Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

Grace Peace and Mercy Dear Christians Friends,

The following is from the end of Martin Luther's preface to the Smalcald Articles.

"O Lord Jesus Christ, do Thou Thyself convoke a Council, and deliver Thy servants by Thy glorious advent! The Pope and his adherents are done for; they will have none of Thee. Do Thou, then, help us, who are poor and needy, who sigh to Thee, and beseech Thee earnestly, according to the grace which Thou hast given us, through Thy Holy Ghost, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Father, blessed forever. Amen."

With everything we go through in our labor in this life take joy in what God has done. Take comfort in knowing we can go to our Father in heaven ever though we are poor and needy. Take comfort in knowing that the Holy Ghost working through God's Word continues to gather and enlighten His people, His Children. During this time that we rest from our labor remember as Luther states in The First and Chief Article Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins, and was raised again for our justification, Rom. 4:25 . And He alone is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world, John 1:29; and God has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all, Is. 53:6. And remember we all have sinned and are justified without merit by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood, Rom. 3:23

Now, since it is necessary to believe this, and it cannot be otherwise acquired or apprehended by any work, law, or merit, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us as St. Paul says, Rom. 3:28: For we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law. Likewise, 3:26: That He might be just, and the Justifier of him which believeth in Christ.

Of this article nothing can be yielded or surrendered [nor can anything be granted or permitted contrary to the same], even though heaven and earth, and whatever will not abide, should sink to ruin. For there is none other name under heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved, says Peter, Acts 4:12. And with His stripes we are healed, Is. 53:5. And upon this article all things depend on which we teach and practice in opposition to the Pope, the devil, and the [whole] world. Therefore, we must be sure concerning this doctrine, and not doubt; for otherwise all is lost, and the Pope and devil and all things gain the victory and suit over us.

The above is from the Book of Concord and serves as a reminder of just how much our Lord God loves us and cares for us. I need reminders and I have a suspicion you might too. Open your Small Catechism every once in a while, and get refreshed. Be reminded of the Love of God through Christ. His yoke is easy. Don't let the world guide your faith but only the Word of God.

We can daily thank God for the faith He has placed in us. Thanking Him for his grace and mercy. And we can thank Him greatly by showing our faith in service. He has freed us, our salvation is secured and won by Jesus on the cross.

Amen

Blessings Pastor Karl

News and Updates

There will be an election at our October Voters' Meetings for positions on the council. We have established a Nominating Committee (Paul Rugenstein, Holly Bell, Linda Kirsch, Pastor Glander, Richard Gerlach) to recommend candidates.

The council officer positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. Our church boards include elders, education, evangelism, stewardship, and trustees. If you are interested in serving in any of the officer positions or would like to join one of the boards, please see one of the nominating committee members.

LWML

We are reaching the Autumn months and happily awaiting the return of our many wonderful seasonal members. Our Bethlehem ladies will begin our monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month. The first one is scheduled for November 4th at 1:00 pm. All ladies are welcome. We look forward to seeing all ladies.

God's Blessings

Pam Rugenstein

The Evacuation Panel on our fire alarm system has malfunctioned and can't be fixed as it is obsolete. This is the part of the system that broadcasts the fire warning over our PA system. So far, we have raised $2800 of the estimated $6500 needed to replace and install a new evacuation panel.

Pleas mark any donations as "**Alarm Fund**."

Thank You,

Jeff Kirsch

Since schools have started, let's keep our young people in our prayers. Let's ask God to keep them safe, give teachers and leaders the patience they need, and the students willingness to study and learn. It is a good time to remember Christian education as well. All of us should remember how important it is to study God's Word and grow in our faith. There are adult Bible studies on Sunday and Wednesdays as well as Sunday School for our children. Invite someone to go with you to one of these opportunities.

Linda Kirsch and Chip Rinehart are starting a new program to read the bible in a year beginning on Sept 4 from 7-8 PM.

As always, yearn to learn.

Sandy

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY ?

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4 10:30 Bible Study 7 PM Bible Reading	5	6	7
81 0:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School	9	10	11 10:30 Bible Study 7 PM Bible Reading	12	13	14
15 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School	16	17	18 10:30 Bible Study 7 PM Bible Reading	19	20	21
22 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School	23	24	25 10:30 Bible Study 7 PM Bible Reading	26	27	28
29 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School	30					

	SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
15	Carrie & Brad Stecklein

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

	SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
2	Klaus Naumann
11	Gary Wilkie
12	Joyce Kelnosky
15	Pat Duckwitz
20	Sharon Goers

Pastor Glander baptized Romy Hill Niebler and Ronja Lee Niebler on August 18th. The congregation then celebrated with their family, who traveled from Germany for the ceremony, after the service.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Phone: 239-694-3878
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Email: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

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**

GARY LAWRENCE
AUGUST 7, 2024

JAMES KRUPICKA
AUGUST 27, 2024

Our "very cool" youth group at their July meeting