



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

July 2021

MEMBERSHIP



July 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 NO Bible Class NO Worship City of Sheboygan 4th of July festivities Walk with Bethlehem in the parade (8:30am)
4 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	5	6	7 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	8	9	10 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
11 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	12	13 Quilters 9:00am	14 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	15 August Visitor Deadline (noon)	16	17 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
18 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	19	20	21 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	22	23 Tom Rusch Retirement Celebration LHS 4-9pm	24 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
25 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	26	27 Quilters 9:00am	28 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	29	30	31 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

Spiritual Habits

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Over the course of the last year, we have had many challenges. As I think about it, the previous sentence could be said about any year. While every year brings its challenges, the pandemic brought unique challenges that many had not faced. In the midst of those challenges, there were still blessings. We were able to put practices in place to make sure the people of God could still hear his Word and receive the Sacrament. We began to stream our services online. This was (and is) a wonderful blessing that allowed members who were not able to join us for various

reasons. The blessings of our streaming capabilities go beyond pandemic times. It continues to be a way for our shut-ins to supplement the pastoral visits they receive, and it allows them to feel connected to the body of Christ. It also allows for people to tune-in if they are out-of-town or unable to make it for any reason. Being able to stream our services has been a wonderful blessing, but it was always meant to be a supplement... not a habit.



Worship is not about our comfort. It is about God serving us with His blessings of Word and Sacrament. It is about the body of Christ coming together as His people to receive forgiveness and strength for their lives. Worship provides time for Christians to be encouraged and built up by God's Word and Sacrament together. The writer of the book of Hebrews speaks of holding fast to our confession and hope, stirring up one another to love and do good works, and encouraging one another. He also urges them to not neglect meeting together, because all of these things happen within the physical gathering of the church. When we gather together, we build up others and we are built up also. Let's get back into the habit of *going* to worship. Let's get back into the habit of gathering in-person as the body of Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

From the Desk of Pastor Moon

I want to share with you an experience I had a few weeks ago. A son of this congregation by the name of Aaron Reseburg was ordained and installed at Elm Grove Lutheran Church. The church is located in the west suburbs of Milwaukee, so Aaron isn't too far from home. Congrats to him on his accomplishments and thanks be to God for His faithfulness.

I had my alarm clock set for 5:45am like I typically do for Sundays so I could get an early start on my day. I would normally spend a few minutes reading the sporting news from the night before. Next I would make a pot of coffee and listen to music while I drink my first cup. Once 6:30am rolls around I get ready for church services and out the door by 7.

But this was no ordinary day. This was ordination day for a brother in ministry. I woke up at 4:30 ready to go. I haven't had this type of morning since my wedding day and before that Christmas morning as an elementary school child. It was truly a special occasion.

Over the course of the last year, it was so easy to get tunnel vision. I had so many things to think about with the ministry here at Bethlehem, it was easy to lose sight of the bigger picture. God's people are so much bigger than our little community we call Bethlehem Sheboygan. The saints in Elm Grove share the same Jesus and the ministry that stems from Him. The saints here in Sheboygan who attend other churches share that same Jesus. They share the same bread and same wine that miraculously contains body and blood of the Savior for the forgiveness of sins.

As I was dwelling on this reality, it hit me... Why am I not this excited every Sunday? As I go through the communion liturgy which says "with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name" why does the tunnel vision still exist? We are confessing a beautiful truth every time we say that and yet I am still so laser focused on Bethlehem and sometimes even more laser focused on myself.

Sinful nature is tempting that way. The goal of the church is so large in its scale, but it can be so easy to limit how we think. Paul said it well "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

Our faith may seem like an individual thing. Our ministry may seem like an individual thing. They are far from individual. Our faith is communal. Our sharing in the ministry is collective.

I guess my encouragement to you today is to always remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in places both near and far. Pray for Aaron. Pray for all the pastors being ordained and installed. Pray for our community here at Bethlehem. Pray for the greater Christian Church. We do believe in the communion of saints! Let's never forget or neglect this beautiful spiritual reality and gift.

Peace of the Lord,
Pastor Moon

July News

Communion Schedule Change Starting July 4th

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.

"It's Time To Sign Up For VBS!"

Please see the complete page of sign-up information, details and volunteer specifics located in this month's Visitor.

Bethlehem's Daily Devotions

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

Pastor-Led Bible Classes Can Be Real "Eye-Openers"

Here are the summertime offerings; take your pick!

Saturday: "Scripture Search" continues from 4:15—5:15pm in the Century Room. This study provides an explanation of upcoming scripture readings by one of the pastors.

Sunday: Pastor Niles continues a study of the Book of Revelation. This study is held in the Sanctuary from 9:15--10:15am.

Sunday: Return to "A Lutheran Deep Dive", which is an in-depth follow-up to "What Lutherans Believe". This study is led by Pastor Moon and is held in the Century Room from 9:15—10:15am. A different topic will be discussed each week.

