

Bethlehem News



Dear Friends in Christ,

October brings much meaning for us. The weather is starting to cool down, our friends from the north will be returning, Halloween is just around the corner, but most of all we remember Martin Luther and God working through him to reform the church and our lives in Christ. Let's take a look into the life of Luther.

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany.

His name was just a breath on the lips of loved ones for his first decades of life. Following the Church tradition, Martin was baptized a Catholic the day after his birth, on November 11, the feast day of St. Martin of Tours. But that was about to change.

He lived from 1483 to 1546, in the full scope of history merely a speck in time ...

... but few have changed the world - reformed the world - like Martin Luther did in his 62 years.

While Martin was still an infant, the family moved to Mansfield. Determined to give Martin the best education, his parents sent him to schools in Mansfield, Magdeburg, and finally Eisenach to prepare Martin for university and a career as a lawyer. In 1501, he continued pursuit of his career at the University of Erfurt, from which he received his Master of Arts in philosophy in 1505.

JULY 2, 1505

Returning to Erfurt after visiting his family, Luther was caught in a severe storm, with violent thunder and lightning. In the midst of the storm, after having been knocked to the ground by a particularly violent strike of lightning, Martin prayed to St. Anne and vowed: "Help me! And I will become a monk!"

And on July 17, Luther entered the Black Monastery in Erfurt, much to the disappointment of his father. After entering the monastery, Luther pursued his religious life with vigor, studying Scripture and struggling with God as his faith developed. Twelve years later came the fateful day when he nailed the Ninety-Five Theses to the Castle Church Door in Wittenburg on October 31, 1517.

1522: Luther translates the New Testament into German.

1524: Achtliederbuch (A Book of Eight Hymns), the first Lutheran hymnal

1527: Luther writes "A Mighty Fortress"^[1]_[SEP]

1529: Luther publishes the Large Catechism, and the Small Catechism.

1534: The First complete edition of Luther's Bible commentaries is published.

1538: Luther's Smalcald Articles are published.

1539: The first volume of Luther's collected works is compiled

TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE...Luther said that one need only to place trust in Jesus Christ alone and His good work on the cross.

Comfort is located squarely in Jesus Christ, nowhere else.

It's that simple.

[Ephesians 2:8-9](#)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

These inspired words of God finally can be fully grasped as God intended.

Blessings,

Pastor Karl Glander

News and Updates



There will be a Voters Assembly meeting on October 31 after the service. Please plan to attend as we will be presenting the 2022 budget for approval.



Confirmation will begin and in full swing starting October 17th. The students and I will be working extra hard this fall, winter, and part of spring to be ready to be confirmed on Palm Sunday. Please keep all of us and their families in your prayers.

As we all get back into post summer routines, consider a Bible study either on Sunday after church or on Wednesday mornings at 10:30.

Hope to get the youth group back together soon.

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 LWML monthly meetings will begin on **Monday, October 4th at 1:00 pm**. All ladies are welcome. We're excited to begin our activities for the coming months.

We are all so blessed with time and talents given to us by our Lord and Savior. Also, we are blessed with a Church and Church Family to enjoy and share our friendship with. We should share these gifts whenever possible.

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**



The trustees have had all the floors in the church professionally cleaned. We thank Janice Bradtmiller and Holly Bell for allowing us to use Lester's and Gary's Memorial funds to cover much of the cost .

Jeff Kirsch



We have decided this year instead of doing two food basket donations, we will just do one. We are again giving the food baskets to Buckingham Exceptional School which is just down the road from us. The principal said that she had about 60 families that could use our help this year. She asked if we could give both turkeys and hams so that we would give 30 of each. We

would like to make this a huge project with 60 sacks of nonperishable food to go along with the turkeys and hams. We will be taking the food to the school the week of December 6. That gives us about 2 months to gather the nonperishable food. When you are at the store and they have a bogo, buy one for yourself and bring the free one in as a donation. If you find something on sale, buy several extras to bring in. Remember, we are trying to fill 60 bags with food. If you buy 60 cans of corn, that will just put one can in each bag. We are going to use Thrivent money to help pay for the meats, but we could also use additional donations to help with that cost. Bins will be put in the narthex and the fellowship entry for your donations. Let's support this project and see if we can make this a great blessing to many families. Thanks for your help.

Paul Rugenstein

OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study;	4 IPM LWML	5	6 10:30 Bible Study	7	8	9
10 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study;	11	12	13 10:30 Bible Study	14	15	16
17 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Confirmation	18	19	20 10:30 Bible Study	21	22	23
24 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Confirmation	25	26	27 10:30 Bible Study	28	29	30
31 10:30 Worship 11:30 Voters Meeting						

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES	
3	Carol & Kurt Laser
30	Marty & Bob Jurs

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS	
5	Carl Nicholson
6	Kay Mc Comb
8	Jack Young
11	Jase Albert
13	Gary Dreischerf
14	Pam Rugenstein
18	Annette Brocious
24	Darrell Erdman
28	Marty Jurs

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



Congratulations to Matthew Glander who attained the rank of Eagle Scout at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on October 2nd.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 14531 Old Olga Road
 Fort Myers, FL 33905
 Phone: 239-694-3878

Website:
www.bethlehemplutheranfortmyers.org
 Email: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM Worship Service

Rev. Karl Glander

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

239-293-1489

Organist: Holly Bell

Church Secretary: Linda Kirsch

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!



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: \$ 13,045



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

Memorial

Memorials totaling \$1710 have been given for:

- GARY BELL
- LESTER BRADTMILLER
- JIM KEIPER
- JOYCE KIMBRELL
- JAN LARSON
- RON MUELLER

The Gospel Pumpkin

Read this poem to your children & follow the instructions as you carve.

I am a Jack O'Lantern
 My light will shine so bright,
 For I am a Christian pumpkin
 My symbols tell what's right.

My nose is like the cross
 On which our Savior died
 To set us free from sin
 We need no longer hide.

My mouth is like a fish
 The whole wide world to show
 That Christians live in this house
 And love their Savior so!

"Let your light shine so people everywhere may see your good actions and praise God in heaven because of it."
 Matthew 5:16



The story starts at Christmas
 My eyes are like the star
 That shone on Baby Jesus
 And wise men saw from far.

My color, it is orange
 Just like the big bright sun
 That rose on Easter Day
 Along with God's own Son.

And so on Halloween
 Let's set our pumpkins out
 And tell the trick-or-treaters
 What God's love is all about!