Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

Dear Friends in Christ,

Independence Day, aka the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

The Founding Father delegates of the Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject to King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2 and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States. Background

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by the Committee of Five, which asked Thomas Jefferson to author its first draft.

While Jefferson consulted extensively with the other four members of the Committee of Five, he largely wrote the Declaration of Independence in isolation over 17 days between June 11, 1776, and June 28, 1776, from the second floor he was renting in a three-story private home at 700 Market Street in Philadelphia, now known as the Declaration House, and within walking distance of Independence Hall.

Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, removing Jefferson's vigorous denunciation of King George III for importing the slave trade, finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail: The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

Let us do that, celebrate our deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. We also on account of Christ have been freed from sin and the control of the devil, so we can be doubly thankful of all the blessings our Lord and Savior has bestowed upon us.

Take time to thank God for your freedom so many take for granted. Thank Him for how He has blessed you this past year. Ask Him to protect our land from harm and danger. Pray for peace that only Jesus can give. Amen.

Blessings

Pastor Karl

Happy Fourth of July

And enjoy your freedom in Christ Jesus.

News and Updates

We had a successful VBS. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way. I think that involved almost all the congregation. We received many donations of money, snack foods to feed those always hungry kids, thrivent cards for food and supplies, decorations and set up crew, and the many volunteers that showed up every day to bring the good news of Jesus to the kids. We had many staff---from registration to closing every day that kept things running smoothly. We also had a visit from the Library and the Fire department during the week. The kids loved their visits and we are thankful that God has given us these community servants.

We will continue having youth group monthly. Watch the bulletin for dates.

We also will now be back on schedule with Bible studies. Hopefully you can join in as we study God's Word.

Have a wonderful summer as we all continue to yearn to learn.

Sandy

Now is the time to submit your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Bethlehem Lutheran for the second quarter. They have improved their website and is easier to use. Give it a try. Questions ask Betty Willis.

VBS in Pictures

JULY 2024

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

	JULY ANNIVERSARIES
4	Sandy & Doug Grage
15	Judy & Jack Young
25	Ruthann & Don Thorton
26	Betty & Ralph Willis

	JULY BIRTHDAYS
5	William Adams
8	Geoff Glander
9	Lori Jensen
16	Gary Fernberg
23	Lou Schafer
26	Joanne Holt

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!