

**I choose to give  
this last worker  
as I give to you  
Matthew 20:14**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
14531 Old Olga Road  
Fort Myers, FL  
September 20, 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

The story of the vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16 is about a generous owner who paid the laborers the same amount at the end of the day even if some worked harder and longer than others. Some of the laborers grumbled. The owner asked, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:15). In what ways are you generous to others with what belongs to you? In Exodus 16:2-15 bread was provided from heaven. Prepare a meal that includes bread. Think or talk about Moses and the Israelites and how

they had to learn to be patient and have faith in God to feed them daily as they traveled to the Promised Land. What does this mean for you? Before you eat, pray: Lord, thank you for this bread you have given us to eat. Help us to never forget how you provide for us just as you did for the Israelites. Amen.



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

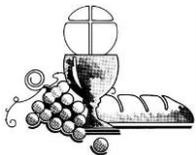
Here at Bethlehem Lutheran we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say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



## 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 or one of the elders prior to approaching the altar. Children who are not yet confirmed are invited to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.

For those with medical or personal reasons to abstain from alcohol, individual cups at the center of the trays contain white grape juice.

## **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*September 20, 2020*

### **PRELUDE**

# ✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

## HYMN OF INVOCATION

### 827 HARK, THE VOICE OF JESUS CALLING

(Stanzas 1, 4)

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
    “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting—  
    Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
    Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
    “Here am I, send me, send me”?
  
- 4 Hearken to the Lord whose coming  
    Marks the time when grace shall end,  
When with His angelic reapers  
    He in glory shall descend.  
Soon the night, the final harvest;  
    Soon the time for work shall cease.  
Then the souls His grace has garnered  
    Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

(please rise)

+ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO +

**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

Psalm 27:1–9

The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

**P** The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**C** When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

**P** Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**C** One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.

**P** For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**C** And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

**P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**C** You have said, **“Seek my face.”**  
My heart says to you,  
**“Your face, LORD, do I seek.”**

**P** Hide not your face from me.  
Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

(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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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

Isaiah 55:6–9

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have  
compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the  
LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

The Advance of the Gospel

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the

brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

<sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

<sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

<sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not

frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**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 20:1–16

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

## Laborers in the Vineyard

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying,

‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**P**This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C**Praise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

## SERMON HYMN

### 729 I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS

(Stanzas 1–2)

1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee;

Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.

2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;  
At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.

SERMON

. . . Pastor Karl

(please rise)

NICENE CREED

**C**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 ♪

(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.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

**P**The Lord be with you.

**C**And also with you.

**P**Lift up your hearts.

**C**We lift them to the Lord.

**P**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P**It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with

all the company of heaven we laud and magnify  
Your glorious name, evermore praising You and  
saying:

♪ SANCTUS ♪

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and  
might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the  
Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for  
You have had mercy on those whom You  
created and sent Your only-begotten Son into  
our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With  
repentant joy we receive the salvation  
accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice  
of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of  
Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew,

and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood,

which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## ♪ 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
Forever. Amen.

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

♪ AGNUS DEI ♪

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

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

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### 729 I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS

(Stanzas 3–6)

3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing  
    In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy  
    By Thy blood.

4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;  
    Thou alone shalt lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying  
    All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;  
    Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
    Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
    Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
    And for all.

## BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand,  
the shadow of a mighty Rock  
within a weary land;  
a home within the wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and the burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus  
mine eye at times can see  
the very dying form of One  
who suffered there for me:  
and from my stricken heart with tears  
two wonders I confess,  
the wonders of redeeming love  
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, thy shadow  
for my abiding place:  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,

to know no gain nor loss;  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all the cross.

(please rise)

## ♪ THANK THE LORD ♪

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell  
**ev'ryone what He has done.**

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly  
bear His name.

He recalls His promises and leads His  
people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia,  
alleluia.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You  
have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and  
we implore You that of Your mercy You would  
strengthen us through the same in faith toward  
You and in fervent love toward one another;

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)

## CLOSING HYMN

821 ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS (Stanzas 1, 5)

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

## 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: Raul Puga

Acolyte: Jake Stecklein

Birthday Greetings!! 9/20: Sharon Goers, 9/21: Tom Harder, 9/22: Steve Williams, 9/25: Barbara Bulmahn

### ***Stewardship & Attendance***

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$7872

Expenses: \$10723

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service - 27



The Flowers at our altar this morning was given to Glory of God by Lori Jensen with

thanksgiving and love in celebration of family.

## **SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES**



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



Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. we start having adult Bible class and Sunday school.



Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. the ladies will meet in the fellowship hall.



Sunday – October 25, 2020  
Voter's meeting will be held today after the service. Please plan on staying.



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, organize, and then distribute food baskets. 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.



2020 Operation Christmas Child Takes Off!! This year, as in years past, we will be 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! We are hoping to get 50 boxes this year. Please help us reach our goal. Thank you!



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 is 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: [jlkirsch3@comcast.net](mailto: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."

**“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.