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
Sunday School ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Nov 2026

MEMBERSHIP

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Sheboygan Lutheran High School Association

Sheboygan Area Lutheran Schools Association

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am (All Saints) Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am Youth Group 4:00-5:30pm	2 Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm PTL meeting 6:00pm BCDS meeting 7:00pm	3 LWIM meeting 6:30pm	4 Read. Part.1:00pm Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00p Assimilation 6:00pm Parish Planning Council 7:00pm	5 Parent-Teacher Conferences Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	6 **NO SCHOOL** Parent-Teacher Conferences	7 Bethlehem's Craft & Vendor Fair 9:00am-2:00pm Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
8 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	9 Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm	10 Quilters 9:00am Endowment meeting 6:00pm	11 Reading Partners 1:00pm Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm	12 Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	13 LHS Fall Drama 7:00pm	14 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm LHS Fall Drama 7:00pm
15 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Bible Study Task Force 11:30am	16 Rick Zeuner Bible class 6:00pm Parish Fellowship meeting 6:00pm	17	18 Reading Partners 1:00pm Public School Confirmation 3:30pm Worship w/HC 6:00pm **Voters meeting 7:00pm**	19 December Visitor deadline (noon) Parish Education meeting 6:00pm Adult Choir practice 7:00pm	20	21 Altar Guild meeting 9:30am Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
22 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	23	24 Quilters 9:00am	25 **NO SCHOOL** (both offices closed) Thanksgiving Eve Worship 6:00pm	26 **NO SCHOOL** (both offices closed) Thanksgiving Day Worship 10:00am	27 **NO SCHOOL** (both offices closed)	28 Bible class 4:15pm Worship w/HC 5:30pm
29 Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am Bible class 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am	30					

<>< *Tischreden* with Pastor Hanson ><>

Welcome to Table Talk with Pastor Hanson! Pull up a chair and let's talk about what it means to live as disciples of Christ as we prayerfully wait for His return.

Ready for the Bridegroom: Living Faithfully as We Await Christ's Return

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November brings us to the close of another Church Year as we prepare to enter Advent. During these final Sundays, our Gospel readings from Matthew 25 direct our attention to Christ's promised return and remind us of what it means to live as His disciples while we wait for that day.

Through the parables of *the ten virgins*, *the talents*, and *the sheep and the goats*, Jesus calls us to be watchful, faithful, and ready for His coming. But what does it mean to be ready?

Living in Readiness

In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus teaches us to remain watchful because we do not know the day or hour of His return. This is not a call to live in fear or constantly search for signs of the end. Rather, it is an invitation to remain steadfast in the faith, trusting the promises of our Lord.

We do this by continuing in His Word, gathering for worship, receiving His gifts in the Sacraments, and encouraging one another as fellow members of Christ's Church. These are not ways to earn our salvation. We do them because we are sinners who need the forgiveness, comfort, and strength that Christ freely gives.

Faithfulness in Our Daily Callings

In the parable of the talents, Jesus reminds us that our Lord has entrusted each of us with gifts, abilities, and opportunities to serve. We may not all have the same responsibilities, but we all have neighbors whom God has placed in our lives.

Parents teach their children the faith. Grandparents encourage their families. Members of the congregation support the Church's ministry, care for those who are struggling, and share the love of Christ with others.

These good works do not earn our place in heaven. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for us. Yet faith does bear fruit in love for our neighbor. Our daily callings become opportunities to reflect the mercy we have first received from Christ.

Serving Christ by Serving Our Neighbor

In the final judgment scene of Matthew 25, Jesus speaks of feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, caring for the sick, and visiting those in need. He tells us that when we serve our neighbor, we are serving Him.

Often, this service happens in ordinary ways: visiting someone who is homebound, bringing a meal to a family, comforting someone who is grieving, or taking time to listen to a person who feels forgotten. These acts may seem small, but they are opportunities to love the people God has placed before us.

Looking Ahead to Advent

As we close the Church Year and prepare for Advent, we look back with thanksgiving to Christ's coming in Bethlehem and forward with hope to His return in glory. Until that day, we live as His disciples, receiving His gifts and serving our neighbors.

