



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

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you bring joy to someone others see as less deserving?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. We all have photo albums, whether printed or digital. Not all of our friends and family may know of God's reconciling power and forgiveness that leads to

joy. While looking at pictures of family and friends, think about your relationships. Pause and pray for that person. Light a candle and say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.** Close with the Lord's Prayer.



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!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27, 2022

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

(Please rise)

837 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

(Stanzas ref-6)

**ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain
trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Refrain

**ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks
combine. **Refrain**

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
Refrain

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.
Refrain

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and
hell. **Refrain**

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

**ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**+ RECEPTION OF MEMBERS BY TRANSFER
OR PROFESSION OF FAITH +**

Help us welcome Jackie Blake.

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain

true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this
confession and Church and to suffer all, even
death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you desire to become a member of this
congregation?

R *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord
has given this congregation with your prayers
and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I
acknowledge publicly that you are a member
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of
this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper
and participate with us in all the blessings of
salvation that our Lord has given to His

Church, in the name of the Father and of the
✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(Please rise)

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The grace of our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C Amen.

(The new members return to their places.)

+ 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 32

Blessed Are the Forgiven

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

C Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

P I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

C Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be
found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.

P You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C I will instruct you and teach you in the way
you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

P Be not like a horse or a mule, without
understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.

C Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who
trusts in the LORD.

P Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

(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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 12:1–6

The LORD Is My Strength and My Song

¹You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,

that you might comfort me.

²“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of
salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done
gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one
according to the flesh. Even though we once

regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

♪ ALLELUIA AND VERSE ♪ (LENT)

C Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and

abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

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

CGlory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him

into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”

²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants

and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

CPraise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

427 IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

SERMON

"Joy in New Life"

... 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)

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♪

(Bethlehem Adult Choir & Congregation)

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
Forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

**571 GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE
GAVE**

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

(Please rise)

△ **6** Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

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



Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Elder: Paul Rugenstein

Altar Guild: Sandy Grage, Pam Rugenstein

Ushers: Annette Brocious, Sam Harrison

Reader: Annette Brocious

Acolyte: Jase Albert



The Flowers at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* this morning by Dennis Hartman for Sue's birthday that was on March 25th.



Birthday Greetings!!

3/29: Marny Miles; Rita Wellman



Anniversary Greetings!!

3/30: Pam & Paul Rugenstein (48 yrs.)

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$9925

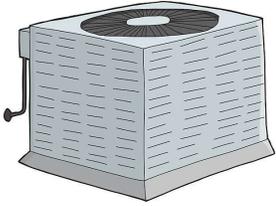
Expenses: \$8846

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 72

Bible Class – 18

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 \$21,881. so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.

THIS WEEK



NO ADULT BIBLE CLASS TODAY



Bethlehem would like to extend our sympathy to Harrison Kimbrell’s family who lost their loved one; † **Harrison Kimbrell**, who passed away Friday, May 25th. His

Farewell service will be held here at Bethlehem today at 1:00.



Choir practice Monday, March 28th at 1:00



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



Bell Choir practice Wednesday, March 30th at 12:00



Holy
Week
Worship

Palm Sunday Service

April 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 14th at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

Good Friday Service

April 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

April 17th

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

8-10 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service



VBS

Vacation Bible School plans have begun. The date is set for July 18th – 22nd. Mark your calendar and start thinking about joining our volunteer staff. April 24th right after service is the planning meeting. Come share God's love with the children at VBS. If you are free and can help in anyway, please contact Sandy at (712)269-7528, thank you.



Bertha Bos

Vi Hacker

William and Nancy Weyl

Roast Pork Dinner



Thursday, APRIL 14th,
4-7 pm

Delicious roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, coleslaw,
green beans, bun, drink, and delicious dessert

\$10.00 adult \$5.00 child

Eat in or take out

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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(239) 694-3878



Share the beauty of Easter by sponsoring a lily or lilies to be used as decoration in the Sanctuary. Generously donated in memory of loved ones, and their names are printed in the worship bulletin. If you would like to donate one or more flowers in memory of someone, please fill out the form below, or call the church office at 239-694-3878. The cost is **\$8.00 per plant**. You can send a check made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and labeled "Easter Lilies" in the memo line. The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, April 3rd**.

The flowers will be available for pickup after Easter.

_____ Lilies @ \$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