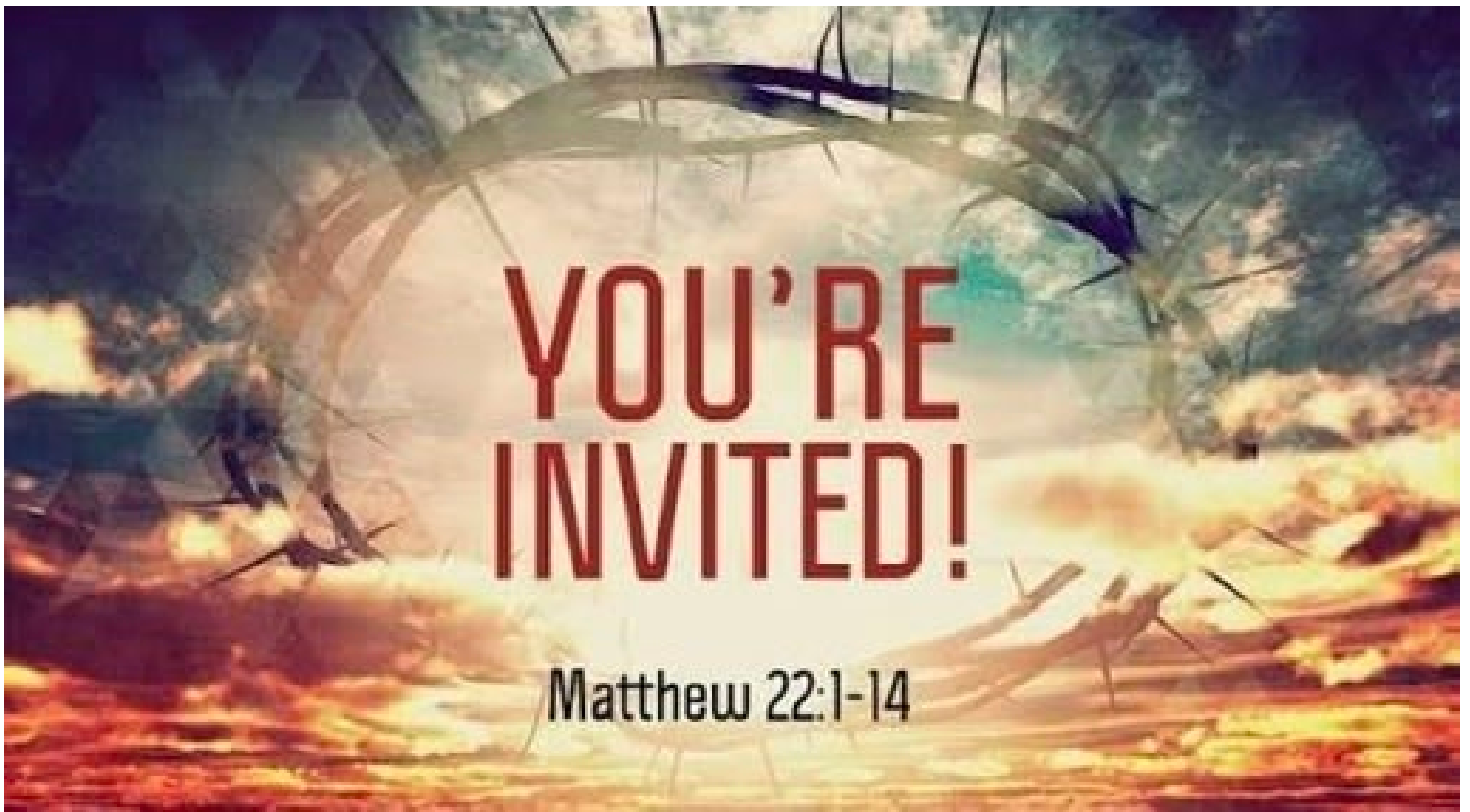




October 11, 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road S.E.

