Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

Friends in Christ,

We are all followers of Christ, after all if not why would you bother reading a Pastor's letter :).

Have you ever noticed that although we have faith we can get distracted by the things of life. Now I don't mean the things we enjoy in life, although they can certainly distract. I mean those irritating things in life. You all know what I mean don't you? We are all striving to walk by faith and ever so often we see a commercial or a news broadcast where it just seems like someone stole God's Rainbow. I mean come on, God gave us that rainbow for a reason. Every time we see that rainbow it is to remind us that He will not destroy the earth by a flood again.

Genesis 9:11 " I will establish my covenant with you: Never Again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood…" When this text came up the last week of July I started to think, they can't steal God's Rainbow. And I tell you that has not happened, I mean they didn't steal it. Number one, you can't steal from God. Number two, what in the world does this symbolize to them anyhow? This is where you and I can lose our focus. What I mean is taking our eyes off Jesus. People are going to do what they do. We keep preaching Christ crucified and just as Noah warned the surrounding area we will keep telling people about Jesus. And who knows what God will do with His Word. After all the Word of God goes out and does not return void. At times I don't understand the world, but we know God knows what He is doing so don't get distracted.

Luke 12:34 **"**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. You Must Be Ready. 35 "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

Ginny and I have a saying we have used since we started planning our wedding thirty years ago. KTF…Keep The Faith. There has been many challenges, valleys and peaks but it's all about faith in Christ our Lord. I am who I am because of Him who called me to himself, and you are the same. We can thank God, he has called us and been with us throughout our lives.

So I tell you stay focused on Jesus remembering Colossians 2:12 we're buried with Jesus in our Baptism. Those sins of us were washed away just as the waters of the flood cleansed the earth. We were cleansed by our baptism and continue to be cleansed throughout our lives. So, when you look up in the sky and see that big Rainbow in the sky remember that it is God's Rainbow and He put it there to remind us just how much he loves us.

I'll leave you with this from 1 Peter where he talks about suffering telling us to be alert for the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

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.

thrivent

So far this year, through the Thrivent Choice Program, Bethlehem Lutheran has received $869.00. Keep up the great work. Remember Choice dollars are available quarterly to direct to Bethlehem.

Questions call *Betty Willis* at 239-240-5972.

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. We have begun a fund drive to raise the estimated $6500 needed to replace and install a new evacuation panel. Pleas mark any donations as "**Alarm Fund**."

Thank You

Jeff Kirsch

"Being "Lutheran"

Our LCMS congregations accept and preach the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16th century. The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three phrases:

Grace Alone: God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly.

Faith Alone: By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him.

Scripture Alone: The Bible is God's inerrant and infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law and His Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the sole rule and norm for Christian doctrine.

August 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	5	6	7 10:30 Bible Study	8	9	10
11 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	12	13	14 10:30 Bible Study	15	16	17
18 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	19	20	21 10:30 Bible Study	22	23	24
25 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	26	27	28 10:30 Bible Study	29	30	31

	AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES
8	Carol and Sam Harrison
10	Laurie and Noel Schroskey
21	Ginny and Pastor Karl Glander
21	Judy & John Wittenberg
26	Yvonne and Greg Murrray

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

	AUGUST BIRTHDAYS
6	Judy Hinrichs
10	Carrie Stecklein
12	Debbie Jackow; Gary Lawrence
21	Chester Rust
22	Carolyn Fernberg
24	Linda Rust; Betty Willis; Richard Gerlach
25	Jacqueline Blake
27	Kurt Laser

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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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**

Things are not always as they appear

There was once a man who was ship-wrecked and stranded on an island. Every day he prayed asking God to send someone to rescue him, but to his disappointment, no one ever came.

Months passed and this man learned how to survive on the island. During this time, he accumulated things from the island and stored them in a hut that he constructed. One day after hunting for food and returning back to his hut, much to his dismay he saw that his hut was on fire along with everything else he owned!

All his possessions were going up in smoke! The only thing he had left were the clothes on his back. Initially he was in shock, and then he was consumed with anger and rage!

In his fury he threw a fist into the air and began cursing God and yelling, "God, how could you let this happen to me? I've been praying every day for months about being rescued and no one has come, and now everything that I have is on fire! How could you do this to me! Why did you let this happen?"

Later the man was on his hands and knees weeping heavily when he happened to look up and catch sight of a ship coming in his direction. The man was rescued and as they were heading back to civilization the man asked the captain, "How were you able to find me?"

The captain responded, "We were voyaging across the ocean when we noticed on the horizon a column of smoke going up. We decided to go check it out and when we did, that's when we found you!"

In life we are going to be confronted with challenges, problems, and disasters. But keep in mind that what the devil has meant for bad, God can transform into your good! What is a catastrophe can sometimes be a blessing in disguise. "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." Psalms 34:17-19

Author Unknown