Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

Dear Friends in Christ,

We live in a time where fear of what will happen is on everyone's mind. We have lived through a time when a piece of cloth over the mouth has deeply divided people. Our college campuses seem to be places of protest and division rather than learning. We live in a time where God is put on the back burner and the work of Jesus is compared with non christian leaders. Do you see any peace in the world in which you live? The fact is peace doesn't just happen. Like love, our peace has a source and that is 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. 27 "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."**

The Children of Israel had sinned with the worship of the golden calf. God was angry with them and then Moses interceded on their behalf. Exodus 33:17 And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." 18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." 21 And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

This was to remind the people of God's gracious favor. There are two movements first God's movement to His people; second is God's activity. This blessing is important because after the Golden Calf incident Moses interceded for the people before God. God reminded Moses no-one could see His face. Exodus 33: 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.

We are reminded of God's Grace, Peace, and Mercy found in Jesus, in His death and resurrection. On account of Christ, we have peace with God. 2 John 1 2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. Walking in Truth and Love 4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.

We, like those who have come before us, have been disobedient and have caused our own suffering at times. Walk in His truth, receive God's Grace, Peace, and Mercy, and let it sink in and change you. Peace is only found coming from God. Peace can only be found in Christ. Christ died for you and now we are to live in that faith. Push forward toward our future in Christ which is living with our Lord forever. That truth should abide with us giving us peace because it also causes us to lead lives according to God's will.

Every Sunday you hear **The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.** May God's peace be with you knowing that His love for you is far beyond your understanding. Let His love sink in so you can share God's love with your neighbor.

Peace Be to You

Pastor Karl

News and Updates

The church directory is updated. It will be emailed by May 10th, Paper copies will be available in the Narthex on May 12th

Several of our youth and adults enjoyed our trip to the Calusa Nature Center (See picture below).

On Friday evening April 26th, 9 youth gathered for youth night which included a short Bible study, and a water ballon fight. These children are inquisitive and energetic.- pictured below

We are nearly ready for VBS. Watch the bulletin and newsletter as it gets closer for ways you can assist with this major project and outreach.

Bible studies continue on Sunday and Wednesday. I pray you seriously consider attending. Linda is there every Sunday for Sunday School. Thank you for her dedication.

Yearn to learn.

Sandy Grage

We had our annual luncheon at Buckingham Farms on April 16th . (See photo on page 4)

Our next meeting will be October 1, 2024, when we will welcome our seasonal members and begin our new season.

Pam Rugenstein

If you have not donated your Thrivent Choice Dollars for the first quarter of 2024, please do it at this time to Bethlehem Lutheran. Every dollar counts. Thanks,

Betty Willis

MAY 2024

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

	MAY ANNIVERSARIES
1	Pam & Gary Barkhaus
12	Joy & Don Kulbacki
15	Beverly & Joe Kogoy
16	Judy & Gary Lawrence
22	Linda & Chester Rust
25	Linda and Robert Hedrick

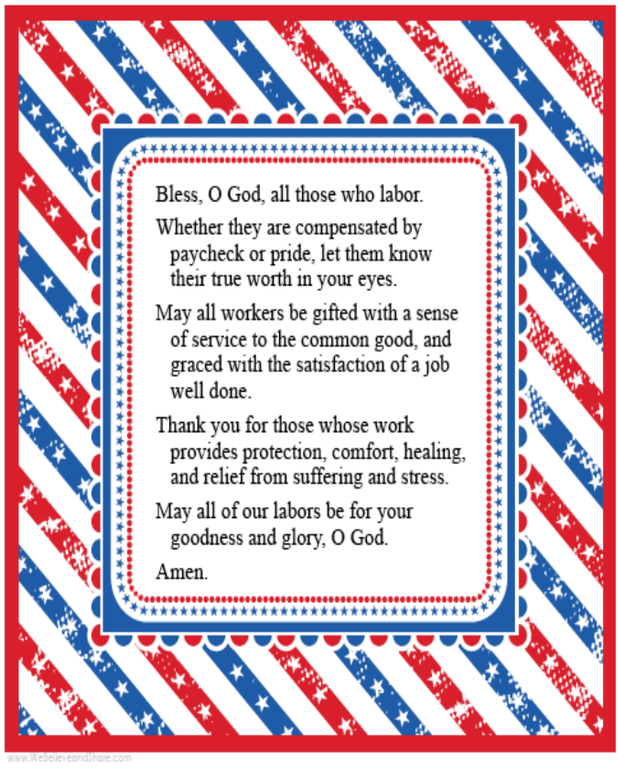
	MAY BIRTHDAYS
15	Sam Harrison
24	Laurie Schroskey
25	Johnieann Smith
31	Sandy Lohr; Don Thornton

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

Pentecost takes place on the 50th day after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

GARY LOHR

APRIL 23, 2024



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 Glander leads our Easter Sunrise Service.

LWML ladies enjoyed this year's luncheon held at Buckingham Farms