



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
1121 Georgia Avenue, 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

 <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 evening ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm
Sunday morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Dec 2022

MEMBERSHIP



December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Town Hall meeting 3:30pm	2	3 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
4 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	5	6 Board of Public Relations meeting 6:30pm LWML meeting 7:00pm	7 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Advent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm (Grades 3K, 4K, 5K & 8)	8	9	10 Town Hall meeting 3:30pm Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
11 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Youth Group Christmas! 4:00-6:00pm	12	13 Quilters 9:00am	14 Partners in Reading 1:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Advent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm (Grades 1, 2, 3 & 7)	15 January Visitor Deadline (noon)	16	17 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
18 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am	19	20	21 Soup Supper 5:00pm Advent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm	22 No school	23 No school	24 Sunday School Service 4:00pm Family Service 6:00pm Candlelight Service w/HC 11:00pm
25 Merry Christmas! Worship w/HC 10:00am	26 No school	27 No school Quilters 9:00am	28 No school NO Worship service	29 No school	30 No school	31 NO Bible class Worship w/HC 5:30pm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

A Kaleidoscope of Legacy

When I was a child, I had several toys that I loved to play with any moment that I could. I loved my Legos. I could sit for hours constructing, deconstructing, sorting and constructing again. The possibilities were limitless. I loved my action figures: GI Joes, Transformers, Thundercats, and Hot Wheels. I loved them all. With all of these flashy toys, my favorite was always my kaleidoscopes. I was always fascinated with the simple yet complex nature of each of the images that formed as you rotated the kaleidoscope. Brilliant colors and geometric shapes combining to make wonderfully symmetrical images. As each facet came together in their places, the images were always intriguing.

If you have attended any of the Bethlehem Town Hall Series Meetings, you have heard about the legacy that has been left to us from those who have come before us. Much like a kaleidoscope, this legacy has multiple facets to it that, when they come together, make a beautiful picture of the past, present, and future of the church.

The first, and most important, of these facets of legacy is the Gospel. Those that have come before us continued to proclaim the Gospel in its truth and purity. They fearlessly and unapologetically preached, taught, and lived the message of Christ crucified for sinners. Bethlehem has been a place for the people of God to gather around His Words and His blessings each week to be strengthened to live for Christ. Another important facet of this legacy is planning. Through capital campaigns, endowments, and gifts, the generations before us have left us with a sanctuary, a school, and a staff that help us to continue to learn of Jesus and serve our neighbor. Every other asset that we have received as a congregation, is due to this planning and gift-giving of previous saints.



The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” This definition speaks of managing and planning all of our resources for use in God’s kingdom. In order to leave a legacy for the next generation, this kind of planning is necessary for us today. How can you use your various resources to leave a kaleidoscope of legacy for the next generation? Through service? Through estate planning and charitable donation? Through educating your children and grandchildren in the ways of the Lord? The answer is yes... all of it... different facets coming together in a beautiful picture of the church!

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

A voice in the wilderness cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord!!"

Did you notice both exclamation points? We should really read the text in this way. This is a shout; a cry. It loses something when reading these words written down rather than proclaimed.

This is a message that has been proclaimed for ages upon ages.

One of the Christmas hymns that always made me groan was *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. The message of this hymn is wonderful. The Christ Child is born so go scream it from the rooftops and street corners, Amen!

But something about this hymn annoyed me to no end. I'm sure it has something to do with the odd melody that transitions the verse into the chorus. Then add on top of my prior disposition against this hymn, we had to play it in the school band performance every year. And every year it was the same arrangement, just obnoxious I tell you.

But isn't this the attitude John the Baptizer is preaching out against as he does the very thing from the song? Ok maybe he is going and telling from the river that Jesus Christ is about to begin his ministry, but you see what I'm getting at.

Advent is about preparing our hearts to receive the Savior and to get ready to proclaim from the top of the mountain that salvation is near to God's people.

I would have to imagine there is someone or something in your life that turns your heart away from receiving the instruction to Tell it (the gospel message) on the Mountain. The stores all having Christmas decorations displayed too soon? Your neighbor going overboard with their lights display? Your disgust for people who say Happy Holidays instead of Merry Christmas? The overabundance of snow on television advertisements? These are just a few complaints I have heard from folks throughout the years. There are plenty of other distractions that take our hearts and turn them away from preparing the way for Jesus.

So how can we reorient our Advent to prepare the way for the Lord? Reading the Scriptures is always a great place to start. Find a devotional that walks through the Advent season and plan a time each day to spend in God's Word and end every session in prayer. Pray that God would guide the preparation of your heart as you count down the days until the Babe arrives at Bethlehem.

Maranatha! That is: Come, Lord Jesus. We are ready.

