Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

Grace, peace and mercy,

We are living at a time where lines have been drawn in the sand. Remember the saying "Do not cross this line"? We see it used for lines at airports, post offices, banks etc. to keep order. We might have heard our mothers use it to keep our behavior in check. Maybe our bosses used it when we were out of line, and they felt the need to bring us back in line.

Today that line in the sand gets used to separate us. It is used as a weapon to destroy. It can destroy families and friends and can even cause such distress; it affects our health. It can cause high blood pressure and increased inflammation, heart problems and a higher risk of disease, and weakened immune systems that make it harder to fight off sickness. It can also cause digestive issues, chronic fatigue, and mental health struggles, including anxiety, depression, and sleep loss.

Below are some other effects conflict can cause:

- **Anxiety and worry**: Feeling on edge, checking news constantly, or imagining worst-case
- scenarios.
- **Depression and hopelessness**: Losing motivation or interest, feeling deep sadness, or
- believing things won't improve.
- **(Vicarious) Trauma**: Intrusive images, nightmares, or strong emotional reactions to distressing stories.
- **Sleep problems**: Trouble falling or staying asleep, racing thoughts, or unsettling dreams.
- **Irritability and anger**: Feeling easily triggered, snapping at others, or outraged by injustice.
- **Emotional numbness**: Feeling detached, shut down, or overwhelmed.
- **Cognitive issues**: Difficulty concentrating, forgetfulness, or mental fatigue from ongoing uncertainty.

Proverbs 10:11-13 "*The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. 12 Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs. 13 Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of one who has no sense.*"

Our Lord tells us not to worry because he cares for us more than the birds of the air. God has clothed the birds in beautiful colors and textures, as anyone who has been birdwatching will attest. He cares for the birds of the air, and so much more so for us, His children. Our Lord wants us to be healthy, active and loving to one another. He called us out of the darkness into His light.

Keep your eyes on Jesus and Peace

Pastor Karl P Glander

News and Updates

The fall LWM Rally is scheduled for October 17th at Faith Lutheran Church. Please keep this in mind as we go into September. Around the 1st of October we need to send in our registrations. LWM will pay the registration fee. Please let us know if you would like to attend.
We also appreciate the volunteers who stepped up to help with altar care.
I pray everyone is enjoying their summer, soon to be sliding into fall.
God's blessings *Sandy*

We recently started a youth group night for teen and between girls on the last Friday evening of the month. We started by inviting the attendees from our June VBS. We had a few girls come in July who had a great time and we hope to grow the number as we continue. While we started this as a sleepover, we have encouraged those who plan to come to feel free to come for as long as they feel comfortable.

Our Monday morning activities are going well and encourage everyone to join us at 10AM on Monday mornings for a little bit of exercise and some fun activities.

