



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

God is active in the world, filling us with joy.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others find joy and live each day with hope in God?

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ.

For this third week of Advent, light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, and the third candle of joy on the Advent wreath (Some use a rose-colored candle for the third Sunday as it is the symbolic color for joy). This week, we focus on the joy that God brings into our lives through Jesus.

Say: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, and joy.



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!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

(Please rise)

+ HOLY BAPTISM +

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

PDearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

P Diallo Che' Hidalgo, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✝ forehead and upon your ✝ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

(The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:)

P Diallo Che' Hidalgo, do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, *I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R Yes, *I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R Yes, *I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R Yes, *I believe.*

P Do you believe 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?

R Yes, *I believe.*

P Do you 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?

R Yes, *I believe.*

P Diallo Che' Hidalgo, do you desire to be baptized?

R Yes, *I do.*

(The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:)

P Diallo Che' Hidalgo, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:)

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your

sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✝
everlasting.

C Amen.

(The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:)

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

(The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:)

A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother in Christ, that together we might hear His Word,

receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

C Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

(Please rise)

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Diallo Che' Hidalgo the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as he has now become Your child, You would keep him in his baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure he may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Peace ✝ be with you.

C Amen.

(All return to their places and be seated)

+ RECEPTION OF MEMBERS BY TRANSFER OR PROFESSION OF FAITH +

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 members 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.

(The pastor may extend the right hand of fellowship, greeting each by name. The rite concludes with the following blessing:)

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

C Amen.

(The new members return to their places.)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 146

Do Not Put Your Trust in Princes

P Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my
being.

P Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

C When his breath departs he returns to the
earth;
on that very day his plans perish.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;

P who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

C the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

P The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

C The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise
the LORD!

(Please rise)

KYRIE

PIn peace let us pray to the Lord.

CLord, have mercy.

PFor the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

CLord, have mercy.

PFor 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.

CLord, have mercy.

PFor this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

CLord, have mercy.

PHelp, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

CAmen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

PThe Lord be with you.

CAnd also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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

Isaiah 35:1–10

The Ransomed Shall Return

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the
crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

James 5:7–11

Patience in Suffering

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen

the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is
compassionate and merciful.

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

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the
eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of
the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said
to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall
we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them,
“Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the

blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law

prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

(Please rise)

△ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

(Please be seated)

SERMON

"Vengeance and Joy"

. . . 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.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

DUET: Cheryl Nelson and Doug Johnson

♪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 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

386 NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE

- 1** Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
 He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
 Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
 Thou my Savior art!
 Thou my Savior art!

- 2** Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
 Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
 Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
 Draw me unto Thee!
 Draw me unto Thee!

- 3** Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
 Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
 Till He opened for us

A bright eternity.

May we praise Him there!

May we praise Him there!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?

Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,

Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.

Oh, that we were there!

Oh, that we were there!

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: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Richard Gerlach, Paul Rugenstein

Reader: Emmy Larson

Acolyte: Jake Stecklein



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



Food and Fellowship: Please join us immediately after the service. We meet in the fellowship hall at the rear of the church before Bible study. The refreshments this week were provided by Pastor Glander.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall if you would like to sponsor a week.

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$4715

Expenses: \$10, 428

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 48

Sunday School – 8

Midweek – 24



Many thanks to all those who assisted with the Ham Dinner last Thursday night. Whether you baked desserts, helped in the kitchen or dining area, prepared, or cleaned up afterwards, your willingness to help was what made it a real success. Thank you one and all!!

News & Notes



TODAY ~ DECEMBER 11, 2022, ADULT BIBLE CLASS at 11:30 a.m.



TODAY ~ DECEMBER 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.



**TODAY ~ SUNDAY ~ DECEMBER 11,
2022 Church Council will meet today
after Bible Class**



Soup and Sandwiches
served at 6:00 p.m. before Advent Service



Advent Services
December 14, 3rd Advent Service at 7
p.m.



**December 24, Children's Candlelight
Service at 7 p.m.**
**December 25, Christmas Service at
10:30 a.m.**



**MOVIE NIGHT ~ TONIGHT ~ DECEMBER
18, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ POPCORN AND
ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE SERVED
STARTING AT 5:30 p.m. COME JOIN IN THE
FUN!!**





Bertha Bos
Vi Hacker

We Can Make A

It's Angel Tree

Take a look at the

It is full of Angels

about a child who

extra attention this Christmas. Take one angel;

take two angels; take whatever feels right for you

and your family. All wrapped gifts need to be back

under the tree NO LATER than Sunday,

December 18th. If you would rather donate, please

give your monetary donation to Sandy Grage by

the 11th of December. There are some folks who

would be glad to do the shopping for you. Also put

a money limit of 15 to 20 dollars so all the kids are

treated somewhat the same. Thank you!



Difference

Time!

tree in the Narthex.

bearing information

could use a little