



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

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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 ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday Morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am



february

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association



February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bible Class 6:30pm	2 LWML 7pm	3 <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship 6pm	4	5	6 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
7 Worship w/HC 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship 10:30am	8 Bible Class 6:30pm	9 Quilters 9am	10 <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6pm	11	12	13 Altar Guild 9:30am Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm
14 Worship 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am Jr Youth Group 5:00pm Sr Youth Group 6:00pm	15 No School Bible Class 6:30pm	16	17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6pm	18 <i>March Visitor Deadline Noon</i>	19	20 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
21 Worship w/HC 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship 10:30am	22	23 Quilters 9am	24 <i>Church Bulletin Deadline Noon</i> Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Lent Worship w/ HC 6pm	25	26	27 Bible Class 4:15pm Worship 5:30pm
28 Worship 8am Bible Class 9:15am Worship w/HC 10:30am Jr Youth Group 5:00pm Sr Youth Group 6:00pm						

The Bethlehem Visitor - February 2021

Are You Committed to Membership for Mission?

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

In the early 1900's, there was a congregation in rural Missouri who had outgrown their first sanctuary. It came time to look at building a new sanctuary in order to have room for all who wished to attend worship. The congregation was faced with two opportunities for sites on which to build their new sanctuary. A farmer had offered to give them some land outside of town, and another person had offered to give them some land on Main Street in town. So the congregation decided to have a congregational meeting to decide which site they would use. Leading up to the meeting, it was becoming apparent that there was a division in the opinions of the congregation on where their new sanctuary should be built. The farmers wanted the sanctuary outside of town, and the residents of the town wanted it in town. On the night of the meeting, there was a historic snowstorm. Nearly all of the farmers were unable to make it to the meeting because of the weather. However, all of the town-folk were able to attend the meeting. Any guess on where the sanctuary was built? You got it. It was built right on Main Street. This congregation still exists today, and is going strong.

The reason for this account is not to make you think that decisions are only made by those who show up. But it shows that despite the seemingly ill-mannered reason for decisions being made, God still blesses His church. He blessed them with a wise pastor that was able to calm the decisions. He blessed His people with the grace to understand that their own pride was second to the ongoing mission and ministry of the church. So often we see membership in a congregation like being a member of a country club. If we pay our dues and serve the institution, we get a say and power over what that institution does. Our dues and service give us special benefits. However, this thinking gives us an attitude that is destructive in the church. The primary focus of any congregation is the mission that Christ has given the church - that all would be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.



So the question should not be “are you a member of a congregation?” The question should be “are you part of the mission of the congregation?” Are you committed to an institution in a certain place or are you engaged and supporting the mission of the congregation? As we move forward as Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School, please remember that our God is bigger than any single decision we make. When we step out in faith in God and the mission that He has give to us (to proclaim His Word for the salvation of all), God can cause good to come of any of it. We put our pride second to His glory and will.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

From the Desk of Pastor Moon

My Cup Runs Over

I want to imagine for a moment that we are all at a buffet type restaurant. If you've never been to one of these before, let me describe what this experience is like. As you walk in to the building you are greeted by an employee who asks for the number of adults and children in your party. Typically adults cost more than children because in this place, you are allowed to eat as much food as you possibly can. After paying for the meal, you enter into the glutton sanctuary (that's a joke, I love buffets) and are greeted with endless possibilities. Rather than being escorted to a table and having someone else ask what you want to eat and drink, in this place you wander through various serving lines and grab anything and everything that catches your eyes. At a place like Golden Corral, you can mix and match anything. My plate would have a slice of pizza, a small steak, Buffalo wings, etc (sorry if I'm making you hungry). Then it's on to dessert! Pudding with graham crackers and a slice of chocolate silk pie (well shoot now I'm hungry).

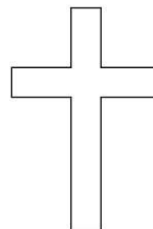
The only bad thing about buffets is that the food is not "healthy" and the selection in front of us leads us to make choices we might regret later. But the image of a plate of food overflowing is the type of image we can apply to Psalm 23 when the Psalmist reveals that a table is being prepared for him as his enemies watch and his cup runs over.

Imagine getting to make a plate of all your favorite foods and eat it right in front of those who despise you. That is quite the slap in the face. Where are your manners???

