Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

November

Grace Peace and Mercy from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior,

In a world that seems to thrive on chaos, all are searching for a little peace and quiet. As we enter into November, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. You and I know that even before we eat the turkey and pumpkin pie, the Christmas trees with their decorations will be on display in all the stores. And then the chaos begins. People rushing to get everything done so they can have the perfect Holiday. You and I know where that begins. Let's take a look at the Word of God.

Numbers 6:22-27 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 23 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

24 The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

We hear this blessing every Sunday at the close of service. 52 Sundays per year then multiply that by your age and that is a lot. But I encourage you to ponder on those words. Grace as Luther would define it is the unmerited favor of God. Nothing we can do can change this; He does it despite what we do. Remember we don't earn it, but it is put on us. When I think about the Grace of God and all He has done for me in Christ Jesus I can't help but be content knowing that I am right with God. The amazing thing is you and I are right with God because He said so. Take a look at Numbers Chapter 6 verse 27 "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

It reminds me of the movie Toy Story when Woody the cowboy doll looks at the bottom of his boot and it says Andy. Woody belongs and he is Andy's. And for us we are God's but unlike Woody, whom Andy did not create, God created us. We are God's treasured possession.

Malachi 3:17

"They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up
my **treasure**d **possession**, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

God did not spare His only Son, but He spared us the consequences of sin. This undeserved grace we talk about is a precious gift. We treasure that gift within our hearts. We believe that the Bible teaches that a person is saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Holy Absolution, along with God's Word as it is written, preached, and shared, are sometimes called "the Means of Grace," because through them, as through earthly elements, the triune
God delivers His gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

What a wonderful gift from God!

Pastor Karl

News and Updates

The Voters Assembly at their meeting on Oct. 27 elected the officers and church board members for 2025(see page 4) and approved the 2025 church budget. Our monthly spending for 2025 is budgeted for $12,230. In turn, that translates to a needed monthly offering of approximately $11,0500 , an increase of 7% over this year. Please keep this in mind as you plan your support to Bethlehem next year.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thanks to the youth group and adult supervisors for helping with sorting and filling the multiple Samaritan Purse boxes. It is quite a job and our youth group makes us smile. They also enjoyed a trip with Chip Rinehart to visit Repticon where they got to see and interact with reptiles, amphibians, and arachnids. Following was a picnic at Old Olga Park.

Confirmation classes will begin this month after church on Sunday mornings. We have 4 young people currently in this group. Please keep them in your prayers as they study God's Word and continue to grow in their faith in Jesus.

Thank you to all who have purchased books or puzzles. Those monies go for activities and field trips for the youth. If you see them ask them about their latest outing. God has given us many things to enjoy in His creation.

Anytime is a good time to join a Bible study. Hope to see you there.

Yearn to learn,

Sandy

thrivent

So far this year, through the Thrivent Choice program, Bethlehem Lutheran Church has received $891.00. Now is the time to donate your third quarter funds to Bethlehem Lutheran

Betty Willis

LWML

Our next meeting is Monday, November 4th at 1 PM. All ladies are invited to attend. 5 ladies attended the LWML Rally on November 2.

Pam Rugenstein

We are once again collecting nonperishable food items for the families at the Buckingham Exceptional School. This year we will be providing food for 66 families. That means we will need a lot of food. We are also providing either a ham or a turkey for each family. We know food prices are higher this year, but please think about our church project when you are grocery shopping. If you see a bogo or a sale item you might want to buy it to provide for families who can't afford much food. Every donation of food will be much appreciated. We will also take monetary donations to help with the cost of the hams and turkeys. The proceeds from our November dinner go to help pay for the hams and turkeys, but it will not pay for all of them. We will be packing the grocery bags on December 1 and delivering them on December 3. That means we just have a month to collect as much food as possible. We will gladly accept cases of food as well as individual cans or boxes. Please help to make this project as successful as possible.

Paul Rugenstein

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY ?

NOVEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All Saints Day	2
3 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	4 LWML 1PM	5	6 10:30 Bible Study	7	8	9
10 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	11 VETERANS DAY	12	13 10:30 Bible Study	14 **Church Dinner 4-7**	15	16
17 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	18	19	20 10:30 Bible Study	21	22	23
24 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	25	26	27 10:30 Bible Study	28 THANKSGIVING	29	30

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
3	Doug Grage
7	Jake Stecklein
11	John Wittenberg
24	Dennis Snyder
25	Hope Kulbacki
27	Sandy Grage
28	Robert Vanderpool

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
12	Wende & Steve Williams
28	Sharon & Lou Schafer

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!

Ushers Needed

Looking for a great way to connect with members of the Bethlehem congregation? Consider being an usher for our Sunday services. You will greet everyone entering the church, give them a bulletin.

Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Holly Bell or Linda Kirsch in the church office.

Our youth group, assisted by Pastor and these dedicated "senior" youths, packed over 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child..

Officers and Board Members elected for 2025

President- Richard Gerlach
Vice President- Doug Grage
Secretary- Holly Bell
Treasurer- Kurt Laser
Member at Large- Greg Murray

Board of Elders- Klaus Naumann, Doug Johnson, Tim Tobeck, John Wittenberg, Greg Murray
Board of Education- Sandy Grage, Mickie Naumann, Jennifer Morosey, Chip Rinehart
Board of Evangelism- Holly Bell, Sam Harrison, Chip Reinhart
Board of Stewardship- Bob Jurs, Rollin & Pat Duckwitz
Board of Trustees- Jeff Kirsch, Gary Dreischerf