



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

Church: (920) 452-4331
infochurch@ourbethlehem.com

School: (920) 452-5071
infoschool@ourbethlehem.com

 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

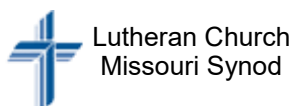
Bible Studies

Saturday ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Aug 2021

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

August 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	2 Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:45am	3 Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:45am	4 Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:45am Worship w/HC 6:00pm	5 Vacation Bible School 8:30-11:45am Board of Evangelism Meeting 6:00pm	6	7 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
8 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am Elders Meeting 11:45am	9	10 Quilters 9:00am	11 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	12	13	14 Altar Guild Meeting 9:30am Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
15 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	16 PTL Meeting 6:00pm	17	18 Worship w/HC 6:00pm Parish Planning Council Meeting 7:00pm	19 September Visitor deadline	20	21 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
22 CHURCH PICNIC! Kiwanis Park 10:00am	23	24 Quilters 9:00am	25 Worship w/HC 6:00pm Voters Meeting 7:00pm	26 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL! Welcome Back Badgers!	27	28 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
29 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am Pastor Bergelin's Retirement 9:30am Trinity, How.Grove	30	31				

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

3 Easy Ways to Make Sure You Have a Happy Life

Throughout every age of my life (against the counsel of my parents), I have always been looking ahead to the next venture. Each and every age has brought with it a pining for the greener pastures of maturity, more freedom, more knowledge, and more experience. But as the years and decades have been torn off the calendar, I find that those elusive pastures of greener grass change and morph, much like a mirage of an oasis in the desert. Right when you think you have achieved the perfect life, you look around and find that there are brown and bare spots in this pasture also. They are just called by different names. What were once the bare spots of lack of freedom, immaturity, and relationship issues are now the bare spots of responsibility, financial issues, and sleepless nights because your child refuses to sleep through the night and you just want those teeth to come in because you need some sleep!!! Then, one day, you trade those bare spots for patches of wasted time, the longing for how things used to be, and the ever-crushing want for that little baby to be in your arms again. Each age of life has reminders that life can really stink. But I have a sure-fire three ways to make sure that this does not happen to you. If you follow the following three recommendations, I can promise you that you will be happy and stink-free.

1) Do not ever read an article that promises 3, 4, 5, or even 25 ways to be happy. They are false claims, and they make you look precisely where you should not be looking. You're right! The title was a gimmick. I do not have the key to happiness in 3 easy steps. I do not have it because it does not exist. The sooner that you realize that this world is sinful and fallen, the sooner it is that you will realize that you are sinful and fallen. Once this crushing blow to your ego has taken place, you will be ready to turn to the place where you should have been looking the whole time.

2) Life in light of the cross of Christ reveals that happiness is not the goal. Happiness is not promised anywhere in Scripture. Joy is promised, but joy is not happiness. Joy comes in the midst of pain and suffering. Joy comes from knowing that your Savior has died for all of your sins. He has forgiven you, and you are now able to forgive others. Christ's forgiveness gives you the strength to begin to forgive the unfaithful significant-other, the annoying children, and the spouse who squeezes from the middle of the toothpaste tube. The comfort and hope that comes from Jesus' resurrection gives you the hope that sustains in the midst of illness, loss, hurt, pain, anxiety and depression. This life is NOT all that there is. Life is so much more than happiness.

3) While I don't have 3 easy steps to make sure that your life doesn't stink, I do have three places where God has promised to be for you. These three places bring joy in the midst of all the dead grass in the pasture of life. First, your baptism. Baptism now saves you according to 1 Peter. It is the washing and renewal of the Holy Spirit according to Paul's letter to Titus. It is the place where Christ seals you. Washes you to death, so that you might arise to new life in Him according to Romans 6. Your baptism is the daily promise that you are who Christ says you are. You are His child. Pure and holy. Second, the pages of Scripture are full of accounts where God has remained faithful to His promises for His people. It is THE place where we learn about our Savior, and God's mercy. It is written so that we might know that Jesus is the one who was promised and that by believing, we will have life in His name. Read it. Study it. Memorize it. Keep it close to your heart. For the one who meditates on the Law of the Lord is like a tree that is planted next to a stream (Check out Psalm 1). Third, The Lord's Supper... the Eucharist... Holy Communion is the one place that Jesus has promised to be with you. Seriously, His body and blood with you... for you. Much like baptism, the Lord's Supper is not effective because of you. It is not effective because of the pastor giving it to you. It is effective because Christ says it is. It is the strength and nourishment that you need when your soul feels like it has been rocked to the core with doubt, hurt, or anxiety. It is the place where forgiveness for others starts. In the Supper, Christ gives strength for your life in Him. And when you find that your life is in Christ every step of the way, there is joy. Joy in the midst of sadness, suffering, and loss. Eat. Drink. Live.

While these things do not promise happiness, Christ promises joy through His presence in His gifts. Christ promises to sustain you. He promises to forgive you. He promises to never leave you. So stop reading the lists. Remember your baptism. Read your Bible. Receive the Sacrament. May God bless you in this endeavor!