But the food on our plate is not really food at all. The cup that's runs over is not our favorite beverage. God's provisions and grace and mercy overflow even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Not quite what I was expecting when I started talking about a scripture passage often associated with funerals. But that's the type of God we serve. God loves us so much, let us overflow with the same grace and forgiveness.

Peace of the Lord,

Pastor Moon





February News



March Visitor Deadline

If you would like to submit information for the March *Visitor* please have your information to the church office no later than noon Thursday, February 18, 2021. 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 March *Visitor*.

Youth Group Upcoming Dates

Jr and Sr youth groups please mark your calendars for February 14 & 28 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.

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.

Grief Ministry


Looking for individuals to be part of Grief Ministry. We send out support booklets to Bethlehem members who have lost loved ones. If you are interested in helping out please contact Yo Graf at 920-254-7634 or email jimyograf@charter.net.

LWML News

All ladies are invited to join us for our meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00pm in the Century Room. Our focus will be on love, concern for others and words of love from the Bible. In these uncertain time, we need to remember God's love for us and our response to Him more than ever. Social distancing will be practiced and masks are required.



Check Out Bethlehem's Website

All you want to know for upcoming church and school activities, recorded worship services and devotions are on our website at www.ourbethlehem.com. Come take a look 

Church's New Sound System

If you have given up trying to participate in Bethlehem's online worship service due to poor quality, here's the good news. The church has purchased a new state-of-the-art sound system with which to live-stream its worship services. We also have a corps of dedicated volunteers who have been trained to run the system effectively. You'll be amazed at the result. So if you've been listening to some other church's service, come back to worshiping with your home church. You'll be glad you did!

Sunday School Update

Movies continue in the cafeteria as we remain challenged with restrictions. Snacks are served, so although masks should be worn in the church they are removed for the snack during the movie. The children normally sit in family groups distanced at the tables during the movies. All snack and drinks are individually served "packaged." Please check the Service Notes, News and Notes link for weekly information on the movies being scheduled. The News and Notes are updated weekly on Bethlehem's website at www.ourbethlehem.com, click on the *Media* link at the top of the page, click on the *Services Here* under [Worship Online](#).

Altar Guild Meeting

Altar Guild ladies please mark your calendar for Saturday, February 13 at 9:30pm as we will meet in the Century room. Please plan on attending at there are important issue that will be discussed and voted on.

Our Condolences to the families of:

Bonnie Guehna, age 65, who passed away on December 22, 2020

Kyle Wagner, age 33, who passed away on January 8, 2021



Ash Wednesday and Lent Worship Opportunities

Ash Wednesday begins on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 due to restrictions there will be no morning worship services nor will there be Soup Suppers before the Lent services.

Please join us for our evening worship services at 6:00 p.m.

Listed below are the Lent worship services.

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Lent Worship

Wednesdays - February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Watch the *March Visitor* and the weekly News and Notes for Holy Week Service information



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

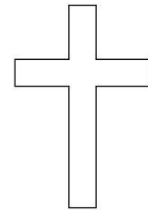
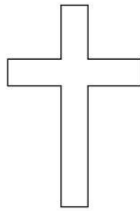
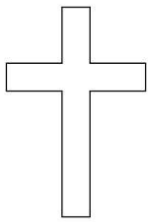
If you have changed your name, address, phone number etc. please notify the church office immediately with your information. You can call the church office at 452-4331 or email jodi.damrau@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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

Bethlehem MusicFest
Dennis & Nancy Bearns
Sandra Fischer

Bev Fischer
Jim & Judy Heinecke

Cliff & Gail Schlegel
Linda Nikisch

Commercial Sponsors

Advanced Comfort Systems
Irish Roofing
Knier Storage

Boneck Printing
Irish Studios

Irish Hauling
Keith Wyckoff Siding



Schedule of Fees

2021-22 School Year

REGISTRATION children)	First Child in the family Second Child Third & More Child		
	(per student; for both member and non-member		
Grades 1 - 8	\$200	\$200	\$200
5 Yr Old Kindergarten - Full Days	\$200	\$200	\$200
5 Yr Old Kindergarten - Half Days	\$170	\$170	\$170
4 Yr Old Kindergarten	\$170	\$170	\$170
3 Yr Old Kindergarten	\$170	\$170	\$170
TUITION			
Members of Bethlehem Church			
Grades 1 - 8	\$1,975	\$1,755	\$1,535
5 Yr Old Kindergarten - Full Days	\$1,975	\$1,755	\$1,535
5 Yr Old Kindergarten - Half Days	\$1,625	\$1,375	\$1,125
4 Yr Old Kindergarten (4/5 days)	\$1,375	\$1,225	\$1,075
3 Yr Old Kindergarten (3 days)	\$1,175	\$1,075	\$975
Community Rate			
Grades 1 - 8	\$3,200	\$2,675	\$2,275
5 Yr Old Kindergarten - Full Days	\$3,200	\$2,675	\$2,275
5 Yr Old Kindergarten - Half Days	\$2,475	\$2,125	\$1,800
4 Yr Old Kindergarten (4/5 days)	\$1,825	\$1,625	\$1,425
3-Year Kindergarten (3 days)	\$1,600	\$1,400	\$1,250

