

Bethlehem News



Dear Friends in Jesus,

It's hard to believe another summer is almost coming to a close. Summer has always been a time when families would spend time together. You, like me, may have fond memories of family vacations with all the adventures.

In today's digital world, with the internet, cell phones, and being connected 24/7, it's good to unplug and spend quality time together without the distraction of those electronic devices. As you know, Ginny, Matt, and I spent nearly a week in the inner canyon of the Grand Canyon. There was no cell signal or wi-fi anywhere to be found and thus no electronic distractions.

Luke 6:12 "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray and spent the night praying to God."

Even Jesus got away, going up to the mountainside to pray. But why did Jesus go away to pray? Why would He spend the night praying to God? But then I would ask you why do you at times find the need to get away? Sometimes we need to refresh and recharge from the stress of the world.

Jesus being fully man must have felt the weight when the Pharisees plotted against him. They were always looking for a way to accuse Jesus especially why was he healing on the sabbath. Jesus, being fully man and fully God sent to take all our sin, went away to pray.

Who are we but solely fully man? With all our faults, issues, lack of patience, unloving and self-serving, we would be lost without our King, Jesus. We need to spend time with our Lord so we don't get absorbed by the world. Then when we focus more on Jesus, our joy can shine through. God's love can shine through us. We can begin to be Christ-like in our actions because of what he has done for us.

The grace of God, which we see fully in Christ, and his forgiveness for us is too awesome to grasp. That the sinners as we are, are loved by God, that He would offer His Son up as the ultimate sacrifice.

Spend time with God, thanking Him for what he has done in Christ Jesus. Ask Him to enable you to love as Christ loves. Lord I believe, help me with my unbelief.

Let our Lord recharge you with His spirit. Let the Joy of your salvation would be seen by others.

Amen

News and Updates



The Board of Elders along with Pastor Glander has decided to continue with our present method of communion. We feel like it is in the best interest of the members to receive communion in the pews, and that we should still be cautious in this matter.



In the heat of the summer, when we have to be inside out of the heat, consider reading a chapter in the Bible. Or if you are outside with a little free time, look around and see the wonder of God's handiwork. I don't know about you, but I am amazed at what he created.

Hoping to get the youth group started again late summer or early fall. Vi has offered to oversee the used books and cards. I am very grateful for her wanting to take on this job. All the proceeds go for the youth group. Take a look and see if any books or cards interest you.

As always, yearn to learn,

Sandy Grage



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



Thanks to our loving Lord, Bethlehem is gradually able to return to our church social activities. Beginning August 1st, we will have

Coffee and snacks set up in the fellowship hall for the enjoyment of all following our Sunday worship service and during the Bible Study. There are sign up sheets on the board for those who would like to donate snacks or volunteer for kitchen help on any selected Sundays. Please see Pam Rugenstein with any questions you may have regarding your help to get this started.

Pam Rugenstein



Choice Dollars- It is once again time to allocate your choice dollars to Bethlehem Lutheran. This can be done quarterly and now is the time.

Amazon- remember to order any items using Amazonsmile.com as a sign in, not amazon.com for Bethlehem Lutheran to receive smile dollars. Any income will help our church.

Samaritan's Purse- We will be collecting items to fill about 50 shoeboxes at the end of October. Please begin purchasing items for children to help fill these boxes. **Betty Willis**



We would like to encourage members to attend one of our weekly Bible classes. Our Wednesday morning class meets in the fellowship hall at 10:30 a.m. and ends at noon. We are presently studying the Israelite kings of the Old Testament. We have completed the life of Saul and most of David's life. We will continue with the life of Solomon and then the division of the northern and southern kingdoms with their individual kings. It is a fascinating study with a lot of questions that allow the class members to discuss many aspects of Christian living.

We also have a Bible class after church on Sunday mornings that starts around 11:30 and lasts until 12:30. We have discussed various topics and have a lot of discussion. Starting in August we will also have refreshments. So join us in our food, fellowship, and learning on Sunday morning. As Christians, we can never learn enough about God's Word. Please join us on Wednesday or Sunday morning or better yet both mornings. You will be most welcome.

