

23rd Sunday
After Pentecost

NOVEMBER 8, 2020



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: (239) 694-3878

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: (239) 293-1489

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

According to Amos, worship without acts of justice for the needy is meaningless to God. During and after a worship service, take time to think about how God's acts of love and mercy for you and all humanity lead you to do acts of kindness and love for others.

The foolish bridesmaids in the parable did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to be ready and let the light of Jesus' love shine. We can do this by being ready to do God's work every day. One way to be ready is to

pray for others, read scripture, and bless others. Use this blessing daily during this week: May the light of Christ shining through you show your readiness to do God's work.



IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!

Here at Bethlehem Lutheran we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say and do as we serve Him and live in Christian love with one another.

If you would like to learn more about this church, or are looking for a church family, please talk to our pastor or one of the ushers or elders. They would be happy to talk with you! Regardless of whether you join or not, we welcome you and your family to worship with us any time!

Should you have something we could privately pray about for you this week, we invite you to let our pastor or one of our members know so we can seek the Lord's face together.

Come visit us again sometime soon and may the Lord richly bless you!

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 8, 2020

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

398 **HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED**

(Stanzas 1, 3)

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.

3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

(please rise)

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

PIf we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

CBut if we confess our sins, God, who is
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-
examination.)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

Psalm 70

O LORD, Do Not Delay

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!

C Let them be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life!
Let them be turned back and brought to
dishonor
who desire my hurt!

P Let them turn back because of their shame
who say, “Aha, Aha!”

C May all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you!
May those who love your salvation
say evermore, “God is great!”

P But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

(please rise)

KYRIE

PIn peace let us pray to the Lord.

CLord, have mercy.

PFor the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the Lord.

CLord, have mercy.

PFor the peace of the whole world, for the well-
being of the Church of God, and for the unity of
all let us pray to the Lord.

CLord, have mercy.

PFor this holy house and for all who offer here
their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

CLord, have mercy.

PHelp, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious
Lord.

CAmen.

♪GLORIA IN EXCELSIS♪

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 5:18–24

Let Justice Roll Down

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light,

¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion,

and a bear met him,

or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,

and a serpent bit him.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not

light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹“I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn
assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings
and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened
animals,

I will not look upon them.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

The Coming of the Lord

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed,
brothers, about those who are asleep, that you
may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose

again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(please rise)

♪ ALLELUIA AND VERSE ♪

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1–13

PThe Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

CGlory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and

the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

CPraise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

515 REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS

(Stanzas 1, 4)

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets Your people free!

SERMON "Do I know you?" . . . Pastor Karl

(please rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

CI believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the
dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

(please be seated)

OFFERING

□ OFFERTORY RESPONSE □

(please rise)

805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL
BLESSINGS FLOW

△ 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

(please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

801 HOW GREAT THOU ART

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
Refrain

ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to
Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I
wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle
breeze; Refrain

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Refrain

4 When Christ shall come with shout of
acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my
heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou
art!” Refrain

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give
you peace.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Elders: Edison Johnson

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Bob Jurs, Paul Rugenstein

Reader: Raul Puga

Acolyte: Jase Albert

Birthday Greetings!! 11/11: John Wittenberg

Anniversary Greetings!! 11/12: Wende & Steve Williams (32 yrs.)

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving
Offerings: \$5807
Expenses: \$9979

Weekly Attendance
Worship Service - 39
Adult Bible Class - 13
Sunday School - 3



The Flowers at our altar this morning was given to Glory of God by Bethlehem Lutheran

SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES



Today, Sunday, November 8th, 2020 adult Bible class and Sunday school at 11:30 a.m.



Wednesday Bible study in the fellowship hall on Wednesday's, at 10:30 a.m. and also remains on Zoom.



Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets

This year, as in the past we will provide Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for needy families in our community. We will collect

food items, organizing and packing them on November 15th, and then distribute food baskets November 18th to the Buckingham Exceptional Student Center. We are truly blessed to have so many who continue to support feeding the needy and we thank you for your generosity. Suggested items are Cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, canned yams/sweet potatoes, hot chocolate packets, dessert, box of crackers, jar of nuts. Cash contributions are also welcome.



2020 Operation Christmas Child Takes Off!!
This year, as in years past, we are participating in Operation Christmas Child. This worldwide outreach of Samaritan's Purse touches the lives of millions of hurting children each year. Please send a box this year. This simple box symbolizes God's love for them and opens doors to introduce boys and girls to God's greatest gift-Jesus Christ. We hope you will be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year! What a wonderful way to reach out with a gift-filled shoe box and touch

the life of a needy child, and often their family, somewhere in the world! While supply lasts, empty shoe boxes are available on a table in the narthex. Fill a shoebox for a child, put a \$9.00 check in made out to Samaritan's Purse for shipping and handling of these boxes. You can also leave your gift-filled shoe boxes on the table in the Fellowship Hall. We are blessed to be a blessing to others! So far, we have 80 boxes this year. Thank you for helping us reach our goal. Thank you for helping us pack them Tuesday. If you would still like to supply a shoebox you have until next week.



Flower Calendar: The 2020 Flower Chart is up in the narthex. The flowers decorating the chancel at Bethlehem are placed there as an act of worship and devotion to glorify God. They are also, an expression of the beauty and goodness of God. Members of the congregation may donate altar flowers as an expression of thanksgiving to God, in remembrance of departed loved one, on the

occasion of a special event, such as a baptism, birthday, wedding anniversary, or simply to praise God. If you wish to donate flowers for use on the chancel, the cost is \$40.00 for two vases, if you would like to just purchase 1 vase at \$20.00 that's okay, but please put up there 1 vase and someone can sign up with you for the other. It is also tax deductible. Please place money in an envelope marked flowers in the offering basket. We have openings for November 15, & 29. December 6 & 13.



Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, November 25th, 2020

at 7:00 P.M.

Giving with a thankful heart blesses both the **giver and the receiver of one's generosity.**



Decorate the Church for
Christmas
Sunday, November 29th, 2020 right
after service. Join in some great

fellowship!



Mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas Services coming up next month.

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Day Service

Friday, December 25th at 10:30 A.M.

New Year's Eve Service

Thursday, December 31st at 7:00 P.M.



At Christmas, we decorate the church in celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you would like to present a poinsettia in honor, memory, or celebration of a person or event, please fill out this form and place it, with payment, in the offering plate. Each poinsettia costs \$7.00. All poinsettia donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve Worship Bulletin.

_____ Poinsettia @ \$7.00 each = _____

Presented by:

Please note whether this/these plant(s) are: In Loving
Memory of

In Honor of

In Celebration of

To the Glory of God for

Place this form with proper payment in an envelope and
place in offering plate or send to Bethlehem Lutheran
Church 14531 Old Olga Road, Fort Myers, FL 33905

“Lord, here I am, send me...”



The members of Bethlehem proudly invite you to join us as we celebrate the Installation of Pastor Karl P. Glander. We will celebrate this blessed occasion through worship and with God's Word. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Rev. Karl P. Glander and his wife Ginny and family.

Sunday, November 22nd at 4:00 P.M.

at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Reception will be held immediately following the service.