

Bethlehem News



November



Dear Friends in Christ,

It seems we can't get away from the news of worry. First it was the endemic then the toilet paper and now the turkeys. Every time I turn on the television I hear it -"Thanksgiving is going to cost more this year." We hear it over and over and over. So Ginny and I thought maybe we just won't have turkey this year maybe ham.

I know it seems silly but do you ever stop and think how much we are bombarded with worry. What I mean is it seems everything in our society gets turned into an emergency, a major problem. And what problems tend to do is to swell up and worry us. Will we have enough money for rent or the mortgage, food, clothes and the list goes on and on.

We live in a wonderful place called the United States of America. The land of opportunity for which we should all be thankful. Our standard of living far exceeds other countries and we have enjoyed prosperity for hundreds of years.

Thank God for that. The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness and God provided for them. Even when they complained about not having meat, God provided an over abundance for them.

Matthew 6:25-34

Do Not Be Anxious

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

We can thank God this Thanksgiving for giving us the wonderful gift of His Word. His Word reminds us of our sin and His forgiveness on account of the merits of His Son Jesus.

So when you sit down and watch the news remember you are forgiven on account of Christ. On account of what He has done for you on the cross. Yes maybe turkeys might cost a little more and maybe the cranberry sauce in the can has gone up, but God has blessed us and provides continually for us.

Make a list in your head or on paper of what you have to be thankful for this year. Take that piece of paper and on the back list your sins. Thank God for your blessings and all He has done in forgiving your sins and remembering no more. Ok, now destroy the paper.

I pray that God will continue to bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you and look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Blessings,

Pastor Karl Glander

News and Updates

AMAZON SMILE

You can earn money for Bethlehem Lutheran anytime you order from Amazon. Instead of logging into amazon.com, go to amazonsmile.com, register for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Myers and 0.5% of each purchase will be donated to our church. There is no cost to you, and free money for the church. Use amazonsmile to log in with each purchase you make. Questions, see Ralph Willis or call 239-848-5588.



Bible studies are continuing Sunday after church and on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. Have some coffee, juice, or tea, along with some goodies after church on Sundays and join in some fellowship and in digging into the Bible readings. Confirmation is going well. Please continue to pray for these young students. Jennifer and I talked briefly about the youth group. Please let either of us know if you have suggestions.

As always, yearn to learn!
Sandy Grage



We have returned to our social time after Sunday worship and during Sunday Bible Study. This requires the donation of snacks and willing helpers in our kitchen. We have sign-up sheets on the wall board next to the kitchen entrance. Please sign up for a Sunday when possible. Any questions regarding these items may be brought to members of the Ladies Guild.

Our next LWML meeting will begin on **Monday, November 1 at 1:00 pm**. All ladies are welcome. We will firm up our plans to pack the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

Thanks,
Pam Rugenstein



We are collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Samaritan's Purse collects our boxes and distributes them to children in need throughout the world. Each one, prayerfully and uniquely packed, is just the beginning.

Through The Greatest Journey, which accompanies each box, the children learn about Jesus' love and how to share that love.

Bethlehem provides the boxes with instructions on how to pack them. Suggested items include toys, hygiene items (no liquids), school supplies and clothing. Betty Willis and Joann Erdman each have requested and received Thrivent cards for \$250. We'll use that money to pack even more boxes.

If you have question call **Terri Gerlach 239-243-8733 or Betty Willis 239-240-5972**

BOXES NEED TO BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL BY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14.



Just a reminder that we are collecting nonperishable food for the families of the Buckingham Exceptional School. We will take them to the school the week of December 6. We will put the food in grocery bags on Sunday December 5. We are providing a turkey or ham with each grocery bag of food. Please bring in cans of vegetables, soups,

fruit, or other foods as well as pasta, rice, or other dried foods. There are collection bins in the narthex and the entrance to the fellowship hall. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Paul Rugenstein



Please help us provide poinsettias for the alter area again this year. The price is \$8 for each. We again hope to fill the front of the church with these beautiful plants. We are planning to pick up the plants from the grower on December 3, so have your order in by the last Sunday in November. The plants that you buy may be taken home after the December 26 church service.

Paul Rugenstein

NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 AM Grief Support Meeting 1 PM LWML Meeting	2	3 10:30 Bible Study	4	5	6
7 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Confirmation	8	9	10 10:30 Bible Study	11 	12	13
14 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Confirmation	15	16	17 10:30 Bible Study	18	19	20
21 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Confirmation	22	23	24 6 PM Potluck Dinner 7 PM Worship	25 	26	27
28 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Confirmation	29	30				

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
2	Gary Lohr
3	Doug Grage
7	Jake Stecklein
11	John Wittenberg
24	Dennis Snyder
25	Hop Kulbacki
27	Sandy Grage
28	Robert Vanderpool

May God Bless Each One of You As We Celebrate Your Special Day!



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Prayer Chain Needs

Do you know that Bethlehem has a prayer chain that prays for the sick, dying and hurting needs of our church family?

Call or email Linda at (239) 693-5026 or jlkirsch3@comcast.net

Your needs will be taken to the Lord!

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM Worship Service

Rev. Karl Glander

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

239-293-1489

Organist: **Holly Bell**

Church Secretary: **Linda Kirsch**



We have started an "Air Conditioning Fund" to raise the needed money to replace our aging units in the Sanctuary. Please label your donations as "A/C Fund". *We thank the Mueller family for applying Ron's memorial fund to this effort.*

Goal: \$25,000 Raised: \$ 14,045



Thank you to all those who have sent in their offerings. In addition to mail, you can give online on the church website (bethlehemplutheranfortmyers.org) or through your bank's bill pay system. **We need your continued support.**
Richard Gerlach, Council President

Memorials totaling \$1790 have been given for:

GARY BELL

LESTER BRADTMILLER

JIM KEIPER

JOYCE KIMBRELL

JAN LARSON

RON MUELLER

Note: Gary Bell's and Lester Bradtmiller's funds were used to have the church floors professionally cleaned.