Paul Rugenstein

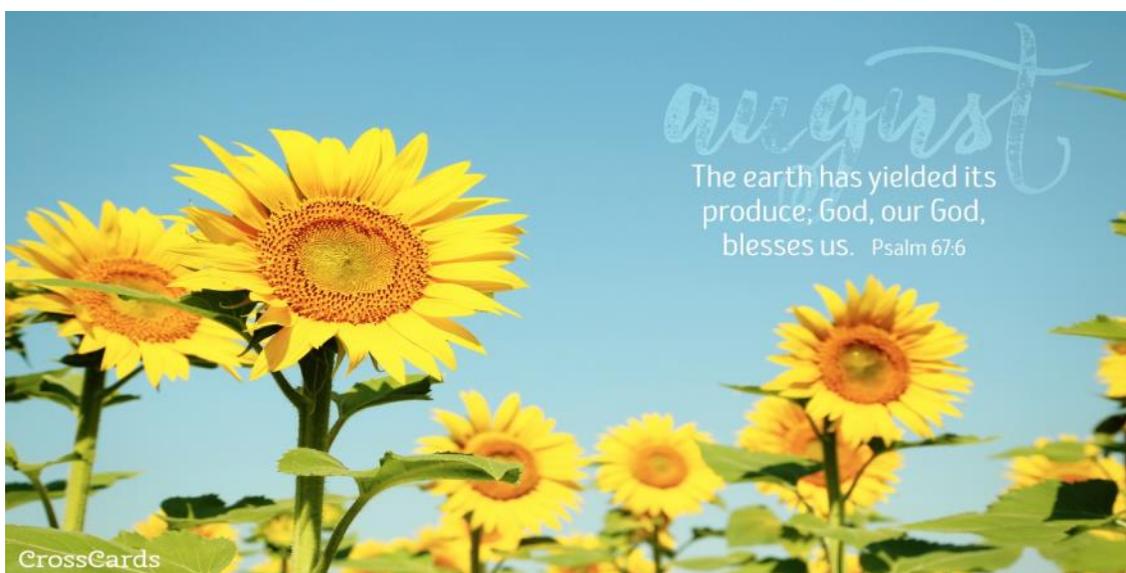
AUGUST 2021

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

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES	
5	Gwen and Carl Nicholson
8	Carol and Sam Harrison
21	Ginny and Pastor Karl Glander
21	Judy and John Wittenberg

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	
2	Frederick Dreischerf
6	Judy Hinrichs
10	Carrie Stecklein
11	Debbie Wiersum
12	Debbie Jackow
21	Chester Rust
22	Carolyn Fernberg
24	Linda Rust,; Betty Willis; Richard Gerlach
27	Kurt Laser; Bud Martin
29	Elsie Stowell

**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**

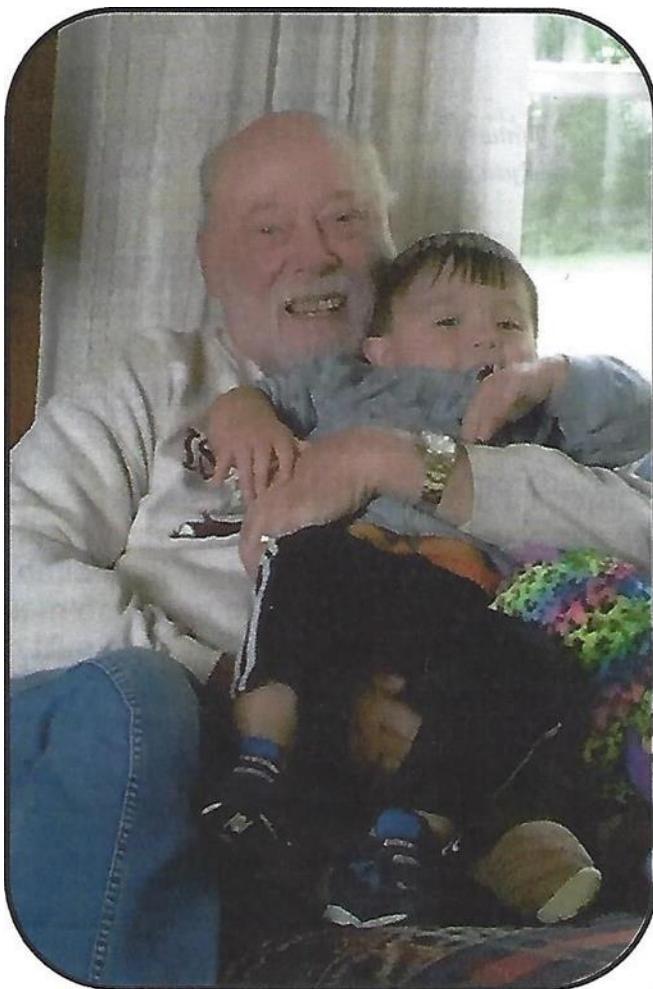
Church Secretary: **Linda Kirsch**



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".

Goal: \$25,000 Raised: \$ 11,850

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**



CELEBRATION FOR THE LIFE OF

Jan Theodore Larson

January 5, 1943 – June 17, 2021

July 11, 2021

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

