



**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

July 4, 2021

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

# *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road S.E.

Ft Myers, FL 33905

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

It is a valuable gift to host others in your home. However, it is also an important gift to the outreach of the church to accept the hospitality of others. When have you been a guest of another person's hospitality? Did you feel you were the recipient of God's love as you received the hospitality of others? Explain.

Psalm 123 is a psalm for people making a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem. Identify sacred places in your own pilgrimage or faith journey on earth as a follower of Jesus. Maybe it is a place in your own home, congregation, or the home of a loved one. Talk or think about what you like to do in that sacred space and give thanks for God's presence in your life. Conclude by praying:

**God of glory and might, thank you for revealing yourself to us and for special places that make us feel especially close to you through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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.

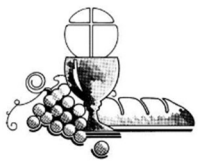
If you would like to learn more about this church, or are looking for a church family, please talk to

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! Please sign our guest register in the lobby and fill out the Communication Card in the bulletin and place in the offering plate in the Narthex. Please include your local contact information and email.

Members, please fill in your name for attendance. Thank you!

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.

## **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*July 4, 2021*

### **PRELUDE**

### **✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠**

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION**

#### **728 HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION**

- 1** How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
  
- 2** “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to  
stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

- 3 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to  
shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!
- 4 “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- 5 “Throughout all their lifetime My people will  
prove  
My sov’reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples  
adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

*(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 123*

### **Our Eyes Look to the LORD Our God**

**[P]** To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**[C]** Behold, as the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maidservant  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.



**P** Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**C** Our soul has had more than enough  
of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.

*(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 ♪**

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

**C** Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, 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**

*Ezekiel 2:1–5*

### **Ezekiel's Call**

<sup>1</sup> He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” <sup>2</sup>And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The

descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ <sup>5</sup>And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **EPISTLE**

*2 Corinthians 12:1–10*

### **Paul’s Visions and His Thorn**

<sup>1</sup>I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup>and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be

speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup>So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**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.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 6:1–13*

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

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

### **Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” <sup>5</sup>And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup>And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

## **Jesus Sends Out the Apostles**

<sup>7</sup>And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup>And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

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

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

*(please be seated)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

## **839 O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT**

- 1** O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
- 2** Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error's maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- 3** O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed  
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.
- 4** Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- 5** That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore



And endless praise to You be giv'n  
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

## **SERMON**

**“God and a Rebellious People”**

*. . . 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♪**

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His  
benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and  
will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call  
on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the  
presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the  
midst of you, O Jerusalem.

**+ 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. 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, Lord God of pow'r and might:

**Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.**

**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.”

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**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 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.

## **♪ PAX DOMINI ♪**

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

**☩** Amen.

## **♪AGNUS DEI♪**

**☐** 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, grant us peace.

*(please be seated)*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

**☐** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✝ in peace.

**☐** Amen.

## **♪THANK THE LORD♪**

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

Let ev'ryone who seeks 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.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **965 GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND**

1 God bless our native land;  
Firm may she ever stand  
Through storm and night.  
When the wild tempests rave,  
Ruler of wind and wave,

Do Thou our country save  
By Thy great might.

2 So shall our prayers arise  
To God above the skies;  
On Him we wait.  
Thou who art ever nigh,  
Guarding with watchful eye,  
To Thee aloud we cry:  
God save the state!

## **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*



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ JULY 7, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.**

## *SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES*



**SUNDAY ~ JULY 11, 2021  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship**



**Jan Larson's Farewell Service JULY 11, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.**



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ JULY 14, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.**



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL RESUME  
SUNDAY ~ JULY 18, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.**



Thank you for your very kind donations, which we received. Your generosity will make an immediate difference in the lives of the Mathes Family.



Bethlehem would like to extend our sympathy to Emeline (Emy) Larson who lost her loved one; † **Jan Larson**, who passed away Thursday, June 17th. His Farewell service will be held here at Bethlehem July 11th at 1:00.



**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.



**The Flowers** at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* in memory of **†Jennis Pankow's** birthday on July 5th by Betty and Ralph Willis



*This week's*  
**BIRTHDAYS**

### **Birthday Greetings!!**

7/5: William Adams, 7/7: Nancy Nelson,  
7/8: Geoff Glander, 7/9: Lori Jensen



### **Anniversary Greetings!!**

7/4: Sandy & Doug Grage (35 yrs)

## ***Stewardship & Attendance***

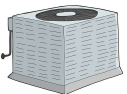
### **Monthly Giving**

Offerings: \$5831

Expenses: \$8638

### **Weekly Attendance**

Worship Service – 35



### **Air Conditioning Fund:**

Air Conditioning Fund: The air conditioning units for the sanctuary were installed about 15 years ago. They have required more frequent maintenance and repair in the last year. We have begun raising funds to replace these units. The estimated replacement cost is approximately

\$25,000. We have raised \$11,710. so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.

**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.”



Bertha Bos  
Frederick Dreischerf  
Vi Hacker  
Harrison Kimbrell



**OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY** goes to Emeline (Emy) Larson and the Larson family for the death of Jan Larson who passed away on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Please remember this family in your prayers as they grieve.

**JULY 4, 2021**

# INDEPENDENCE DAY

Freedom to love our neighbor.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Independence Day observance.

**John 8:31-32**                      **Truth will make you free**

**Jeremiah 29:4-14**           **God has a plan**

**Psalms 20**                              **A prayer for victory**

**Romans 13:1-10**           **Love one another**

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. **Romans 13:9b-10 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Independence Day:**

God of the nations, we thank you for the freedoms we enjoy in this land. Give us courage and strength to use our freedoms not for selfish endeavors but for the good of all, motivated by the love of all, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundance, thank you for the fish of the seas, for fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, and for all the ways you have blessed this country with plenty of food. Amen.

## **A Blessing to Give:**

May God give you the grace and strength to love all people and live-in peace.

## **HYMN FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY**

### **This Is My Song**

<https://youtu.be/ZxIEZjw-suQ>

## **INDEPENDENCE DAY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- ☐ If you were free to do anything you want, what would you want to do?
- ☐ What is the difference between independence and freedom?



□ How does the commandment teaching to love our neighbor as ourselves bless the world?

## **DEVOTIONS**

**Read: Jeremiah 29:4-14.**

We are reminded that God has a plan. We may not understand God's plan or know what it may be but the message in this scripture gives us a future with hope. In Romans 13:9-10, the commandments are summed up to love your neighbor as yourself. We are reminded that love does no wrong to our neighbor. Out of this love, we have the freedom to speak up and act to defend the rights and needs of others. What are the needs of others that require support in today's world? How does God's message of a future with hope help us to reach out to people in the world whose freedom is limited?

**Pray:** O Lord, be with those in our world who cannot see a future with hope. We pray for those who serve communities and nations to keep others free. Amen.

## **SERVICE**

We can often take for granted our public servants, those who manage and care for our public life and

those who offer safety and protection. What gesture of appreciation can you send to those who serve your community, sometimes with their lives?

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

In the United States of America, we have been given the freedom to worship. This is something people in other parts of the world do not have. Think or talk about the different religious buildings in your community. Pray for each one and for its people and leaders. Give thanks in prayer for the opportunities you have to freely worship God. End your devotion time with this blessing: May God bless America, all nations of the world, and you with peace.



Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Elder: Paul Rugenstein

Altar Guild: Pam Rugenstein, Betty Willis

Ushers: Richard and Terri Gerlach

Reader: Terri Gerlach

Acolyte: Raul Puga