



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



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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 Study

Saturday ~ 4:15pm

Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am



MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

December 2020



Merry Christmas



Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			<i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Conf. 3:30pm Advent Worship 6pm			Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship w/HC 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship 10:30am Jr Youth 5pm Sr Youth 6pm			<i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Conf. 3:30pm Advent Worship w/HC 6pm			Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am			<i>Church Bulletin & January Visitor Deadline Noon</i> Public School Conf. 3:30pm Advent Worship 6pm			Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship w/HC 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship 10:30am Jr Youth 5pm Sr Youth 6pm			*No Worship Noon Release	<i>Christmas Eve</i> Family Service 4pm & 6pm Candlelight Srvc w/HC 11pm	<i>Christmas Day</i> Worship w/HC 10am	*No Worship
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am	No School	No School	*No Worship No School	<i>New Year's Eve</i> Worship w/HC 6pm No School		

Check for the most updated information on the Bethlehem website at
www.ourbethlehem.com

The Bethlehem Visitor - December 2020

A Christian's Pondering

"And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart".

(Luke 2:16-19)

When is the last time you pondered something? When is the last time that you took time to actually consider and allow your thoughts to dwell on something? something? Was it a large purchase? Was it a major life decision? Was it whether to cook dinner or go out to eat? In our society and lives, we are so good at being occupied and busy that we often do not take the time to ponder. When the COVID pandemic began and the restrictions began, I thought that if there was ever going to be a silver-lining to all of this, it was going to be that we would all settle down a bit. Maybe I would get some reading or writing done. Maybe I would get some home projects done. But a truth of life is that if you do not make time for something during normal circumstances, you will not make time for it in extraordinary circumstances either.

Mary had just gone through the absolute craziest 9 months of her life. She had been visited by angels. She was made mysteriously pregnant by God. This child was to be the Messiah. Her and her husband made the trip to Bethlehem at a time when the baby could come at any minute. There were no rooms for them to stay the night. She had to sleep in the stable. And then she gave birth. And then the shepherds, who she did not know, came to visit. They told her of visions of multitudes of angels telling them about this very child.

This would have been enough to test the mental strength of anyone of us. Yet, Mary did not freak out. She did not stress. She did not move on to the next thing. She did not continue with her list of responsibilities to take her mind off of the immensity of her situation. She listened to the words that God told the shepherds. She treasured them. She took a minute to ponder these things in her heart. She dwelt on the words of God as they came to her through the mouths of these shepherds.

As we begin a new church year with the season of Advent and uncertainty continues in the world, may we follow the example of Mary. May we always take time to listen to the Word of God. May we take time to ponder the immensity of what it says about that little child born in Bethlehem. May we ponder what that child means for us. He means that our sins are forgiven. He means that the craziness of this world is temporary. He means that we are never alone, and that place in God's family is certain. May we ponder the sacredness of the season. May ponder the blessings that God gives us each week, day, and hour. May we ponder what Christians ponder... God's words and promises.



In Christ,

Pastor Niles

From the Desk of Pastor Moon

Christmas Means Everything

Next time you see me, please share your favorite Christmas song; I am always curious.

I hope you are getting ready for Christmas. Before you groan, hear me out. When I make a statement like this, I mean something TOTALLY different than many people who would tell you the same thing.

The world has Christmas all wrong. When the world tells you to get ready for Christmas they mean: put up a tree in your living room, decorate the tree with lights and ornaments, buy gifts for all your relatives and coworkers, get out the ugly sweaters, stock the pantry with ingredients for cookies and hot cocoa and egg nog, you get the idea.

When I say “I hope you are getting ready for Christmas” I don’t mean any of that stuff. The way to actually get ready for Christmas is very different for the Christian. You can get ready by looking around at the brokenness of this world and praying for peace. You can get ready by adding a devotion to your daily schedule. You can get ready by sharing your faith with someone who does not know the Christmas story. (The one from the Bible not the movie from 1983)

I happen to really enjoy both aspects of Christmas. I really enjoy Christmas music, both secular and religious. I find myself getting swept up in all the “holly jolliness” that the world seems to cling to so tightly, but I also see Jesus everywhere and can take heart in the comfort and peace only he can bring.

My dad wrote a Christmas song called “What Does Christmas Really Mean To Me?” that he has been singing for as long as I can remember, and I think he bridged the gap perfectly between the two. The verses talk about how much “joy” the world thinks they have found because Christmas is somehow “magical”. The chorus transitions into talking about how true hope and joy and peace can only be found in the child born at Bethlehem.

