



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

Access to social media can make everyone feel important. Seeing our own words can make us feel powerful and influential. The Letter of James knows that words are powerful but not always helpful. How can you use a social media platform or other means to offer words of prayer, praise, a song, or a Bible verse to bless others this week?

In Mark 9:38-40, Jesus' disciples complain that someone was casting out demons in Jesus' name but was not following Jesus' disciples. Sadly, it has been the case throughout our history that people who follow Jesus in a way different "from us" are condemned. This week, take time to list Christian traditions that are different from yours. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for their faith and witness in the world in the name of Jesus Christ.



## **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!

## **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*September 26, 2021*

### **PRELUDE**

### **✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠**

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION**

## **681 SEND, O LORD, YOUR HOLY SPIRIT**

- 1** Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit  
On Your servant now, we pray;  
Let him prove a faithful shepherd  
That no lamb be led astray.  
Your pure teaching to proclaim,  
To extol Your holy name,  
And to feed Your lambs, dear Savior,  
Make his aim and sole endeavor.
  
- 2** You, O Lord, Yourself have called him  
For Your precious lambs to care;  
But to prosper in his calling,  
He the Spirit's gifts must share.  
Give him wisdom from above,  
Fill his heart with holy love;  
In his weakness, Lord, be near him,  
In his prayers, Good Shepherd, hear him.
  
- 3** Help, Lord Jesus, help him nourish  
All our children with Your Word  
That in fervent love they serve You  
Till in heav'n their song is heard.  
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow

On his faithful toil below  
Till by grace to him be given  
His reward, the crown of heaven.

*(Please rise)*

## ✠ CONFESSIO 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 104:27–35*

**P** These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.

**☐ When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with  
good things.**

**☐ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.**

**☐ When you send forth your Spirit, they are  
created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.**

**☐ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works,**

**☐ who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke!**

**☐ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

**☐ May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.**



**P** Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!  
*(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.**

**♪ GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ♪**

**C 1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,**

**Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing,  
mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy  
Spirit that we may complete the works You have  
prepared for us to do; 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**

*Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29*

<sup>4</sup>Now the rabble that was among [the children of Israel] had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. <sup>6</sup>But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at. . . .”

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,’ to the land that you swore to give their fathers? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone;

the burden is too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

## **Elders Appointed to Aid Moses**

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. . . .”

<sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

<sup>26</sup>Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth,

said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **EPISTLE**

*James 5:1–20*

### **Warning to the Rich**

<sup>1</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

## **Patience in Suffering**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

<sup>12</sup>But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

## **The Prayer of Faith**

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him,

anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

<sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

<sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

<sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup>let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

**[C]** Thanks be to God.

*(Please rise)*

♪ **ALLELUIA AND VERSE** ♪

**[C]** Alleluia.



**Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 9:38–50*

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

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

### **Anyone Not Against Us Is for Us**

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus], “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>For the one who is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

### **Temptations to Sin**

<sup>42</sup>“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he

were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ <sup>49</sup>For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

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

*(Please be seated)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

## **850 GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY**

- 1** God of grace and God of glory,  
On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.
  
- 2** Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.
  
- 3** Cure Your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.

**SERMON**      **"Worth Your Salt"**      . . . *Pastor Karl*

*(Please rise)*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**☐ I 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.

### **OFFERING**

### **♪OFFERTORY RESPONSE♪**

### **805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

*(please rise)*

△ 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**

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

**[C]** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

## 922 GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

*(Stanzas 1–4)*

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing,  
Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;  
You are My own.  
In My love's baptismal river  
I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing—  
You are My own.
- 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
What I can cure.  
Here you heard My dear Son's story;  
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.
- 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Closer to Me;  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit's power filled you;  
Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you  
And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you  
And give you peace:  
I the Lord will be your Father,  
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you  
And give you 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**





## *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

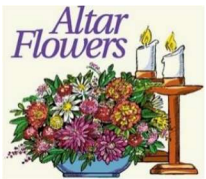
Elder: Paul Rugenstein

Altar Guild: Pam Rugenstein, Betty Willis

Ushers: Paul Rugenstein

Reader: Terri Gerlach

Acolyte: Raul Puga



**The Flowers** at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* by Harrison Kimbrell



**Refreshments** were provided by Betty Willis. Thank you!

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

#### **Monthly Giving**

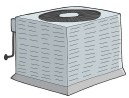
Offerings: \$5944

Expenses: \$10586

#### **Weekly Attendance**

Worship Service – 33

Bible Class – 14



## **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 \$12,500. so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.

## ***THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR***



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL SUNDAY ~  
TODAY, at 11:30 a.m.**



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ SEPTEMBER  
29, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.**

## ***LOOKING AHEAD***



**SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 3, 2021  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship**



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL SUNDAY ~  
OCTOBER 3, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.**



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ OCTOBER 6,  
2021, at 10:30 a.m.**



### **LIFE CHAIN 2021**

Event Date: Next Sunday, October 3, 2021,  
Event Time: 2:00 - 3:30 pm Delprado and Cape  
Coral Parkway, for more information you can  
contact: Jean at 716-940-5162



### **Ladies Guild Meeting**

Next Monday Oct 4th, 1:00 PM

All ladies invited! Much planning to

do for LWML



### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

sending the Gospel to the ends of the  
earth - we are building shoeboxes

again this year. Boxes and instructions are  
available at church, online at

[Samaritanspurse.org](http://Samaritanspurse.org), or even Hobby Lobby.

National collection week is Nov. 15-22. If you'd like  
to build a box online, please visit

samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. Each box requires \$9.00 shipping and handling, but don't let that deter you as LWML is covering that cost whenever needed. Please contact Terri Gerlach with any questions. 239-243-8733.



**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.

**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  
Frederick Dreischerf  
Vi Hacker