Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

1121 Georgia Ave. 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. Jeremy Hanson
Associate Pastor

Mr. Joshua Klug
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

Feb 2026

MEMBERSHIP

Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association

Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

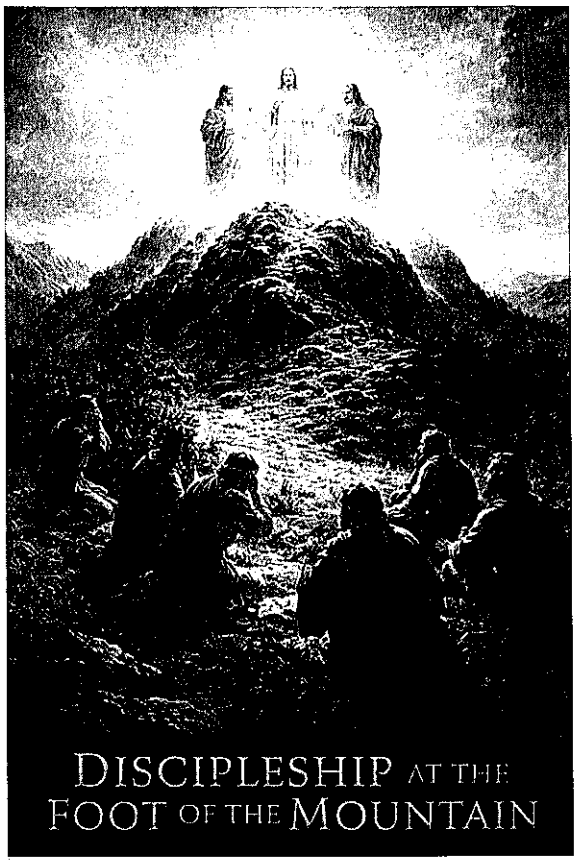
February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am	2 PTL meeting 6:00pm Rick Zeuner Bible Class @ LHS 6:00pm BCDS meeting 7:00pm	3 Quilters 9:00am LWIM meeting 6:30pm	4 Read. Part. 1:00pm Public Conf. 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm Assimilation 6:00pm Stewardship 7:00pm	5 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	6	7 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
8 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am **LHS Sunday** Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am 7th Grade fundraiser pick-up 9:00-noon	9 Rick Zeuner Bible Class @ LHS 6:00pm	10	11 Read. Part. 1:00pm Public Conf. 3:30pm Social Ministry kitchen 4:00pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	12 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	13 **Sweetheart Dance** **6:30-8:00pm** **BLS gym**	14 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
15 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Sunday School **breakfast** 9:15am Elders meeting 11:45am	16 **NO SCHOOL** Rick Zeuner Bible Class @ LHS 6:00pm	17 Quilters 9:00am	18 Reading Partners 1:00pm Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	19 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm March Visitor deadline (noon)	20 Boys B home Tournament	21 Boys B home Tournament Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
22 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am Confirmation info meeting 11:45am	23	24	25 Lent Worship 8:30am & 6:00pm Read. Part. 1:00pm Public Conf. 3:30pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Picnic meeting 7:00	26 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	27	28 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm **PIZZA MAN** (rsvp required) 6:30pm

From the desk of Pastor Niles

Discipleship at the Foot of the Mountain

And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."



In Matthew 17:1–9, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. There, before their eyes, He is transfigured—His face shining like the sun, His clothes dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear, representing the Law and the Prophets, and they speak with Jesus. It is a breathtaking moment, a glimpse of Christ's divine glory usually hidden beneath His humility. Peter, overwhelmed, wants to capture the moment. "Lord, it is good that we are here," he says, offering to build three tents. But before he can finish his plan, a bright cloud overshadows them, and the voice of the Father speaks: *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."*

Those words lie at the heart of Christian discipleship.

