Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem News

Dear Friends in Christ,

The turkeys have been eaten, thanks been given and now advent season begins. Advent ends with the celebration of Christ's birth. As Christians this is a special time of year. We live in a society that loves Christmas for the parties, gifts, Christmas lights and goodies. Oh, and I can't forget the Christmas music like this one. **"Christmas Day Will Soon Be Here! by Mary Donnelly and George L. O. Strid – Score & Sound.** Another song **"Christmas is Coming"** began to appear in print in 1885 and 1886

The lyrics go like this "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. Please [do] put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny, [then] a ha'penny (that is half a penny) will do. If you haven't got a ha'penny, [then] God bless you!" The lyrics begin appearing in print in 1885 and 1886.

And today we hear Christmas music on the radio, at the mall, and in the car. At Christmas time, the sounds of Christmas fill the air. I think you might agree that most of the music we hear at Christmas in our society has to do with us receiving something. Think about Santa Claus is coming to town. "You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout, I'm telling you why; Santa Claus is coming to town. He's making a list, and checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty and nice. Santa Claus is coming to town.

Christmas for us here at Bethlehem Lutheran and many Christian churches know what's coming. Jesus is coming to earth. God in the flesh lived among us on earth.

Luke 2:4 "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to

Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Blessing to you and yours

Pastor Karl

News and Updates

We have so much to be thankful for, but most importantly for Jesus coming to earth so we can go to heaven. Watch the bulletin for all the opportunities to praise Him. It is a busy month. You will notice two young people have joined the acolytes. They are excited to be a part of our worship and serve our Lord.

May God bless each of you this season as we prepare to remember the coming of Jesus. Join in and yearn to learn. ***Sandy***

Now is the time to direct the remainder of your Thrivent Action Dollars to our church. This money will be lost if not directed at this time. This year we have done 16 Thrivent projects for a total of $4000. That was used towards our projects. If you want more information on these projects let me know. ***Betty Willis***

Thanks to all the ladies who helped prepare the Operation Christmas Child Boxes. We collected and contributed all the money needed for postage.

We have officially changed our name to *Lutheran Women in Mission* (LWM). We are preparing for LWM month in February.

Pam Rugenstein

A big thank you to all who helped with the holiday baskets that we gave to the families of the Buckingham Exceptional School. With your generosity and willingness to help, we are able to provide two grocery bags full of food as well as a turkey or ham for 66 families. It is amazing to see a small congregation come together and supply that much food in a couple of months. The generous monetary contributions also help provide the turkeys and hams as well as some additional canned goods. Thanks Bethlehem Lutheran Church. You are awesome! ***Paul Rugenstein***

On November 18, 134 Operation Christmas Child boxes were delivered to the drop off location. Many thanks for all the donations, especially for postage and handling that were received. This is sure to bring happiness and Christ to many children. Thanks to the workers at the church and children of the church for filling the boxes.

Betty Willis

Our next dinner is planned for December 12. We again need lots of help as well as deserts. There is a signup sheet posted on the kitchen door. Please sign up if you are willing to help. All are welcome. It can be a fun evening with lots of fellowship.

Our new fire alarm has been installed. Thanks to everyone who contributed to replace our old system. ***Jeff Kirsch***

Bethlehem's Thanksgiving Eve

December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 Worship 11:30 Decorate church Pack holiday bags	2 LWM 1PM	3	4 10:30 Worship 1st Advent Service	5	6	7
8 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	9	10	11 10:30 Worship 2nd Advent Service	12	13	14
15 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	16	17	18 10:30 Worship 3rd Advent Service	19	20	21
22 10:30 Children's Service 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	23	24 7 PM Worship	25 10:30 Worship 	26	27	28
29 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	30	31 7 PM Worship				

	DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
3	Janet Cessna; Melvin Smith
10	Jean Rousch
12	Ryan Kirsch; Gale Smith
18	Dennis Hartman
24	Judy Young
26	Audrey Vine

	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
29	Jean & John Rousch

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

Bethlehem 'Packers" filling 132 grocery bags for the Buckingham Exceptional School

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Phone: 239-694-3878

Website: www.bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.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!

Ushers Needed

Looking for a great way to connect with members of the Bethlehem congregation? Consider being an usher for our Sunday services. You will greet everyone entering the church, give them a bulletin, and show them where to pick up their communion kit.

Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Linda Kirsch in the church office.

Delivering food bags and 66 turkeys and hams to Buckingham Exceptional School

Decorating Bethlehem for Christmas