



Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Bethlehem News



Dear Friends in Christ,

In less than a week we will celebrate the Fourth of July. This year brings special significance since we also will celebrate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence announced that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as independent states, no longer under British rule. It justified separation by asserting natural rights and listing grievances against King George III.

The historic document is broken down into a few core sections, alongside its famous foundational principles:

Key Principles & Structure

The Preamble: The most famous section, stating that "all men are created equal" and possess unalienable rights, including "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".

The Social Contract: The philosophical argument that governments derive their legitimacy from the "consent of the governed" and that citizens have a right to alter or abolish a tyrannical government.

The Indictment: A detailed list of 27 specific grievances against King George III, accusing him of violating the colonists' rights.

The Conclusion: The official statement of separation, declaring the colonies free and independent states with the full power to wage war, conclude peace, and form alliances.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"

On July 4, 1776 this new government was taking back what was given to them by God in the beginning. After God created man and women, He gave them dominion over the earth

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. "

I never thought of it this way but what our founding fathers did was return the dominion back to the people. Isn't that what God said. I don't think He intended for dominion would be in the hands of one ruler but the people.

So, this Fourth of July remember we have been given a great gift. A gift that was almost stolen from us. We are caretakers over the Earth, as God intended. Where else but in the United States of America do we get the opportunity to be part over the stewardship of a great land. May God Bless the U.S.A

May God be with you and bless you.

Pastor Karl



News and Updates



First, I would like to thank once again all who helped in and supported our

VBS program in June. We had a good number of children participate and look forward to re-establishing a youth program shortly. During the past few weeks, we have begun a Monday Morning Gathering at 10AM. Those who participated were happy to start the morning with a prayer circle, followed by some chair exercises and leading into some fun activities. Please feel free to join us.

Mickie



Showing thanks is important.

If you have kids, you know you often had to remind them to say "thank you" to Grandma for a gift or cookies....to Mom for working extra hard on their favorite dinner. We, as adults, often forget to say thanks for a special gift or favor.

It is hard to remember to say thanks — for kids, for adults, and for congregations. It is also important to say thanks. The best way to remember to say thanks is to have a thank you plan. Don't wait until a gift comes and then figure it out on the fly. Have a plan for thanking, and then follow your plan.

Say thanks to the Pastor for his daily service, Education Director and volunteers after a long-time planning and executing a successful VBS, Trustees for all their hard work on our facilities, the musicians and, all the volunteers who serve us every week.

And, let's not forget a plan to thank God for all he has done for us. He provides the resources for our church facilities, the willing workers who get it all done. He has provided all that we have: family, house, career, money to pay our bills and educate our kids. Let's not forget His greatest gift, His one and only son to save each of us from our sins.

Colossians 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts....since as members of one body we were called....be thankful"

Let's remember to always thank the Lord with our prayers and gifts.

Your Stewardship team



Thrivent Choice has designated up front Choice Dollars as a single annual lump sum. Members can now direct their full amount anytime between now and year-end. More members are eligible. Now, all Thrivent members receive Choice Dollars, expanding the reach of generosity. Never directed before?

Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Betty Willis

Elders Monthly Devotion

ABUNDANT PARDON

Man's moral consciousness remains flawed.

So, man errs without realizing it.

But who can discern their own errors?

Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins;

may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

Psalm 19:12-13 NIV

Seek pardon for your

"Hidden faults"

GOD does and will pardon you.

Lord, would you bless and keep us,

Lord, please make your face

shine upon us.

Amen

Klaus Naumann

INDEPENDENCE DAY!



"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty."

