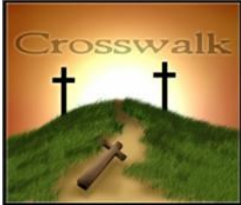


February 1, 2017

Bethlehem Star



Thoughts from Pastor Mark

"L"

I saw my first one while waiting to cross an intersection on a London corner. It was a young man on a motor scooter with a large red letter "L" on a white background on the front of his scooter. Then I began to notice more and more of them.

So I wondered: what's with the "L" on the motor scooters?

What I found out was very interesting: the "L" stands for "Learner," and the motor scooter drivers were seeking to master the London street system. If you've been there or ever looked at a London street map, you've noticed it looks a lot more like a plate of spaghetti than a checkerboard.

The drivers were seeking to master what's called "The Knowledge." That quest entails learning 320 routes, about 25,000(!) streets (including lots of one-way streets and dead ends) and 20,000(!) landmarks (pubs, museums, parks, monuments, railway stations, hospitals, schools, government buildings, cemeteries, churches, theaters, and more).

It usually takes 3-5 years to get ready to pass the battery of exams. It's not unusual for the drivers to drive 10,000 miles to prepare themselves. Studies have shown that this strenuous learning process actually alters the brains of the ones who eventually pass. The exam process has been called the hardest

geography test in the world.

When I asked a cab driver how it worked to have all this in his head he said something like, "I hear the street name (if it's a rare one), wait a couple of seconds, and then just 'see' it in my head, including the best way to get there." Interesting, isn't it?

So, why do I bring this up?

We've all got to "navigate" our way through life. The longer I live, the more complex it seems the journey is. I find the task of "learning" is an unending one. I'm committed to be a "lifelong learner," and I hope that's your desire, as well.

God's Word tells me to "*learn* to fear the LORD," (Deut. 31:12), "*learn* to do what I is right," (Isa. 1:17), "*learn* to control your body," (1 Th. 4:4), "*learn* to devote myself to doing what is good," (Ti. 3:14), "*learn* to be content," (Phil. 4:11). And my Lord Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and *learn* from me," (Matt. 11:29). We're even reminded that Jesus "*learned* obedience from what he suffered," (Heb. 5:8).

I ask: Are you learning? Do you want to continue to learn? What steps are you taking to learn more of the God who loves you, the Savior who died for you, the Spirit who dwells within you?

So, if you see me walking around with a big "L" on my chest or back, you can know it stands for Learner. Want to join the club?

*Growing with Families
in the
Good News of Christ*

Women's Bible Study Opportunity

According to bestselling author Lysa TerKeurst, craving isn't a bad thing. But we must realize God created us to crave so we'd ultimately desire more of Him in our lives. Many of us have replaced that craving with food or other things instead of Him! We will be starting a study from Lysa's book, *Made to Crave* to help us become healthier and ultimately grow closer to Him in the process. A healthy body and mind can only be found in Him! Join us for seven weeks beginning Thursday, February 9, at 6:30 pm. We will meet at Dawn Vaudt's home, located at 3424 S Conway Dr, Kennewick. There will be a sign up sheet at church on the table, or you may call the church office to reserve your spot and to order materials. A \$20 fee is suggested to cover materials. Let's satisfy our deepest desire together with God!

LWML

Attention all ladies of Bethlehem Lutheran! The LWML meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 pm in the library. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Mark. He will lead us in a Bible Study based on our theme "Serving God As Women of Light". Please remember our meeting has a new start time of 6:30 p.m. Come join us.

It's a Baby Shower!

Help us welcome Kenyon James Hulvey with a baby shower Saturday, February 11, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at church. Please RSVP to Maggie Wolf at 582-3003. Hope to see you there.



Musings - from Marilou

(Marilou DeWoody, Ministries Coordinator)

This past month has been fraught with school closures and postponed ministry opportunities because of the weather, and I'm sure that all of you are as anxious as I am to be past this and barreling forward into spring!

