



Be Blessed + Believe + Belong!

This week at Bethany

Bethany Lutheran Church

News & Notes

Week of July 20, 2025



Sunday 20th	Monday 21st	Tuesday 22nd	Wednesday 23rd	Thursday 24th	Friday 25th	Saturday 26th
9:15am: Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30am: Worship Service	10am: Life @ Bethany 5pm: Council	1pm: Bible Study	10am: Highland Lakes 5pm: Choir	1pm: Bible Study 6:15pm: Bible Study		

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAG – MEET A NEW FRIEND IN CHRIST TODAY!

Attendance:

June 1: 131
 June 8: 152
 June 15: 100
 June 29: 99
 July 2: 115
 July 13, 104

Our Mission Statement:

Bethany Lutheran Church is a place where you matter to God and to us, existing to glorify the Holy Trinity, to administer the sacraments, to teach and preach the gospel in all its purity, to grow in our relationship to God.

Our Vision Statement:

Made into a caring family through God's grace, we welcome others to share His love and grow with us.

WORSHIP----CONNECTING-----GIVING

How to Contact:

Pastor Mike: 352-787-7275 | email: Michael.Hanel@gmail.com

Office hours Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am-2:30pm (but I can be out doing visits or appointments)
Friday is my off day.

I am always open for conversations, and I want to know any concerns/prayers/joys. We're in this life together as God's family. Pastor Mike

Church Office: 352-787-7275 | email: BLCLeesburg@gmail.com

Office is open 9am-1pm Mon.-Fri.



Facebook: We are "Bethany Lutheran Church Leesburg FL" on Facebook

Website: www.bethanylutheranleesburg.com

YouTube (Livestream): www.youtube.com/bethanylutheranleesburg

Online Giving --- It's simple. Go to our website at <https://www.bethanylutheranleesburg.com/home> and click on DONATE tab. Follow instructions. Your donation will be tracked through church records as usual.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to provide a bouquet or two of flowers for a special occasion or just because, sign up on the Flower Chart on the clipboard in the Narthex. The cost per bouquet is \$35. The flowers are yours after the service on Sunday.

Do you have something for NEWS & NOTES?

Email to April (BLCLeesburg@gmail.com) by early **Thursday** each week to share in the News & Notes. Earlier in the week is preferred.

Our Church Calendar exists online and is found on our website under the menu item "Connect." There's a lot going on lately and that's a great place to check up! If you see that something is not on there that should be, let us know in the office!

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

Sunday School: Preschool and Elementary, using CPH Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum. On February 23 we began Unit 9, "Jesus Sends the Church." Lessons follow disciples' and apostles' Spirit-powered ministries through Acts, and with related Scriptures!

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Sunday morning Bible Class led by Pastor Mike (and Tom substitute): We have returned to studying the Creed in Luther's Small Catechism! Join us in-person or via Zoom. We begin at 9:15 Sunday morning. Classes are posted afterwards on YouTube.

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Wednesday Morning Highland Lakes Bible Study! – The Gospel of Mark!
Where: Highland Lakes Clubhouse; 5500 Clubhouse Dr, Leesburg, FL 34748
Date/Time: Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Audio for these classes is posted afterward on YouTube.

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Monthly Men's Prayer and Fellowship Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, August 14th at 8:30am**, at Bob Evans (360 Colony Blvd, The Villages). In the summer months, the main focus will be for fellowship and social time as many people will be traveling throughout the summer.

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Heaven and Hell Bible Study – Three Opportunities to attend!
A number of folks at Bethany are working on a LifeLight study from Concordia Publishing on Heaven and Hell. Because the topic has attracted many interested folks, you now have three opportunities to attend either in person or via Zoom. You may attend on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. You may also attend on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Finally, you may attend on Thursday evenings from 6:15 pm – 7:45 pm. It's not too late to join the study in progress as we have completed only one of the nine lessons. The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. You may attend any of the sessions in person in the Fellowship Hall (knock at the kitchen door) or via Zoom. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Bonnie with questions or to receive Zoom links.

Pastor's Corner

Be Blessed + Believe + Belong!



This week in the city of New Orleans thousands of high school age youth from across the country will be filling up the Superdome for the LCMS National Youth Gathering, which is held every three years. Three years ago I attended with a couple of our youth with the group from Faith Lutheran in Eustis. My wife also attended as a helper for the emergency helpline. This year none of the youth of our congregation are attending but my wife is attending as the co-District Coordinator for the Florida-Georgia District. (So if I seem a bit distract this week, it's because I'm holding down the fort at home by myself for a few days!)

