more! While you're there, learn about life at LHS by touring the campus and chatting with Crusaders. Details at www.lutheranhigh.com/familyfair

GERMAN RUSSIAN MEETING

The Sheboygan Chapter of the Historical Society of Germans from Russia will be meeting on Saturday, September 9th at 1:00pm in the Trinity Fellowship Hall. Please enter through the north door. The program will be Carole Wagner from Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, talking about what resources are available about Volga Germans and genealogy research. Light refreshments will be available. Call 920-452-9434 with any questions.

LUTHERAN YOUNG ADULTS LEAGUE ("LYAL")

The next event is planned for September 16th, 4:00pm at the Bavarian Inn Oktoberfest in Glendale, WI. This event will be pay-as-you-go, so please be prepared to pay for the \$5 entrance fee, food & drinks. Questions? Please email lutheranyoungadultsleague@gmail.com

THE STAR GALA PRESENTS AN EVENING OF DENIM AND DIAMONDS

Sign up now, for Saturday, September 23rd, 2023.

Check out the event information located in this edition of the Visitor.

OCTOBER 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 on Thursday, September 21st, 2023. 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.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

John Levezow - August 18, 2023

Carol Pantel - August 19, 2023

Ronald Zeinemann - August 28, 2023

**Bethlehem
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL

DENIM & DIAMONDS

Lulu

Saturday, Sept. 23

1121 Georgia Ave., Sheboygan

5:00pm Doors Open
Silent Auction

5:30-7:30pm Buffet Dinner

8:00pm Live Auction
and Fund-a-Need

\$50 per person
or "round up" a table of 8
plus 2 bottles of wine for \$500

Register at ourbethlehem.com

or with Amy at the church office

Reservations required for dinner

SO PUT ON YOUR BEST DENIM & SPARKLIEST DIAMONDS
AND GET READY TO BID HIGH AND BID OFTEN!

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

June 30, 2023

ASSETS	June 2023	May 2023	
Cash	\$ 52,399	\$ 105,234	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,433,978	\$ 6,465,382	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 40,445	\$ 52,051	
SYNOD	\$ 0	\$ 4,170	
Lutheran High School	\$ 0	\$ 12,500	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,526,257	\$ 1,532,582	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,706,052	\$ 1,744,038	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 57,704	\$ 60,782	
Tuition	\$ 4,077	\$ 13,284	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 143,832	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 80,335	\$ 260,494	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 151,427	\$ 170,282	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ (71,092)	\$ 63,178	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2023</u>	\$ 905,998	\$ 825,663	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2023</u>	\$ 959,566	\$ 800,212	
<u>NET INCOME 2023</u>	\$ 953,568)	\$ 25,451	

Our cash position at the end of June stands at \$52,399. Adult envelopes are under our estimated budget monthly amount by \$16,900. We received our last voucher pmt for the 2022 - 2023 school of \$143,832 in May. The next voucher payment will be in October. We need to keep encouraging other members to attend on a weekly basis, and keep supporting our church.

Thank God for all your support!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

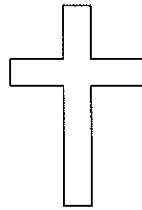
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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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