



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
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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

July 2022

MEMBERSHIP



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

July 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
3 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	4 Walk in the parade with Bethlehem 	5	6 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	7	8 Youth Group departs for the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX ~God's Blessings~	9 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
10 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	11	12 Quilters 9:00am	13 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	14 August Visitor Deadline (noon)	15	16 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
17 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	18	19	20 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	21	22	23 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
24 / 31 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible Class 9:15am	25	26 Quilters 9:00am	27 Worship w/HC 6:00pm	28	29	30 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Myth of the Silver Bullet

As the anniversary of my ordination comes and goes each year, I try to take time to evaluate the years and journey of my ministry as a pastor. As I was contemplating this year, I began thinking about the life of the church in general. The internet is full of speculative ideas concerning ministry approaches and successful trends. Blogposts and articles abound promising a “silver bullet” to ministry. There are copious lists of five simple things to do to make the ministry of a church thrive, and yet none of them have the same list of five simple things. As logically inconsistent as these types of articles often are, they are popular for one reason. We buy into their hype. We want to think that we could make the church succeed if we just did the right things. In my contemplation, I kept returning to the same thought:

While there are many things that we can do that harm the ministry of the church, there is nothing that we can do to make the church succeed.

With this thought in mind, a natural question comes to mind: ***Then what are we to do?***

And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” ~ Matthew 19:23-26

In this short passage from Matthew, we see the true “silver bullet” for ministry in the church. **God is the only one who brings success to the ministry and life of the church.** We are called to trust in the work of the Holy Spirit to bring about saving faith in our hearts and the hearts of those who hear the proclamation of the dead and risen Christ. Through Word and Sacrament, the Christ forgives, renews, and regenerates those who are lost in darkness, and makes them lights in the darkness. So with this being said, here is my list of five things to do that will make you successful as the part of the body of Christ.

- 1. Come to worship** - The blessings of Christ received by His people through His Word and Supper are the launch point for the church. They are the means by which we are built up to proclaim the message of salvation and forgiveness to the world.
- 2. Pray for God to give you opportunities for service in His name** - Prayer is the means by which our minds and thoughts are focused outside of ourselves. It is a reminder to consciously be looking for opportunities to give a reason for the hope that we have with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).
- 3. Trust in God to work through you** - The Holy Spirit had promised to work through our insufficient knowledge and woefully inadequate speech to make the proclamation of Christ powerful to those that hear. He alone can soften hardened hearts through the Gospel message. He promises that the Word of God does not come back void, but always accomplishes its task (Isaiah 55:11).
- 4. Confess your sins and missed opportunities, and believe the forgiveness Christ gives** - We all fall short of the glory of God. However, we have also been forgiven. To repent and trust in God’s promises is the sole duty of the Christian. This is where we receive confidence, power, and strength.
- 5. Repeat** - EVERY WEEK!!!! Repeat these steps with the confidence that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain. But it starts with encountering the blessings of God.

I look forward to seeing you at the altar to begin these steps as we seek to be lights of Christ to the world where God has called us to be. To God be all glory!

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOON

Pray for Jerome

As I sit here on this blistering hot day writing my letter to you, I cannot help but give thanks to our gracious and loving God. Enjoying beautiful 80 degree sunny weather eating a Blue-flavored popsicle (yes Blue is a flavor), just days after winds and storm, tempest and rain raged in Sheboygan and across parts of the Midwest.

Thank you Lord, in the name of Christ, that my family and I were protected from the elements that night. Thank you that, to my knowledge, nobody was seriously hurt. Amen.

With that said, pray for Jerome. Because Jerome was not blessed in this way. Jerome is a fictional person, emblematic and representative of a concept. You see, I was walking with my kids the morning after the storm hit and I passed several houses in my neighborhood where entire trees had been ripped from their comfy spot in the ground and gently placed through the roof/front window/garage door of the neighboring house. Absolute carnage in some places. So is this proof that God loves me more than the “Jerome’s” I saw on my walk that morning? Not a chance. However, many people in our world today think this way. They want to point their finger at God (up toward the sky maybe?) and yell at him. “How could you do this to me?” They will shout. (Maybe just in their own head.)

In Romans 8 Paul writes:

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else [including storm damage] in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bracketed section added by Pastor Moon.

Jerome’s misunderstanding is so far from the reality of the situation. Because the truth of the matter is this: Jesus died on the cross for Jerome’s sins and the sins of the world. God loves Jerome so very much and maybe the branch that landed in the middle of his living room was meant as a sign from Yahweh that reads:

Jerome, repent and believe that Jesus Christ is God and Lord.—Your Heavenly Father

I wish I could make the text in The Visitor blink and flash like neon to show this point.

