



# **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

14531 Old Olga Road

Fort Myers, FL

February 21, 2021

# *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: **(239) 694-3878**

[bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org](http://bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org)

E-Mail: [bethlehemlc@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemlc@gmail.com)

**Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor**

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

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

[pastorkarlglander@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkarlglander@gmail.com)

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

The story of Noah and the flood is a difficult story to grasp. The point of the story is that God's demand for justice (the flood) is finally outdone by God's mercy (a new beginning for creation for those on the ark). Justice does not stand alone. It needs mercy, especially in our world where no human has the wisdom of God to judge. Do you know someone who needs a word of mercy? Write a note to that person and pray for them this week.

Lent is a season filled with traditions that focus on discipline and discipleship. Choose a devotional space in your home. Consider laying out a purple cloth (the color for repentance and Lent) and place a candle and Bible on it. Read the *Daily Bible Readings*. Use the *Prayer for the Week* and add your own prayers. End the time by saying:

**Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.**



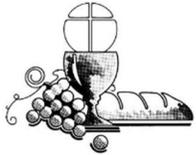
**IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!**

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.

## **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

*February 21, 2021*

### **PRELUDE**

## **✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠**

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION**

## 809 GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail  
not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain**

**ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy  
faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

**Refrain**

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to  
guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**Refrain**

*(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**

*Psalm 25:1–10*

### **Teach Me Your Paths**

**P** To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

**C** O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.

**P** Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**C** Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.

**P** Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

**C** Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,

**for they have been from of old.**

**P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

**C** **Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

**P** He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**C** **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love  
and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his  
testimonies.**

*(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.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**☩ Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Genesis 22:1–18*  
**The Sacrifice of Isaac**

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his

eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>12</sup>He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked,

and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **EPISTLE**

*James 1:12–18*

<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will

receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup>Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

<sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(please rise)*

♪ **ALLELUIA AND VERSE** ♪ (LENT)

**C** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and

**abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:9–15*

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

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

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

<sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

### **The Temptation of Jesus**

<sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

## Jesus Begins His Ministry

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

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

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

*(please be seated)*

### **657 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**

*(Stanzas 1–4)*

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe.  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might.  
We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is He,  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage.  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,

They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

## **SERMON**

### **"Even When Somethings Very Wrong, God Provides"**

. . . 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 +

**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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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♪**

**☪ 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**

**☪** 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.

**☩ 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**

**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.

**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**

*(please rise)*

♪ NUNC DIMITTIS ♪

**☩** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;  
Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which  
You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry  
people:

A light to reveal You to the nations and the  
glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to  
the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**☩** 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.

**☩** Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## CLOSING HYMN

### 547 THE LAMB

*(Stanzas 1, ref, 2–4)*

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes  
God will provide the Lamb of price! **Refrain**

**ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me  
His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb,  
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

3 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will  
On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

4 He sighs, He dies,  
He takes my sin and wretchedness.

He lives, forgives,  
He gives me His own righteousness. **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**

## *This Week's Calendar*



**TODAY, SUNDAY ~ FEBRUARY 21, 2021  
11:30 a.m.**



**TODAY, SUNDAY ~ FEBRUARY 21, 2021  
Church Council will meet today after bible  
study**



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ FEBRUARY  
24, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

### *SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES*



**SUNDAY ~ FEBRUARY 28, 2021**  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ March 3,  
2021 at 10:30 a.m.**



**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.



Karen thanks everyone for their prayers, messages, and phone calls. She said it is greatly appreciated.



**Birthday Greetings!!** 2/22: Karen Keiper,  
2/23: Harrison Kimbrell, Norman Wellman,  
2/24: Bertha Bos

## ***Stewardship & Attendance***

### **Monthly Giving**

Offerings: \$11,801

Expenses: \$9,695

### **Weekly Attendance**

Worship Service – 43

Adult Bible Class - 12

Ash Wednesday – 37



**The Flowers** at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* by Karen Keiper for His care for Jim and Karen, Karen's birthday, and loving memory of † Jim

**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."



Bertha Bos

Jan and Emy Larson



Rev. Karl P. Glander  
Organist: Holly Bell  
Elder: John Wittenberg  
Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Betty Willis  
Ushers: Darrell Erdman, Bob Jurs  
Reader: Annette Brocious  
Acolyte: Raul Puga