There is nothing magical about Christmas and there is nothing “in the air” during this time of year. However, there is something miraculous that happened 2000 years ago that still affects our lives today. The baby Jesus was born so that we might live.

The next time you find yourself annoyed by the secular Christmas songs you hear at the grocery store or while you shop for gifts, be reminded that while the world is seeking peace and joy in the wrong places we have already found it.

Next time you see me, please share your favorite Christmas song; I am always curious. Mine is “What Child is This” LSB 370

Peace of the Christ Child,

Pastor Moon





December 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 Wednesday, December 16, 2020. You can email it to jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the January *Visitor*.

Youth Group Upcoming Dates

Jr and Sr youth groups please mark your calendars for December 6th and 20th as these will be the next meeting dates. The Jr Youth meets with Pastor Moon from 5-6pm and the Sr Youth meets with Miss Rinkinen from 6-7pm. If you have any questions about Jr youth contact Pastor Moon at colin.moon@ourbethlehem.com, any questions about Sr youth contact Miss Rinkinen at jenna.rinkinen@ourbethlehem.com.

Looking Forward to 2021?

Very few among us will be sorry to see 2020 end. It's been a tough year; but January 1st gives us a chance at a fresh start and a time to try new things. How about making Bible-study participation one of those things? Your Bible-Study Task Force is working on developing new and interesting online and in-person studies. Be sure to watch for them. Contrary to popular opinion, Bible study is not geared for Bible "experts." It's for us average folks who sit in the pews or view worship online week after week. Select a study style that fits your life. If you have uncertain work hours, perhaps the flexibility afforded by online studies would be best. However, if you enjoy talking directly with others, select an in-person study. Either way, you're assured of a no-pressure experiences. Watch the Bulletin, Facebook, etc. for details on January offerings and plan to participate in one or more of them. Make it a "New Year's resolution"!

New Members Receive Welcome Baskets

At the 10:30 worship service on November 22nd, new members (listed below) were officially welcomed into the fellowship of Bethlehem congregation. In the past, this joyous occasion was followed by a new-member potluck designed by the Board of Assimilation to begin the process of making new members feel at home in our midst. Unfortunately, this year COVID restrictions made that plan an impossibility. The Board struggled to find a good and safe alternative; and as a result, welcome baskets were presented to new-member families following their induction ceremony. We look forward to the day when we can physically extend the right hand of Christian fellowship and actually begin the process of getting to know each other.

Eric & Sue Fehlhaber
Robert & Traci Michael
Gary & Janice Richardson
Nadine Mangino-Smith
Linda Cyr
Heather Post

Leah Mangino
Brent & Keeli Johnson
Jason & Lisa Hackbarth
Brendan & Jessica Biever
Charnetta Cole
Jeff & Ann Wegner

Important Information About Upcoming Holiday Scrip Sales

The last day to turn in your Scrip-On-The-Go orders will be 8:00am on Monday, December 14. These orders will be filled with the inventory on hand and can be picked up in the school office December 15 -18 between 9am and 2pm and December 22 between 9am and 2pm. There will be NO Scrip-On-The-Go orders filled until school resumes on Monday, January 4, 2021. Also, there will be no weekend Scrip sales on December 26 & 27 and January 2 & 3. Normal weekend Scrip sales will resume on Saturday, January 9, 2021.

Change For The Future

Collections for the Change for the Future are taking place now through December 27. Please put your money in an envelope and put in the collection plate or drop off in the church office during normal business hours. Please make sure that your name is on the envelope so you get the proper credit for your contribution.

Saturday Bible Class Resumes

Saturday evening Bible Class will also be returning starting December 5 at 4:15 in the Century Room. Hope to see you there.





December News Con't



Information from Social Ministry regarding Food Donations and the Angel Tree

Food Donations ~ Our yearly food drive is underway! Place donations in the basket in the Century Room or the food barrel at the back of church. If you are in need of other arrangements please call Pam Crneckiy and leave a message at 920-980-3659. We are so thankful that donations are still coming in from the congregation and school families. Due to COVID-19 we now need to ask for closed packages. We will be unable to accept open packages of food items and toiletries. All donations need to be in a sealed package, including toilet paper or paper towels. Our Board would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to help our church families and to share with other food pantries in the community. This is a wonderful community outreach project for our board. You truly are making a difference in the lives of families who are in need that have lost employment or under employed, and trying to make ends meet. As always if you know of a family who might need some assistance, please call the church office or Cheryl Senkbeil at 920-980-9427. This information is confidential and we will reach out to the family.

