

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, how does your way of life show God's love to others?

Jesus' baptism sets the stage for the beginning of his ministry, just as our baptism establishes our life as a follower of Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he was also praying. Use prayer as a

way to recall and live your baptism. Dip your fingers into a bowl of water, make the sign of the cross on your or another's forehead or hand, and say: **[I am/You are] baptized and God's beloved child.** Then close by praying the Lord's Prayer and any other prayers you may wish to add.



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!

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 9, 2022

PRELUDE

✠ **ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

411 I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. **Refrain**

**ref In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

(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 29

Ascribe to the LORD Glory

P Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

P The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

C The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

P The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

C He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

P The voice of the LORD
flashes forth flames of fire.

C The voice of the LORD shakes the
wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

P The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

C The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

P May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

(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.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, 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

Isaiah 43:1–7

Israel's Only Savior

¹But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be
with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be
burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you,

I give men in return for you,
peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you.

⁶I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 6:1–11

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self

was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 3:15–22

PThe Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

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

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²²and the Holy

Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

405 TO JORDAN’S RIVER CAME OUR LORD

- 1 To Jordan’s river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav’nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow’r, and might.
- 2 The Savior came to be baptized—
The Son of God in flesh disguised—
To stand beneath the Father’s will
And all His righteousness fulfill.
- 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,

The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
Descended on Him from above.

4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound
Came God's own voice with words profound:
"This is My Son," was His decree,
"The one I love, who pleases Me."

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

SERMON

"Providing for the Progress Paradox"

... Karl Glander

(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)

LET THE SPIRIT GUIDE YOU

. . . Duet Cheryl Nelson and Doug Johnson

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

398 HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

- 1** Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.
- 2** He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.
- 3** He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains

Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is 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.

☐ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



Serving the Lord with Gladness

Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Pianist: Sharon Burns

Elder: Paul Rugenstein

Altar Guild: Sandy Grage, Pam Rugenstein

Ushers: Darrell Erdman, Betty Willis

Reader: Annette Brocious

Acolyte: Jake Stecklein



The Flowers at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* this morning in honor of Rollin's birthday on January 5th, by the Duckwitz'.



This weeks

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Greetings!!

1/15: Edison Johnson



Anniversary Greetings!!

1/15: Rita & Norm Wellman



Refreshments were provided by the Gerlach's. Thank you!

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$10,812

Expenses: \$11,994

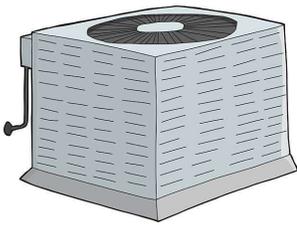
Weekly Attendance

New Years Eve – 16

Worship Service – 56

Adult Bible Class – 13

Confirmation Class – 3



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 \$14,881. so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.



Bethlehem has received a donation of a 2006 Hyundai Tucson from Karen Keiper. If you would like to see the vehicle, see Doug Grage or Richard Gerlach. They will be accepting offers until Jan. 16th.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



SUNDAY – TODAY

11:30 a.m. Christmas decorations will be removed and packed for storage.



Today at 11:30 a.m. CONFIRMATION CLASS



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, January 10, 2022, 10:00 - 12:00 a light lunch will be provided after the seminar.

“Stuck”

Your group discovers how to prevent getting stuck in grief,

Common misconceptions that hinder healing, Why their path to healing isn't always smooth **Call**

Holly Bell for more information at 239-292-7200



The **2022 Church Choir** season has begun. We welcome interested singers to join us. We will rehearse **Monday afternoons at 1:00 pm** Questions??

See or call Holly Bell at **239-292-7200**



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ JANUARY 12, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.



2022 Bell Choir - The handbell director is Holly Bell. She encourages anyone interested in ringing with the choir to call her at 239-292-7200 or show up on **Wednesday, January 12th at 1:00 pm for rehearsal**. Do not need to read music, music will be marked. Only need to be able to count and follow directions. Needed 6-8 people minimum!!

LOOKING AHEAD



**SUNDAY ~ JANUARY 16, 2022
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship**



SUNDAY ~ JANUARY 16, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. ~ ADULT BIBLE CLASS ~ CONFIRMATION CLASS



MOVIE NIGHT ~ SUNDAY~ JANUARY 16, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ POPCORN AND ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE SERVED STARTING AT 5:00 p.m. COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!



An action-packed drama about a Christian high school football coach who uses his undying faith to battle the giants of fear and failure.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, January 17, 2022, 10:00 - 12:00 a light lunch will be provided after the seminar.

“Lessons of Grief – Part One ”

Participants become aware of an often-overlooked reason that grief is so painful, Why going to church can be so difficult, The benefits of helping others

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



Choir practice Monday, January 17th 1:00 p.m. We welcome all interested singers to join

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



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ JANUARY 19, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.



2022 Bell Choir - Wednesday, January 19th at 1:00 pm for rehearsal. Do not need to read music, music will be marked. All are welcome!

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



Youth Group Friday, January 28th from 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Join us for fun and fellowship!



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