Ft Myers, FL 33905

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: **(239) 694-3878**

bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

God's grace is powerful and trustworthy.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help, support, and care for the homeless or those who are often overlooked?

World Food Day is celebrated each year on October 16. It was founded by the United Nations in 1979 to raise awareness about hunger and

malnutrition and to promote healthy food diets for all. There is a theme this week in the Bible readings about feasts and hospitality. Hospitality is receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, kind, and generous way. Think or talk about what it means to show hospitality. Prepare a healthy meal. Before eating it, take a moment to reflect on how you can help feed others.

***Pray:* Dear God, we thank you for this meal, a sign of your care for us. Help us to care for others in the name of Jesus our Lord and Shepherd. Amen.**



**IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP
WITH US TODAY!**

Here at Bethlehem Lutheran, we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say and do as we serve Him and live in Christian love with one another.

If you would like to learn more about this church, or are looking for a church family, please talk to our pastor or one of the elders. They would be

happy to talk with you! Regardless of whether you join or not, we welcome you and your family to worship with us any time! We want to know who you are, so please provide your contact information in the Friendship Book as it is passed during the Offertory. If you are visiting, honor us by signing the Guest Register in the Narthex. If you have a prayer request, please fill out a Blue Prayer Card from the pew rack and usher will be collecting them. Thank you. Come visit us again sometime soon and may the Lord richly bless you!

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2026

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

917 SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME WE
RAISE

- 1 Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship
cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
- 2 Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the
day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from
shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy
name.
- 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming
night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children
free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
- 4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly
life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict

cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

(Please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EXHORTATION

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-
examination.)*

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our
Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *(Spoken by all in unison)*

Psalm 23

The LORD Is My Shepherd

**¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

**²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.**

**³He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for
his name's sake.**

**⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.**

(Please rise)

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

♪GLORIA IN EXCELSIS♪

LSB 204

**1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,**

**In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make
for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged
wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well

refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from
all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take
away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for
him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–13

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to
everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious
about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be

made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

God's Provision

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

♪ ALLELUIA AND VERSE ♪

LSB 156

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,
the twenty-second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying,
²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a
king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and
sent his servants to call those who were invited to
the wedding feast, but they would not come.

⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those
who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner,
my oxen and my fat calves have been
slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the

wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

744 AMAZING GRACE

(Stanzas 1–5)

1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
 That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
 Was blind but now I see!

2 The Lord has promised good to me,
 His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
 His grace will lead me home.

4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
 And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
 In heaven's joy and peace.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

SERMON

. . . Rev. Dr. Richard Mokry

(Please rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the
dead.**

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

♪OFFERTORY RESPONSE♪

(Please rise)

956 CREATE IN ME

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

♪LORD'S PRAYER♪

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
Forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

803 JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

- 1** Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

- 2** All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

- 3** Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,

Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give
you peace.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Richard Mokry
Organist: Holly Bell
Flutist: Nancy Rybak
Bells: Debbie Jackow
The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch
Elder: Greg Murray
Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis
Ushers: Greg and Yvonne Murray
Reader: Greg Murray

Today we welcome Rev. Dr. Richard Mokry from Peace River Lutheran Church in Naples. Married to Miriam with a daughter named Ellie.

Signup Sheets in the Fellowship Hall. This is your chance to get involved in worship.

Introducing "**GIFTS OF THANKSGIVING**"
For many years, our congregation has beautifully adorned the sanctuary with flowers to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and the lives of loved

ones. As our traditions evolve, we are introducing a new way to honor these special milestones: **The Gifts of Thanksgiving Program.**

Instead of altar flowers, you are invited to make a commemorative financial gift on your special day. These gifts directly sustain our church home and care for our church family. When you give, you can choose to direct your offering to one of four traditional areas of need:

Where would you like your gift used?

The Church Home: Supporting our mortgage and debt reduction.

The Church Grounds: Maintaining our lawn, trees, and outdoor spaces.

The Church Structure: Funding building maintenance, roofing, and structural repairs.