Discipleship is not first about doing impressive things for God, preserving spiritual "mountaintop experiences," or following our own well-intentioned ideas. It begins—and continues—with listening to Jesus. The Father directs our attention away from ourselves and fixes it squarely on His Son. *Listen to Him.* Hear His Word. Trust His promises. Hold fast to what He says, even when it leads down the mountain and into the ordinary or difficult paths of life.

Notice what happens next. The disciples fall on their faces in fear. Glory rightly humbles sinners. Yet Jesus comes to them, touches them, and says, "Rise, and have no fear." When they lift their eyes, they see no one but Jesus only. Moses and Elijah are gone; the cloud has lifted. What remains is Christ—enough for faith, enough for salvation.

So it is for us. God does not call us to chase glory, but to cling to Christ as He gives Himself to us in His Word and Sacraments. Discipleship means hearing that Word again and again: the Law that exposes our sin, and the Gospel that forgives it. It means holding to that Word when it comforts us—and when it challenges us. It means trusting that Jesus knows the way, even when that way leads to the cross.

At the end of this passage, Jesus leads the disciples back down the mountain. Life continues. Suffering still awaits. But they do not go alone, and neither do we. We go with Christ, who has revealed His glory not only on the mountain, but most fully on the cross and in the empty tomb.

As a congregation, our life together as disciples is shaped by this simple, profound calling: to listen to Jesus. When we gather around Scripture, when we receive the Lord's Supper, when we teach our children, serve our neighbors, and encourage one another, we are being formed by His Word. The Father's command still rings out for us today: *"This is my beloved Son…listen to Him."*

May God grant us ears to hear and hearts that hold fast to His Word until we see our Lord in glory once again.

In Christ,
Pastor Niles

February News

LEADING WITH MISSIONS

The Bethlehem Lutheran Women in Mission (LWIM) have chosen **Journeys Lutheran School** in Hales Corners, WI as the February Mission of the Month. Flooding on August 9, 2025 caused over 1 million dollars in damage, from flooring and furniture to technology and teaching materials. Every area of the school was affected. So many of the items lost were not just "things"; they were tools of learning and items of comfort. For many students, Journeys is a safe place, a constant, when lives are filled with challenges. Journeys Lutheran School embraces students in grades 3-12 with special needs. Their programs facilitate the educational goals of individualized instruction and growth, along with the sharing of the Gospel. Please pray for and consider supporting this worthy mission. Designated envelopes are found on the table in the back of church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS TO ENJOY *"JESUS LOVES ME"* BREAKFAST

On Sunday, February 15, a special event will take place during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15am). The children will be served a tasty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, doughnuts, and fruit. Afterwards, a Bible story will be shared, and crafts & games will be available, to celebrate the *"Jesus Loves Me"* theme. What a fun way to learn a bedrock Bible truth.

DO YOU VIEW LIFE NOW THE SAME WAY YOU DID AT AGE 13?

Most of us would answer that question with an emphatic *"Certainly not! I have life experience behind me and I can understand things much more deeply than I could as a young teenager"*. Then why not consider viewing basic Lutheran teachings through the now-mature lens you possess? Each of our pastors is currently leading a Bible study series which does that very thing. Read on for more details.

PASTOR HANSON EXPLORES THE SMALCALD ARTICLES

Martin Luther wrote these articles as a summary of Lutheran doctrine for an intended ecumenical council of the church. Pastor Hanson will lead this topic through the month of February. It includes such fascinating subjects such as *"Rejected Roman abuses"* (mass, vows, canon law).

PASTOR NILES LEADS EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Under the title *"The Gospel and our righteousness"*, this is a study of Paul's letter to the people of the church of Rome, predominantly Gentiles. The primary theme is the basic gospel. Pastor Niles will lead this series through the month of February. Included are such faith-building topics such as *"The struggle of life in the Spirit"* and *"Christian freedom"*.

