



Bethlehem News



Dear Friends in Christ,

What does Easter mean to you? When we were young Easter was a time of Egg hunts, Easter breakfast, Easter baskets and of course the Easter Bunny. For me Easter was many times the celebration of a birthday, after all I was born on Easter Sunday 1963. I have fond memories of the sugar eggs my mom would make for me when my birthday landed on Easter. The outside of the egg was decorated with icing and the inside was a scene. One time my mother displayed the empty tomb of Our Savior Jesus.

Now that was and is Easter, the empty tomb. The tomb was sealed with a large boulder at the entrance. If you go to Israel there are many tombs throughout the country. One area we visited there were smaller tombs only about 5-6 feet high. The stone that was beside the entrance was smaller but still must have weighed similar to a small car. But Jesus was not buried in a small tomb he was buried in a rich man's tomb.

Matthew 27:57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

Matthew 27:64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

Between the size of the boulder and the fact it was sealed should be proof enough, but the Romans went further and put a guard. But today many do not believe and are skeptics. Some just doubt and some even doubt about the grace God has given us in Christ. Take another at Matthew 27:64 then 27:62 and 63 **The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'**

John 5:24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. It is not what we know but what we believe. Faith in Jesus is what He has given us through His Word. We will not be judged by God. This is what we have right now. So, believe, believe that God sent His Son Jesus to take your sins to the cross and after three days rose again defeating death for you.

Blessings

KTF Pastor Karl



News and Updates



We will be updating the church directory this month. Please advise us if there are any changes in your address, email address or phone numbers. There will be update forms in the Narthex to report any changes. Please place the forms in the offering plate. You can also update us by email at

Bethlehemlc@gmail.com



This month as we prepare for all Easter events beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday, it is important to remember all that our Dear Lord Jesus has done for us all. There are many ways to prepare and I hope that you all will join us in preparing through Bible study on Sunday and Wednesday with Pastor Karl or Sunday School and Confirmation Class with Linda and Sandy. We also continue our Youth Group activities on the last Friday evening of the month at 7PM. Please join us in getting closer to Jesus.

Mickie Naumann



Now is the time to look for Operation Christian Child items. Needed are washcloths, toothbrushes, school items, stuffed animals, hair products, no liquids or bars of soap. No sharp items. Ages range from 2 to 14. Items can be brought to the church anytime. Questions, ask **Betty Willis**



Gary Dreischerf, with help from the Erdmans and the Pfaffs painted the Fellowship Hall. (See pictures on page 3)

Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

Jeff Kirsch



Our meeting in April will be a

lunch at Buckingham Farms at 1 o'clock on Tuesday, April 8th. All ladies are welcome to join us. If you wish to carpool, meet at the church at 12:30. The ladies from Christ the King in Labelle are planning on joining us. Also, you may have noticed that we have another quilt that has been donated by a very talented member. The ladies' group has agreed to help with this raffle, the proceeds from the raffle are being used to help send the junior high youth students to the fall youth gathering. We urge you to find it in your heart to support our youth.

God's blessings,
Sandy



Elders' Monthly Devotion **YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED**

We became a society of entitlement.
Give me, you have to give it to me,
it is my right.

No, you work, you eat,
you don't work, you don't eat.

*The appetite of laborers work
for them;
their hunger drives them on.
Proverbs 16:26 NIV*

Remember the letter from Paul to the Thessalonians.

*For even when we were with you,
we gave you this rule:
"The one who is unwilling to work
shall not eat."*

2 Thessalonians 3:10 NIV

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

Amen

Klaus Naumann



APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:30 Bible Study	3	4	5
6 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	7	8 1 PM LWM Lunch	9 10:30 Bible Study	10	11	12
13 PALM SUNDAY 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	14	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday Service 7PM	18 Good Friday Service 7 PM	19
20 EASTER 6:30 Sunrise 8-10 Breakfast 10:30 Service 11:45 Egg Hunt	21	22	23 10:30 Bible Study	24	25	26
27 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	28	29	30 10:30 Bible Study			

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES	
17	Linda & Jeff Kirsch
25	Sharon & Larry Goers

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



Joann & Darrell Erdman (above) and Diane & Mike Pfaff painting the Fellowship Hall with Gary Dreischerf (taking the pictures)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS	
3	Myrtle Edge
4	Joann Erdman
5	Doug Johnson
7	Don Kulbacki
14	Pastor Glander; Raul Puga
15	Jessica Puga
16	Holly Bell; Beverly Kogoy
19	Joy Kulbacki
21	Jeff Kirsch
24	Ralph Willis
25	Noel Schroskey
26	Paul Olson
30	Joe McVoy





Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Phone: 239-694-3878

Website: www.bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.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**



Youth group with cards they made for Myrtle Edge's (Judy Hinrich's mother) 106th birthday.

Betty Willis attended the Operation Christmas Child meeting with Mickie Naumann (taking the picture)



Jennifer Jarvis celebrated her baptism on March 30th with this cake provided by her friends the Erdmans