



JANUARY COUNCIL REVIEW

By: Alan Miller

Pastor Joel reported Advent and Christmas services went well. He will be contacting the Food for the Poor organization for a speaker for the Spring Mission Festival. We were able to use a bulk of our 2021 points from the Jeremiah 29:11 warehouse. We plan to participate again in 2022 along with several other churches. The Bethlehem Kindness Closet is well-stocked due to a Thrivent Action Team grant from Carol Kurz. Several children helped stock the items at the North entrance closet. Pastor plans to meet with the new Evangelism chair, Danielle Thomas to explore a congregational workshop this year on faith sharing and spiritual conversations.

budgeted amount by **\$3,232.88**. Operating expenses accounted for **\$31,201.48** which is over the monthly budget by **\$4,726.04**. Cash-on hand, those funds not committed to other items was **\$41,573.30**, which decreased by roughly **\$2,000** since last month. We've funded several budgeted projects in the church which has driven up some of the 2021 expenses. The Building Expansion Fund increased to **\$396,928.86** for a potential future expansion project. Bethlehem's regular savings account increased slightly to **\$191,482.85**. Bethlehem received **\$273,825.60** for operating funds in 2021 and had **\$286,017.40** in expenses.

December Treasury Report Summary: Bethlehem received **\$20,525.57**, an increase from the previous month and above the

Head Elder, Wille Crespo reported new duties for the Elders. Alan will be in charge of Advertising and Promotions, Caleb will head

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Pastor

660-441-5710
pastor@blchurch.com

Rebecca (CLF)

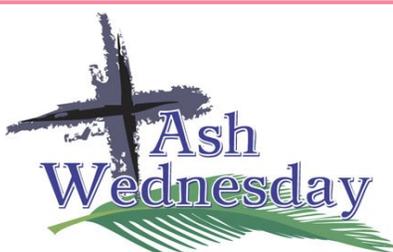
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Wednesday

March 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Communion Service

COUNCIL CONTINUED

up an effort to train Acolytes and Jack will be in charge of Ushers. Pastor/Elder Ricky will serve as a contact for family needs, visits and emergencies in the event Pastor is not able to assist or out of the office.

Congregational Life Facilitator: Rebecca began an Epiphany Bible Study on Thursday evenings. She continues to post daily readings and scripture on Facebook. Synology data base was transferred into the church which will help with weekly bulletins, coordination for music and other group activities in the church. Contact Cindy if you need help setting up a password.

Evangelism: Danielle Thomas was greeted during her first council meeting and will lead the board this year.

Fellowship passed out ornaments to congregational members on the weekend of Dec 18th and 19th.

Long Range Planning: Rich discussed forming an ADHOC committee for the purpose of pursuing a building expansion

in 2022. Mark Schlueter, Bonnie Rich and Jeremy VanWey will be on the committee with Rich leading.

Music Advisory committee reported musicians had a busy month supporting Mid-Week Advent, weekend, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve worship services. Many Thanks to the musicians for their flexibility and dedication throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Cathy Welch, Penny and Abby Humphrey participated with their voices during Holy Communion on December 18th and 19th. Becky Limback and the New Century Dulcimer Ensemble provided pre-service music on December 18th.

A new Year of planning and looking ahead to new challenges will provide Bethlehem an opportunity to serve our church, our missions and our community. Blessings to all and we'll hope for good health and improving overall conditions in our day-to-day lives in 2022.

Alan Miller

FOOD CENTER "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY-FEBRUARY 13

Once again, our pandemic "Souper" Bowl drive will be 'virtual' cans! Not only are virtual cans lighter, but your **donated dollar is equal to 3 cans of soup** when purchased at Harvesters, our Kansas City Food Bank.

Monetary Donations can be sent to: The Food Center, P.O. Box 872, Warrensburg, MO. 64093.

Please make special arrangements with the Food Center **(660) 747-6188** for any actual can donations. Check out our "Most Wanted" list on our website for other food donation ideas: **www.foodcenterjoco.com**.

The Warrensburg Food Center is in need of the following items: smaller boxes of dried cereal, instant coffee (no decaf), hamburger helper and pop tarts. No macaroni and cheese at this time. The Food Center thanks you for your continued support.

PASTOR'S PAGE

THE FRAMEWORK OF LOVE

Even before February rolls around, one starts seeing hearts and “love” in various shades of pink and red in almost every store—reminding people of Valentine’s Day and its “essential” framework of cards and candy, jewelry and flowers. Very few people even seem to know that St. Valentine was a pastor and physician whose life in the third century bore witness to the love of God and fellow human beings that Jesus said is the Great Commandment at the heart of Scripture that we are all to live by (Matthew 22:34-40).