Do you know someone in the hospital or nursing home?

As institutions and our society begin to open up after COVID, we are trying to update our shut-in list so our pastors can provide comfort, support and the Lord's Supper to those who are not physically able to come to worship services. If you know of someone that is shut-in at home, please let the church office know so that we can update our list and make sure that we are caring for all of the body of Christ. This also pertains to those who might be entering the hospital. If you or someone you know is going into the hospital, please let the pastors and/or the church office know. Thank you for your assistance in these efforts!

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 July News

Sunday School is on summer break!

Sunday School will resume in September. Please watch the August Visitor for information and updates.

Retirement—Tom Rusch (LHS)

LHS will celebrate the retirement of facilities manager, Tom Rusch, on Friday, July 23, 2021. This will occur in the atrium of the LHS Worship and Fine Arts Center, from 4:00-9:00pm.

Bethlehem's Family Picnic

Mark your calendar for August 22nd! The picnic will be held at the Kiwanis Park Field House. There will be sign-up sheets in the Century Room, during the month of July, for Picnic Activities. There must be enough coordinators and participants signed up in July for the activity to be offered. If you don't see a sign-up sheet for an activity you are interested in, please email Laura Lienau at ljlienau@hotmail.com, and an activity sign-up sheet will be created. All sheets will be pulled at the end of July for planning the picnic activities. We look forward to having an abundance of volunteers; thank you in advance for your involvement!

There will be sign-up sheets available for the following activities: Bingo, Cornhole, Tug-O-War, Closet to the Pin (golf), Yahtzee Lawn Dice High Score and other yard games. The children's activities will include Pick-A-Duck Pool, Pick-A-Sucker Tree, Bottle Juice Toss, Fishing Pole Surprise, Splat the Rat Water Balloon and Face Painting.

Summer Office Hours—School

Beginning Tuesday, June 1st—Wednesday August 25th, the school office will be open Monday—Thursday from 7:00am—3:00pm and Friday's from 7:00am—noon.

August Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the August Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, July 15, 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 August Visitor.

Summer Scrip Sales

"Scrip on the Go" orders will be accepted during the summer months. All special orders need to be in by 8:00am Monday morning. If requested, you will be contacted when your order has been filled and is ready for pick up (please provide a phone number). Filled orders can be picked up in the school office Tues/Wed/Thurs from 7:30am—2:00pm or Fri from 7:30am—11:00am. Weekend sales will take place after Saturday evening worship and also from 9:00am—10:15am on Sundays, in the church office.

Alaska Mission Trip

The senior youth has returned from a successful trip to Nenana, Alaska! While there, the youth and adults worked on service projects within the village. This included painting, cleaning and yard work at the local church. Another group also worked on resurfacing a roof for a local homeowner. In addition to the service projects, the other part of the team organized and led a Vacation Bible School. The children had a great week! Many even said they hope to see us again next summer.

Along the way, we met and had conversations with so many people. These conversations led to asking questions, trust and relationships. We give thanks to God for his protection and guidance. The memories and relationships made are a gift from Him!

THANK YOU, Bethlehem, for all of your prayers and support. You helped to make this trip possible and we are so thankful! The mission team looks forward to sharing more stories and pictures with you.

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF

MAY 31, 2021

ASSETS	MAY	APRIL	
Cash	\$ 181,320	\$ 75,238	
Endowment Funds—Principal Only	\$ 323,827	\$ 323,827	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,379,142	\$6,250,744	Includes building & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 43,035	\$ 7,351	
SYNOD	\$ 1,333	\$ 666	
Lutheran High School	\$ (995)	\$ (995)	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	\$ 8,083	\$ 8,555	Heating Air Conditioning
Mortgage Thrivent	\$1,733,779	\$1,741,639	Monthly Pmt \$12,789
Total Liabilities	\$1,791,255	\$1,763,909	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 65,289	\$ 71,523	
Tuition	\$ 15,852	\$ 22,204	
School Choice Program	\$ 138,773	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 227,230	\$ 113,578	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 148,639	\$ 187,223	
 Total Monthly NET INCOME	 \$ 78,590	 \$ (73,644)	
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE 2021</u>	 \$ 833,789	 \$ 606,558	
 <u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2021</u>	 \$ 763,076	 \$ 641,436	
 <u>NET INCOME 2021</u>	 \$ 78,590	 \$ (7,877)	

Our cash position is good at \$181,320. We are behind for the month in adult envelopes coming in at \$65,289, a little behind our budgeted \$71,666. Our accounts payable for April rose to \$43,035. The last voucher check (State of Wisconsin tuition check) arrived in May for \$138,773. The next voucher check will not be until next fall. Summer is here, enjoy. **Thank God for all of you and all that you do for Bethlehem!**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Personal Information Changes

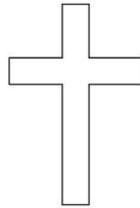
If you have changed your name, address or phone number please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email amy.mullens@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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



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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