



# Bethlehem News

# January



Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray everyone had a blessed Christmas. Christmas is a time for family and remembering the birth of our Savior, Jesus. I think we all look forward to Christmas time with all the wonderful things that come with it. The food, the gathering with friends and relatives, the and the coming of our Savior into the Flesh.

Now that Christmas has passed, we now welcome the New Year. In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Day is the first day of the calendar year, 1 January. In pre-Christian Rome, under the Julian calendar, the day was dedicated to Janus, god of gateways and beginnings, for whom January is also named. From Roman times until the mid-18th century, the new year was celebrated at various stages and in various parts of Christian Europe on 25 December, on 1 March, on 25 March and on the movable feast of Easter.

In the present day, with most countries now using the Gregorian calendar as their civil calendar, 1 January according to Gregorian calendar is among the most celebrated of public holidays in the world, often observed with fireworks at the stroke of midnight, following New Year's Eve celebrations, as the new year starts in each time zone.

Different cultures around the world celebrate the New Year in different ways. In East Asia Chinese New Year is celebrated with food, family, lucky money (usually in a red envelope), and many other red items that are believed to bring good luck. Lion and dragon dances, drums, fireworks, firecrackers, and other types of entertainment fill the streets on this day.

Koreans celebrate New Year's Day by preparing food for their ancestors' spirits, visiting ancestors' graves, and playing Korean games such as yunnori with families and friends. Whether its Southeast Asia or the Middle East, Europe or the continent of Africa customs, whether they use the Lunar Calendar or the Georgian, people around the world seem to want to be blessed and cast off the previous year.

We as Christians have also done and do the same but our motivation is much different.

Traditionally, Christians of various denominations (Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and Moravians, among others) often attend a watchnight service (also known as a Watchnight Mass if Holy Communion is celebrated) on the night of New Year's Eve and this liturgy concludes in the morning of New Year's Day. Watchnight services provide the opportunity for Christians to review the year that has passed and make confession, and then prepare for the year ahead by praying and resolving.

Let us resolve to celebrate New Years Eve, in confession and preparing ourselves in prayer, for what lies ahead in the new year. Let us resolve in 2026 to dedicate ourselves to learning and getting closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus. Let us resolve to tell more people about what Jesus means to us. Let us resolve to be patient with our neighbors.

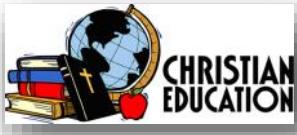
But most of all let us resolve to keep the The Great Commandment in Matthew 22:36-39  
"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. This we can not do on our own but only in Christ. Amen

Blessing this New Year,  
Pastor Karl P Glander



## News and Updates

Our Voters' meeting will be held on January 25th after the worship service. Each church board will present their plans for 2026. Please plan to attend.



Happy New Year to you all! As this new year begins, it is time to begin

planning our VBS for this year. All who are interested in participating in the planning, publishing and or participating are welcome. Our first planning meeting will be at the end of January, date and time will be in the Sunday Bulletin.

Thanks in advance for your help'  
Mickie Naumann



LWM is welcoming all ladies of the church to a luncheon on Monday, January 12th at 1130.

We plan on having some fun and fellowship. And you know the ladies of our church are wonderful cooks. The LWM ladies are providing the lunch. Just bring your appetite. We hope to see you there.

Sandy



As the new year starts, we look back at the challenges and the

blessings of the past twelve months. We see what was truly important and determine how to honor those things in the new year.

One way is to plan for the new year. What do you want to accomplish? What's important to you? Planned giving should be a part of that. Nobody should tell you how much to give....that's between you and God. Only you know, in your heart, what you are able to give.

Your giving should not be an after-thought on Sunday morning. The important part is to think about it, decide and then stick to your plan. 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one of you should give what you have decided in your heart....for God loves a cheerful giver.

Have a blessed new year.

Your brother in Christ, *Tim Tobeck*

## Elders Monthly Devotion

### YOUR HOUSE YOUR KINGDOM

If you turn away from the LORD, the LORD will turn away from you and take all that He has granted you, as He is a Jealous GOD.

*So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates."*

*Kings 11:11*

Re-examine your obedience and faithfulness to the LORD.

*Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

*John 14:23 ESV*

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

*Romans 13:1 ESV*

*In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

*John 14:2*

Lord, would you bless and keep us,  
Lord, please make your face  
shine upon us.

**Amen**

**Klaus Naumann**



Choice Dollars is expanding in quarter 2 of 2026. I have a meeting on January 26 with Thrivent to see what the new changes will be. Make sure that you have directed your choice dollars for 2025 soon or they will be lost.

Questions

*Betty Willis 239-240-5972.*



Last month's  
Offering: \$19,700  
Expenses: \$12,557



## JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	5	6  Epiphany	7 10:30 Bible Study	8 Church Dinner 4-7	9	10
11 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	12 11:30 LWM Luncheon	13	14 10:30 Bible Study	15	16	17
18 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	19	20	21 10:30 Bible Study	22	23	24
25 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	26	27	28 10:30 Bible Study	29	30	31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
5	Karen & Edison Johnson
22	Gale and Melvin Smith

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



Christmas  
Fellowship

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS	
3	Steve Hempel
5	Rollin Duckwitz
6	Gary Schaeffer; Gary Barkhaus
13	Greg Murray
14	Alan Taylor
15	Edison Johnson
20	Linda Kirsch
23	Kathy Brown
26	Janice Bradtmiller
28	Caydance Albert
29	Chip
31	Linda Hedrick





Bethlehem Lutheran Church Website:

Phone: 239-694-3878

[www.bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org](http://www.bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org)

Email: 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



(Above and Right)

Bethlehem Packing Crews filling 144 grocery bags for the families at Buckingham Exceptional School



Delivering 72 turkeys and hams with 144 bags of groceries to the school