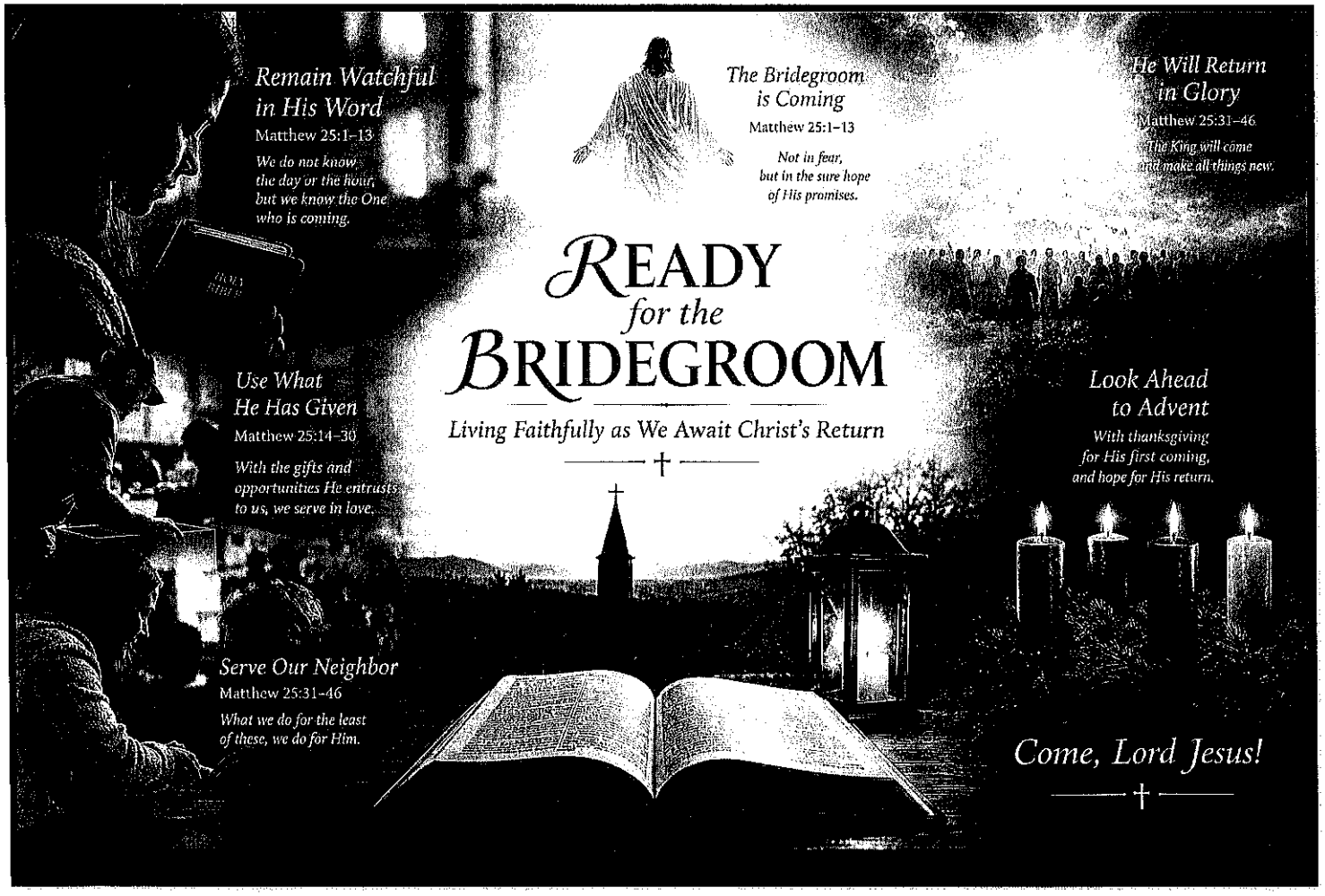
We do not know when our Lord will return, but we know the One who is coming. He is the Savior who bore our sins on the cross, conquered death through His resurrection, and promises eternal life to all who trust in Him.

So let us remain steadfast in His Word, encourage one another in the faith, and faithfully serve wherever He has called us. We wait not in fear, but in the sure hope of Christ's promises.

Come, Lord Jesus!

In Christ our coming King,

<>< Pastor Hanson



NOVEMBER NEWS

LEADING WITH MISSIONS - The Bethlehem Lutheran Women in Mission have chosen the Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch in North Dakota as the November Mission of the Month. This mission is a registered service organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
The Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch is a place of healing for children and adolescents facing emotional, behavioral, and trauma-related challenges, within the ranch's residential treatment programs. They also welcome day students with psychiatric, behavioral, and trauma issues to the Dakota Memorial School. This school has 3 locations in North Dakota.
Their mission is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.
Please pray for and consider supporting this vital mission.

