



Bethlehem News

FEBRUARY



BETHLEHEM SUSPENDS LIVE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES UNTIL FEBRUARY 14



Dear friends in Christ,

My topic this month is love, which seems appropriate because after all what holiday lands in February? Yes, valentines day. But that is romantic love. The love I want to discuss is Agape Love or Christian Love.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

"This is the Love that we will attain when Christ returns. This is the Love that God has for us in Christ."

As Christians this should be our goal, not to attain it on our own but that in Christ He forms this kind of Love in us. This kind of Love is like a magnet. Not a magnet that repels but attracts. When Christians pursue this type of Love for each other it attracts others that want what we have. And that is Christ.

Think about the patience, kindness, lack of envy, lack of boasting without pride, what would the world be like. While this will not be attained in the world, all the same it is our goal. We are one in Christ.

This is the Love that builds up the church. The church is the body of Christ, and we are part of the body.

Blessings on your Day

Pastor Karl

News and Updates



We have had at least 6 members test positive for Covid in the last 10 days of January. To keep everyone safe, we have suspended live services and activities until at least February 14, so we can quarantine. We will keep you posted of further developments.



We have had to postpone our Feb.1 luncheon until we can safely meet again.

We are still planning our plant sale for Feb 14-21.

Call Terri Gerlach or Joann Edman with orders or you can purchase them at church when we reopen.

LWML is selling plants to raise money for missions. Below are some of the recipients of the mission funds:

- LiveUCF- Outreach to University Students
- Holy Trinity Food Pantry
- Making Jesus Known in US Ethnic Communities
- Support for New Missionaries to America
- Mills Neck Deaf Christian Education
- Obe Bible Translation and Scripture Engagement
- Support for Lutheran Family Services in Haiti



Are you aware that you can make a tax-free gift to Bethlehem from your 401k or IRA?

If you're 70 1/2 or older the IRS requires you to withdraw a minimum amount from your IRA/401k. This is known as a required minimum distribution or RMD. The IRS computes this annually at the beginning of the year based on your IRA/401k balance. You are taxed on this withdrawal at your regular tax rate. If you fail to withdraw this amount the tax penalty is 50% each year. However, if you make a contribution to a charity (Bethlehem Lutheran Church) as part of your RMD, you are not taxed on this amount. The contribution is known as a qualified charitable distribution or QCD. It helps ease the burden on your church contribution while it benefits Bethlehem Lutheran. Please consider this in helping the church and reducing your taxes.

Bob Jurs
Stewardship Board



People over 65 can now pre-register for vaccine appointments through the State health department. The website is myvaccine.fl.gov. Call 866-200-3468 to pre-register if you don't have internet access.

Some members have received vaccinations at Publix. Their website is www.publix.com/covid-19vaccine.

Lee county health department has information about vaccinations on their website at <https://www.leegov.com/covid-19/vaccine>



FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10:30 Bible Study on Zoom	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 10:30 Bible Study on Zoom	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	15	16	17 ✝ ASH WED. 10:30 Bible Study on Zoom 7PM Worship	18	19	20
21 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	22	23	24 10:30 Bible Study On Zoom	25	26	27
28 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation						

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
2	Lori and Chris Jensen
14	Carolyn and Gary Fernberg

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	
3	Al Vine
9	Judy Wittenberg
13	Paul Rugenstein
14	Ginny Glander
22	Karen Keiper
23	Norm Wellman; Harrison Kimbrell
24	Bertha Bos

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

ELDER SCHEDULE- FEBRUARY COMMUNION			
Wednesday	February 17	7:00 p.m.	Kurt
Sunday	February 21	10:30 a.m.	John



	<p>Thank you to all those who have sent in their offerings. In addition to mail, you can give online on the church website (blcefm.org) or through your bank's bill pay system.</p> <p><i>We need your continued support.</i></p> <p>Richard Gerlach, Council President</p>
--	---

	<p>Voters' Meeting scheduled for January 31 has been postponed until we can safely meet again.</p>
--	--

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL 33905
Phone: 239-694-3878

Website: www.blcefcm.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!



The air conditioning units for the sanctuary were installed about 15 years ago. They have required more frequent maintenance and repair in the last year. We should begin raising funds to replace these units . The estimated replacement cost is approximately \$20,000.

We are starting an "Air Conditioning Fund" to raise the needed money. Please label your donations as "A/C Fund".

Thanks for your help in keeping Bethlehem

