



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

Non-Profit Org  
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**PAID**  
Sheboygan Falls, WI  
Permit No. 11

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## CONNECT WITH US

### **Bethlehem Lutheran**

1121 Georgia Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

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

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

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



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



[https://twitter.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

# Jan 2022

## MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran  
High School  
Association



Sheboygan Area  
Lutheran Schools  
Association

# January 2022

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

						<b>1</b>  Bible Class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>2</b>  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible Class 9:15am	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  LWML Meeting 7:00pm	<b>5</b>  Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm	<b>6</b>  Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Bible Class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>9</b>  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am	<b>10</b>  Bible Class (Rick Zeuner) 6:00-7:00pm	<b>11</b>  Quilters 9:00am	<b>12</b>  Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm	<b>13</b>  Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Bible Class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>16</b>  Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am  Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am  Junior & Senior Youth Group 5:30- 7:00pm	<b>17</b>  Bible Class (Rick Zeuner) 6:00-7:00pm  Board of Christian Day School Meeting 7:00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm	<b>20</b>  February Visitor deadline (noon)  Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Bible Class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm
<b>23/30</b>  <u>23rd &amp; 30th:</u> *Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am *Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am  <u>30th:</u> Junior & Senior Youth Group 5:30- 7:00pm	<b>24/31</b>  <u>24th &amp; 31st:</u> Bible Class (Rick Zeuner) 6:00-7:00pm	<b>25</b>  Quilters 9:00am	<b>26</b>  Reading Partners 1:15-3:00pm	<b>27</b>  Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>28</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Parent-Teacher Conference	<b>29</b>  Bible Class 4:15pm  Worship w/HC 5:30pm

## **FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES**

### **A New Year But The Same Hope**

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. ~ Philippians 3:12-16 ~*

As we begin another new year, it is normal to simultaneously remember the past and look toward the future. For those who have had a rough year, the prospect of the future can bring with it hope and expectation. "Well, it can't be as bad as last year can it?" For those that have had an exciting and exhilarating year, the prospect of the future can bring with it angst and trepidation. "We had a good year, didn't we? I wish we could do it again." Context is always interesting. It can color how we see things in the past, and it can tint how we are looking into the future. Our failures, successes, trials, and triumphs often cause us to elevate our feelings about our future, and, thus, obscure our focus and direction.



No matter what our context, our Lord has promised to always preserve and keep us in His grace and favor. He continues to love us and show us mercy despite being in the midst of predicaments or joys. Paul's words to the Philippians, reminds us to lift our focus up away from ourselves. He reminds us to keep our eyes on the ultimate prize of the Christian faith. This prize does not rely on our circumstances, good years, bad years, or any context of the here and now. Our future is not bound up in uncertainties of finances, health, or

family. Our future consists of one hope, and it is the same hope that drives us from year to year and decade to decade. It is the hope of the new heavens and new earth. It is the hope of the death of sin and the end of pain. It is the hope of eternal life and the resurrection of our glorified bodies.

So as we approach a new year, keep your eyes focused on the cross of Christ that won for us salvation and eternity. Keep your eyes focused on His Word and Sacraments that give you a foretaste of the feast to come at the throne of the Lamb. Keep your eyes focused on the one hope that we have as God's people.

May you have a happy and blessed new year!

Pastor Niles

## **A NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES—an article on Stewardship**

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo (painter, sculptor and poet) and Thomas Jefferson (architect, statesman and scientific farmer) come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities—that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

### **BIBLE CLASS INFORMATION**

Please see the special flyer in this Visitor for information on upcoming Bible Class options. We have many great opportunities to start 2022!

### **SPONSORING OPPORTUNITIES**

- ♦ The 2022 **Altar Guild Flower Board** is up. Sign up to sponsor the altar flower arrangement for a weekend. Check made payable to the *Altar Guild* and can be dropped off in the office.
- ♦ The 2022 **Bulletin Sponsor Board** is up. Pick a weekend to sponsor the bulletins. Check made payable to *Bethlehem Church* and can be dropped off in the office.
- ♦ The 2022 **Coffee Hour Board** is up. Sign up to host a coffee hour after the 8:00am Sunday service. Provide treats for the congregation to enjoy during fellowship.

# January News

## LWML NEWS

Happy New Year! Ladies, start 2022 by resolving to join us on Tuesday, January 4th at 7:00pm in the Century Room. Pastor Niles will install new officers and lead us in a thought-provoking Bible study. We will be making plans for upcoming 2022 events you won't want to miss! Check it out!

## ARE YOU HIDING YOUR TALENTS "UNDER A BUSHEL"?

Maybe you feel that you don't have much to offer. Maybe you feel there are others who could do something better than you. What does God say about all this? He always starts with what you have. You may not have much time. Your finances may not be worth much. You may not think you have much talent; but you can give God everything in your life, especially your heart. You can give Him your 5 loaves and 2 fish and watch Him turn them into a feast!

## SCRIP SALES AND UPDATES!

Scrip sales will continue to be "*Scrip on the Go*" only. **All orders now need to be in by 3:00pm Friday afternoon.** Orders will be filled over the weekend. 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 9:00—10:15am on Sundays, in the church office.

## FEBRUARY VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the February Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, January 20th, 2022. 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.

## YOUTH GROUP DATES FOR JANUARY—NOTE THE NEW TIME!

Please plan on joining us for Youth Group on January 16th and January 30th. Junior Youth (6th-8th grade) and Senior Youth (9th-12th grade) will meet separately, **but will now meet at the same time = 5:30-7:00pm.** Invite a friend—we look forward to having you there!