In spite of the weather, we did manage to get a few things accomplished. I want to thank the fifteen men who showed up on the 6th of January to help take down the Christmas decorations and put them away. Many hands made it much more doable, and I am fairly confident that you all enjoyed the pizza and fel-

lowship ... hopefully enough to want to do it again next year ☺

Great job to everyone who got "shot" this past month! Of course I am talking about having your picture taken for our pictorial directory. As I write this (with still a week+ to go in the month of January), over 120 families have participated. Our volunteer photographers and assistants have done a wonderful job of making themselves available after each service to accommodate most schedules, so if you haven't had this opportunity, please stick around after either service and have your picture taken. The pictorial directory is a wonderful tool, especially for new families who come to the Church and don't quite know everyone immediately. By doing it ourselves, we will be able to keep it updated on a regular basis. This is also a great time to make certain that we have correct addresses, phone, and email addresses for you, so please take the time to fill out the information sheet as well.

Our Women's Retreat was postponed to March 10 and 11, 2017. We made a judgement call to not have our guests and/or volunteers be concerned or intimidated by the icy roads/parking lots and decided to move it to a (we hope) better time of year. We have eight (8) spots left, so if you are available on these dates, please contact me and we will get you signed up! Sweet Life Café will be a great time for fellowship in His word. The \$35.00 fee will include all your materials for study and crafts, and will also include dinner on Friday evening, and a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. We are all anxious and excited to host this retreat, so please consider joining us.

Cancer Companions support group will be held on February 13 and February 20 at 5:30 pm, and will continue to be held on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at the same time. This is another ministry opportunity that had to be postponed because of inclement weather, but we are ready and willing to be there for anyone who desires a more spiritual support group. We have leaders who are willing to host one-on-one or be in a group setting, so please feel free to talk to me about the possibilities.

Thanks to the members of the Community Care Team who met this past month and helped plan our servant events for 2017. This is an open group, so if one of your desires for 2017 is to have more of a servant heart and become more active in your community, please consider joining us. You may ask Pastor Andy or me for more details.

Marilou

VBS is Coming Sooner than You Think!

Mark your calendars! Our 2017 VBS will be **June 19-22**. We will once again have Lutherhaven join us for the week and lead us. This year's VBS theme is **Masterpiece!** and will be focusing on **Ephesians 2:10: We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.** Watch for more details as the time gets closer.

February THIS MONTH'S 2017 birthdays

1 Brook Boderick	15 Malachi Noble
2 Ron Anfinson	Abigail Picker
3 Danny Schuldheisz	18 Alexander Bigloo
Brad Vaudt	Marian Personett
4 Helen Schwenk	Bryson Knapik
5 Ryan Konyu	20 Jennifer Cody
6 Michael Garvin	Jeanette Barta
8 James Deneen	21 Hadley Haynes
Candi Kleingartner	22 Kendra Nies
Jeff Uttecht	23 Keith Brady
9 Dawn Garner	Sherry Wright
Earl Nettnin	Tom Cadwell
10 Nathanael Fritz	25 Julien LaLonde
13 Becky Yates	Dean Hicks
Elexis Cobb	Sylvia Alvis
14 Erika Ardiente	27 Susan Baltazar
15 Joel Macduff	

THIS MONTH'S anniversaries

Luke & Sarah Flohr	2/5/05
Richard & Helen Wyer	2/14/50
Ron & Marie Davidson	2/16/77
Jeramie & Heather Morrow	2/20/10

"A flower is a smile from heaven."

— Author unknown

What a neat thought! "Flowers are smiles from heaven ... and are designed by God." We appreciate God's handiwork in the flowers in the world around us. We also use them to beautify our altar during weekly worship. Do you want to help make this happen? This simple act is a way to remember and honor loved ones and special occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, special people, national holidays, or just "Given to the Glory of God." There's a sign-up sheet for each month of the year on the bulletin board in the back of our worship area. (We are asked to spend a minimum of \$15 due to the size and proportion of our altar.) Thank you!



ATTENDANCE	8:00	11:00	Total
Sunday, January 1			112
Sunday, January 8	85	65	150
Sunday, January 15	175	72	247
Sunday, January 22	140	123	263



**Check
This
Out!**

February 7, 6:30 pm, LWML
February 9, 6:30 pm, Women's Bible Study begins
February 13 & 27, 5:30 pm, Cancer Companions
February 11, 1:00 pm, Baby Shower for Jackie Hulvey
February 16, 6:00 pm, Parent Play Date
February 16 & 17, LEST
February 18, 7:45 am, Man Up!
February 23, 6:30 pm, Piety by the Pint
March 10 & 11, Women's Retreat
April 7, 1:00 pm, Red Cross Blood Drive
June 19-22, Vacation Bible School
Guatemala Mission Trip, February 24 – March 3, 2018

The Vampires are Coming ...

