



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

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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

We praise God through acts of kindness.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show care for someone who is not being treated well in your community?

September 8th is National Grandparent's Day in the United States. During this week, plan a special way to show appreciation for those who are or

have treated you as a grandchild. Give thanks to God for them with prayer: **Loving God, thank you for the gift of grandparents and other older caregivers in our lives. Your kindness is shown in their love and care for us. Thank you for their wise minds, listening ears, and loving hearts. 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 located in the pew 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!

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024

PRELUDE

✠ **ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

839 O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT

(Stanzas 1-4)

1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;

Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.

4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

(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 +

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 Blessèd 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

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 ♪

**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.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; 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 35:4–7a

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

James 2:1–10, 14–18

The Sin of Partiality

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴have you not then made

distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

Faith Without Works Is Dead

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the

body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

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

Mark 7:24–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Syrophenician Woman’s Faith

²⁴From there [Jesus] arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house

and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷And he said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹And he said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,”

that is, “Be opened.”³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

524 HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS

(Stanzas 1-4)

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 In a believer’s ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
 And drives away our fear.

- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.
- 4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

"Reversing the Ramifications of Sin"

. . . 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♪

**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

528 OH, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

(Stanzas 1-4)

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,

To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

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

Pianist: Cheryl Nelson

Elder: Paul Rugenstein

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Steve Hempel, Klaus Naumann

Reader: Steve Hempel

Acolyte: Sarah Smith



The Flowers on the Lord's Altar were given to the *Glory of God* this morning by members of Bethlehem.



Birthday Greetings!!

9/11: Gary Wilkie

9/12: Joyce Kelnosky



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 are from Steve Hempel. Thank you!

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

Attendance

Worship Service – 49

Adult Bible Class – 9

Sunday School – 9

News & Notes



TODAY ~ September 8, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.



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WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ September 11, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.



**READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR ~
WEDNESDAY ~ September 11, 2024, at
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Join us as we read and learn
together. It's going to be inspiring and
uplifting!**



Church Fire Alarm System- The evacuation panel unit of the system,

which broadcasts an alarm inside the church, has failed and must be replaced immediately. We need to raise funds to replace this unit. The estimated replacement cost is approximately \$6,500. Please label your donations as “Alarm Fund “.



Edison and Karen Johnson
Chester and Linda Rust

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 239-728-1696 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.”