The theme of the Youth Gathering is ENDURE and it's based on Hebrews 12:1-3: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

The theme is relevant for youth who are living through major life-changes as they navigate that path between childhood and adulthood and try to understand who they are as they face a myriad of choices. Youth are resilient but they face a lot of times where they might feel alone or that they're incapable of making the next move or that they're ready to give up.

None of us can really endure on our own though. To think about endurance means to think about something that lasts. It's more than perseverance and it's about thinking what makes it to the end. These words from Hebrews affirm that it is Jesus who first *endured*. He lived His life to the end. But the cross wasn't truly the end for Jesus, He overcame sin, death, and Satan and now is seated at the right hand of God the Father and rules all things. He is the eternal king and He is the end of our story too. His love endures forever. His mercy endures forever. His Word endures forever.

We all experience great trials and sufferings in this life, but we cannot and do not do this alone. Through our Savior's help, we endure (persevere) in these earthly trials, because we have an enduring (eternal) life that points us to hope. Our end is always in and with Jesus who overcame all things for us!

BETHANY MUSIC NOTES – JULY 18TH Edition

"1 Corinthians 12"

Who doesn't like a nice gift? Over the years, I've been blessed to have been given many really cool gifts; some not so cool, but gifts nonetheless.

The cool gifts got to be even cooler when I used them. The gift of a baby grand piano a couple years ago keeps giving every time I sit down and play. The gift of an aerobatic ride in an AT6-Texan was a lot cooler when I strapped in and the pilot in command took me through the paces of his airshow routine. I dare say, even the not-so-cool gifts brought a level of joy when they were used – like the not-so-cool Christmas sweater that has won several contests, but only when I worked up the nerve to wear it in public. The unopened or unused gifts can bring no joy when exchanged, discarded, or regifted. (There may be some joy in regifting, but we can talk about that some other time.)

I am blessed to work with an amazing musical team of brothers and sisters in Christ who are willing to share those gifts in His service. This past weekend, our brother Lance shared his gifts of voice, guitar, and piano in worship. Thank you, Lance!

Whether music, teaching, mowing, painting, hammering, cooking, counting, crafting, sewing, loving, caring, praying – I invite you to share your gifts in the ministry here at Bethany. Read 1 Corinthians 12, then consider the following lyric: "Hide it under a bushel – NO! I'm gonna let it shine!" This lyric works with sharing the joy of Christ with others AND sharing your God-given gifts in His service to others.

Thanks for the gift of allowing me the privilege of serving Him along with all of you.

Timm

Adult Bells

Bethany Bells will continue on summer holiday throughout the month of July. No rehearsals in July.

Continued best wishes and thanks for your willingness to serve God through your blessing of music and ringing.

Peace and Joy in Christ.

Timm

Beverly Shores Elementary School Update



Beverly Shores Elementary is now a **“B” school!** The school gained 100 points in one year, more than any other traditional school in Lake County!

The school was 2 percentage points from an A grade.

In 2017 the school was the only F school in Lake County.

The school has not received a grade of B since 2009.

Thank you for your continued support of the students and teachers!

The next Partnership meeting will be held July 24 at 1 pm at the new school in Fruitland Park. If you would like to join us, please contact Margie Icenogle or Cindy Jones.

Thank you from one of our members

Hildegard M would like to thank everyone for the wonderful cards that were sent to her.



A Prayer from our Prayer Ministry Team

Father, You are an awesome God! You not only give me the strength I need to make it through my trials, but You also shower me with Your joy and peace along the way. Help me to see how I can serve You and run the course You’ve set before me. Amen



This week’s Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Leesburg Food Bank

During the month of July, we will focus on collecting toiletries for the Food Bank. This includes but is not limited to deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, bath wash, bar soap, disposable razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes and mouthwash. The food bank will also take those hotel toiletries.



Thank you. Karen C



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE UPDATE:

Activities this week:

Framing work of the offices and conference room are underway. Roofing and windows next week.

Things are really moving along!



It is time for our Quarterly Widow/Widower's luncheon! We will be gathering at 11:30am on Monday, August 4th, at Rodello's Italian Restaurant, 26736 US Hwy 27, Leesburg. If you're driving SOUTH on US Hwy 27, this will be on your LEFT (on the north side of 27) just beyond Arlington Ridge.

We heard they have great chicken salad, stuffed mushrooms, lasagna, etc. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Please RSVP by Sunday, July 27, to Doreen by phone or text to confirm your reservation

...Hosted by the Human Care Committee



At Home Caring Giving Resources

“I love you.” Words we say often, even when we are struggling to care for the ones we love. Recently, I was asked by a member of the church what I thought about some assisted living places and options for a loved one, as health, whether physical or cognitive, continues to progress in a direction that takes us on a journey we hoped not to take. It is never an easy life event.

