Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter into the summer season, I have a question for you. Are you ready for road construction to begin? As a child, I remember the excitement of family vacations. We'd get on the road, and we'd all be happy to be on the way, then.…the orange cones and the delays. We received a picture from Ginny's childhood friend of the construction on the Mackinac bridge. On Thursday, after leaving my brothers house, we need to travel over that bridge to get to our next destination. With a length of 5 miles and a span of over 3,800 feet we will travel at the whopping speed of 20 miles per hour. I don't know if you have ever been on that bridge or know anything about it, but it's a suspension bridge. Suspension bridges are made to move in the winds. They either move or they break. I would much rather have it move than break because the roadway is 200 feet above the water.

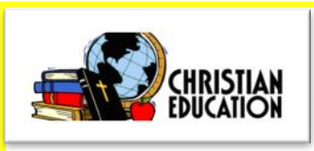
Ok, with that said don't worry. Ginny and I since childhood have traveled over that bridge well over 150 times during our lifetimes, and we are still here to talk about it :). We have had all those delays, detours, bumps in the road, those dreaded "orange cones" in our lives slowing us down and causing us worry. Weather it's been sickness or death or worrying about our children, we all have been there. We, like Paul, have thorns in the flesh; and like Paul God has a reason he doesn't remove them. Hear the Lord about Paul's thorn in the flesh.

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— 6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

(Continued on page 4)

News and Updates

Chip Rinehart has been appointed to the church council as the Evangelism Board representative. We welcome her expertise on and her passion for our Lutheran faith. Holly Bell and Sam Harrison have joined Pastor Glander on the Evangelism Board



Vacation Bible School is now only a couple weeks away. Every one of our staff has worked very hard preparing for this special week.

This year we will have a kickoff picnic on Saturday June 8 from 4-6 PM.

On Friday, June 14th, we will be meeting at 9 a.m. to get everything set up for a week of sharing the good news of Jesus to the youth that come through our doors.

Stop in and help if you have time, and check out the fellowship hall after church on Sunday the 16th. We also invite you to our indoor picnic on Sunday, June 23rd.

Please pray for our staff and for all the children who come.

May we all yearn to learn.

Sandy

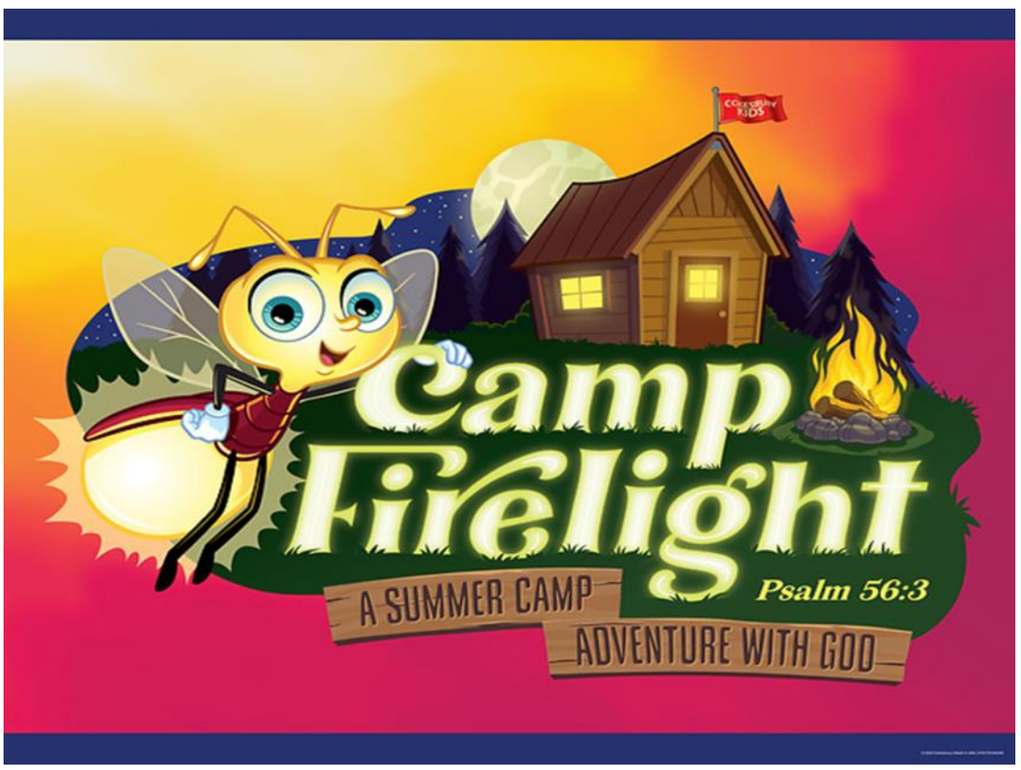
Thanks to Emmy Larson and Betty Willis for their work as the Altar Guild.

