



Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Bethlehem News



Grace Peace and Mercy from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior,

Over the last few weeks, I have focused on the above words as I prepared for my Father's funeral sermon. Thinking about God's Grace is something I would encourage us all to think about daily. How has God been gracious to you?

Throughout life maybe it was the hedge God put around us keeping us from sin. [Job 1:10](#) "Have you not put a **hedge** around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land." Even the devil recognized the protection given to Job.

I think about the stories my mother told me about how God was gracious to us before and during my father's ministry. Before my father entered the ministry, for reasons I do not know, they were trying to sell their house. It was to no avail, and it sat on the market month after month. When my father made the decision to enter into the ministry the house sold immediately. Or when my mother told my father don't put our last dollar into the offering plate because we needed bread and milk. After all there were seven in our family, five hungry boys. But my father put it in the plate. Upon arriving home waiting for them was a check from an LCMS Church.

I am sure throughout your lives you have had those experiences along with the suffering. In 1978 our family got a piece of that suffering. At 21 years old my brother was killed in a car accident in Germany while he was serving in the army. While this was tragic for our family beyond words, this event led me to seek a closer and deeper relationship with our Lord.

Grace, the Grace given to us by God, gives us peace. Grace, the favor of our God, does not mean there will be no suffering. God's Grace does not mean we are without suffering or have earned a special place in God's heart. Grace is the unmerited favor of God given to us on account of Christ.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Martin Luther sincerely appreciated the many gifts of God and was himself a liberal giver. He was generous to a fault. He said, "The gifts of God are surely there, but still a greater gift it is to know and to acknowledge them". For us it's the source of the gifts which is God.

We know the tune "We Give Thee Thine Own...". Luther states we should since willingly, moved by love that is very ready to give. In Genesis we read about the gift Jacob told his sons to take along for Joseph.

Genesis 43:11-14. 11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift—a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and

almonds. 12 Take double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake. 13 Take your brother also and go back to the man at once. 14 And may God Almighty[a] grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved."

Remember daily how God has been gracious to you, and may you feel His Mercy and Peace in your lives as well

All God's Blessings,

Pastor Karl



News and Updates



We will have a Voters' Meeting on October 26th after the worship service. We will be presenting the budget for 2026 for approval at the meeting. We encourage all members to attend.



Our first LWM meeting has been changed to October 6th at 1 p.m.

All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend. There will be a light snack provided, and we need your input for planning our LWM schedule for the 25/26 season. We look forward to seeing you there. *Sandy*



I was looking on the internet a few days ago and came across a fascinating article.

The subject is Bible events by month. I found it to be interesting and I hope you do as well. The events that are mentioned for the month of October are: Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles.

October 3rd The Feast of Trumpets can be read about in Leviticus 23:23-25

October 12th Day of Atonement is mentioned in Leviticus 23:26-32; Hebrews 9:1-28

October 17th- October 24th The Feast of Tabernacles can be found in Leviticus 23:33-44 I hope that you find this as informative as I did.

Mickie Naumann



1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"

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



Thanks to a generous donation from *Gary Dreischerf*, we have replaced all the lights in our parking areas, and have had the carpet in the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship hall cleaned, along with the fabric on all the pews.

Jeff Kirsch

Elders Monthly Devotion

JUSTICE

Cowering before the wicked
is becoming our demise.
Our weakness is making us lose
our Beloved God, Nation and
everything that we stand for.

*Eye for eye, tooth for tooth,
hand for hand, foot for foot
burning for burning,
wound for wound,
stripe for stripe.*

Exodus 21:24-25

We are made in the image of God
Today, be God's majestic
righteous right hand
to shatter the wicked.

*"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man
Shall his blood be shed, for God made man
In His own image."*

Genesis 9:6 ESV

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

Klaus Naumann



Choice Dollars is celebrating 15 years of donations. Over \$640 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide since the program's launch. The first half of 2025, \$30 million has been donated which was 47% to congregations, 25% to secular organizations, 15% to Christian organizations, 10% to education, and 3% to camp/outdoor/campus ministry. October is the time to donate your third quarter Choice Dollars to Bethlehem. *Betty Willis*



OCTOBER 2025

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 LWM 1PM	7	8 10:30 Bible Study	9 Dinner 4-7 PM	10	11
12 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School	13	14	15 10:30 Bible Study	16	17	18
19 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School	20	21	22 10:30 Bible Study	23	24	25
26 10:30 Worship 11:30 Voters' Meeting	27	28	29 10:30 Bible Study	30	31 	

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS	
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 ?

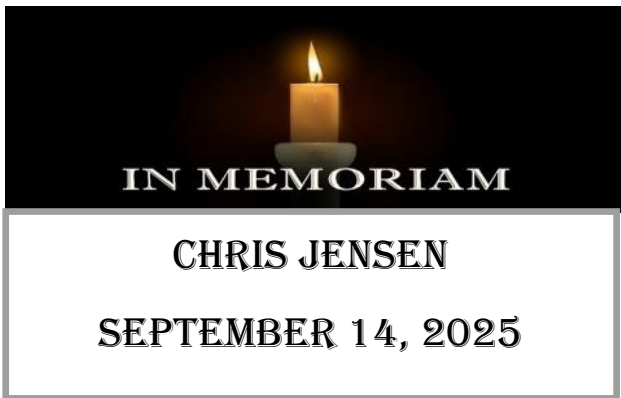


Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Phone: 239-694-3878
 Website: www.bethlehemplutheranfortmyers.org
 Email: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

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



LCMS Core Values

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

- We value the truth that all people matter to God and therefore to us. 1 John 2:1-2; Acts 1:8
- We value the gathered fellowship of believers. Acts 2:42-47; Colossians 3:11-17
- We value life-long nurturing of the faith (Christian Education). Ephesians 4:14-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:11-6:3; Colossians 3:11-17
- We value the gifts of God’s people as they offer them in service, both individually and corporately, to the Church and the world. Ephesians 4:7-13; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12
- We value servant leadership. Mark 10:35-45; Acts 28:3a; Mark 9:33-37; Philippians 2:1-11; Isaiah 61:1-3; John 13:14-17; Isaiah 42:1-4
- We value integrity. Genesis 39:9; James 1:22-25; Psalm 78:70-72; Ephesians 4:1-2, 14-16; Ezekiel 11:16-20; Jeremiah 31
- We value a trust in God and His people which frees us for responsible risk-taking. Matthew 15:21-28; Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 16:21; Acts 4:8-13

Therefore we are committed to carry on this God-given, Spirit-driven ministry of Word and Sacrament through which He shares His love for us and empowers us to share His love with others.