"MUSINGS OF A PRAYER WIMP" TO BE THE NEXT LWIM TOPIC

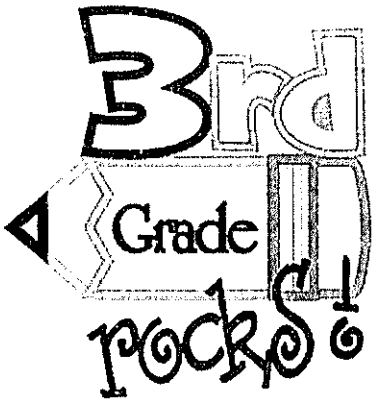
Ladies, could your prayer life use a little help? Do you have trouble setting aside time for talking with God? When you do engage in prayer, do you have trouble deciding what to say? Why not plan to attend the February 3 gathering of Lutheran Women in Mission? We'll hear the story of a self-described "prayer wimp" and we'll talk over prayer in general. Join us in the Century Room on the first Tuesday in February at 6:30pm. We hope to see you there!

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD LADIES

Your presence is appreciated at our next meeting, which will be held on Saturday, February 14 at 9:30am.

UPCOMING SALES AT NEAT REPEATS

2/3 - 2/7: all clothing, $1.00
2/10: everything in the store, 30% off
2/11 - 2/14: toys, games, puzzles, and dolls, 50% off
2/17 - 2/21: candles and candleholders, 50% off
2/24 - 2/28: purses, bags, and luggage, 50% off



Shayla Fackler is excited for the opportunity to join the Bethlehem family this semester, as she completes her semester-long student teaching with Ellen Vanic in 3rd grade! Shayla is a senior Elementary Education student from Concordia University Wisconsin. During the first week back at school, Shayla spent time observing and getting to know the students. Now, as the weeks go on, she will begin to write lesson plans and teach! She began with spelling, then added religion, and now will continue to add more. Shayla is so excited to learn from Mrs. Vanic, her students, and the other faculty here at Bethlehem! This will be an amazing learning experience for her as she prepares to teach in her own 4th grade classroom next year down in St. Louis, MO. Shayla would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome and for helping her to adjust to Bethlehem!

WELCOME, SHAYLA!

A FEW MORE IMPORTANT NOTES

A MESSAGE FROM THE LCMS FOUNDATION

We live in an *"I can do it myself"* culture. Sometimes we might be tempted to think a Christian estate plan is just a collection of documents (will, trust, POA). However, we need to look deeper into the factors influencing a good plan. An automated will or trust generator may not be able to capture family nuances pertaining to inheritance. Hiring legal counsel to make sure these issues are addressed is pursued. To prepare for working with an attorney, your Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Craig Toerpe, Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation to facilitate this legacy conversation or other questions you may have regarding how you can faithfully provide for your family and financially support the Lord's work at 262-707-3005 or craig.toerpe@lfnd.org

ST. MARK BRAT FRY

The St. Mark Men's Club Brat Fry will be held on Sunday, February 8 from 10:30am-1:30pm. Tickets are available for purchase from any Men's Club member, the church office, or at the door the day of the brat fry. The menu includes brats, hamburgers, German potato salad, beans, and desserts. Come and enjoy fun & fellowship!

YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held on Sunday, February 15 from noon-4:30pm at The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 3027 Wilgus Ave. The dinner includes spaghetti (with or without meat-balls), garlic bread, and torte for dessert. The cost is $8/adult, $5/age 5-10, and Free/age 4 and under. Proceeds will help offset the cost for the youth to attend the next National Youth Gathering.

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION (ADDRESS / EMAIL / PHONE)

We continue to collect updated information. The February Visitor will be mailed only at this time.

Bethlehem Church Picnic Announcement

Looking Ahead to Summer: Church Picnic Plans

Although it is still winter, the seasons will change before we know it, and the warmth of summer will return. With the arrival of summer comes one of our most anticipated events: the annual church picnic.