Peace of the Lord,

-Pastor Moon

December News

LWML NEWS

Ladies, please join us on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00pm in the Century Room as we prepare our hearts for Jesus's birth. There will be poems, songs, prayers, and a skit to celebrate the Christmas season. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow. Members are reminded to bring their Christmas stockings for the mite collection. Come and join us for this warm and cozy evening!

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

As part of our renewed commitment to being good stewards of all the blessings God has given us individually and as a church family, we are asking every member to complete the **Activity Opportunities Form**. These forms will be entered into our Shepherds Staff computer program so the information will be easily available to Bethlehem board directors whenever needed.

If you are willing to donate your time to Bethlehem, we want to make sure to follow up and give you the opportunities to help Bethlehem Church and School.

We ask you to prayerfully consider all the opportunities and check the boxes for each one you are willing and able to help us do. The more helpers we have, the more God's work we can accomplish!

ADULT CHOIR

The adult choir practices every Thursday evening at 7:00pm.
Are you interested in joining? Contact the church office.

SALSA CONGREGATION NIGHTS FOR LHS BASKETBALL SEASON

Special nights at the home basketball games for the Association Congregations is a small way to say 'thank you' for the support you give to Lutheran High School.

All members of our congregation will be admitted free of charge on our church's night!

Bethlehem Night: Thursday, January 12th (Boys basketball game vs. Elkhart Lake)

JV begins at 5:50pm and Varsity begins at 7:30pm

BETHLEHEM TOWN HALL SERIES

You still have an opportunity to attend a Town Hall meeting!

- ◆ Thursday, December 1st at 3:30pm, in the Century Room
- ◆ Saturday, December 10th at 3:30pm, in the Century Room

In an effort to both increase awareness of the trajectory of the ministry of Bethlehem and increase all forms of commitment of our members to the proclamation of the Gospel in our midst, we are asking our members to attend one of the five town hall meetings we have scheduled. Each meeting will be lead by Pastor Niles and will include a presentation on the past, present, and future ministry at Bethlehem, a discussion of the challenges that exist and a time for questions and reflection. Light refreshments will be served.

Sign-up forms are located in the Century Room.

A MESSAGE FROM NEAT REPEATS

Christmas Season Help Needed!

With the snow outside and the Christmas decorations inside, it is looking very festive at Neat Repeats! They are looking for some extra help from now until Christmas, especially on the Friday after Thanksgiving and all the Saturdays from then until Christmas. They need extra help during the week too, so if you have a few hours to help out, please contact Laura at NeatRepeats101@gmail.com or 920-892-9100.

THANK YOU!

To everyone who volunteered, attended, and supported the Bethlehem Craft & Vendor Fair! We had a very successful event and that could not have happened without all of you. See you in 2023!

More Dec. News

JANUARY VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the January Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, December 15th, 2022. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

- ◆ James Graf, October 24, 2022
- ◆ April Justus, October 25, 2022

WELCOMED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM

- ◆ Jack David Woodliff, October 2, 2022
- ◆ Mia Rose Woodliff, October 2, 2022
- ◆ Lincoln David Yurk, November 13, 2022
- ◆ Everly Lynn Yurk, November 13, 2022



CHURCH DECORATION FUND



Please consider donating a monetary gift to the Altar Guild's Church Decoration Fund. All donor names, along with the designation as to whether the gift is being given in memory, in honor or for blessings received, will be published.

Please designate which category, by circling in memory of or in honor of.

Make checks payable to **Bethlehem Altar Guild.** (drop off in the church office)

**Deadline for submitting donations is
noon on Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ in memory/honor of _____

Given by: _____ for blessings received

Given by: _____ for blessings received

Given by: _____ for blessings received

Overjoyed by the Star

In Matthew 2, we read about the Visit of the Magi. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped Him. *“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh”* (Matthew 2:10-11).

What did the Wise Men from the East know about this baby or His family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor Him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. **“They were overjoyed.”**

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before Him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the Wise Men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But are we “overjoyed” when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the only thing Christmas is about is the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including the visiting of sick and the homebound, the baking of goodies for food banks, the sharing of financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the cross. Let us “open our treasures” and worship Him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

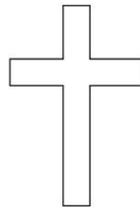
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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.

Congregational Sponsors

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

Bethlehem MusicFest
Bob & Lori Gottowski
Linda Nikisch
Beverly Bauer

Bev Fischer
Jim & Judy Heinecke
Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Anita Krimmel
Keith & Christine Wyckoff

Commercial Sponsors

Advanced Comfort Systems
Irish Roofing
Thrivent / Cesar & Kirsten Lemus

Boneck Printing
Irish Studios

Irish Hauling
Knier Storage