The Church Family: Providing direct benevolence to members in financial need.

Just like our traditional flower calendar, your milestone and dedication will be printed right here in the Sunday bulletin so the congregation can celebrate and pray with you.

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 38

Adult Bible Class – 17

Celebrating birthdays this week: 10/8: Diane Pfaff, **10/11:** Jase Albert, **10/13:** Gary Dreischerf, **10/14:** Pam Rugenstein, Yvonne Murray, **10/15:** Tammy Sheridan

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies. The refreshments this week are from The Murray's. Thank you!

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY and SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Mokry will lead a Bible study in the Fellowship Hall after the service and Sunday school for the children is in the classroom.

MONDAY MORNING GATHERINGS!

Join us on Monday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a time of health, fun, and fellowship. We will start each gathering with a gentle session of **Chair Exercises** to stretch and relax. Afterward, we will transition ourselves into other group activities. Everyone is invited to attend! **Bring a Friend:** neighbors, family, and friends are always

welcome! Please bring your own ideas of what activities, crafts, or games we might do together at these future gatherings. We hope to see you there!

LWML FALL RALLY

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)_Southwest Zone Fall Rally will be hosted by Faith Lutheran Church — Naples, Florida on October 17, 2026 at 11:15 A.M.

YOUTH NIGHT & SLEEPOVER!

All youth are invited to join us for our next Youth Night on **Friday, October 23rd**, starting at **6:00 PM**. Families are welcome to arrive anytime between 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM, and kids can stay as long as parents allow.

We are also opening up the night for an optional sleepover! Staying overnight is not required to attend, so come for the evening or stay for the whole night. If you know any youth who would love to join the fun, please contact Mickie or Holly to sign up or to get more details.

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT DONATION REQUEST

This year, our church will be participating in the community **Halloween Trunk or Treat** at the **Franklin Locks in Alva** on **Saturday, October 24th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

To help make this a sweet and fun event for the local children, donations of Halloween candy would be greatly appreciated! If you would like to contribute, please drop off your candy donations in the designated collection bins located in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued generosity and support for our community outreach!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday – October 25, 2026

Voter's meeting will be held after the service.

Please plan on staying. No Bible study or Sunday school on the 25th because of the voter's meeting.

The election for Council Officers and Board Positions will be held on October 25 Voters' Meeting. The Nominating committee

recommended the following slate of individuals for election:

Council Officers

President – Richard Gerlach

Vice President – Doug Grage

Secretary – Holly Bell

Treasurer – Yvonne Murray

Member at Large – Kerry Ferguson

Board Positions

Board of Education – Mickie Naumann, Lori Jensen

Board of Elders – Doug Johnson, Chris Jackow, Greg Murray, Tim Tobeck

Board of Evangelism –

Board of Stewardship – Tim and Mary Tobeck, Rollin and Pat Duckwitz

Board of Trustees – Jeff Kirsch

NOTE: *If you would like to be considered for one of these positions please contact any council member before October 11th.*

No Bible study or Sunday school on the 25th due to the voter's meeting.

— VDMA —
— Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum —

JOIN US FOR
**REFORMATION
SUNDAY**

✠ WITH GUEST PREACHER ✠
REV. DR. JAMES BUSHUR
*We preach
Christ Crucified*

 **DATE:**
SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 25, 2026

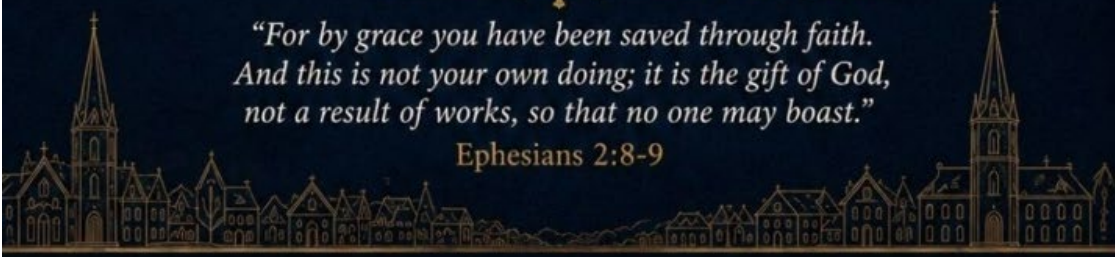
 **TIME:**
4:00 P.M.