We still need people to sign up for Sunday refreshments and kitchen help.

Pam Rugenstein

Thanks to Thrivent members, we have collected four $250. Thrivent cards to use for the VBS and picnics.

Betty Willis



VBS will be June 17-21 from 9AM to 12 PM
If you would like to help please contact Sandy Grage at 712-269-7528.

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	3	4	5 10:30 Bible Study	6	7	8 **VBS** Kickoff Picnic 4-6 PM
9 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	10	11	12 10:30 Bible Study	13	14 **VBS Meeting** 9AM	15
16 **Father's Day** 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	17 **VBS 9-12**	18 **VBS 9-12**	19 **VBS 9-12**	20 **VBS 9-12**	21 **VBS 9-12**	22
23 10:30 Worship 11:30 **VBS Picnic**	24	25	26 10:30 Bible Study	27	28	29
30 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School						

	JUNE ANNIVERSARIES
8	Sue & Dennis Hartman
12	Joann & Darrell Erdman
18	Pat & Rollin Duckwitz

	JUNE BIRTHDAYS
3	Cheryl Nelson
4	Karen Johnson
16	Bob Jurs
17	Terri Gerlach
22	Gwen Nicholson
27	Emmy Larson
29	Matthew Glander

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Phone: 239-694-3878

Website: www.bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.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!

(Pastor's message continued from page 1)

Keep on boasting in the Lord and remember the mighty things He has done for you. I love this line **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** We can thank God for that because we know He takes care of us and will forever. Rejoice in the Lord by coming into His house receiving the gifts He has for you, forgiveness, life and salvation. We know we can go to Him when we are weak and dismayed when we are in the "orange cone" season of our lives. Unlike the construction season in Florida and in many parts of our nation we know there is a reason why He does what He does. We might not always understand it, but we know this. **John 3:16 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

If you read Ecclesiastes 3 there is a time for everything. **"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:"**

God's Blessings,

Pastor Karl

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

What We Believe

(LCMS) accepts the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that launched the Lutheran Reformation of the Christian church in the 16th century. We believe that the Lutheran Confessions are the correct interpretation and presentation of biblical doctrine. The Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther can be summed up in three phrases:

- Grace alone.
- Word alone.
- Faith alone.

Founded in the United States

The LCMS was established in April 1847 by Saxon and other German immigrants seeking the freedom to practice their faith and follow confessional Lutheranism. Charter congregations were located in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and New York

Emphasis for the Church

"Witness, Mercy, Life Together" describes how the church lives and works together to proclaim the Gospel and to care for people in need in our congregations, communities and throughout the world. For more information, visit *lcms.org/emphasis*.

By the Numbers

Current President:
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

Members:
1,968,641 baptized members in North America
55,923 baptized members in Florida

Congregations: 6,047

Clergy: 9,656

Educators: 16,292

Missionaries:
126 full-time missionaries
230 short-term missionaries