Would you like to save a life? What if you needed blood and there was none? What can you do to help ease the shortage?



We have the answer: On Friday, April 7, Bethlehem will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1:00 — 6:00 pm. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. We will begin sign-ups in mid-March.

Thank You from Christ Care Board

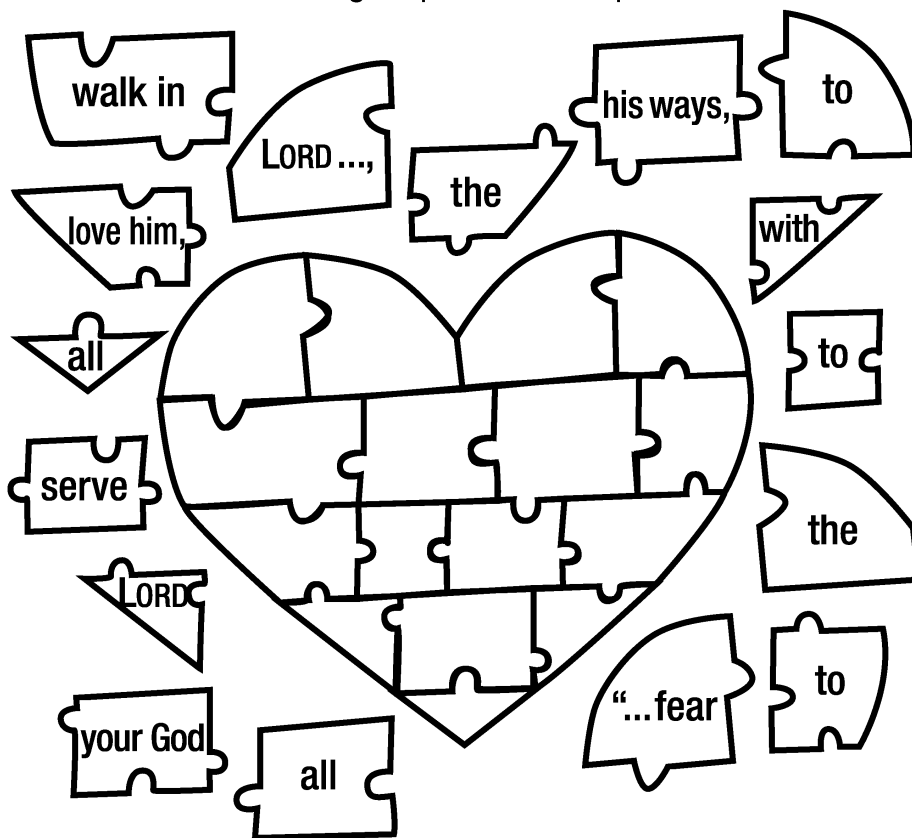
To our BLC Family, We would like to express our deep appreciation for the exceptional support you gave to our Christ Care Food Bank. You helped so many families in 2016. THANK YOU! However our shelves are pretty bare. We are in need of boxed dinners, canned fruit, canned meats, canned dinners, toilet paper, paper towels, condiments, toiletries and any other non-perishable items to be found in a grocery store. We will be so grateful for your help. Thank you and God Bless.



Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ...

Answer: "...fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

* A JAR OF * Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

Bethlehem Star Newsletter Editor: Jeanne A. Murphy
Phone: (509) 627-1164
E-mail: jeanneamurphy1@frontier.com

Deadline for March submissions:
February 20

MISSION STATEMENT: God has made us a caring Christian family so that we can worship Him with joyful praise, study His Word and witness the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, serve children and their families through our church and school, learn "Christ Care", and help our family grow.

