Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# Bethlehem News

October

Dear Friends in Christ,

We all see the signs. When we drive, we see signs for the speed limit, signs for directions and often signs stating what we can do and should not do. What about the signs of our times. I know we often pay very close attention to them, maybe at times too much. But my question is why we pay attention to the signs our times. Are we looking for something to happen? What is our purpose in looking? Why does it matter?

As Christians we should pay attention and be involved in our society. We have one of the, if not the best system of government anywhere. We can and are encouraged to be involved in the process. But let us take a look at Matthew 16 below.

The Pharisees and Sadducees Demand Signs
Matthew 16 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ 3 And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. 4 An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” So he left them and departed.

We don’t need signs to tell us Jesus will come again or when He will come. We don’t need to look to the signs to tell us things are not right on this earth. We read that in the beginning verses of Genesis after the fall onto sin.

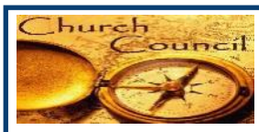
We only need to look to the cross of Jesus. Matthew 12:38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." 39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Keep looking to the cross where Jesus Died for your sins and rose on the third day defeating satan and will put him in His place where He can’t test anyone anymore. And while we wait for Jesus to come let your light shine in all you do. Continue to walk with Jesus bearing witness to what He has done.

Now in this time after the hurricane we all experienced pray for all those in it’s path. May the God of Abraham be praised through it. May you praise God everyday showing your good works for our Love for God. We have everything to be thankful for in this great country of ours. We ask God to Bless this United States as well as all Nations of the Earth.

Blessings Pastor Karl

## News and Updates




We will have a Voters' Meeting on October 27th after the worship service. We will have an election for church officer and board positions as well as presenting the budget for 2024 for approval at the meeting. We encourage all members to attend.

*To all of our Bethlehem Ladies!*
We will have our First Ladies meeting for this fall on Nov.4th. This is the beginning of many projects for this coming winter as well as many opportunities to help with church services on all coming Sundays as our seasonal church Members will be returning to become involved with us again!
***Pam Rugenstein***

School is well underway, and the busy time of the year is coming quickly. Don't forget that our Christian education is an important part of the Christian's life and spiritual well-being. Sunday School and Bible study is encouraged after church every Sunday. There is also Wednesday morning Bible study and a new "*Read the Bible in a Year* " Wednesdays at 7 PM. Also please take the time to check out the book and puzzle supply in the fellowship hall. Your purchases help the youth group with their monthly meeting and another group outing.

***Sandy Grage***

Last year we submitted 100 shoeboxes. That is our goal for this year. Currently we are in need of yoyo's, decks of cards, toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, toy cars, girls' jewelry, hair accessories, small balls and $10 toward shoebox processing. Any contributions are welcome. Boxes will be turned in the middle of November.

*Contact Betty Willis with questions. 239-240-5972*

Now is the time to direct your third quarter available Choice Dollars to Bethlehem Lutheran.

*Questions ask Betty 239-240-5972.*

We will be starting our dinners again on October 10. We need volunteers to help serve, make desserts. clean up and other duties. There is a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door. All help is greatly appreciated.

It is also that time of year when we collect nonperishable food for the Buckingham Exceptional School. There is a container in the narthex and another one in the entrance to the fellowship hall. We feed dozens of families each year and need a lot of food to give meals to these families. Anything you can donate will be helpful and very much appreciated.

If you have any questions, please ask.

***Paul Rugenstein***

We are raising funds for new evacuation panel on our fire alarm system. Our old system is obsolete and unrepairable We will need about $6500 to replace old panel. We have received $4590 in donation so far.

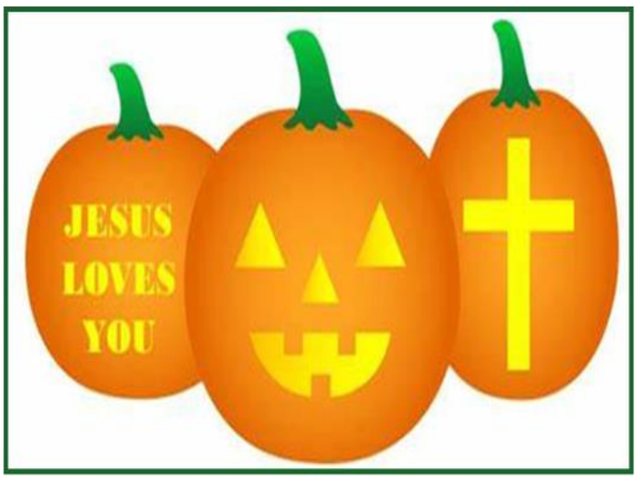
***Jeff Kirsch***

# OCTOBER 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2<br>10:30 Bible Study | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6<br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30 Bible Study;<br>& Sunday School | 7 | 8 | 9<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>7 PM Read the Bible | 10<br>**4-7** Church Dinner | 11 | 12 |
| 13<br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30 Bible Study;<br>& Sunday School | 14 | 15 | 16<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>7 PM Read the Bible | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20<br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30 Bible Study;<br>& Sunday School | 21 | 22 | 23<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>7 PM Read the Bible | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| **27**<br>**Reformation**<br>**10:30 Worship**<br>**11:30 Voters Meeting** | 28 | 29 | 30<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>7 PM Read the Bible | 31<br>Halloween | | |

| | OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS | | OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Carl Nicholson | 3 | Carol & Kurt Laser |
| 8 | Jack Young | | |
| 11 | Jase Albert | | |
| 13 | Gary Dreischerf | | |
| 14 | Pam Rugenstein | | |
| 18 | Annette Brocious | | |
| 24 | Darrell Erdman | | |
| 25 | Vi Hacker | | |

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




**CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE PUMPKINS.**
**God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all off the dirt off, some of which you may have gotten from other pumpkins. Then, He cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. Removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then, He carves a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. Let your light shine for Jesus!**

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY ?

**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.

Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Holly Bell

Carol and Kurt Laser brought in this delicious cake to celebrate their 65th anniversary

## What is Reformation Day in the Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday is a significant day in the Lutheran Church, commemorating the Protestant Reformation initiated by Martin Luther in the 16th century. The observance of Reformation Sunday dates back to October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther, a German monk and theologian, nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This act is considered the catalyst for the Reformation, a movement that sought to reform the practices of the Roman Catholic Church and ultimately led to the establishment of Protestantism. The day is celebrated on the last Sunday in October, or October 31st itself, in remembrance of this pivotal event in Christian history.

The observance of Reformation Sunday serves as a reminder of the courageous actions of Martin Luther and other reformers who challenged the prevailing religious authority and advocated for the primacy of scripture and faith in Jesus Christ. It also highlights the enduring impact of the Reformation on the development of Christian theology and the proliferation of Protestant denominations. Reformation Sunday provides an opportunity for Lutheran congregations and believers to reflect on their heritage, reaffirm their commitment to the core principles of the Reformation, and give thanks for the freedom to worship according to their conscience.

The history of Reformation Sunday is deeply intertwined with the legacy of Martin Luther and the transformative effects of the Reformation movement. As Luther's teachings spread throughout Europe, they sparked widespread theological debates and inspired individuals to question the doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church. The resulting schism led to the formation of distinct Protestant traditions, including Lutheranism, Calvinism, and Anglicanism, each with its own theological emphases and ecclesiastical structures. Reformation Sunday stands as a testament to the enduring influence of the events set in motion by Martin Luther and the profound impact they had on the course of Christian history.