



Bethlehem News

November



Dear friends in Christ,

2020 has been an eventful year for Bethlehem and everyone in our country and around the world. I think you would agree that we have never seen such division in our country. Life brings many uncertainties. As we look toward the future these unknowns will remain. The difference is what we do and how we react toward our fellow man. Do we let the uncertainties divide us or bring us closer together? Our hope in Christ is certain.

We look to God our Father for guidance and hope. When you called me to be your Pastor I said, "We move together." Our church is the body of Christ and we are all part of that body. 1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the **body of Christ**, and each one of you is a part of it." Every part of the body plays a part and every part is important within the body.

Ephesians 6:12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

1 Corinthians 12:15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Paul is talking about unity in Christ. We all have different gifts given but for one purpose. The purpose is building up the body of Christ for His glory. Together, let us glorify Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Karl

News and Updates



Voters' Meeting

The Voters Assembly met on October 25th. Three important items were presented to the assembly. The voter's elected the Church Council and Board Positions as shown below for a 2-year term beginning 1/1/2021:

Council Officers

- President- Richard Gerlach
- Vice President- Doug Grage
- Secretary- Holly Bell
- Treasurer- Kurt Laser
- Member at Large- Annett Brocious

Board Positions

- Board of Education- Sandy Grage, Jennifer Morosey
- Board of Elders- Paul Rugenstein, Kurt Laser, Edison Johnson, John Wittenberg; Gary Lohr
- Board of Evangelism- Terri Gerlach
- Board of Stewardship- Rollin and Pat Duckwitz, Bob and Marty Jurs
- Board of Trustees- Jeff Kirsch, Gary Dreischerf

In addition the voter's approved the 2021 Church budget and authorized the council to go forward to refinance the church mortgage to reduce the monthly mortgage payment.



Oct. Offering: \$ 5807
Oct. Expenses: \$ 9979

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



The Ladies will meet Monday November 2 at 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall. All Bethlehem ladies are welcome.

Pam Rugenstein



The flower calendar in the narthex has several open dates that you can select to honor special occasions for yourself or family members.

Please don't forget to sign up and place your check or cash for \$40 in an envelope marked for Altar Flowers.

Thanks so much for your help.
Pam Rugenstein



Sunday school and Bible study have restarted. It is great to study God's Word at church with the church family. Pastor is leading Sunday Bible study right after the morning service. Wednesday morning Bible study is in full swing in person at the church and on zoom. Even during this pandemic, yearn to learn.
Sandy

Poinsettias can be ordered from now until Sunday November 29 at a cost of \$7 each. They will be picked up from the grower on Friday December 4 and placed in the church until Christmas. After Christmas, you may take home any poinsettia that you have purchased and keep it in your house or plant it outside in your yard. We are hoping to have many beautiful poinsettia plants decorating the front of our church. There is a form in the bulletin that you can fill out if you are giving a poinsettia in memory of someone else. Thanks for your participation.

Paul Rugenstein



This year we will be providing 45 bags of non-perishable food items to Buckingham Exceptional School just down the road from our church.

We would like to make these as plentiful as possible as the families spend a lot of money on medicines and don't have much to spend on food. In past years we have used the profits from one of our dinners to buy turkeys for each recipient. Without our monthly dinners, we may not be able to provide these turkeys along with the bag of groceries.

Thrivent has allowed us to use one of the \$250 cards they give us to buy turkeys. However, 45 turkeys will cost about \$800. If anyone would like to donate some money for turkeys, it would be much appreciated.

We are planning to collect non-perishable food items until Sunday November 15. We will fill the bags after church that Sunday and deliver them to the school on Wednesday November 18. We will then begin collecting for the Christmas baskets. All donations are appreciated and are used to help families in our community.

Paul Rugenstein

NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship *11:30 Bible Class Sunday School	2 1:00 LWML meeting	3	4 10:30 Bible Study	5	6	7
8 10:30 Worship *11:30 Bible Class Sunday School	9	10	11 10:30 Bible Study	12	13	14
15 10:30 Worship *11:30 Bible Class Sunday School	16	17	18 10:30 Bible Study	19	20 10:00 Food Distribution	21
22 10:30 Worship *11:30 Bible Class Sunday School 4 PM Installation	23	24	25 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Thanksgiving Service	26 	27	28
29 10:30 Worship *11:30 Bible Class Sunday School	30					

* Note new time for Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School. Refreshments are being served.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
12	Wende and Steve Williams

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
1	Dorothy Riddle
2	Gary Lohr
3	Doug Grage
7	Jake Stecklein
11	John Wittenberg
15	Lester Bradtmiller
24	Dennis Snyder
25	Hope Kulbacki
27	Sandy Grage
28	Robert Vanderpool



Carol and Kurt Laser celebrated their 61st anniversary on Oct 3rd with this delicious cake that they brought to share.

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



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!



This year Bethlehem will send over 80 boxes to Operation Christmas Child. Pictured are volunteers Joann Erdman, Holly Bell, Lupita Salcedo Cruz, Pam Rugenstein, and Terri Gerlach who packed all the boxes. Betty Willis and Karen Johnson, not pictured, also helped with the effort.