

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

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

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

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

We have been born anew to a living faith that sends us out into the world on behalf of God's love through Christ. How can you be part of Christ's ongoing work of healing lives today? What might you do this week to extend Christ's love to someone?

Before the Reformation, the Bible was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. It was not accessible to

the common person. An important part of the Reformation was to translate the word of God in the Bible to a language people understood. Luther translated the Bible into German. Other reformers translated the Bible into other languages. In appreciation for the fact that the Bible can now be read around the world in many different languages, including your own, take time this week to read and highlight some of your favorite Bible passages.



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

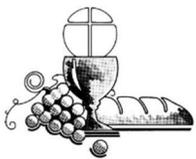
Here at Bethlehem Lutheran, we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say 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 is celebrated at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love

as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem Lutheran Church LCMS and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are invited to speak with Pastor Karl Glander.

REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2021

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

**655 LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR
WORD**

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword

Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

(Please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

PIf we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

CBut if we confess our sins, God, who is
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

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 46

God Is Our Fortress

P God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

C Therefore we will not fear though the earth
gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the
heart of the sea,

P though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

C There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

P God is in the midst of her; she shall not be
moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

C The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

P The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

C Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

P He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

C “Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

P The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

(Please rise)

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

♪ THIS IS THE FEAST ♪

C **This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of
God.**

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

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and
honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

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

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in
the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to
God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

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

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His
reign. Alleluia.**

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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)

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7

The Messages of the Three Angels

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

The Righteousness of God Through Faith

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the

righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

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

John 8:31–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

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 overpow'r 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

"Freedom in Christ"

. . . 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.

+ 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

618 I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE

(Verses 1,3 and 5)

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy Table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: **(Refrain)**

REFRAIN:

**Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never
For Thou my faithful Shepherd art! **(Refrain)**

5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. **(Refrain)**

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.”

DISTRIBUTION

(This is where congregation will take communion)

♪ 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

(Please be seated)

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.

CLOSING HYMN

744 AMAZING GRACE

(Stanzas 1–5)

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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* in the celebration of Marty Jurs birthday which was on 10/28 and Bob and Marty Jurs 22nd wedding anniversary which was on October 30th.



This weeks

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Greetings!!

11/2: Gary Lohr, 11/3: Doug Graze



Refreshments were provided by the Jurs. Thank you!

Stewardship & Attendance

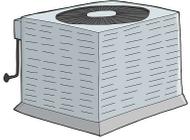
Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$7887

Expenses: \$9496

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 54



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 \$13,045. so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

**Congregational
Meeting**



VOTERS’ MEETING ~ SUNDAY,

OCTOBER 31, 2021

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Monday November 1st, 2021

10:00a.m. The Challenges of Grief

\$20.00 (Includes workbook)



**Ladies Guild Meeting
Monday Nov. 1st, 1:00 PM
All ladies invited! Much**

planning to do for LWML



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

LOOKING AHEAD



**SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 7, 2021
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship**



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL SUNDAY ~
NOVEMBER 7, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.**



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



**No Wednesday Bible study on
November 24th and December 29th.**



Wednesday, November 24th starting at 6:00 p.m. Celebrate Thanksgiving Eve with us at Bethlehem Lutheran Church! Thanksgiving Potluck at 6:00 p.m. turkey will be provided by the Pastor Glander's family, just bring side dishes. Followed by a Thanksgiving Eve worship service with Holy Communion and giving thanks to God our Father for the blessings which we experience in our lives.



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 24th, 2021
at 7:00 P.M.

**Giving with a thankful heart
blesses both the giver and the receiver of
one's generosity.**



Decorate the Church for Christmas
Sunday, November 28th, 2021 right after
service. Join in some great fellowship!



Mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas Services coming up next month.

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th at 7:00 P.M.

New Year's Eve Service

Friday, December 31st at 7:00 P.M.



Holiday Food Baskets

This year, as in the past we will provide Holiday food baskets for 60 needy families in our community. We will collect food items, organizing and packing them on December 5th, and then distribute food baskets December 6th to the Buckingham Exceptional Student Center. 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 canned vegetables, instant/canned/scalloped potatoes, gravy, peanut butter & jellies/jams, pasta/sauce, canned soup, mac & cheese, rice/beans, tuna fish, hot chocolate packets, dessert, puddings, box of crackers, jar of nuts. We're also in need of cash donations for turkeys and hams. So, if you're not able to be here but

would like to help please make out a check to Bethlehem and put holiday basket in the memo, it will be very much appreciated. Thank you!

Prayer Focus: Please help us pray for the tangible and evident love of Christ to be made known as these baskets and meals are provided. Please help us pray for a boldness for the giver to share the message of Christ and His great love for us and for the receiver to have open ears to hear it, and an open heart to receive it!



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, 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 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
Vi Hacker



Gary Dreischerf thanks everyone for their prayers and sympathy cards.



At Christmas, we decorate the church in celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you would like to present a poinsettia in honor, memory, or celebration of a person or event, please fill out this form and place it, with payment, in the offering plate. Each poinsettia costs \$8.00. All poinsettia donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve Worship Bulletin. We need your order by November 28th, 2021.

_____ Poinsettia @ \$8.00 each = _____

Presented by:

Please note whether this/these plant(s) are: In Loving Memory of

In Honor of

In Celebration of

To the Glory of God for

Place this form with proper payment in an envelope and place in offering plate or send to Bethlehem Lutheran Church 14531 Old Olga Road, Fort Myers, FL 33905