## BETHLEHEM'S DAILY DEVOTION

Take a moment each day to get online! Check out our Facebook page, daily at 2:30pm!

## USED BOOK COLLECTION

Trinity Sheboygan will be holding their first annual *Nearly New Book Sale* this spring. They are looking for donations of gently used children and young adult's books, including board books, early readers and chapter books. A donation box is available in the Century Room. Please consider sorting through your home library for books you no longer read. For questions or larger donations, please contact Liz Ekblad at [ekblad@trinitysheboygan.org](mailto:ekblad@trinitysheboygan.org) or 920-917-7295. More details on the sale will be forthcoming. Thank you!

## JANUARY SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

- ♦ 1/4—1/8 = Hats, Scarves, Ties & Belts, 50% off
  - ♦ 1/11 = 30% off everything in the store
  - ♦ 1/12—1/15 = Shoes & Socks, 50% off
  - ♦ 1/18—1/22 = Baskets & Vases, 50% off
  - ♦ 1/25—1/29 = Books, 50% off



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

# IS THE CELEBRATION OVER FOR YOU?

## READ THESE SURE-FIRE WAYS TO HAVE A HAPPIER NEW YEAR

1. Attend in-person church. ( Wear a mask if you wish and sit in less-crowded pews.)  
"People who need people" isn't just a catchy phrase from a song.
2. Decide to learn more about what God has to say ---aka Bible Study  
( Joining a group study gives you more of those "aha" moments.)

### HERE ARE YOUR CHOICES:

#### **SATURDAYS 4:15-5:15 p.m. Now through Jan. 29**

Pastor Niles leads "The Life and Death of a Christian".

Early Feb. Pastor Niles leads **A Look At Parenting In The Digital Age**

#### **SUNDAYS 9:15-10:15 a.m. Now through Jan. 30**

Pastor Niles leads "The Song of the Church"-- a look at one or two hymns in our hymnal to discover how they have shaped the worship and prayers of the church.

Early Feb. Pastor Niles leads **A Look At Parenting In The Digital Age**

#### **MONDAYS 6-7 p.m.(New time) Starts Jan. 10 (8 sessions) Century Rm.**

Rick Zeuner leads a series on the often overlooked Book of Judges:

#### **A Cycle Of Sin And Salvation**

#### **ONLINE: February 1-28 Ben Steffen facilitates**

a fascinating study entitled,

**"More Than A Carpenter."** Join him at your convenience, day or night, for a close look at various pieces of evidence about the resurrection and deity of Christ.

**SIGN UP NOW:** [bensteffen92@gmail.com](mailto:bensteffen92@gmail.com)

3. Put your God-given talents to work.  
What can you offer to help with?



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

**November 30, 2021**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Cash	\$ 170,022	\$ 122,227	
Endowment Funds—Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,369,091</b>	<b>\$6,300,490</b>	Includes buildings & land
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 24,846	\$ 73,054	
SYNOD	\$ 1,333	\$ 666	
Lutheran High School	\$ 2,683	\$ 2,606	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
<b><u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$1,686,251	\$1,694,217	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,720,393</b>	<b>\$1,776,476</b>	
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 75,450	\$ 57,924	
Tuition	\$ 23,320	\$ 18,761	
School Choice Program	\$ 125,384	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 262,863	\$ 89,549	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 152,380	\$ 208,897	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ 110,483	\$ (199,328)	
<b><u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,745,514</b>	<b>\$ 1,482,651</b>	
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,689,049</b>	<b>\$ 1,536,669</b>	
<b><u>NET INCOME 2021</u></b>	<b>\$ 56,465</b>	<b>\$ (54,018)</b>	

Our cash position at the end of November stands at \$170,022. Our general accounts payable dropped by \$48,000 to \$24,846. Adult envelopes jumped up by \$18,000 to \$75,450. It would be nice to keep it up there! Our total as of 12/10/21 for Fund-A-Cause stands at \$34,500. Fund-A-Cause from the auction was dedicated to the stained-glass window restoration project. **We need everyone at Bethlehem to be involved as a volunteer. If you're involved, recruit a friend to help. The more hands helping, the easier the project. We thank God for all of you and we hope that you had a blessed, Merry Christmas!**

# **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 452-4331 or email [amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com](mailto:amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com) with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

## **ROOM RESERVATION REMINDER**

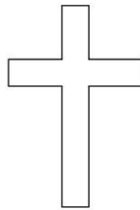
Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

## **VISIT US ONLINE**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School are 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*.

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE CHURCH & SCHOOL NEEDS / WISH LIST?**

Contact the church office or go to our website, [www.ourbethlehem.com](http://www.ourbethlehem.com) Under the *Church* Tab, Click on *Giving for Mission and Ministry*, then *Donate*, then *October 2021 Needs List*.



# **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.

Dennis & Nancy Bearns  
Sandra Fischer  
Leonard Johnson  
George & Karen Haecker

### **Congregational Sponsors**

Bethlehem MusicFest  
Bob & Lori Gottowski  
Linda Nikisch  
Beverly Bauer  
Jim & Ruth Behrens

Bev Fischer  
Jim & Judy Heinecke  
Cliff & Gail Schlegel  
Anita Krimmel

Advanced Comfort Systems  
Irish Roofing

### **Commercial Sponsors**

Boneck Printing  
Irish Studios  
Knier Storage

Irish Hauling  
Keith Wyckoff Siding