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

From the Desk of Pastor Moon

TRADITION!

I went to a Lutheran School growing up. I wouldn't trade that experience for the world. We had opportunities to sing during worship on Sundays. We did a Christmas program every year. Most notably we did a spring musical every year. My 8th grade year we did a musical called "Fiddler on the Roof" I guess it's pretty popular? The opening song is called "Tradition" and it speaks about all the traditions and expectations that every member of the household has in their daily life.

As I was thinking about our grandiose traditions and expectations here at Bethlehem, I couldn't help it. The first thing that came to mind was the church picnic. If you haven't heard, it is Sunday August 22nd at 10AM. We hope to see you all there.

The amount of stories and passing comments I've heard about this event has been staggering. I certainly see this as a good and wonderful thing! Thanks be to God for the Bethlehem church picnic.

But like the story of Fiddler on the Roof, there are bound to be things in life that change. We need to be ready for those changes. You've already started to see those changes in motion. Two new pastors in two years is a lot of change. You have probably started to get used to this change without realizing it.

I would like to challenge all of us to continue this change. One church picnic is wonderful, but I can see a world where Bethlehem is hosting events like this all year long. I urge you to please consider volunteering with something around church. It might not seem like a big deal, but one more person added to a team is a huge deal.

I also urge you to share your ideas. How can we continue to build each other up in the Word of Christ and bring new people into our midst? My office is always open for anyone who wants to chat. My phone is always free. My email inbox is always ready to receive. The mission and ministry is about the people who make up the Body of Christ. That, my friend, is you.

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

Let us always seek new ways to build up our fellow Christians and to seek those who make up the mission field.

Peace of the Lord,
- Pastor Moon

August News

Communion Schedule Change

After discussion and study, the Board of Elders in consultation with the pastors, have approved a change to our communion schedule at Bethlehem. In an effort to make the Lord's Supper available and accessible for the most amount of members each weekend, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper at ALL of our regular services each week (Saturday @ 5:30pm, Sundays @ 8:00am and 10:30am, Wednesday @ 6:00pm). This will simplify our communion schedule and will best serve the body of Christ with the nourishment of His good gifts. At this time, we will be returning to receiving communion at the chancel rail as we did before COVID. We will also begin offering the common cup once again during communion in addition to the individual cups.

Thank you!

A huge thanks goes out to everyone who donated candy or walked in the Independence Day Parade with Bethlehem. We had a wonderful showing and represented BLS well. Thank you again and see you again in 2022!

Neat Repeats

Check out these upcoming sales: **8/10** = 30% off everything in the store, **8/11-8/14** = Furniture and lamps 50% off, **8/17-8/21** = Clothing \$1.00.

The Gathering Place

They are the only adult day program in the county that serves adults with memory loss. The need for respite care is huge and they are averaging 3 tours a week. They have current participants that would like to increase their days, but they do not have the volunteers necessary to help out these families. This past year, The Gathering Place lost many volunteers during their shutdown & then slow start up after Covid. They are really feeling the effects of not being able to take their program to full capacity. All it takes is a listening ear, someone who enjoys socializing, a desire to help others, and the chance to explore the county on their outings. Are you interested? Do you know someone who would be interested in this volunteer opportunity? To see their monthly calendar and newsletter, please visit www.memorymattersmost.com or reach out to Carol at 920-627-6847 or carolb@stpaulfalls.com

Thrivent Calendars for 2022

Any Thrivent members who receive the Thrivent magazine, please consider completing the form to receive a wall calendar to donate to Social Ministry. These calendars are delivered to our shut-in and nursing home residents at Christmas. If you are not a Thrivent member, but a member of another organization that gives free calendars, we will also accept those if you are interested in donating. When you receive the calendar, please put it in the food basket located in the Century Room. Thank you and Blessings to all! ~ Social Ministry

Bethlehem's Daily Devotions

Spend some time online with Pastor Niles or Pastor Moon! Check out our Facebook page, daily at 2:30pm!

Pastor Bergelin is Retiring!

You are invited to attend a special worship service for Pastor Darrel Bergelin's retirement, at Trinity Lutheran in Howards Grove on Sunday, August 29th at 9:30am. Pastor Bergelin will be giving his last sermon as their Pastor. You are also invited to a retirement dinner celebration that will follow the service, also at Trinity. Please RSVP for the dinner by contacting Amy in the Bethlehem Church office. The deadline to RSVP for the dinner is August 15th. A freewill offering will be accepted. Trinity Howards Grove hopes to see you there!

Bethlehem Silent Book Club

Have you picked out a few books to read this summer? We'd love to suggest reading a book from Bethlehem's Silent Book Club where there is a variety of topics to accommodate everyone. To participate, check out one of the books marked with the Silent Book Club sticker from the shelves near the elevator in the Century Room. Read the book and leave your thoughts, questions or doodles in the margins. There will be no regularly scheduled meetings to fit busy summer schedules. If you have any questions, reach out to Martha Becker at martha.becker.96@gmail.com



More August News

SAVE THE DATE—Sunday School Starts September 12th

The 2021-2022 Sunday School year will kick-off on Sunday, September 12th. Registration information will be in the September Visitor and in weekly church bulletins.