LWIM OR LWML - IS THERE A DIFFERENCE? - Just in case you were wondering, LWIM (Lutheran Women in Mission) is just a newer name for LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Some time ago, we were encouraged to adopt the new name since it better described our mission in today's culture. The national society still does business as LWML, which could cause confusion. Our main goal remains the same - supporting mission endeavors. A main mission is mite box offerings, which support missions voted on at conventions. Another is our mission-of-the-month collections, where we invite the congregation to join us in supporting closer-to-home missions. Under either name, we **Serve the Lord with Gladness**!

AN INVITATION TO WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - How about becoming a part of Bethlehem's Lutheran Women in Mission (LWIM)? Be an active supporter of missions. Join a group where "Everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came"! Our next gathering is Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30pm in the Century Room. We sing, we pray, we have an inspirational topic, and we conduct a little business. November's topic will be about those who stepped or ran away from the church. How about dropping in to see what we're all about?

DO YOU LIKE TO GET FULL VALUE FROM THINGS? - What about your church life? If you attend worship services regularly, you're already hearing the Word preached, singing God's praises, engaging in group prayer, and receiving the Lord's Supper. That's a lot of value for your soul. But what about personally knowing what God wants to tell you? We call that Bible study, and we have some terrific classes going on right now to help each of you do just that. Take your pick! Saturdays and Sundays are with our pastors and Monday evenings (6:00pm) are with popular LHS teacher, Rick Zeuner (through November 16). Check the weekly bulletin for details. Take advantage of all the value-added opportunities that Bethlehem has to offer.

A MESSAGE FROM STUDENT COUNCIL – Bethlehem's Student Council will once again be running a November Ingathering, collecting items for families in need, in preparation for Thanksgiving. Watch for upcoming posters and please consider donating!

- Week 1 (Nov. 2-6) = toilet paper, tissues, and laundry soap
- Week 2 (Nov. 9-13) = peanut butter, mac n cheese, cereal
- Week 3 (Nov. 16-20) = cans of soup, cans of fruit/vegetables, spaghettios

A MESSAGE FROM OUR REDEEMER – On November 5 Our Redeemer (3027 Wilgus Ave.) will welcome Rev. Dr. Christian Tiews. He serves as a missionary pastor in Germany, reaching out to Farsi-speaking immigrants from the Middle East. He also serves as a theological instructor, mentoring future pastors, at the Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia. Come and enjoy a soup & salad dinner at 5:00pm, followed by his presentation at 6:30pm.

THE CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR IS NOVEMBER 7 - Bethlehem's 2026 Craft Fair is almost here! Shop the crafters and vendors from 9:00am-2:00pm. Plan to grab lunch and don't forget to visit the bake sale and raffles. See you there!

LHS FALL DRAMA – The LHS Drama Department presents their Fall Drama, 'The Orphan Train', Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 13 & 14 @ 7:00pm. The performers are our high school One-Act competitors along with several SALSA students in the full version of the play, which runs about 1 hour. The play tells the story of nine orphans on an "orphan train" that left New York City on May 28, 1914. The train travels to Midwestern towns in search of homes for the orphaned and unwanted children. The character's stories unfold, each a memorable surprise. Tickets on sale now at lutheranhigh.com/events or can be purchased at the door. Adults & Students $8. Children 7 & under $5.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING – Attention Altar Guild ladies: your presence would be appreciated at the next meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 21 at 9:30am.

CHURCH PICNIC: SURVEY RESULTS – Thank you to everyone who participated in our church picnic survey! Your feedback is appreciated and will help us as we plan future church gatherings. Take a look at the survey results in this edition of the Visitor.

SMILING FACES NEEDED! – Our greeter program is looking for a few more volunteers to welcome those entering the church either on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Please contact Jeff at 920-452-2757 or the church office, to add your smiling face to the schedule!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! – Would you be interested in participating in Bethlehem's Reading Partners program? They are looking for more volunteers to read to and with the children. This takes place every Wednesday from approximately 1:00-3:00pm. Please contact Judy Heinecke at 920-207-8886 if you are able to help.

SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN IS HIRING - We are seeking 1-2 part-time custodians to handle basic cleaning of classrooms and restrooms. 20 hours per week, 3:30-10:00pm. $16-18 per hour, depending on experience. To apply, complete the application found at lutheranhigh.com/about/careers (be sure to select the 'Other' tab), and drop off in the school office or email to info@lutheranhigh.com.