President John F. Kennedy
(35th President of the United States of America)



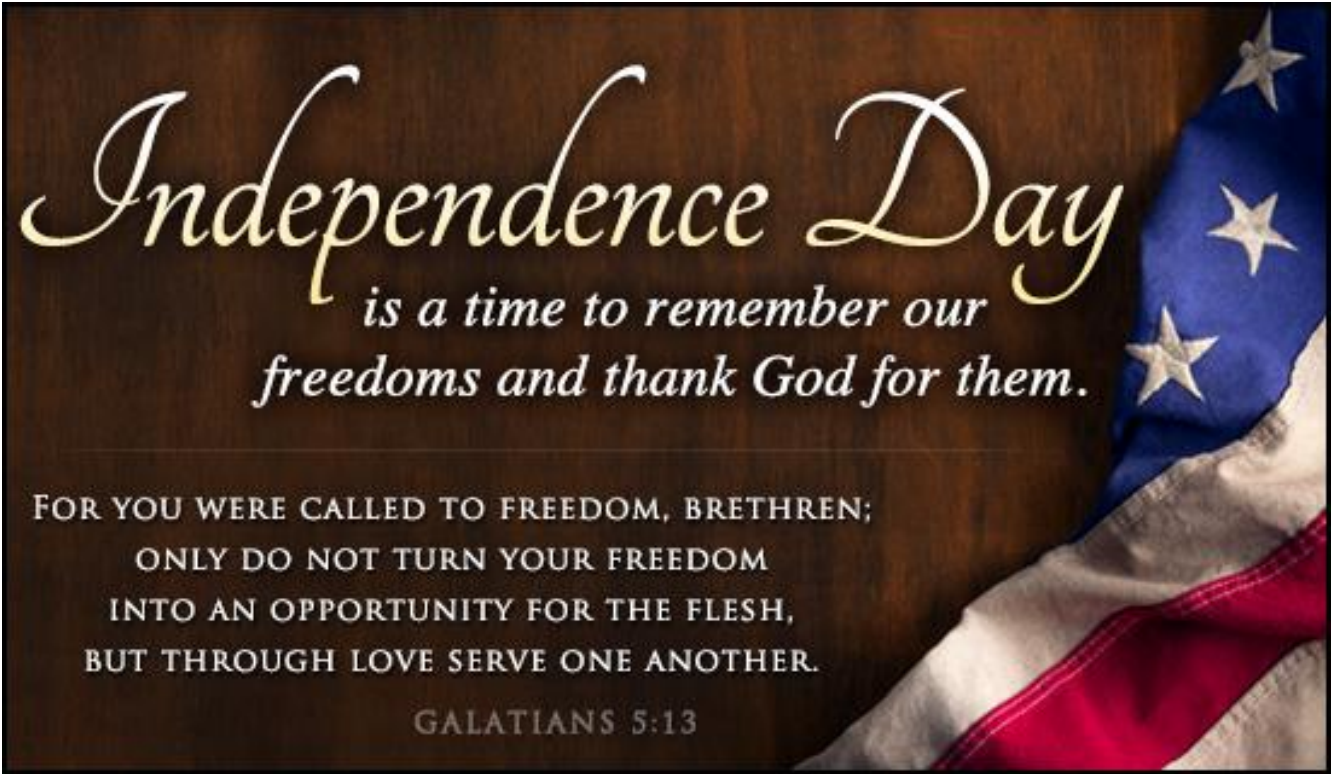
JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	6 10:00 Monday AM Gathering	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	13 10:00 Monday AM Gathering	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	20 10:00 Monday AM Gathering	21	22 10:30 Bible Study	23	24	25
26 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	27 10:00 Monday AM Gathering	28	29 10:30 Bible Study	30	31	

	JULY ANNIVERSARIES
4	Sandy & Doug Grage
15	Judy & Jack Young
25	Ruthann & Don Thorton
26	Betty & Ralph Willis

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

	JULY BIRTHDAYS
5	William Adams
8	Geoff Glander
9	Lori Jensen
16	Gary Fernberg
24	Steve Steckelberg
26	Joanne Holt





Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Phone: 239-694-3878

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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**



Pictures from **Tropical Trek** our 2026 VBS Program held June 8-12. For the first time the sessions were held in the evening and the parents were invited to stay for dinner and the daily program.