New Venue and Date

We are pleased to announce that this year's Bethlehem Church Picnic will be held on the grounds of Sheboygan Lutheran High School. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 16, and get ready for a day of fellowship and fun in a fresh setting.

Exciting Activities for Everyone

The new venue offers us the chance to add a variety of new activities for attendees of all ages. We are eager to make this event enjoyable for both young and old, and your ideas are welcome to help shape the day's festivities.

Join the Planning Committee

If you would like to contribute to the planning process or have suggestions for making the picnic a highlight of the summer, we invite you to be part of our planning committee. Our kickoff meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 PM.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in joining the committee, please contact David Ames at 920-901-0474.

Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

IT'S TIME FOR THE PIZZA MAN

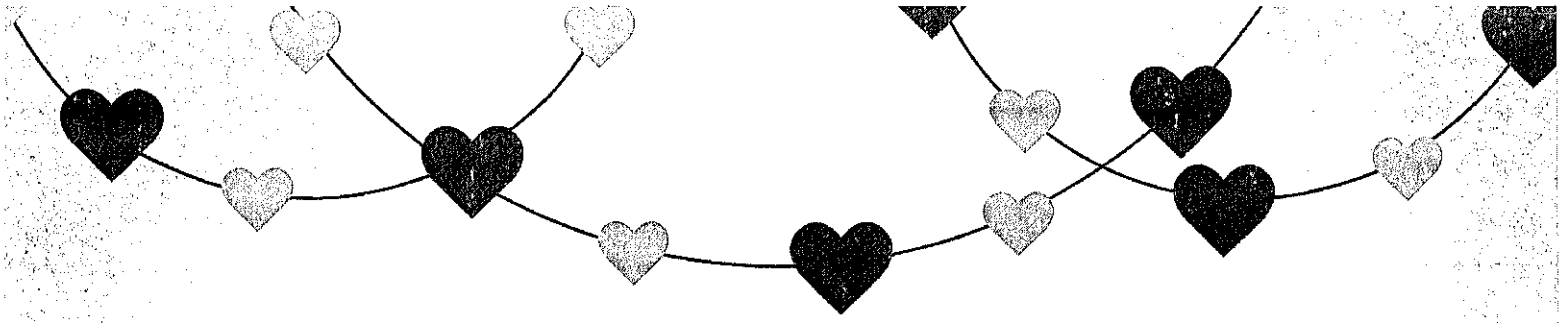
Food, Fellowship & Fun

FEBRUARY 28 , 2026 - 6:30PM

$20/person

Sign Up & Pay in the Church Office

Deadline is February 22



Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

PRESENTS

The Sweetheart Dance

A celebration for girls and their special adult.

Friday, Feb. 13th

6:30 - 8PM

BETHLEHEM GYM

Join us for a Valentine's evening filled with snacks, dancing, and memories to last!

REGISTER HERE

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT
NOW OPEN 2026-2027
3K - 8TH GRADE

FREE

3K & 4K *PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS*
- Full-Days, 5 Days a Week, No Cost
- New & Returning Families Welcome
- Before & After School Care Available

AFFORDABLE
- Tuition-FREE through the Wisconsin Private Choice Program *(Opens Feb. 2)*
- Financial Aid & Endowment Support
- FREE & Reduced Lunch Program

OPEN TO ALL
- National Lutheran School Accreditation
- Sports & Extracurricular Clubs
- Low Student-To-Teacher Ratio

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for over 135 years

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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.

VISIT US ONLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is 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. See the calendar of important items. Find helpful information by clicking on the various tabs under *Church* and *School.*

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 on **Thursday, February 19, 2026**. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note that it is for the Visitor.

JOIN OUR EMAIL & COMMUNICATION LIST!

Stay informed with weather-related cancellations, receive The Visitor newsletter by email, and obtain special event announcements. Simply scan the QR code. We kindly ask that each adult in your household completes their own sign-up. We look forward to keeping you informed on all the happenings at Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

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 the 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.

Congregational Sponsors

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