A LITTLE NOTE ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER - As postage and printing costs rise, we're offering Bethlehem's newsletters **right in your inbox!** Already signed up? Thank you! If you haven't yet, we invite you to sign up and help us reduce printing and postage costs. amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your email address and cell phone number. Thank you for helping us stay connected in new ways!

Bids for Bethlehem 2026 – A Night to Remember!

What an incredible evening! Our 2026 **Bids for Bethlehem Dinner Auction**, held on Saturday, October 24, was a tremendous success, and we are so grateful for the overwhelming support from our congregation, school families, and community!

This year, we welcomed a **record-breaking 200 guests** and raised an amazing **$108,000** to support Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School! What a blessing!

The evening was filled with fellowship, laughter, friendly bidding, delicious food, and plenty of excitement. From our silent and live auctions to the Dessert Dash, Money Tree, Plinko, and other games, it was wonderful to see everyone come together in support of Bethlehem.

An event of this size would not be possible without the generosity and dedication of so many people. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, planning committee, school staff, and everyone who attended or contributed in any way. Whether you donated an item, sponsored the event, purchased a ticket, volunteered your time, or placed a bid, **you helped make this evening a success!**

A special thank you to our auctioneer, Pastor Patrick Niles, and our emcee, David Ames, for keeping the evening entertaining and engaging!

As we reflect on this incredible evening, we are reminded of what can be accomplished when our Bethlehem family comes together with a shared purpose. Your generosity will make a meaningful difference for our students and school.

Thank you for making Bids for Bethlehem 2026 a night to remember!

With sincere gratitude,

Kristine Faucher & Melinda Oetzel
Bids for Bethlehem Co-Chairs

Bethlehem Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

WINTER

VENDOR & CRAFT

Fair

Sat. November 7

9am to 2pm

Bethlehem Lutheran
1121 Georgia Ave. Sheboygan WI

Over 50 Vendors & Crafters

RAFFLES - BAKE SALE
CONCESSIONS

FREE raffle ticket with each
$2 entrance fee

Shop local. Support small business.
Find something for everyone.

2026 Church Picnic Survey

1. Did you attend the Church Picnic at Lutheran High on August 16th?

Yes	51
No	9

Comments: LHS is a great site. Love the new location. VBS did a great job singing/great idea!

2. If you DID NOT attend, why?

Age/mobility issues on uneven (grass) surface	2
Work Schedule	1
On vacation	2
I was going to attend, but the weather was too hot	1
Location of event	3
Comments	prior commitment, out of town, not my thing, not in August-too busy of a time

3. If you did attend, please rate the following activities from the picnic from 5 to 1 (5=great-1=needs improvement)

	5	4	3	2	1	Did not take part	**Avg score**
Food/Menu	**36**	**12**	**1**			**2**	**4.7**
Bingo	**15**	**3**	**5**			**21**	**4.4**
Beer tasting	**3**	**1**	**1**			**39**	**4.4**
Kids activities (bounce house, face painting, kids crafts)	**15**	**6**				**24**	**4.7**
Giant Jenga	**5**	**4**	**1**	**1**		**35**	**4.2**
Cornhole (bean bags)	**9**	**5**				**30**	**4.6**
Closest to the pin	**6**	**4**		**1**		**35**	**4.4**
Disc golf	**4**	**2**	**1**		**1**	**34**	**4.0**
Volunteering/Assisting with the event	**16**	**5**	**1**			**28**	**4.7**

4. How can we improve next year's picnic? *Please note: the committee has identified the need for a 2nd registration table. (# of responses in parenthesis)

More shade/larger tent (15), More activities for teens (6), Spread out activities [allow participants & vol. time to eat] (3), Dunk tank(2), Separate food line for take out orders(1), List both types of egg rolls on order form(1),Wider variety of bingo prizes for all ages (1), Offer karaoke(1), More kids activites/games(1), More tables to eat at (1), Seating closer to building for those with mobility issues to sit(1), Petting zoo(1), Climbing wall(1),Tug O War(1), Music/Polka (1), More activities that include more people(1), Combine 2nd registration table w/info station [by ticket or beverage sales](1), Keep length of service to 1 hour (1)

5. Would you be willing to serve on the planning committee for the 2027 Picnic?

Yes	**6**
No	**39**
Maybe	1

Blessings Tree

Sponsored by the Board of Social Ministry

The Blessings Tree is coming soon!

Please help us provide Christmas Blessings for our Bethlehem families and neighborhood friends.

Beginning November 21, choose a tag from the tree and replace it with an ornament from the basket beside the tree. You may also purchase any item from the list below. All gifts are greatly appreciated and will be distributed to Bethlehem families and to local nursing homes, shelters, and schools.

