

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

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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

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, is there something you can do to show God's abounding love to others?

This is the First Sunday in Advent. Make or purchase a round Advent wreath to represent God's unending love. Place three blue (or purple candles) and one pink candle on it. Place a white one in the center. Decorate with greens to

symbolize eternal life. Light one blue/purple candle.

Say: **We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, reminding us of the prophets who waited for the coming of Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come, and fulfill the promise.**

Pray: **Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, and hope in your promise to return and make all things new through Christ 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!

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

(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 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.

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

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

**☐ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your
steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

**☐ 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!**

**☐ 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.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33:14–16

The LORD's Eternal Covenant with David

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that

he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Luke 19:28–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Triumphal Entry

²⁸When [Jesus] had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples,

³⁰saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” ³²So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” ³⁵And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

(Stanzas 2–4, 6, 8)

- 2** Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3** Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
- 4** Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.
- 6** For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.

By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

(please rise)

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

SERMON

“Days More Important Than Others”

. . . 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

341 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

- 1** Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

- 2** A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.

To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.

Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

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: Doug Grage

Reader: Annette Brocious

Acolyte: Johnieann Smith



The Flowers at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* this morning was given by Doug and Sandy for Sandy's birthday that was yesterday on the 27th.



Birthday Greetings!!

11/28: Robert Vanderpool

12/3: Janet Cessna; Melvin Smith



Refreshments were provided by The Erdman's Thank you!

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$8333

Expenses: \$9937

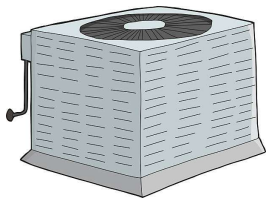
Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 60

Bible Class –15

Confirmation – 3

Thanksgiving Eve –30



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 \$14,115. so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR



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



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, November 29th, 2021

10:00 -12:00 a light lunch will be provided after the seminar.

Surviving the Holidays

Seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death.

You will learn:

- *How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- *What to do about traditions and other changes
- *Helpful tips for surviving social events
- *How to discover hope for your future
- *4 Simple Strategies to survive the holidays

You will watch a 40-minute video, filled with practical survival tips and real-life stories of people who have found a way to survive the season after the death of their loved one.

You will receive a personal copy of the Grief Share Holiday Survival Guide.

A \$5.00 cost for the Survival Guide.

Call Holly Bell for more information at 239-292-7200



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ DECEMBER
1, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.**

LOOKING AHEAD



**SUNDAY ~ DECEMBER 5, 2021
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship**



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL SUNDAY ~
DECEMBER 5, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.**



**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Monday DECEMBER 6, 2021
10:00 a.m.**



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ DECEMBER
8, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.**



**MOVIE NIGHT ~ SUNDAY~ DECEMBER
19, 2021 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ POPCORN AND
ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE SERVED
STARTING AT 5:00 p.m. COME JOIN IN THE
FUN!!**



No Wednesday Bible study on December 29th.



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 next Sunday on December 5th, and distributing food baskets Monday, 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. Were 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!



Flower Calendar: The 2022 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
William and Nancy Weyl



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 today.

_____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