Servant Calendar

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Worship Assistant	Brent Edwards	Matt Macduff	Floyd Ivey	Jeff Gale
Lector 8:00	David & Ryan Konyu	Mary-Lynn Konyu	Jackie Hulvey	Sherry Emery
Lector 11:00	TBA	Elaine Steege	Brent Keseman	Alex Bigloo
Greeters 8:00	James & Judy Deneen	Barb Cody Terri Lahti	Kris Hulvey Angie Matte	Dan & Jan Schuldheisz
Greeters 11:00	Larry & Mary Brose	Art & Mary Goldgrabe	Brent & Melinda Edwards	Marie Davidson Paula Pangborn
Java Café 8:00	Peggy Ivey Terri Lahti	Dan & Jan Schuldheisz	Ron & Beth Anfinson	Angela Courtney
Java Café 11:00	Mary Brose Megan Simonis	Jared & Gina Cronrath	Dori McCollum Rheta Adrian	Mary Kostenko Emily Bucho-Morehouse
Tech Help 8:00	Angie Matte	Rob Gates	Lee Pearson	Jon Funfar
Tech Help 11:00	Russ Hulvey	Tony Grisafe	Jim Koch	Kris Hulvey
Children's Church 8:00	Children's Message	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Children's Message 11:00	Children's Message	Children's Message	Children's Message	Children's Message
Altar Guild	Melissa Macduff	Melissa Macduff	Melissa Macduff	Melissa Macduff



Thrivent Choice Dollars Time!

It's time once again to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Based on member recommendations, Bethlehem received \$2,500 in charitable outreach funding in 2016. Directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars is easy. Just visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click "Get started now." Log in with your user ID and password, answer your security question, and follow the directions to direct your Choice Dollars. Your 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, so remember to make your direction known soon.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

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February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Open	6 9:00 AM Quilters/ Prayer Warriors	7 5:00 PM Joining Jesus 6:30 PM LWML 6:30 PM Elders	1 8:40 AM Chapel	2 12:00 Noon Binary D/L	3	4
11 1:00 PM Baby Shower						
12 8:00 AM SonRise Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Open	13 9:00 AM Quilters/ Prayer Warriors 5:30 PM Cancer Companions	14 6:30 PM Council	15 8:40 AM Chapel	16 School Closed 12:00 Noon Binary D/L 6:00 PM Parent Play Date 7:00 PM SonRise Practice	17 LEST—School Closed	18 7:45 AM Man Up!
19 8:00 AM SonRise Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Open	20 9:00 AM Quilters/ Prayer Warriors 6:00 PM Sch. Board STAR Deadline	21	22 12:50 PM Chapel	23 12:00 Noon Binary D/L 6:30 PM Piety/Pint (Barley's Brew Hub)	24	25 6:00 PM Game Night (Gym) 6th-HS & Parents
26 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Open	27 9:00 AM Quilters/ Prayer Warriors 5:30 PM Cancer Companions	28				

God is Love

When the Bible says "God is love," it isn't saying that God is some vague, warm, fuzzy feeling that makes you happy. It isn't saying that we find God by loving one another either. What this powerful phrase means is that God defines love! God is the very definition of love itself. Anything you want to know about love you need to first go to Him. And as hard as we might try, we just can't define love outside of God.

This is vitally important for families. Our love for one another comes from understanding God's love for us. It seems the love that parents have for their children is as close as we can get to understanding God's unconditional love. We continue to love our children through the good and bad times, and we don't stop loving them if they fail to meet our expectations. Our love for our children doesn't stop when we don't "feel" love for them. Parents love their children because they are their own!

This is similar to God's love for us. John 3:16 is a prime example: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." Hear also from Romans 5:8: "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God defines love by His act of giving His Son. God gave it all up so that you may have a close relationship with Him. That is an amazing love and a fine example of what our love for each other could look like. Love, according to God's definition, has no conditions. God doesn't say, "as soon as you clean up your act, I'll love you." God wants us to know that His love is unconditional and that His love for us has always existed and will always exist. Now that's what I call love!

**GOD IS
LOVE**

For Your February Calendar:

16th - Parent Play Date from 6:00-8:00 pm

18th - Man Up! (HS age and older)
at 7:45 am

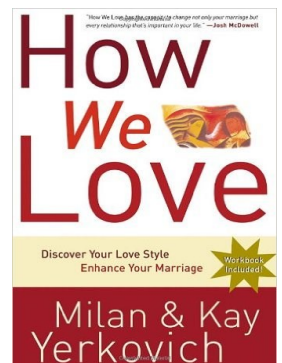
25th - Game Night (6-HS and Parents)
from 6:00-8:30 pm

Book of the Month

How We Love

by Milan and Kay Yerkovich

This book goes through your past experiences that have shaped the way you love, along with behaviors, expectations, and beliefs about relationships. The authors also wrote *How we Love Our Kids*.



Save the Date

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February 1, 2017

Bethlehem Star



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School

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