



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

In 2 Kings 2:1-12 God passes Elijah's mantle to Elisha. In the Bible God routinely passes on leadership from one person to another, like Abraham to Isaac, Jacob to Joseph, Moses to Joshua, and Elijah to Elisha. Who is someone you can encourage and support as a leader and servant of God this week?

This is Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus' clothes became dazzling white. This was an amazing experience for the disciples. Think or talk about experiences you have had where you felt close to

God. They are sacred moments. Spend time this week reading the Bible and reflecting on God's word. If you have children, use a children's storybook Bible.



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!



ATTENDING COMMUNION AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

The Lord's Supper was established as a meal of fellowship and confession. In this meal, we confess together our one faith in Christ and our Confessions, especially the doctrine set forth in Luther's Small Catechism. Therefore, those who are not one in membership in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor.

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD *February 14, 2021*

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

873 CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise;
Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

(please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

[P] In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

[P] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[C] But 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 *Psalms 50:1–6*

God Himself Is Judge

P The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

C Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

P Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.

C He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his
people:

P “Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

C The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge!

(please rise)

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P For 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

♪ THIS IS THE FEAST ♪

C This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And also with you.

PLet us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Kings 2:1–12*

Elijah Taken to Heaven

¹When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they

went down to Bethel. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. ⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 3:12–18; 4:1–6*

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it

taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The Light of the Gospel

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of

darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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 *Mark 9:2–9*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Transfiguration

²After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely

white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

414 'TIS GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE

(Stanzas 1–3)

- 1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.
- 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Thy messengers of old.
- 3 Fulfiller of the past
And hope of things to be,
We hail Thy body glorified
And our redemption see.

SERMON **"Cross of Clarity"** . . . Pastor Karl

(please rise)

NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of
the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to
judge both the living and the dead,**

whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Lord, in Your mercy
C Hear our prayer.

(please be seated)

OFFERING

♪OFFERTORY RESPONSE♪

**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.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

[P] Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

[C] 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)

DISTRIBUTION

CLOSING HYMN

537 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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.

 **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

This Week's Calendar



**TODAY, SUNDAY ~ FEBRUARY 14,
2021 11:30 a.m.**



**NO WEDNESDAY STUDY ~ FEBRUARY
17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**



**WEDNESDAY ~ FEBRUARY 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday Service~7:00 p.m.**



LWML will be selling plants \$15.00 each to raise money for mission grants. Will be selling them Thursday, February 11th from 10:00-11:00 a.m. for those of you

who wanted them as a Valentine gift or thinking of you gift prior to this Sunday, February 14th.

They apologize for not having them available on Feb. 7th, but as you know we were unable to have our church service. We thank you for supporting our mission group and project.

SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES



SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 21, 2021

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday school



Flower Calendar: The 2021 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.



Your **offering envelopes** have arrived and are on the table in the narthex, please pick them up.

Volunteer Sign Up: People are needed every Sunday to make our worship special. Please consider helping in one or more ways to make others feel welcome at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please sign up in the fellowship hall if you would like to serve the Lord!

Birthday Greetings!! 2/14: Ginny Glander, 2/15: John Rousch

Anniversary Greetings!! 2/14: Gary & Carolyn Fernberg (51yrs.)

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$11,801

Expenses: \$9,695

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service –



The Flowers at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* by the Gerlach's in Thankfulness for all of God's Blessings!

Prayer Chain: Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes those challenges can feel like it's just too much. If you are experiencing situations, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, you may give your prayer requests to Linda Kirsch 239-693-5026 or e-mail: jlkirsch3@comcast.net or call or email Linda if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain. "Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy."



† **James Keiper**, who passed away on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Bethlehem would like to extend our sympathy to Karen Keiper and family



Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Darrell Erdman, Bob Jurs

Reader: Annette Brocious

Acolyte: Raul Puga