

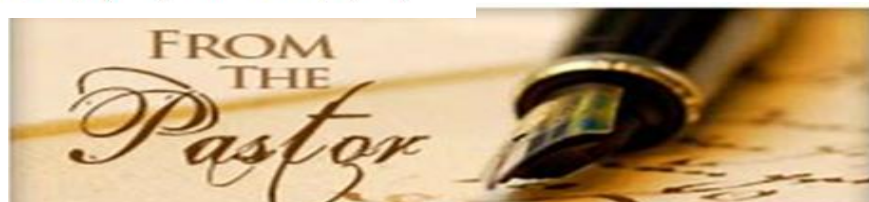


Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Bethlehem News

November



Christmas Comes a Little Early.

Hebrews 1:1-14 Something Better

The book of Hebrews addresses Christians in Rome undergoing persecution sometime close to 64 AD when Christians began dying for their faith under Nero. The book is a clarion call to not return to Judaism, which was a legal religion while Christianity had become an illegal religion.

The author urges people to remain faithful to their Christian confession (Heb 3:1; 4:14; 10:23), warns against drifting away and neglecting salvation (Heb 2:1, 3), points out the danger of losing confidence in God's promises (Heb 3:6) and falling away from the faith (Heb 3:12). People were tempted to become rebellious and unbelieving like Israel (Heb 3:16-19) for they had not progressed into Christian adulthood (Heb 5:11- 6:2). They had experienced God's saving gifts in Christ but may end up rejecting him (Heb 6:4-6; 10:29; 12:25). Sluggishness (Heb 6:12) could lead to something far worse – apostasy (Heb 10:26). Thus, repeatedly the author reminds people that in Christ, they have something better.

I'm therefore calling our Advent and Christmas emphasis *Something Better*. Hebrews repeatedly explains the gifts God gives Israel through Moses and then promises that we have something much better! My preaching plans are as follows:

Advent 1 **"A Better Word"** (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Advent 2 **"A Better Glory"** (Hebrews 1:3a)

Advent 3 **"A Better Absolution"** (Hebrews 1:3b)

Christmas Eve **"A Better Name"** (Hebrews 1:4-14)

Christmas Day sermon follows the four sermons from Hebrews 1 and is titled, "Herod and Jesus: Up or Down?" (Matthew 2:1-12)

Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will offer an overview of Hebrews. This will be followed by a close look at several key passages in the book, including Hebrews 11 – the Bible's great hall of faith chapter. We will start this bible class Sunday November 30th.

"God has planned something better for us!" (Hebrews 11:40)

Pastor Karl P. Glander



News and Updates



The Voters Assembly at their meeting on Oct. 26 elected Tim and Mary Tobeck to the Stewardship Board and approved the 2026 church budget.



As November is the month of giving thanks, I thought it appropriate to mention several of the scripture reading that are specific to this timely topic. **First**, Jesus' Prayer of Thanksgiving in Matthew 11:25-30. **Second**, Abraham's Gratitude to God in Romans 4:20-22. **Third**, Hannah's Prayer of Thanksgiving in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. **Fourth**, David's Psalm 100 which is a psalm of thanksgiving. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
Mickie Naumann



At our October meeting we made several plans for the 25/26 season. We had several ladies attend and had excellent input. It will be a busy season. Our next meeting will be November 17th. We invite all ladies to join us.
Sandy



So far this year the Thrivent Choice program has donated \$1,639 to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Now is the time to direct your Choice Dollars for the third quarter. If 2025 Choice Dollars are not directed by the end of February 2026 the money will be lost for 2025. Questions ask
Betty Willis

Elders Monthly Devotion

THE TABERNACLE

God commanded Moses and gave Him the blueprint for the Tabernacle to be built. God also told Moses to prepare his brother Aaron and his son to be Priests. Aaron as the high Priest.

The LORD said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel to bring me their sacred offerings. Accept the contribution from all whose hearts are moved to offer them"

Exodus 24:1-2

And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Mark 12:42-44 ESV

Donate as much or as little as you can to someone who is doing the LORD's work. So that others can eat and have a Church as we do.

*Lord, would you bless and keep us,
Lord, please make your face
shine upon us.*

Amen

Klaus Naumann



It's the 4th quarter of 2025, and if you have a 401K or IRA, you are figuring out how to avoid handing over part of your RMD (required minimum distribution) to Uncle Sam.

There's a way to reduce what the government gets. You can make a QCD (qualified charitable distribution) to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and reduce your tax on your RMD. You can decide how much to contribute and how much it can save you in taxes. It's a win-win. You reduce your taxes and support the church at the same time.

If you have any questions about how it works, please contact me. I will try to explain the tax advantage and how to make the transfer. Take a look and see if this may be right for you.

Your brother in Christ,
Tim Tobeck



We are once again collecting nonperishable food items for the families at the Buckingham Exceptional School. This year we will be providing food for 72 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 October and November dinners will 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 and delivering them in early December. 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



NOVEMBER 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------|---|--|----------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School | 3 | 4 | 5 10:30 Bible Study | 6 | 7 | 8 LWM Rally 11-3 |
| 9 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School | 10 | 11  | 12 10:30 Bible Study | 13 Church Dinner 4-7 PM | 14 | 15 |
| 16 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School | 17 LWM Meeting 1PM | 18 | 19 10:30 Bible Study | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School | 24 | 25 | 26 Thanksgiving Service 7PM Dinner following service | 27 Thanksgiving | 28 | 29 |
| 30 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School | | | | | | |

| 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 |

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



Costumed visitors at Bethlehem’s
Trunk or Treat on Halloween





Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Website: www.bethlehemplutheranfortmyers.org

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



IN MEMORIAM

JOY KULBACKI

OCTOBER 18, 2025



Some of Bethlehem's Veterans

Pastor Glander was honored on Pastor Appreciation Day with a plaque and this cake for his dedication and service to Bethlehem.

