



Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Bethlehem News



Dear friends in Christ,

We just celebrated Palm Sunday. We process into the sanctuary with palm branches held high in commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, with the crowds waving palms and acclaiming Jesus as a king. The crowds were shouting "Hosanna!" which means "Save us now!" because they were expecting the promised Messiah to be a king who would liberate them from Roman rule. Jesus did, indeed, save His people, but not in the way the Jews were expecting. He saved His people from something even worse than Roman rule; he saved the world from eternal death due to sin.

In Florida we are fortunate to have many palms, especially since we live in the "City of Palms" ... Fort Myers Florida. Fort Myers is nicknamed the "City of Palms" because of the royal palms lining its streets, originally introduced in the late 19th century. If you have ever driven or walked the tree lined streets it's a far cry from the scene of Jesus riding on a humble donkey. McGregor Boulevard's palm lined streets with the old stately houses along the river isn't what I would call humble. But then again Jesus was not what anyone was expecting was He?

And that was and is the point. Next week we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and

His victory over sin and death, and we thank God for that. Romans 6:3-5 "3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

For in John's baptism, they were baptized with water for the forgiveness of sins but when we are Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We will be raised just as Jesus was raised.

Yes, we walk in newness of life...but its only on account of Jesus not on our own or by ourselves. God himself baptizes us into Christ and into Christ death. Below is from the Concordia Commentary on Romans.

(The verb is an aorist indicative passive of βαπτίζω, "baptize." Ultimately it is a divine passive, for whenever a person receives Christian Baptism, normally administered by a pastor, the person is thereby baptized by God. This phrase is equivalent to οἵτινες ἀπεθάνομεν in 6:2. Michael P. Middendorf, Romans 1-8, ed. Dean O. Wenthe and Curtis P. Giese, Concordia Commentary (Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2013), 444.)

So, the next time you take a stroll in SW Florida enjoy all the palm trees and remember the victory Christ has won for you. You are His child worth more than gold or even the most precious jewels. May you and your family have a blessed Easter.

Pastor Karl P Glander



News and Updates



We will be emailing the 2026 church directory shortly. Copies will also be available in the Narthex.



Thank you to all who participated in our VBS planning meeting in March. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday April 6 at 10AM.

All are welcome to come to the meeting, and to volunteer for VBS which is scheduled for June 8-12 at 6PM-8:30PM. We will be serving a light meal at each VBS session and could use any help that y'all could provide.

I would also like to thank all who helped in our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks to all for donations of candy, easter eggs, \$\$\$ and time.

Here's a wonderful event that is being planned in Washington, DC, from April 18-25, America Reads the Bible, at the Museum of the Bible that will feature daily scripture readings being read aloud to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary. What a great way to celebrate

Mickie Naumann



Our next LWM meeting will be Monday, April 6th at 1 p.m. This will be our last meeting until fall. We will review the accomplishments of the past year and make plans for the upcoming 26/27 season. Join us and share your ideas. Happy Easter! He is risen!

Sandy

Elders' Monthly Devotion

TEACH THEM THE BIBLE

Some children are good and others are evil, why?

Whoever spares the rod hates their children but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Proverbs 13:24

A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child undisciplined disgraces its mother.

Proverbs 29:15

Discipline your children and they give you peace; they will bring you delights you deserve.

Proverbs 29:17

Be encouraged to apply the rod of "Discipline" to drive out folly, so that the child will not follow a path of destruction. Lord, would you bless and keep us, Lord, please make your face shine upon us.

Amen

Klaus Naumann



Bethlehem received \$1819 in Choice Dollars for 2025.

Betty Willis





APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Maundy Thursday Worship 7 PM	3 Good Friday Worship 7 PM	4
5 Easter 6:30 Sunrise 8-10 Breakfast 10:30 Service 11:45 Egg Hunt	6 VBS 10:30 LWM 1:00	7	8 10:30 Bible Study	9 Church 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 Bible Study; Sunday School	27	28	29 10:30 Bible Study	30		

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

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

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



Last Month's
Offering: \$15,159
Expenses: \$14,798



Joann Erdman and Emmy Larson enjoying the LWM Luncheon at Buckingham Farms



Palm Sunday at Bethlehem



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!



Intentional Giving

Intentional giving is all about planning. If one carefully plans and then executes that plan, one usually gets the result they expected and hoped for.

How did you deal with your retirement? I hope you planned early in your working life. You decided what you will need to retire and then open an IRA or 401K or other qualified account. You plan how much you need to put into those accounts to provide for a comfortable retirement.

How about a vacation? Do you just sit at home and do nothing or, play a round of golf...maybe? Maybe you just get up in the morning, have a cup of coffee and wander outside to see if the lawn or garden needs attention. More likely, you selected a specific time of year. Planned where you wanted to go....Hawaii, Vermont, Europe, a cruise? Planning is critical for almost everything we do.

Did you plan for your children's education? It's expensive...costs aren't going down.

If you didn't plan for any of these things, you probably got some real surprises when the time came to retire, go on vacation or send the kids off to college. No planning usually means not getting the result you wanted. Planning is critical to everything we want to do successfully.

Planning how you will support God's work, through His church is also critical. We need to plan, together, how we can reach out to the unchurched community around us and even just support our existing church activities. When we plan how to use the gifts God has given us, we honor Him. We show that we understand all we have is from Him. And we show our gratitude for what he has given us....not just our job, home, family but, the greatest gift: Jesus Christ, His only son as our Savior. WOW! How rich we are because of His generosity. Let's show Him we understand and are grateful for His love.

So, let's not forget where our riches come from and act intentionally, planning how we can give back to our Lord so we can share His word as he has commanded us. Plan and do it from your heart

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people. Knowing that you will receive the reward of your inheritance from your Lord... Colossians 3:23-24

Your brother in Christ,

Tim Tobeck