



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

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you care for the lowly and feed the hungry?

For this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light four candles on the Advent Wreath.

Say: We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, the third candle, the Shepherd's

candle, and light the fourth candle, the Angel's candle. The fourth candle announces Jesus' mission on earth to love and unite all people, bringing them closer to God. May we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and our world with hope, peace, joy, and love.

***Pray:* Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, peace to care for others, hope in your promise, joy for the coming of Jesus, and love to share through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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

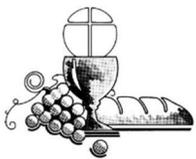
Here at Bethlehem Lutheran, we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say 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!



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 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**

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

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

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 ABSOLUTIO +

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 80:1–7

Restore Us, O God

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine
forth.

C Before Ephraim and Benjamin and
Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!

P Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's
prayers?

P You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

C You make us an object of contention for our
neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

P Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

(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 and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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

Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of
Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in
the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his
God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall
be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

♪ ALLELUIA AND VERSE ♪

☐ Alleluia.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–45

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

☐ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to

my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above

While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

SERMON

"He is our Peace!"

. . . *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♪

☉ 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.

☩ 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 ♪

☐ 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

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

387 JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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: Richard Gerlach, Doug Grage

Reader: Bob Jurs

Acolyte: Jase Albert



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



This weeks
BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Greetings!!

12/19: April Czaplewski

12/24: Judy Young



Refreshments were provided by Holly Bell. Thank you!

Stewardship & Attendance

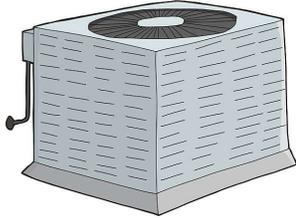
Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$10774

Expenses: \$9802

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 42



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 \$14,235. so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR



DECEMBER 19, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. ~

ADULT BIBLE CLASS ~ CONFIRMATION CLASS



MOVIE NIGHT ~ TONIGHT ~ 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!!**



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, December 20th, 2021,
10:00 -12:00 a light lunch will
be provided after the seminar.

“Guilt and Anger”

You'll learn how to deal with false guilt, How to grieve conflicted relationships, and How to handle grief-related anger

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



**No Wednesday Bible study on
December 22nd.**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

followed by fellowship and snack time, bring
a snack to share

LOOKING AHEAD



SUNDAY ~ DECEMBER 26, 2021

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship



DECEMBER 26, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. ~

ADULT BIBLE CLASS ~ CONFIRMATION CLASS



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, December 27th, 2021,
10:00 -12:00 a light lunch will
be provided after the seminar.

“Complicating Factors”

You'll begin to see how traumatic experiences affect grief, How to deal with nightmares and flashbacks, and How your thinking affects your emotions

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



**No Wednesday Bible study on
December 29th.**



New Year's Eve Service

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



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