SAVE THE DATE — Auction Time!!

The Bethlehem Auction will be held on October 23rd. You won't want to miss it! Stay tuned for more information.

Bethlehem Family Picnic News

Mark your calendar for August 22nd! The picnic will be held at the Kiwanis Park Field House. More sign-up sheets will be coming in August! If you missed the opportunity to sign up for coordinating activities, here is another chance to volunteer. Sign-up sheets will be available for bringing bars & cookies, helping with set-up and take down, frying and serving the food. The schedule of events and menu will be available soon in the Century Room. Tickets for food and drink will be sold in-between and after church services in August.

Altar Guild Meeting

Attention Altar Guild Ladies - your presence would greatly be appreciated at the next Altar Guild meeting on Saturday, August 14th at 9:30am.

Summer Office Hours—School

The school office will be open Monday—Thursday from 7:00am—3:00pm and Friday's from 7:00am—noon. These hours will be in place until August 25th.

Been Coming To Summer Bible Class?

If you're silently answering, "Not really", why not give one of our wonderful pastor-led classes a try? It's not so hard to come an hour early on Saturday evenings to hear one of our pastors explain the context and meaning of the Scripture readings you'll be hearing at worship. On Sunday morning it's not so hard to stay for an hour after the 8am worship service or come an hour early for the 10:30am service. Either way, you can probably enjoy coffee and a snack; but more importantly, you can learn about the Book of Revelation with Pastor Niles or take a "Deep Dive" into various areas of Christian theology with Pastor Moon. Try making Bible class a summertime habit. You'll be glad you did!

Are You Or Someone You Know Grieving A Loss?

Should you find yourself in this difficult situation, your faith family would like to help. Over the course of a year, we would like to send you four inspirational and helpful booklets to assist you in dealing with your loss. If your loved one's funeral was not at Bethlehem, we might not know of his or her passing. Just inform the church office at 920-452-4331 and your first booklet will soon be on its way.

September Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the September Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Please feel free to email amy.mullens@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the September Visitor.

Scrip Sales

Scrip sales will continue to be "*Scrip on the Go*" only. All orders need to be in by 8:00am Monday morning. Filled orders can be picked up Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-3:30pm. If requested, you will be contacted when your order has been filled and is ready for pick up (please provide a phone number). Weekend sales will continue to take place after Saturday evening worship and also from 9:00am—10:15am on Sundays, in the church office.

Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County

They plan to return to a "new" version of daily meal delivery on September 20th. The new delivery model will maximize safety for the vulnerable population they serve, with MOW vehicles being utilized for deliveries and masks being worn when delivering meals. There will be two delivery windows each day (Mon-Fri 10:00am-noon and 12:15pm-2:15pm). Volunteer drivers are needed. For those who cannot deliver and still want to help, Caring Callers are also needed, which takes just a few minutes a few times a week. Contact Jenn at volunteers@FreshMealsOnWheels.org, or call 920-451-7011.

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

June 30, 2021

ASSETS	JUNE	MAY	
Cash	\$ 122,171	\$ 181,320	
Endowment Funds—Principal Only	\$ 323,827	\$ 323,827	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,318,474	\$6,379,142	Includes building & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 45,860	\$ 43,035	
SYNOD	\$ 1,999	\$ 1,333	
Lutheran High School	\$ 0	\$ (995)	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	\$ 7,610	\$ 8,083	Heating Air Conditioning
Mortgage Thrivent	\$1,725,902	\$1,733,779	Monthly Pmt \$12,789
Total Liabilities	\$1,781,929	\$1,791,255	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 74,730	\$ 65,289	
Tuition	\$ 7,635	\$ 15,852	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 138,773	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 90,220	\$ 227,230	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 140,434	\$ 148,693	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ 78,590	\$ 78,590	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u>	\$ 924,009	\$ 833,789	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u>	\$ 903,540	\$ 763,076	
<u>NET INCOME 2021</u>	\$ 20,468	\$ 78,590	

Our cash position is still good at \$122,171. Adult envelopes came in above budget at \$74,730. Our accounts payable increased a little in June to \$45,860. We paid off the Lutheran Church Extension Fund Loan and it will be removed from the July statements. The next voucher check will be in the fall. Summer is more than half over already, enjoy it while it lasts. **Thank God for all of you and all that you do for Bethlehem!**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Personal Information Changes

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

Room Reservation Reminder For Heads of Boards

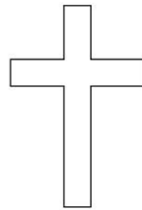
Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

Visit Us Online

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is on Facebook. Look for updates and information by typing Bethlehem Lutheran School. For more school information, please visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com

BAPTISMS

Jameson Scott Titus, 6/6/21
Amaya Jean Contreras, 6/6/21
Jordan Michael Anderson, 6/27/21
Harper Lori Triphan, 7/10/21
James Anthony Cappilla, 7/28/21



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

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