Please return your unwrapped gifts with their tag under the tree or in the Social Ministry basket located in the Century Room any time between now and NO LATER THAN NOON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026

GIFTS FOR NURSING HOMES

- Lap blankets for wheelchair patients
- Wisconsin team t-shirts and sweatshirts (Badgers, Brewers, Bucks, Packers – sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- Easy LARGE PRINT ADULT coloring books and LARGE crayons
- LARGE PRINT word search puzzles, (please no crossword puzzles)

GIFTS FOR SCHOOLS AND SHELTERS

- Kids socks and underwear (grade 3K – 5)
- Kids sweatpants (grade 3K – 5)
- Kids hats, scarves, and mittens (grade 3K to 5)
- Bath towels & sash clothes, kitchen towels & wash clothes
- Adult sweatpants (XL, 2XL, 3XL)

GIFT CARDS TO HELP US HELP OTHERS

- Gas, grocery stores, Walmart gift cards. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. (Please write the amount and the month purchased on the back of the card. Gift cards may be purchased through the Bethlehem Script program.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated!

Please make checks payable to Bethlehem Social Ministry.

THANK YOU for helping make Christmas brighter for others!

LCMS
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
HISPANIC OUTREACH

October 21, 2026

Beyond Walls and Bars: Christ's Love Reaches the Forgotten

The LCMS Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach brings the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to inmates at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution.

The fences were high. The doors were locked. The surroundings were unfamiliar. And, if I am honest, I was nervous.

For the first time, I entered Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution to begin leading Spanish Bible classes through the Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach. I felt some fear and uncertainty as I stepped into a place I had never experienced before. Yet, amid those unfamiliar surroundings, one truth remained certain: Jesus Christ was already there, and His Word would be at the center of our gathering.

Our Lord Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17, ESV). These words remind us that the Gospel is for sinners—every one of us—and that Christ's saving love reaches people wherever they are.

That day, six inmates attended the first Spanish Bible class. What began with my own nervousness became a beautiful opportunity to share the comfort, hope, and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. Through the reading and study of God's Word, we gathered not simply to learn about the Christian faith, but to hear what God has done for us through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son.

The walls and bars of a correctional institution may restrict a person's physical freedom, but they cannot imprison the Gospel. The Word of God is not bound (2 Timothy 2:9). Christ comes to sinners through His Word, offering the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life to all who trust in Him.

One of the most encouraging moments of that first class was when one inmate expressed a desire to be baptized. What a powerful reminder that the Holy Spirit works through the means of grace, calling people to faith through the Gospel and bringing them to the waters of Holy Baptism, where God attaches His promises to water and His Word. This desire opens the door to further pastoral care, instruction, and conversation about the blessings of Baptism and life in Christ.

For me, this experience was a reminder that the Church's mission does not end at the church doors. As the people of God, we are called to carry the message of Christ into our communities and to serve our neighbors with the gifts God has entrusted to us. Through the Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach, we have the opportunity to bring Spanish-speaking people the treasures of God's Word and the comfort of the Gospel, including those who are living behind prison walls.

This ministry is not about offering a message of self-improvement or promising an easier life. It is about proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified and risen for sinners. It is about reminding people that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, that God's mercy is greater than their past, and that their identity before God rests not in their failures or accomplishments, but in the saving work of Jesus.

As I continue this ministry, I look forward to providing spiritual care, teaching the Christian faith, and walking alongside those who desire to learn more about Christ. There is much to learn, and each visit is an opportunity to serve faithfully, trusting that God will accomplish His purposes through His Word.

I entered the correctional institution feeling nervous and unsure of what to expect. I left encouraged by the opportunity to serve and by the reminder that the Lord opens doors for His Gospel in places we might never have imagined.

The mission field is not limited by walls, locked doors, or bars. Christ's love reaches into places of confinement, and His Gospel brings the same promise to every sinner: forgiveness, life, and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please keep this ministry, the inmates who attend these classes, and all who serve in your prayers. May the Lord bless the proclamation of His Word, strengthen faith, and continue to bring the hope of Christ to those who need to hear that they are not beyond the reach of His mercy.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18 (ESV)

In Christ, His humble servant and yours,

Rev. David Blas

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

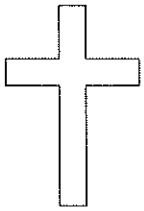
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

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.*

DECEMBER VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the December Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on **Thursday, November 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.



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.

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