Social Ministry Angel Board ~ Due to COVID and all the changes of the world we are going to try to have an Angel Board this year but different than we've ever had. This year the need seems greater than ever before and we are looking for gift cards from any grocery store, gas station, Walmart, Target and Kohls. For the safety and welfare of all we will not be making house calls this year but we are hoping to give the families gift cards so that they can do their own shopping for their family. We know that all do not like buying gift cards but we feel this is the best way to handle the situation. Please prayerfully consider this alternative for the 2020 Christmas season. Cards can be put in the collection plate or mailed to the church office. Please mark Social Ministry on the envelope. We ask that the cards be submitted no later than December 13, 2020. Stay safe and stay healthy. If you have any questions call Cheryl Senkbeil at 920-980-9427 or Pam Crneckiy at 920-980-3659 and leave a message.

Kohl's Cares Children's Books ~ Since the Angel Board is changing due to COVID this year, we thought for anyone looking to purchase a small gift, to think about maybe going to Kohls and purchasing one of their Kohl's Cares children's books with the matching stuffed animal. They are \$5 each. For \$10 you have a small gift for a young child, to read and cuddle with the family. Reading is a great way for family togetherness at this frustrating and somewhat frightening time for young children. Please prayerfully consider this option. Thank you for the support of the congregation, you truly help enrich the lives of those served by Social Ministry. If you have any questions please call Pam Crneckiy at 920-980-3659 and leave a message. Blessings to all!

Baptisms

Cole Richard Radloff, son of Tyler and Allison (Skelton) Radloff, baptized October 11, 2020

Everett Dale Zimbal, son of Richard and Erin (Bintzler) Zimbal, baptized October 25, 2020

Zoey Marie Moon, daughter of Rev. Colin and Emily (Hanmann) Moon, baptized November 15, 2020

Deaths

Dale A. Bintzler, age 60, passed away on November 16, 2020 (non-member)

Advent/Christmas/New Year's Worship Services

Advent

Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16
6:00 pm Worship Only

No Wednesday Night Worship ~ December 23

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, December 24 ~ Family Service
4pm and 6pm

Thursday, December 24 ~ Candlelight Service
w/Holy Communion ~ 11:00pm

Friday, December 25 ~ Worship w/Holy Communion
10:00am

No Saturday Worship Service ~ December 26

No Wednesday Night Worship ~ December 30

New Year's Eve Worship

Thursday, December 31 ~ Worship w/Holy Communion
6:00pm



Christmas Wordsearch

M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	U	G	H	D	S
Y	C	E	O	U	R	W	J	O	S	E	P	H	A
S	B	D	E	A	W	M	A	R	Y	K	Q	I	X
D	F	A	T	L	B	C	K	S	U	S	E	J	Y
O	C	S	B	W	T	O	P	A	T	W	T	T	E
N	Q	S	D	D	R	T	R	Z	T	Z	I	W	U
K	S	S	T	E	R	T	A	V	W	V	S	Z	D
E	R	W	G	N	Y	E	N	C	I	H	G	A	O
Y	I	N	G	F	E	X	H	T	D	S	M	N	S
Y	A	V	F	Y	C	S	A	P	J	V	H	G	E
M	G	S	L	C	S	N	E	M	E	K	E	E	V
S	P	I	B	I	X	G	W	R	U	H	K	L	L
X	X	N	X	O	U	B	W	T	P	I	S	C	C
U	R	H	L	E	L	B	A	T	S	Q	I	R	F

Angel
Baby
Bethlehem
Cattle
Donkey
Jesus
Joseph

Manger
Mary
Nativity
Presents
Shepherd
Stable
Star

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

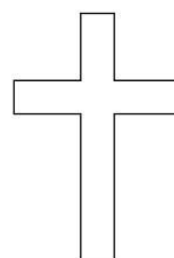
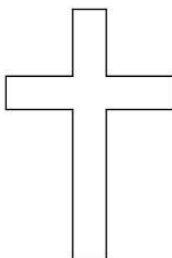
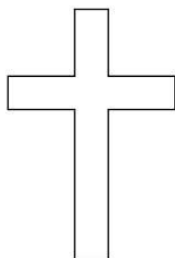
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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.com. 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

Jim & Judy Heinecke
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Joan Osthelder

Bob & Lori Gottowski
Leonard Johnson
Dennis and Nancy Bearns

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Sandra Fischer

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