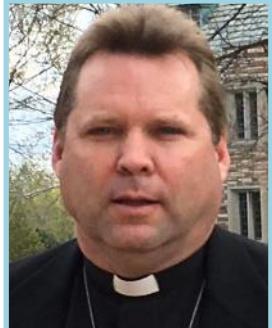




Bethlehem News



FEBRUARY



Dear Friends in Christ,

1 Corinthians 13:13 came to mind when thinking about my article for February. As I searched for ideas I came across this by Delania Byerley. Delania is a content creator and copywriter with Concordia Publishing House. She recently graduated from Valparaiso University with her BA in creative writing. This is our God a God of Love.

"Four Bible Verses about God's Love by Delania Byerley

Although many traditionally associate February with love on Valentine's Day, the best love ever received is the love that God shows to His creation each day. What a true blessing it is to be so deeply loved by the Creator, who sent His Son to pay for our sins! The Bible is full of examples of God's love throughout its pages.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

If there's one verse that shows the true *depth* of God's love, it's absolutely **John 3:16**. This classic verse is a reminder of God's love for all His people, especially those that believe in Him. Christ's sacrifice, and God's willingness to sacrifice His Son to free humanity from its sinful nature, is incomprehensible. On top of that, God offers eternal life—the most precious gift—to His children. Isn't that astounding?

1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us.

What would the world look like if we all tried to love as *Christ* loves us? It's the golden rule to treat others as you'd like to be treated. We are commanded to love as He first loved us, but we fall short due to our sinful nature. This month, I encourage you to strive to share that unconditional, Christlike love—a love full of **forgiveness** and understanding—with everyone you know and meet.

Psalm 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.

We should all be thankful to serve a God who loves His people. In fact, God loves you and me so much that He wants to cultivate a relationship with us and guide us down a path to eternal life spent with Him. This is the glorious gift that Jesus won for us when He laid down His life on the cross—who else do you know that loves like your heavenly Father?

1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Book of **1 Corinthians** hosts more than a few favorite verses on love, including chapter 13, also known as the "love" chapter. When we Christians want to glorify God with our lives, love is the highest thing. It's above hope and faith because love is directed to those with whom we live and reflects God's love for us in Jesus. And for God to place His love into us as His creation, that's a priceless gift."

This February, as you're taking time to share your love with others, think about how you can reflect God's love as well. We are loved by our father who sent His Son to rescue us. James talks about the deeds that flow out from our faith. **James 1:18** But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds. "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

I will have available in the narthex valentines cards you can give to tell people about God's Love. Love in action.

Blessings

Pastor Karl



News and Updates



As we begin 2025, we continue to gather to learn about our Lord and Savior in many forms, both for our youth and for our adults. Sandy Grage continued with Confirmation Class with several of our girls and Linda Kirsch is leading our Sunday School. Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Karl on Sundays and Wednesdays for adults has continued as well. All are welcome and encouraged to join in, there are always interesting and informed discussions at these sessions.

Our first planning meeting for VBS was held on the 28th and I thank everyone who came to both volunteer to help at VBS as well as to share their thoughts on theme, timing, and publicity. Our VBS will be held July 28th – August 1st. We will be having a Kickoff Picnic on Sunday July 20th from 3PM-5PM. Our next meeting will be April 7th at 10AM. Finally, I would like to thank Sandy Grage for all that she has done and continues to do to help our youth in their journey to come closer to Jesus.

Mickie Naumann



Our first game night was a big success with 21 people attending. (See pictures on page 4)

Our next game night will be on February 14 (Valentines Night) at 7 PM. Young and older are all welcome.

Chip Rinehart



This is the last month to direct your Choice Dollars for last year. If this is not donated the money will be lost. Donations to Bethlehem are appreciated.

Betty Willis



February is LWM month here at Bethlehem. The ladies group will be ushering and reading each Sunday the entire month. On February 9 we will have a variety of muffins for sale and on February 23rd we will have a noisy offering during church. Save your coins, bring them to church on the 23rd, and dump them into the cake pans. Let's see how much noise we can make! This is our fundraisers for missions. Most of the rest of the year we work on our church projects. We also have 2 afghans donated by Yvonne for which we are selling tickets. We will be drawing out 2 names to give them away the end of February. We invite all ladies to our group. We would love to have you.

Sandy

Elders' Monthly Devotion

WE THE PEOPLE

Help our leaders speak as oracle's
Judging and functioning as God's
representatives.

*The lips of a king speak as an
oracle, and his mouth does
not betray justice.*

Proverbs 16:10 NIV

Please give them the divine gift
of wisdom to discern between
right and wrong in order to render
God's judgment.

*Honest scales and balances
belong to the Lord;
all the weights in the bag
of his making.*

Proverbs 16:11 NIV

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

Klaus Naumann

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is **love**.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NKJV





FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	3 LWM 1PM	4	5 10:30 Bible Study	6	7	8
9 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	10	11	12 10:30 Bible Study	13 Dinner 4-7 PM	14 Game Night 7PM Valentine's Day	15
16 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	17 Presidents Day	18	19 10:30 Bible Study	20	21	22
23 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School & Confirmation	24	25	26 10:30 Bible Study	27	28	

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
2	Lori & Chris Jensen
14	Carolyn & Gary Fernberg
21	Mickie & Klaus Naumann

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

IN MEMORIAM

CAROL LASER
JANUARY 27, 2024

Memorial service for Carol will be conducted on
February 16th at 3PM



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	
3	Al Vine
9	Judy Wittenberg
13	Paul Rugenstein
14	Ginny Glander
18	Joseph Kogoy
22	Karen Keiper
23	Norm Wellman
25	Mickie Naumann



Four of our ladies who attended the
LWM meeting in January



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Website:

Phone: 239-694-3878

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

Your needs will be taken to the Lord!

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM Worship Service

Rev. Karl Glander

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

239-293-1489

Organist: **Holly Bell**

Church Secretary: **Linda Kirsch**



21 people enjoyed our first game night



Youth Night January 31