



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL
July 26, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Sunday School & Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:30 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

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Sometimes when a person is going through difficult times, they can easily lose sight of God. Do you know of someone who is struggling? Reach out to that person in their time of need through an act of kindness by taking time to listen.

Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can

happen from the smallest of things. Growing the church is reliant on being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing on the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Pray daily that you may sow seeds of faith that grow into something great.

Pray: Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and sustain us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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!

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
LSB Divine Service, Setting One
July 26, 2020

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

656 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

(Stanzas 1,3 and 4)

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe

Now means deadly woe;
 Deep guile and great might
 Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

3 Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
 They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none.
 He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
 Though these all be gone,
 Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

(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.)

PLet us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CMost 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 125
The LORD Surrounds His People

P Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

C As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

P For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

C Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

P But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

(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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

LThis is the Word of the Lord.

CThanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God’s Everlasting Love

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to

condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:44–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but

threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

New and Old Treasures

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

CPraise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

763 WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER

(Stanzas 1&2)

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain

ref It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
Refrain

SERMON

. . . 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

917 SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME WE RAISE

(Stanzas 1,3 and 4)

- 1 Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship
cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
- 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming
night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.

From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

- 4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict
cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

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: Kurt Laser
Altar Guild: Pam Rugenstein
Ushers: Bob Jurs, Paul Rugenstein
Reader: Pam Rugenstein
Acolyte: Raul Puga

Anniversary Greetings!! 7/26: Betty & Ralph Willis, sorry was left out last week: 7/19: Yvonne & Tom Harder (63 yrs.), Nancy & James Nelson (17 yrs.)

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving
Offerings: \$4718
Expenses: \$9045

Weekly Attendance
Worship Service - 28



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.

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: ilkirsch3@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."