



Bethlehem Lutheran Church



## Bethlehem News



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and are moving forward into Advent and Christmas. Many people make it a point to practice gratitude during the month of November, and on Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many blessings we have received. We take a lot for granted in this world. We have a roof over our heads, food on the table, a car to get us from place to place and we live in a beautiful area full of beautiful scenery. But at times we focus on the opposite, the problems of this world and negativity can spread like wildfire if not kept in check.

While on my way to the Thanksgiving dinner at church I was listening to Christmas music along the way. Like most when you really listen to the words and the melody your spirit is lifted and the focus is about the coming of Jesus. In other words your focused on God.

### **2 Chronicles 5:7 and 13**

7 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

13 The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud,

They brought the Ark of The Covenant into the sanctuary and then they gave praises to God. The congregation came together to give praise to God. They came and praised according to their gifts that God had given them.

Verse 6 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

This Christmas season focus on the sacrifice, the supreme sacrifice Jesus. We give thanks and praise to God for His Love and Goodness to us. Our Divine Service gives us the opportunity to worship Him who died for our sins. We are given the forgiveness of sins. Come receive His gift of forgiveness life and salvation.

This Christmas Season bring your voices and lift them up to the Lord for His Kingdom has come upon us.

### **1 Chronicles 16:34**

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Rejoice and Give Thanks to the Lord

Pastor Karl



## News and Updates



As Christmas is fast approaching, I want to share a few passages from the Old Testament about the coming of Jesus.

Jeremiah 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land".

Isaiah 7:14 " Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Merry Christmas to all.

Mickie Naumann



At the meeting on November 17th, it was decided to purchase 10 poinsettias to help decorate the church

for Christmas. We also will purchase some Christmas lights to replace some of the older ones no longer functioning. Shoeboxes for OCC were taken the following Wednesday to the collection center. Thank you to everyone who donated to fill the boxes and or money for the postage. Our next meeting will be December 8th. We encourage you to join us.

Sandy



Samaritan's Purse announces that over 10 million shoeboxes are packed and sent across the world each year. This year will likely to be over 12 million boxes. That number represents more than gifts. It represents millions of moments where a child will feel seen, loved, and remembered. At Operation Christmas Child they are deeply grateful for the unwavering commitment of Operation Christmas Child and the countless volunteers who make this mission possible year after year. At Bethlehem we delivered 142 boxes. A big thank you to all the members for their donations of items and money for postage.

Betty Willis

## Elders Monthly Devotion

**LGBTQIA+, DECEIVING GOD**

*The wicked have no conscious nor do they know any borders in going after our children.*

*Thou shalt not give any of thy Seed to be consecrated to the idol Moloch, nor defile the name of thy God: I am the LORD.*

*Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind, because it is an abomination.*

**Leviticus 18:21-22**

*If anyone lie with a man as with a woman, both have committed an abomination, let them be put to death: their blood be upon them.*

**Leviticus 20:13**

*Preach to the word of GOD our LORD to silence the wicked to protect the innocence of our children.*

**Lord, would you bless and keep us,**

**Lord, please make your face shine upon us.**

**Amen**

Klaus Naumann



"The kingdom of heaven is near...freely you have received, now freely give". Matthew 20:7

As we have come to the end of the church year, we see what God has achieved through us and what we still need to do. Here are two simple ways you can continue to help build His church.

- RMD (required minimum distribution) you can reduce your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, from your IRA or 401K, by December 31, 2025.
- Establish an automated weekly or monthly contribution to Bethlehem so you don't have to bother with checks.

Both of these are simple ways to show your love and return to God a portion of what He has so generously given you. Questions about either one? Call or email me. I'm in the church directory. God bless you

Your brother in Christ,

Tim Tobeck



DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7PM Advent Service	4	5	6
7 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study	8 1PM LWM	9	10 7PM Advent Service	11 Church Dinner 4-7 PM	12	13
14 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study	15	16	17 7PM Advent Service	18	19	20
21 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study	22	23	24 7PM Christmas Eve Service	25  10:30 Worship	26	27
28 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study	29	30	31 7PM New Years Eve Service			

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS		DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
3	Melvin Smith	26	Mary & Tim Tobeck
10	Jean Rousch	29	Jean & John Rousch
11	Tim Tobeck		
12	Ryan Kirsch; Gale Smith		
18	Dennis Hartman		
24	Judy Young		
26	Audrey Vine		

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



Scenes from our Thanksgiving Eve Dinner





## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Phone: 239-694-3878

Website: [www.bethlehemplutheranfortmyers.org](http://www.bethlehemplutheranfortmyers.org)

Email: [bethlehemlc@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemlc@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:jlkirsch3@comcast.net)

Your needs will be taken to the Lord!

## Sunday Worship

**10:30 AM** Worship Service

**Rev. Karl Glander**

[pastorkarlglander@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkarlglander@gmail.com)

239-293-1489

Organist: **Holly Bell**

Church Secretary: **Linda Kirsch**

### **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.



Decorating Bethlehem for Christmas