C.S. Lewis wrote in his classic *The Four Loves*, “...if all we mean by our love is a craving to be loved, we are in a very deplorable state.... If love is to be a blessing, not a misery, it must be for the only Beloved who will never pass away.... In my love for wife or friend the only eternal element is the transforming presence of Love Himself.”

Usually when we talk biblically in terms of what love lived out looks like, we do so with St. Paul’s words from his First Epistle to the Corinthians about love being “patient and kind, not envious or boastful, not arrogant or rude...” (13:4-7), but recently on reading through his First Epistle to the Thessalonians, I came to a passage that struck me as a template of love to steep ourselves in and live in our various life settings:

Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.... Respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.... Admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not despise teaching, but test everything; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil (5:11-22).

Those words show us in detail the devotion and action that not only come from Christ’s love to us but then get lived through us in very concrete terms. And, as Christ himself demonstrated in his sacrificial life, living that love is far from easy but is the very essence of that “transforming presence” Lewis wrote about.

I find it very instructive in noting that the day after St. Valentine’s Day is the day for remembering Philemon and Onesimus—the master and his runaway slave of whom St. Paul made a powerful example of transforming love. Paul had taken in the runaway Onesimus (“Useful”) and had come to love him as a son—“my very heart” is how he described him. As Paul wrote this letter which accompanied Onesimus’ return, he praised Philemon for his love and for the faith he had toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints ... even as he appealed to him for love’s sake to receive Onesimus back no longer as a slave but as a beloved brother in the flesh and in the Lord. Imagine! Then he continued that Philemon should receive Onesimus as he would St. Paul himself, and that he would pay anything that might be owed or incurred. He longed to know that Philemon would live that difficult but transformative love in the Lord by simply and profoundly pleading, “Refresh my heart in Christ.” (Read the short letter of Philemon.)

May that life-changing love of Christ be ours not only to talk about but live out especially in all of the tough places where our Lord wants his forgiving and healing power to be known and seen!

Yours in the Rescuing and Redeeming Net of Christ’s Love,
+Pr. Joel

**REBECCA STEWART
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE FACILITATOR**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

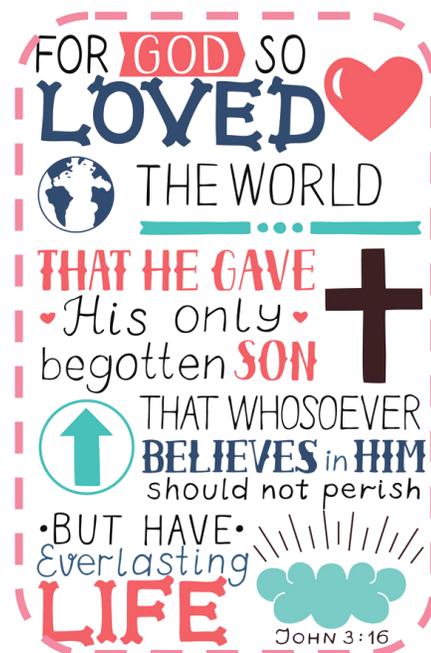


February is the month that is dedicated to love. There is no greater verse to describe love than 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” Love is not limited to just your spouse. We also love family, friends, neighbors, and our fellow Christian families.

There is no greater love than the love God has for all of us. We are so loved by Him that he “created man, in his own image” Genesis 1:27. The Lord made and gave us an amazing and beautiful world that we live in and we are to care for all His creations (Genesis 1). In Genesis, we also see that God was with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This truly was a special and perfect place to be with, see, and talk the Lord. Unfortunately, they were banished from the Garden of Eden for the evil they had done. This shows how evil destroys and hurts the ones we love.

In the New Testament, we are able to see how much the Lord still loves us and wants to rescue us from sin. His love is so great

that “He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). There is no love greater than the love a parent has for their child. We are all God’s children and He wants you to be His too. This love is unconditional and does not end. You can mess up, sin, and make mistakes; but God still loves you and wants to bring you closer to Him. “God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)” (Ephesians 2:4-5).



This year do not just show your love with the usual tokens of chocolates and flowers. Instead, share your love with people in your life with God’s Word. Share verses that will bring love, peace, and hope into their lives. Allow God’s love for you to help you grow and become who He wants you to be.

MARY MARTHA GUILD

By: Darlene Laubenstein

Although our first meeting of 2022 had to be cancelled due to the increase of the Covid outbreak, we plan to continue with our programs for the rest of the year (assuming there are no further complications). The updated Mary-Martha Guild Handbook has been put in the mailboxes of all the current members. Please look them over and let us know if there are any needed corrections for your phone number, email address, etc.

