



# **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

14531 Old Olga Road

Fort Myers, FL

**December 31, 2021**

# *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: **(239) 694-3878**

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

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the New Year's Bible Readings and theme, how might you help someone experience a new beginning in their life?

The eighth day after Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph, according to Jewish tradition, presented him at the temple. It was on this day that Jesus was given his name (Luke 2:21). This name was told to Mary by an angel before he was conceived (Luke 1:31). The Festival of the Holy Name of Jesus is celebrated on January 1. At the beginning

of each new year, people want to make resolutions that change the way they live. For Christians, the daily experience of repentance and giving thanks through prayer for God's love through Jesus Christ can be life-changing. Think or talk about ways you can commit to daily prayer in the new year. Then say this blessing: **In the name of Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, may God bless you.**



**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!

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!

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
*December 31, 2021*

**PRELUDE**

✠ **ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

**HYMN OF INVOCATION**

**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.

*(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 90:1–12*

**Book Four**

**From Everlasting to Everlasting**

**P** Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**C** Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the  
world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**P** You return man to dust  
and say, “Return, O children of man!”

**C** For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.

**P** You sweep them away as with a flood;  
they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

**C** in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

**P** For we are brought to an end by your anger;  
by your wrath we are dismayed.

**C** You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

**P** For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**C** The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

**P** Who considers the power of your anger,  
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

**C** So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

*(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.

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Isaiah 30:15–17*

<sup>15</sup>For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,

“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling, <sup>16</sup>and you said,

“No! We will flee upon horses”;

therefore you shall flee away;

and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

<sup>17</sup>A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;

at the threat of five you shall flee,  
till you are left  
like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,  
like a signal on a hill.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **EPISTLE**

*Romans 8:31b–39*

If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**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 12:35–40*

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

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

## **You Must Be Ready**

<sup>35</sup>[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

<sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

<sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

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

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON HYMN**

## **366 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

- 1** It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
- 2** Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its babel sounds  
The blessèd angels sing.
- 3** All you, beneath your heavy load,  
By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour,

Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace;  
Of Him the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

## **SERMON**

### **"READY?"**

*. . . . 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.

*(Please be seated)*

## 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**

### **368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

ref **Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

**3** Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

## **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**

*Go in peace.*

*Share the joy of Christ.*



***Serving the Lord with Gladness***

Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Pianist: Sharon Burns

Elders: Edison Johnson

Altar Guild: Marty Jurs, Pam Rugenstein

Ushers: Darrell Erdman, Doug Grage

Reader: Pam Rugenstein

Acolyte: