



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
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Bethlehem Lutheran

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Sheboygan, WI 53081

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infochurch@ourbethlehem.com

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 www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem

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Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Colin Moon
Associate Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

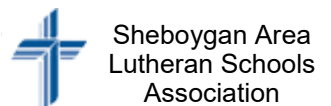
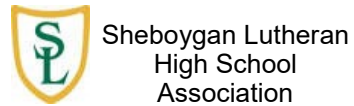
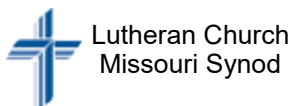
WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Times
Saturday - 5:30pm
Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am
Wednesday - 6:00pm

Bible Studies
Saturday ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm
Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

May 2021

MEMBERSHIP



May 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<p>1 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>2 Worship w/ HC 8:00am Voters Meeting 9:00am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Jr Youth Group 5:00 Sr Youth Group 6:00</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>5 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship 6:00pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Altar Guild 9:30am Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm Trivia Night (doors open 5:45pm)</p>
<p>9 Worship 8:00am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>13 Ascension Service 6:30pm The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Confirmation Pictures 9:00am Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>16 Worship w/HC 8:00am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Confirmation 1:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>19 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship 6:00pm</p>	<p>20 June Visitor Deadline (noon)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm</p>
<p>23 Worship 8:00am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am Jr Youth Group 5:00 Sr Youth Group 6:00</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm</p>
<p>30 Worship 8:00am Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am</p>	<p>31</p>					

From the Desk of Pastor Niles

The Day is Now Far Spent

“So they drew near to the village to which they were going. [Jesus] acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”” (Luke 24:28-35)

Have you ever had one of those days where every ounce of your energy was zapped out of you by the events of that day? Every bit of physical energy gone. Every bit of mental energy gone. Every bit of emotional energy gone. You get home, take your shoes off, go into your bedroom, lay down, and wake up the next morning. In my life, I have only ever had a couple of those days, but they are seared into my memory. As exhausting as any of those days have been in my life, they would not have even compared to just one day of the week that the disciples just had. These followers of Jesus on the road to Emmaus would have had consecutive days of exhausting existence. The man who they had been following, the man in whom they had hoped and trusted, the man who would save them, was dead in an excruciatingly drawn out process. The culmination of their last few years that were supposed to end in triumph were ended in defeat. So when they said “the day is now far spent”, there was so much more wrapped up in that phrase than we could ever know or imagine.

“Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” This was how they urged this stranger to accept their hospitality. This stranger was not just someone they did not know, he was actually strange. He was oblivious of the very public events of the last week. He knew the Scriptures with extreme precision and accuracy. He spoke as one who had authority... kind of like... no... that memory was way too painful. It was too soon. They were too exhausted. “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” And stay with them he did.

So they prepared a bite for dinner. The staples of a dinner in that culture. Unleavened bread because it kept longer. Wine because why not? After the previous week, it would be good for their hearts. Then this stranger, in true form, did something strange. He took the bread, blessed it, gave it to them... just like... no that memory was too painful... but as they looked up that memory was right in front of them. The stranger was no longer strange. The stranger was Jesus. But he was dead. But he was in front of them. Maybe the rumors were true. Could he be alive? Obviously he could be, because He was right there. Until he was not. Sooner than they could wrap their minds around everything, Jesus was gone. However, Jesus was not really gone because He was alive. He would always be with them. This was true more than they could have ever known or imagined.

This same Jesus is here for you in the exact same way He was there for the disciples 2000 years ago. He is here for you in the opening of the Scriptures, the breaking of the bread, and at your request after a day, a week, a lifetime far spent. May you always seek Jesus where He always is. And on every far-spent day, may you find rest and comfort in Him.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles



From the Desk of Pastor Moon

It may come as no surprise to you, but a lot has changed in my life the last few months. Last May I graduated for the 5th time (or something outrageous like that). Emily and I moved for the third time in less than a year. We bought our first house! (BIG thank you to everyone who helped with that exciting and exhausting process). I was ordained, installed, and began ministry. Only God knew that this was going to be the path my life took. I can continue to say that into the future.

Only God knows what the future holds for each of us. Speaking of change, change comes with a lot of uncertainty. When things stay the same we know what to expect and can plan accordingly. More often than not I like to have a plan. I know some of you will resonate with this sentiment and others of you would rather fly by the seat of your pants. More power to you seat flyers out there because I will never quite understand how you guys operate. The good news is that Jesus loves all of us regardless of the type of plans we make or don't make. Jesus also loves us in the midst of change, uncertainty, stress, fear and anxiety. I didn't even mention the constant changes in the world over the past year.

I have heard from many people at Bethlehem (and other LCMS Lutherans have echoed it) that having a church home where there is familiarity, similarity and a level of unchanged-ness, can provide a level of peace and comfort. I wish to celebrate that with you through this letter. It certainly is a wonderful thing to feel at home, at peace and to have the expectation that "Bethlehem will always be there for me".

But I also hope and pray that your peace does not come from Bethlehem alone. Not only in the architecture or your favorite pew or seeing the familiar windows, but from Christ. I can promise you that as long as Bethlehem is standing, Christ Jesus will be the central focus and only proclamation.

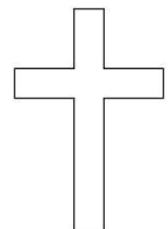
I think one reason we like this type of familiarity is because it is the earthly embodiment of the promise that God is unchanging. God's word is unchanging. The Promise that Jesus was crucified for sins and raised for salvation is unchanging. The Gospel delivered through the Means of Grace is unchanging.

Like a wise carpenter once told me, if it ain't broke don't touch it. (I think he might have messed up the catchphrase, but don't give him too much grief). Likewise, the Gospel ain't broke, so don't touch it! God's word ain't broke, so don't touch it. The sacraments ain't broke, so don't touch it!

God is ever constant. Christ is eternally your crucified and risen savior.

Peace of the Risen Lord,

Pastor Moon



May News

June Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the June Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon Thursday, May 20, 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 June Visitor.

Scrip Credit Statement For Taxes

If your Scrip credit went to Bethlehem Lutheran Church General Fund, Bethlehem Special Appeal or Bethlehem Guardian Angel Program, you can claim any profit on your income taxes. If you would like a copy of your report, please let us know. You can let one of the Scrip sellers know, you can send an email to BethlehemScrip@hotmail.com or you can call Brenda Kanz at 912-3086.

Scrip Payouts for 2020

The following is the amount of monies that was distributed for Scrip in 2020: Bethlehem Tuition - \$11,928.22; Lutheran High Tuition - \$5209.47; Concordia University - \$1404.16; Bethlehem Church General Fund - \$2271.75; Guardian Angel Fund - \$261.02; Bethlehem's Commitment to LHS - \$547.80. If you are interested in knowing more about the Scrip program, please contact Brenda Kanz at 920-912-3086.

Youth Group Information for May

Both Junior and Senior Youth Groups will meet on May 2nd and May 23rd. Junior Youth meet from 5 to 6pm and Senior Youth meet from 6 to 7pm. If you have any questions about the Youth Group program, please contact the appropriate leader:

(Junior Youth): Pastor Moon at colin.moon@ourbethlehem.com

(Senior Youth): Miss Rinkinen at jenna.rinkinen@ourbethlehem.com

Alaska Mission Trip

Please keep the Senior Youth Group members and chaperones in your prayers as they continue to prepare for their upcoming Mission Trip to Alaska. The trip will take place from June 10th-20th. They will be traveling to both Fairbanks and the village of Nenana. The group will host a Vacation Bible School and will also participate in local service projects.

Trivia Night Reminder

Don't forget Bethlehem's annual Trivia Night, which will take place on Saturday, May 8th. You still have time to get your team together— deadline is May 3rd. The trivia theme is "Around The World"!

LWML News

Attention Ladies of Bethlehem! Our shelves runneth over! The LWML has an abundance of past issues of Lutheran Women's Quarterly magazines. Please help yourselves to some. They contain many uplifting stories, devotions, Bible studies, etc. The magazines are located on the shelf next to the LWML bulletin board in the Century Room. If you wish to make a donation, please drop it in the large mite box next to the magazines. Enjoy!

LWML News

Come and join us for an interesting presentation on the Heart To Heart Sisters event usually held in person but this year was virtual on Facebook. It explores some multi-ethnic facets of many different cultures from around the world. See you on May 4th at 7:00pm in the Century Room!

VBS Save The Date

Please mark your calendar for August 2nd—5th (Monday—Thursday). Vacation Bible School is always a fun experience for all who participate. The theme will be "Rainforest Explorers: Jesus Leads The Way"!

Bethlehem's Daily Devotions

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

More May News

Confirmation

Please keep Bethlehem's confirmands in your prayers. Confirmation will take place in the afternoon on Sunday, May 16th. Parents of the confirmands — please remember that pictures will be taken the day before (May 15th) at 9:00am.

Ascension Service — The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

Join us in worship, as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. The service will be hosted by and held at The Lutheran Church of our Redeemer on May 13th, 2021 at 6:30pm. Pastor Niles will be the preacher. Offerings collected will be designated to The Sheboygan Hispanic Mission

LHS Springs POPS Concert

On Wednesday, May 19th, the LHS Music Department will be presenting its annual Spring POPS Concert. The concert will be held in the Lutheran High School WFAC and will begin at 7:00pm, with the doors opening at 6:30pm. Admission is free and open to the public, but tickets are required for reserved seating. To help with physical distancing, please limit your ticket reservations to a maximum of 4 tickets. To get tickets please visit lutheranhigh.com and click on "events/tickets" under the WFAC tab. A live stream of the concert will also be available that night under the activities tab at lutheranhigh.com. Featured selections that evening include music from Star Wars, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Moana, Pirates of the Caribbean, and more! We would love to see you there!

Upcoming Retirement — Julie Reseburg (LHS)

Lutheran High School is planning a "Wishing you well on your Retirement" Party for Julie Reseburg on Thursday, June 17th. This will be an Open House from 4-8 pm at LHS. Mark your calendars!

Our condolences to the family of Violet Hilpertshauser
She passed away on April 19, 2021 at the age of 99.



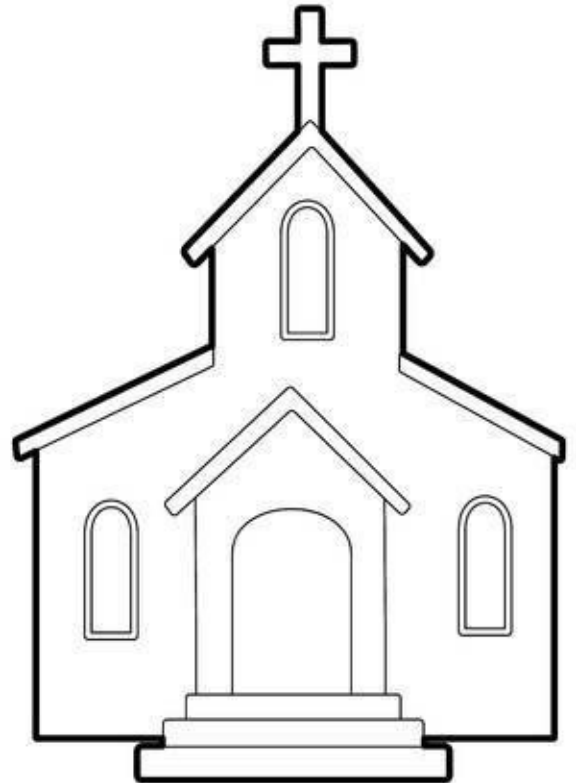
MEET AMY MULLENS BETHLEHEM'S NEW CHURCH OFFICE MANAGER

Although new to the church office, Amy and her daughter Natalie (currently a Freshman at Concordia University, Wisconsin) have been life-long members of Bethlehem Church. Through the years, Amy has been a member of the PTL, a participant in the Living Nativity presentations, has gone on two Alaska mission trips and plans to do so again this summer. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at Bookworm Gardens and watching all things sports-related, especially UW Badger volleyball.

She comes to us from a long career as a Senior Claims Analyst at Prairie States Enterprises, Inc., a job that was heavily infused with customer service.

Her position at Bethlehem is full-time and she will be in the office from 7:30am until 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Among her duties will be developing the church office into a communication and information center for the congregation. There are also long-range goals of expanding our electronic presence online and better utilizing electronic communication to conduct congregational business.

In her own words, Amy is excited to be serving her home congregation as office manager. On a personal note, she is looking forward to her marriage to John Weir in September. As a congregation, we welcome Amy to the staff of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School. We are confident that God will bless her work among us.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Pastoral Care

When you are hospitalized, please notify the church office (or have a family member or friend notify us). Due to privacy laws the hospitals no longer contact the church.

Personal Information Changes

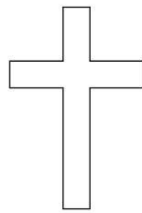
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc., please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email amy.mullens@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

Room Reservation Reminder For Heads of Boards

Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know ASAP 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.

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