We are appreciative of all those who will be able to serve on the various committees throughout the year. Even if you are not a member of the Guild, the opportunities for you to serve on these committees are open to you—as some do currently. Just contact any of the officers if you are interested or if you have questions.

The February program will be on Valentine's Day (February 14) at 7:00pm. We will be pleased to welcome Ashleigh Burnett from the Survival House here in Warrensburg. As always, everyone is invited to come to our programs. We hope you come to hear about the process and renewal of self they provide for those for whom it is needed.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), of which Mary-Martha Guild is a member, is celebrating their 80th Anniversary! We plan to celebrate the milestone during this year. Stay tuned!

Blessings to each of you! Pray for our congregation that we will stay strong in God's word throughout the coming year!

Darlene Laubenstein
MMG President

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS ALERT

Members with 2021 choice dollars available need to designate these funds before March 31 or they will expire. You may direct your choice dollars to:

Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at Thrivent.com/Thrivent choice or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used \$1,000 of choice dollars to assist with the Warrensburg Angel Tree Project. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions about any of our activities including Choice Dollars and Action Team Projects.



**Don't forget to direct
Choice Dollars®**

Grow in Christ! Live in Love! Share the Faith!

FAITH OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP SERVICES



Saturday services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. You can also watch Sunday's service live on Facebook, YouTube or on the webpage at blchurch.com.



FAITH NIGHT

New Faith Night Topic for 2022: *The Lord's Prayer, Line by Line!* We'll start on **Wednesday, February 2nd** by discussing what it means to pray and live the words "Our Father in Heaven." Bring whatever you'd like to eat for a simple meal and conversation with others from **5:30-6:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall, followed by our discussion from **6:00 to 6:45**. Any questions? Ask Pr. Joel.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Bible Study is working through the recent book *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation*, as well as through companion passages in Scripture, so that we can all more firmly believe and live through Christ's own life, death, and resurrection. Plan on joining us **in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.**

Wednesday Bible Study is currently exploring the short book of Jonah. Join us **in the conference room from 10:30 to noon** as we see what Jonah has to do with us.

Thursday Advent Zoom Bible Study. "Epiphany 2022" will be a new Zoom bible study class coming after the first of the year. We will be discussing God's forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. This Bible Study focuses on the scripture readings each Sunday. The class will start on **Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.** and run through March 10. Please let Rebecca or Cindy know if you would like to join the group.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School for Preschool through 12th grade is being held on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall downstairs. These are great opportunities for your children to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in trust toward their Savior!

2022 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



If you are a member of the Sr. High Youth, and would like to go to Houston, TX in July for the National Gathering, please contact Pr. Joel asap. There are several slots available still with another group, so plans need to be made soon. There are congregational fund to also help with expenses.

Grow in Christ! Live in Love! Share the Faith!

GROUPS

STRENGTH TRAINING

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this free, low impact exercise class on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m.** It is open to anyone, all ages & abilities. Contact Judy Smith with any questions.

MOMS AND TOTS GROUP

Check out the Moms and Tots Bethlehem Lutheran Church Facebook page for weekly updates. **Join us on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. at the park.** If you have questions, contact Rebecca Holland.

QUILTING

The Quilting Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (September

through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, contact Georgia Luker.

GAMES AND CARDS GROUP

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

MERRY WIDOWS/FRIENDS

Merry Widows and Friends will be meeting on **February 17 at 11:30 a.m.** in the church fellowship hall (weather permitting). Bring your lunch, bring a friend and join us for some fellowship time with each other.

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL HEART MONTH

A message for all #OurHearts

**February 4
National Wear
Red Day**

A message for all #OurHearts

REST

A message for all #OurHearts

BREATHE

A message for all #OurHearts

NOURISH

**National Heart
Institute
www.nhlbi.nih.gov**

**American Heart
Association
www.heart.org**

MEMBER UPDATES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Delany Clemons	4th	Ender Hartwig	11th	Mark Steitz	17th
Ryeley Hillsman	4th	LauraBeth VanWey	11th	Janet Mudd	19th
Austin Lowe	4th	Dylan Wittmaier	11th	Killian Pederson	19th
Justin Lowe	6th	Valerie Hartwig	14th	Peyton Stewart	25th
Michael McMinn	7th	Ethan Parten	15th	Chase Hagle	26th
Katie Kurz	8th	Beryleen Dodson	16th	Genieve Miller	27th
Ken Hoemann	9th	Jeff Markworth Jr.	16th	James Schumaker	29th



BAPTISMAL MILESTONES

Baptismal Milestones are published to commemorate the first year, every fifth year and dates over 70 years.