 **LOCATION:**
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
25999 Old 41 Rd
Bonita Springs, FL 34135



✠

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*
Ephesians 2:8-9





MISSION ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE SUPPORT BANQUET

Hosted by
Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool, Naples, FL
November 17 at 5pm – 7:30pm

Join us for an evening of **reception, dinner, and program**, filled with fellowship and a look ahead at what God is doing across our District. Hear exciting plans for **planting new churches, launching outreach ministries, and raising up new workers** for the mission field.

Please register at
FLGADistrict.org/mission-advancement
or by phone at 407-258-5052



To learn more about the Florida-Georgia District's
Mission Advancement Initiative,
visit flgadistrict.org/mission-advancement/

florida **georgia**
district



LWM

LWM will resume their monthly meetings on Monday November 2nd at 1 p.m. All ladies are welcome and we would love to have everyone's ideas for the upcoming season. Come join us!



Operation Christmas Child: Sharing Joy and Hope!

Last year, our church family sent a remarkable 142 shoeboxes to children around the world! It is time once again to share Jesus' love through Operation Christmas Child. There are four wonderful ways you can participate this year:

- .Pack a box:** Grab a shoebox and fill it with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for a boy or girl.
- .Donate supplies:** Bring individual gift items to the collection tables located in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall.
- .Sponsor shipping:** Donate \$10 per box to cover shipping and ministry costs. (Tip: Give

online through Samaritan's Purse to "Follow Your Box" and see which country it reaches!)

.Write a letter: Write a heartfelt note of encouragement and prayer to be tucked inside a child's box.

Important Reminder: Please do not include toothpaste, candy, food, liquids, lotions, or toy weapons, as these cannot be shipped.

For gift ideas and packing lists, please visit the information tables in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. Let's work together to bless even more children this year!

For any questions see Betty Willis, Mary Tobeck or Mickie Naumann. Thank you all for your generosity.

PRAYER CHAIN

We believe in the power of prayer to do miracles. Join with others in praying for the needs of our members and visitors. If interested let Linda Kirsch know.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Sun and Fun Community, Malin, Tammy, Chris, Justin, Bernie, Candice, Lexi, Andy, Rose, Maggie, Denny, Bill, Chip, Christine, Johanna, Sandi, Nancy, McGee family, Sonia, Chelsie, Kyle and family, Jack, Melinda, Pam, Paul, Debbie, Amy, Jennifer, Guatemala, David, Holly, Matt, Maggie, Doug, Kerry, Addison, Dustin, Peggy, Andrea, Jackson, Sue, Pat, Tim, Phil S., Tina, Thomas, Nick, Felix, Cindy, Klaus, Linda, Gail, Johnny, Wendy, Les Dreischerf, Sharon, Will, Melissa Johnson, Barb, Kayla, Katie, John, Jim Rode, Becky, Johnny, Catherine, Kim, Kayla, Rose, Helen, Tasha, Yvonne, Cody, Dan, Carl, Rose, Ken Zanto, Gary, Chris Tobeck, Keith Tobeck, James and his family, And those in our hearts

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:
The family and friends of John Wittenberg, The
family and friends of Meme

**PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living,
Nursing Home**

**Those who can't attend common worship that
they would find comfort knowing that the Lord
is with them.**

Pam, Edison and Karen Johnson, Chester and
Linda Rust

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for
travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection
for families.

missionaries in Guatemala, Son-in-law (being
deployed for a year in the Coast Guard), Smiths
(missionaries)

**Dear Lord, we come to You today with heavy
hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of
prayer. We ask that You would bring healing
and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit
Amen.**