Looking forward to seeing you.
Mickie

Elders Monthly Devotion

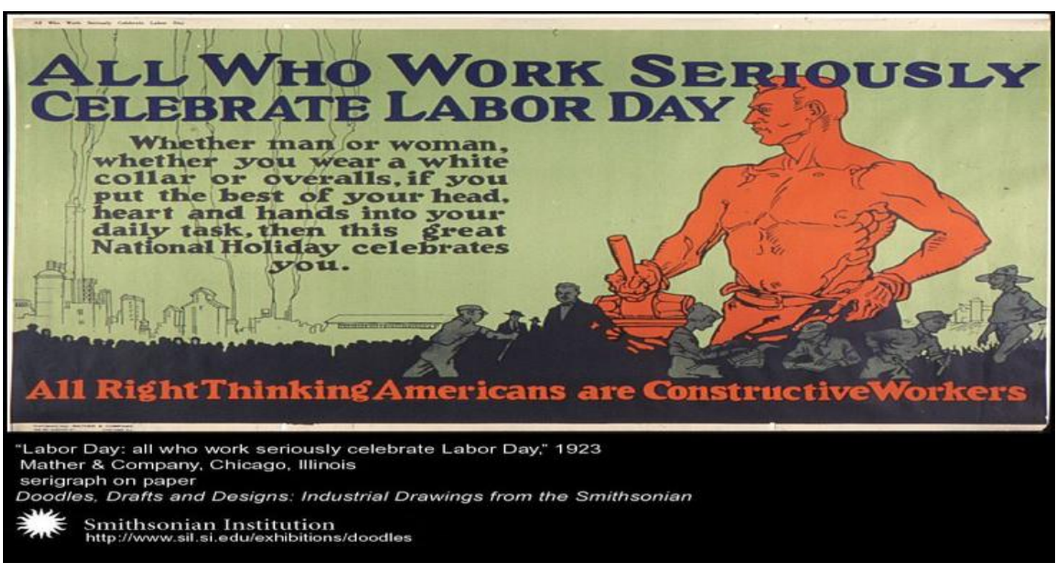
REFUGE

Feeling down, lost hope or just needing a boost of self-confidence?

The Lord is my rock,
my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
In my distress I called to the Lord,
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
my cry came before him,into his ears.
Psalm 18:2,6

Today seek shelter of security in the Lord and his unfailing strength and re-energize.
Lord, would you bless and keep us,
Lord, please make your face shine upon us.
Amen

Klaus Naumann



SEPTEMBER 2026

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**	7 Labor Day	8	9 10:30 Bible Study	10	11	12
13 **10:30 Worship** **11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School**	14 10:00 Gathering	15	16 10:30 Bible Study	17	18	19
20 **10:30 Worship** **11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School**	21 10:00 Gathering	22	23 10:30 Bible Study	24	25	26
27 **10:30 Worship** **11:30 Bible Study; & Sunday School**	28 10:00 Gathering	29	30 10:30 Bible Study			

	SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
15	Carrie & Brad Stecklein

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

	SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
1	Kerry Ferguson
2	Klaus Naumann
11	Gary Wilkie
12	Joyce Kelnosky
15	Pat Duckwitz
20	Sharon Goers

Stewardship
"God Can Do It: We Can Help"

Stewardship is a way of life.

Stewardship is a way of life, a life of accountability and responsibility acknowledging God as Creator and Giver of all. Stewardship involves responsible management of our God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. Stewards, as disciples of Jesus Christ see themselves as caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, offering and action by eagerly sharing our gifts out of love for God and one another.

Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus. Stewardship is not just a program, or a method of fundraising, it is a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent, and treasure we have each received.

Christ who came not to be served, but to serve, sets the example for us.

Stewardship is a grateful awareness that all we have and all we are comes freely from God. When we offer our lives back to God in love, He blesses that generosity a hundredfold.

So, go and be good Stewards. God won't let you run out of time or resources when you do His work.

Yours, in Christ, your stewardship team

Tim Tobeck

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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**

Supporting Bethlehem Lutheran Church

As we continue to grow in faith and service, we invite each of you to consider how you can contribute your time, and talents to help Bethlehem thrive. Whether you're a longtime member or just beginning your journey with us, your involvement makes a lasting difference in our church community and in the lives of others.

We extend a special invitation to all members to serve on our church council and boards. The council is the primary leadership body for our congregation, guiding our mission, ministry, and administration. The council and our boards are made up of members who work together to ensure that Bethlehem remains vibrant. Serving on the council or a church board is a meaningful way to help shape and achieve our church's mission and priorities.

At our Voters' meeting on October 25th, we will select members for the following council positions- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at Large. We will also select members to serve on our Education, Elders, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Trustee Boards. If you are interested, we would be happy to provide more information about any of the council's roles or the various church boards.

Please let us know by Sept 10th if you would like to be considered for a council or board position.

Nomination Committee

Pastor Glander, Klaus Naumann, Greg Murray, Linda Kirsch, Richard Gerlach