Christopher Carter	4th/15 yrs
Joey Kemple	6th/50 yrs
Roberta Kohler	7th/87 yrs
Beryl Lindley	7th/80 yrs
Karen Haase	10th/65 yrs
Caleb Thomas	21st/5 yrs



CALLING ON SENIORS

If you are a senior in high school this year please contact the office so we can have a list of who will be graduating.

If you are graduating from college, tech school, etc., please also do the same.

ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY

Brett & Valerie Hartwig	1st
Ralph & MaryAnn Hein	9th
Brian & Robin Poes	19th
Bob & Barbara Compton	21st
James & Stephanie Schumaker	29th

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NATIONAL HEART — MONTH —</p> 		<p>1 12:00p-Braille in Concordia</p> 	<p>2 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:30a-Bible Study 5:30p-Faith Night</p> 	<p>3 9:30a-WCS 1:00p-Games and Card Group 7:00p-Zoom Epiphany Bible Class</p> 	<p>4 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>5 5:30p-Holy Communion 6:45p-Bible Study</p> 
<p>6 9:15a-Christian Education 10:30a-Holy Communion</p> 	<p>7 Pastor's Day Off 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:00a-Moms and Tots at the Park 6:30p-Scouts</p> 	<p>8 9:30a-Quilting 7:00p-Church Council Meeting</p> 	<p>9 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:30a-Bible Study</p> 	<p>10 9:30a-WCS 1:00p-Games and Card Group 7:00p-Zoom Epiphany Bible Class</p> 	<p>11 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>12 5:30p-Worship 6:45p-Bible Study</p> 
<p>13 9:15a-Christian Education 10:30a-Worship 11:45a-Fellowship Coffee 12:00p-Elders' Meeting 2:30p-Country Club Service</p>	<p>14 Pastor's Day Off 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:00a-Moms and Tots at the Park 7:00p-Merry Martha Guild Meeting</p> 	<p>15 6:00p-Mission Board Meeting</p> 	<p>16 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:30a-Bible Class</p> 	<p>17 9:30a-WCS 11:30a-Merry Widows and Friends Lunch 1:00p-Games and Card Group 5:30p-Fellowship Board Meeting 7:00p-Zoom Epiphany Bible Class</p>	<p>18 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>19 11:00a-Trustees' Meeting 5:30p-Holy Communion 6:45p-Bible Study</p> 
<p>20 9:15a-Christian Education 10:30a-Holy Communion</p> 	<p>21 Pastor's Day Off 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:00a-Moms and Tots at the Park 6:30p-Scouts</p> 	<p>22 9:30a-Quilting 7:15p-Education Board Meeting</p> 	<p>23 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:30a-Bible Class</p> 	<p>24 9:30a-WCS 1:00p-Games and Card Group 7:00p-Zoom Epiphany Bible Class</p> 	<p>25 9:30a-Exercise Class</p> 	<p>26 5:30p-Worship 6:45p-Bible Study</p> 
<p>27 9:15a-Christian Education 10:30a-Worship</p> 	<p>28 Pastor's Day Off 9:30a-Exercise Class 10:00a-Moms and Tots at the Park 6:30p-4-H Meeting</p> 	<p>And now these three remain:</p>  <p>but the greatest of these is love.</p> <p><small>1 Corinthians 13:13</small></p>				

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
607 N. Maguire Street
Warrensburg, MO 64093

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Permit #29
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Return Service Requested



Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Christian Education

Sunday: 9:15 a.m.



- 1st Braille in Concordia
- 2nd Faith Night
- 7th Scouts
- 8th Church Council Meeting
- 13th Fellowship Coffee/Treats
- 13th Elders' Meeting
- 14th Mary Martha Guild Mtg
- 15th Mission Board Meeting
- 17th Merry Widows/Friends
- 17th Fellowship Meeting
- 19th Trustees' Meeting
- 21st Scouts
- 22nd Education Board Meeting
- 28th 4-H

Elder Schedule:

- 5th Jack Easterwood
- 6th Caleb Thomas
Willie Crespo
- 12th Jack Easterwood
- 13th Jack Easterwood
- 19th Ricky Bertels
- 20th Alan Miller
Ricky Bertels
- 26th Caleb Thomas
- 27th Ricky Bertels

Altar Committee:

Darlene Laubenstein
(Chair), Karon Harding,
Esther Keseman, Georgia
Luker

Flower Committee:

Penny Humphrey
(Chair), Lori Sloan

Kitchen Committee:

Penny Humphrey
Eunice Cobb

Sound Technicians:

Jerry Harding, Scott
Humphrey

Video:

Abby Humphrey, Zach
Brown, Cindy Smith

Offerings

Simply Giving is the online program for donations and offerings. The website has changed a bit recently. If you need assistance, please let the office know and we will provide you with the steps to start it or help you change where you place your funds.