Increasingly, families are striving to keep their loved ones close, enabling them to live at home for as long as possible. I know this life all too well, caring for my 91-year-old mother who has been in a wheelchair for 20-plus years. It's like juggling balls constantly; sometimes some of the balls go away, and it's a simple one/two, easy-going. Other times, it is like someone keeps tossing the balls into the circle that you are juggling, and you wonder when they will all fall. That is the time when you need help. Needing help is okay. It is about balance, sleep, grace, and sometimes releasing the pressure valve. But where do you turn to? Family, friends, someone you read about in the paper, or a caregiving service? The responsibility of a loved one in need of “care” versus the loving relationship we are committed to can be overwhelming. Sometimes their ability to communicate their needs declines, becomes confused, or flustered as they try to tell you. Other times, it may become demanding, rude, or disruptive. Things that may be entirely out of their nature. The reality is that the feelings of being overwhelmed, insecure, unsafe, or not being heard may be at the root of these needs.

Whether you call it a crisis, a major change in life, or a decline in health, there are many hard facts to look at to ensure the caregiver and the care receiver are equipped with the essentials for relief and help. Prognosis, communication, acceptance, and understanding the duration of care needed, as well as financial expenses, can lead to uncomfortable conversations with family and friends. Being the spouse means a lifetime of commitment and love. Remember that when you make those hard decisions and choices regarding care, it is love when you are providing safety, comfort, and care for both spouses and family members.

The cost of assisted living and nursing homes can be astronomical. Family and friends can help. This is a wonderful time to give to someone who has given so much to you over the years. Reality sets in quickly when you are choosing to “give up” or “change up” parts of your life for weeks, months, years, or more. That is why balancing becomes part of the plan. The word 'burden' is out of the vocabulary, as it changes the direction of the journey. This is about love, safety, and the ability to be in your own home.

Faithfully yours means caring for yourself while caring for others. In this article, we discuss how to obtain the assistance you need in your own home. That is a major step in caring for yourself.

Hiring someone: This is tricky if you are hiring someone who is not connected with an agency. If you know and trust someone, that is great. Hire them! It makes the transaction easy. However, there are times when we see posts about someone looking for a caregiving position who wants an easy paycheck. They may even have some excellent references. In today's world, you have to be so very careful of fakes. Fakes are

individuals who seek to take advantage of you. Here are some things to think about before hiring someone for cash, under the table, or not licensed:

1. If your family becomes combative, there is a chance you could be liable for medical expenses, and God forbid, the “employee” decides to press charges of assault. Yes, that does happen.
2. If the helper becomes hurt while on your property, does your insurance cover them if you are paying for caregiving services?
3. What about IRS rules regarding household employees? 1099s? And all kinds of other stuff?
4. Not to discount the trust you instill in that person, may show up as neglect, abuse, or theft.

I know I am playing the “devil’s advocate” as to what can go wrong. There are some wonderful people out there. Phil and I have both helped with providing care. However, when you are stressed, in need, and starting to get overwhelmed, that is when red flags can be missed. I want you all to be safe. Here are the reasons why using a service answers those questions above.

1. As an employee of a company providing the service, they are trained to deal with all kinds of service needs, including how to de-escalate a situation when fear, anger, or other emotions can become combative.
2. If the employee becomes injured, the employer pays for workman’s comp, which pays for those injuries and the legal issues.
3. The employer pays for all the tax withholdings and reporting of income.
4. Background checks, training, interviews, and case management all reduce the chance of neglect, abuse, or theft. If something does happen, you have someone to go to who can hold that person responsible.

Here are a few agencies you might want to consider for home care services.

Compassionate Care <https://www.amedisys.com> The Villages (352) 415-0778 Clermont (352) 467-7423
Short or Long Term hospice care with weekly visits from nurses and daily services

Visiting Angels <https://www.visitingangels.com> Phone 352-289-8438
Services include: Companion Care, Personal Care, Palliative Care, Transitional Care, 24-Hour Care, Dementia Care, End of Life Care

Right at Home <https://www.rightathome.net/lake-sumter-county> Tavares Office 352-835-0101
Companion, Personal Care, and Specialty Care

Care.Com <https://www.care.com> is a private pay service finder. Every caregiver on this site has had a background check.

The services that I or a family member have used in the local area. Please let me know if you have any questions.

In your service, Karen Groneberg, Human Care Committee