



Bethlehem News



Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace peace and mercy from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Below is our confession that we have said in the divine service for many years.

“1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.”

What you might not realize is what the text says in the preceding verses.

1 John:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We write this to make our joy complete. **5** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

The appropriate question to ask ourselves is from verse 6. What is it to walk in the light? To walk in this darkness is to believe and to hold to the lie, to reject and to fight the saving truth, to hate this light (John 3:20), to make God, the light, a liar (v. 10). The walk or conduct shows this clinging to the lie just as does not doing the truth, i.e., what the saving gospel truth tells us.

We are righteous on account of Christ and we as Christians are to walk or do His truth.

It is interesting that 1 John talks about walking in that light and not the darkness of sin. Another way of seeing this is for us not to walk in the satan's lies or deceit. Now we know we are both saint and sinner and live in a fallen world. John follows those instructions with our confession. **1 John 3:9** No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed **remains** in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

We are a new creation in Christ. Now walk in His light. Hear the words of Jesus often, receiving His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Walking in the light is trusting Jesus that He died for our sins. Not that we use it to go on sinning but if we do sin we can be confident through the blood of Jesus our sins are gone...i.e. not even known by God but totally gone. Through Jesus... using His words the Holy Spirit works those good works God has for us from before the creation of the world.



News and Updates



The church directory is updated. It will be emailed by May 20th. Paper copies will be available in the Narthex on May 25th.



First, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Participation

through donations of time, funds, eggs or candy. All is very much appreciated.

I would also like to say, have a great summer to our members who have or are departing for the season. Safe travels! Those of us who remain are always invited to participate in Bible Study with Pastor Karl after the service on Sunday and Wednesday at 10:30AM. Sunday School and Confirmation class also are ongoing after the service.

To all mothers in the congregation I wish you a Happy Mother's Day. To all members who have served or have family members who have served our country, thank you for your service and Happy Memorial Day.

Mickie Naumann



Now is the time to direct your Choice Dollars to Bethlehem Lutheran for the first quarter of 2025. *Betty Willis*



We are accepting items for Operation Christian Child shoeboxes. Stores are reducing items, and school items are available. We can use small notebooks, combs, toothbrushes, pens, erasers, socks, nothing liquid. Nothing military please. Questions, ask *Betty Willis*

Sam Harrison and I have joined a group called The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. It was started by Lutheran Hour Ministries. This project is committed to helping people increase the well-being of their neighborhood.

A neighborhood without neighbors is just a collection of houses. We live in a culture where everyone goes inside and shuts their doors.

This project was created to provide us with the tools and resources needed to engage our neighbors. This engagement will lead to deeper community connections, and those connections will help us create change in our neighborhoods, to pursue the common good. where we live. We will include one idea per month in the newsletter.

Holly Bell



Our Bethlehem LWM ladies' group had our April meeting at Buckingham Farms with a 1 o'clock luncheon. Two ladies from Christ the King in La belle joined. The food was delicious, we played a couple "get to know you" games, and we all enjoyed the fellowship. We will begin our regular meetings again in the fall.

Please consider helping in the kitchen after church over the summer months. We need help making coffee, setting out the snacks and drinks, and cleaning up afterward. It is a great way to serve the Lord and each other. You don't have to sign up for the whole summer, just a week or a month at a time would be very appreciated.

We thank Emmy and Betty for continuing to take care of the altar area. They do a wonderful job.

Sandy

Elders' Monthly Devotion

A PURE HEART

God's Children, our Children. The lame, blind, helpless and mute. They are in our care. We have setup a Living, Giving Tree in the Narthex for gift cards and cash donations for a reward program for the students of the Buckingham Exceptional Student Center.

Jesus said, "Let the Children com to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14 NIV

Please show compassion and generosity, highlighting our duty to lift up those who are handicapped and helpless. Charity to our Children is a reflection of our faith.

"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Luke 14:13-14 NIV

You not only put a smile on our Children's faces the Lord will also smile on you.

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

Klaus Naumann



MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	5	6	7 10:30 Bible Study	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	12	13	14 10:30 Bible Study	15	16	17
18 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	19	20	21 10:30 Bible Study	22	23	24
25 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	26 	27	28 10:30 Bible Study	29	30	31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Pam & Gary Barkhaus
12	Joy & Don Kulbacki
15	Beverly & Joe Kogoy
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!



Our talented kitchen team serving our April Dinner.



Mike Pfaff putting the finishing touches on the media box for our new TV in the Fellowship Hall. Gary Dreischerf donated the box.





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!



Easter Sunrise Service (above) and the breakfast that followed (below)

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM Worship Service

Rev. Karl Glander

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

239-293-1489

Organist: **Holly Bell**

Church Secretary: **Linda Kirsch**



NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT-Activity for May

Go on a neighborhood scavenger hunt. Find the following things in your neighborhood.

Place a check mark by each item you find

House with a flag	Bike	White vehicle
Seasonal decorations	Fountain	Unique mailbox
Bird bath	Recycling can/bin	Flower garden
Family pet	Bird	Delivery vehicle
Children playthings	Blue door	Bird house
Yard sign	Neighbors talking	Neighbor walking/running
Something that smells good	Something that adds beauty	Streetlight
Pine cones	Alligator	