It is my prayer that Jerome indeed does repent and return to his Lord Jesus. I pray that he would make his way to church over these next weeks and months to seek the blessings of God where they are always found; amongst His people. Additionally it is my prayer that we as the Body of Christ would welcome these people when they enter into our midst. I pray that we would be good stewards of the Gospel mysteries. When those people come through our doors, I pray that they would go back home with the certainty that God’s love is abounding, and they saw it in our worship, our song, in the celebration of Word and Sacrament, and in our words and deeds.

Peace of the Lord,
-Pastor Moon

July News

BETHLEHEM'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ALMOST HERE!

Spark Studios—VBS 2022

August 1st-August 4th, from 8:30-11:45am at Bethlehem.

- ◆ Rotation stations for students going into 4K—5th grade
- ◆ S.W.A.G. (Saved with Amazing Grace) is for youth members going into 6th—8th grade. There will be specific Bible studies, snacks, games, and servant events planned for the S.W.A.G. group by pastors and other volunteer leaders.
 - ◆ To register children, S.W.A.G. members, and volunteers, use this link:
<https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=64332>
 - ◆ Questions? Contact VBS coordinator, Katie Schallock at (414) 708-1112 or katie.schallock@ourbethlehem.com

** Additional information on how you can help support VBS is found in this edition of the Visitor **

OPERATION BACKPACK

For the school year 2022-2023 is sponsored by the Hispanic Outreach.

The distribution date is August 13th from 1:00-3:00pm at Good Shepherd. If you're interested in being a part of this, please bring the new school supplies to Good Shepherd (1614 S. 23rd St.). You can also mail a donation check to *Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach (memo: Operation Backpack)*, 730 County Rd PPP, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.

If you know of a family who may benefit from this event, please share the information. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. David Blas at 630-229-2455.

A MESSAGE FROM BETHLEHEM'S QUILTING GROUP

Did you know that Bethlehem's Quilters meet all year long? Why not stop in this summer and see what keeps them busy? They meet every other Tuesday from 9:00am-3:00pm in the Century Room. Quilting dates are listed on the church calendar. The next get-together is July 12th. They would love to have you join them and see how you can be involved. They also happily accept donations of fabric, thread and sheets.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Currently has openings in all grades (3K—8th) for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year! If you know of someone who may be interested in learning more or someone who would like to schedule a visit, please have them call the school office.

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

- ◆ 7/5-7/9: kitchen items 30% off
- ◆ 7/12: 30% off everything in the store
- ◆ 7/13-7/16: furniture and lamps 30% off
 - ◆ 7/19-7/23: all clothing \$1.00
 - ◆ 7/26-7/30: books 30% off

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 14th, 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.

CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE

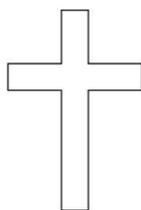
Please turn in your change by July 10th, 2022. Thank you!

Welcomed through Holy Baptism

- ◆ Daxton Dean Usadel—January 23, 2022
- ◆ Jovie Ann Verbeten—March 6, 2022
- ◆ Veronica Mae Backus—March 6, 2022
 - ◆ Zendaya TenDolle—March 8, 2022
 - ◆ Emma Lou Rothe—April 24, 2022
- ◆ Oliver Richard Schneider—June 12, 2022
- ◆ Link Wesson Soukup—June 19, 2022

Well done, good and faithful servant

- ◆ Elijah Justus—January 28, 2022
- ◆ Bernard Engelhardt—February 17, 2022
- ◆ Donald Van Engen—March 14, 2022
 - ◆ Don Adams—April 3, 2022
 - ◆ Eric Meyer—May 23, 2022
- ◆ Donna Moncrief—June 11, 2022



Giving a cup of cold water

During Jesus' last three years on earth, He spent much time nourishing and teaching His disciples. Only when they were prepared to go out into the world to preach, teach, and heal did He send them. Leaving without provisions, the disciples were totally dependent upon those whom the Lord would send them for their support. The disciples relied upon the power of the Gospel to move the hearts of their listeners who would willingly provide for their needs. They were to travel light and trust in the Lord.

In Matthew 6:40-42 Jesus, referring to His disciples, said, *"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the One who sent Me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."*

Jesus told His disciples that whoever gives to you is also giving to Him. Although support today doesn't fund the work of the 12 original disciples, we assist the spreading of the Gospel by supporting today's disciples and missionaries around the world. As we provide for church workers locally and abroad in the name of Jesus, we are serving the Lord Himself.

As we express our Christian faith through our giving and serving, God is pleased. God notices every act of compassion and kindness that we express. In the verse above, He refers to even the simple gesture of giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty person. Through our faith, we are empowered to do acts of service. When we act in response to the Lord and not for recognition, God will bless us. Having already been assured of salvation by God's grace through faith, blessings such as peace, contentment, patience, and hope are added rewards.

Only a small number of people make their living as full-time church workers, but we all are given the privilege and opportunity to be Christ's ambassadors. May God bless us all as we work to further His kingdom.

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!

BETHLEHEM'S DAILY DEVOTION

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

VISIT US ONLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School are 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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