A surcharge of \$50 per student is added for returning families not completing the required paperwork and making their first tuition payment by August 5.

Tuition pays for only a small part of the student's education at Bethlehem. The cost to educate a child is just under \$9000 per year. The congregation on average helps cover around 75% of the educational costs. Our tuition rates are very low to help families afford a quality Christian education. When you think of the hourly rate, a family pays less than \$3.00 per hour while their child(ren) are in class or about \$20.00 a day for education and care. That is a tremendous bargain! If you need help to cover the cost of tuition please apply for financial assistance. Bethlehem is also a participant in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. Eligible families can apply online at <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/> between February 1st and April 15th. The voucher from this program would cover the entire amount of tuition and registration.

Rev. J. Patrick Niles	Rev. Colin M. Moon	Patrick R. Vanic
<i>Administrative Pastor</i>	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	<i>Principal</i>



January 18, 2021

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School families,

Bethlehem Lutheran School will be again participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) provides children throughout the state with a full tuition voucher to attend the private or religious school of their choice. You will attend BLS for free if given a voucher.

This program allows families in the Sheboygan area to access the educational program at Bethlehem Lutheran, especially those families who in the past might not have been able to afford to attend.

Bethlehem will be accepting applications in grades 4K to 8th for parents who wish to enroll their children at the school through the WPCP. Student applications for the WPCP can be submitted online from February 1- April 15, 2021 at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs/student-applications>. There is also a link that can be found on our website www.ourbethlehem.com.

The program currently is limited to those families with incomes below 220% of the federal poverty level. So what does that number look like? Your adjusted gross income (AGI) would need to be at or below the levels listed below for the size of your family

Family Size	Single Family	Married Family
1	\$28,072	
2	\$37,928	
3	\$47,784	\$54,784
4	\$57,640	\$64,640
5	\$67,496	\$74,496
6	\$77,352	\$84,352

For each additional member add \$9,856

Here is how the process works:

1. The parent or guardian logs into the online parent application.
2. Once logged in, the application will take the parent to an instruction page on how to verify the email address.

The parent's instructions read as follows:

- a. You need to verify your email address for the Private School Choice Program Online Application.

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- b. Go to the inbox for your email account for: "email address@email.com"
 - c. Click the "Confirm Email Address" link in the email to confirm your email address.
3. Once the parent clicks the "Confirm Email Address" link in the email, the link will take the parent to the email verification confirmation page where it notifies the parent that their email address has been verified.
 4. On the email verification confirmation page, the parent will be instructed to click on a link to return to the online parent application log-in page where the parent will need to enter his or her email and password to continue the application process.

You will also find a financial aid application for those who may not qualify for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. We want to make Christian Education something that you can afford.

Please call the school office at 920-452-5071 for more information or need help with the application process.

In His Service,

Patrick R Vanic

Helpful hints:

1. **Parent does not receive verification email:** Please note that it may take 5 minutes to 24 hours for the email to arrive. The parent should check his or her spam or junk folders for an email from PrivateSchoolChoice@dpi.wi.gov with a subject of "Verify your School Choice Program Email Address".
2. **Parent must have a valid email:** If the parent does not have a valid email, the parent will need to create an email using any email provider (such as Gmail, Yahoo, or Outlook.com).
3. **Parent does not remember the password to their email account:** The parent must use the email provider password recovery service or create a new email address to use in the online parent application.
4. **Email address is incorrect or the parent no longer has access to the email account:** The parent must create a new Choice application account using a new email address. The only impact that the parent will have when using a new email address is that the parent will need to reenter data. The system remembers and recognizes continuing students by their first and last names with date of birth.
5. **Need a new verification email sent:** If a parent has not verified his or her email address, the parent may go to the login page for the online parent application and enter their email and password again and a new verification email will be generated.