



August 24, 2025

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 heals on the Sabbath.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone to be set free from a burden?

The word sabbath in Hebrew means "to stop."

Sabbath is a time of rest. It is a time when you

take a break and do not work. Take a moment during your day to *“take delight in the Lord”* (Isaiah 58:14) by observing a mini-sabbath. Set all electronic devices to the side, turn off the TV, and sit down in a comfortable position. Take a few deep breaths, close your eyes, and rest. After your mini-sabbath, thank God for this rest that gives health to your body, mind, and soul.



**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 pew and place in the offering plate. 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!

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

915 TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US

1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,

Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

(Please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

INVOCATION

[P] In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

EXHORTATION

LSB 151

[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.)

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 151

[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.

ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

[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 +

RESPONSIVE PSALM **God Himself Is Judge**

Psalm 50:1–15

P The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

C Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

P Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.

C He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his
people:

P “Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

C The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge!

P “Hear, O my people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.

C Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before
me.

P I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.

C For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.

P I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

C “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.

P Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

C Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,

P and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

(Please rise)

KYRIE

LSB 152

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 ♪

LSB 204

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.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and

always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 66:18–23

¹⁸“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their

grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

²²“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. ²³From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:4–24

⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reprovved by him.

⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and

by it many become defiled; ¹⁶that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

LThis is the Word of the Lord.

CThanks be to God.

(Please rise)

♪ALLELUIA AND VERSE♪

LSB 156

CAlleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:22–30

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

CGlory to You, O Lord.

The Narrow Door

²²[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand

outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' ²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

735 HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;
Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen
To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you
In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you,
Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you,
In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

SERMON

"The Lord Disciplines His Sons"

. . . Pastor Karl

(Please rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

**☐ 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

LSB 159

[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

924 LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING

- 1** Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

- 2** Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.

- 3** Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

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 and Serve the Lord

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Flutist: Nancy Rybak

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Richard Gerlach, Greg Murray

Reader: Judy Johnson



Signup Sheets in the Fellowship Hall. This is your chance to get involved in worship.

Celebrating birthdays this week: 8/24: Linda Rust, Betty Willis, Richard Gerlach, **8/25:** Jacqueline Blake, **8/27:** Kurt Laser, George Mammarappallil

Celebrating anniversaries this week: 8/26: Yvonne & Greg Murray (47yrs)



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 Kurt Laser. Thank you!

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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 40

Adult Bible Class – 15

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CALENDAR

August 24, 2025 – August 31, 2025

TODAY 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

SUNDAY: 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor

August 24 11:30 a.m. Sunday School

MONDAY:

August 25

TUESDAY:
August 26

WEDNESDAY: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study
w/Pastor
August 27

THURSDAY:
August 28

FRIDAY:
August 29

SATURDAY:
August 30

NEXT 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion
SUNDAY: 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor
August 31 11:30 a.m. Sunday School

Our Special Prayers and Intercessions

Matt – stroke
Theresa – stroke
Chris – lung cancer
Sarah – stomach issues
Tim – health issues
Kurt – health issues
Jack – fighting depression, lung issues
JoAnn – heart issues
Tamara – medical issues
Susan – recovering from cancer
Chade – guidance
Steven – guidance
Ashton – esophageal atresia
Sandi – Hodgkins and autoimmune disease
Dorothy – in memory care
Gail – running tests for leukemia
Edison – health issues
Ava – cancer
Holly – start immunotherapy
Sharon – cancer
Joe – stage 4 lung cancer
Bob – need shots in eyes
Holly – needs pacemaker, hernia repaired, found a mass in her stomach area
Family with children who have strayed
Millie – bad fall
Lisa – family struggling in many ways
Sal Jr. – cancer
Sal – health issues & now worried about his son
Carol – heart, bursitis, eye mostly blind in one eye
Chip – physical health and rehab
Annette – ductal carcinoma in situ
Eddie – massive heart attack
Linda – open heart surgery
Texas – catastrophic floods
Martha – hospitalized for high blood pressure
Pam – health issues
Tim and his family - Grandma Jean has entered hospice and has about three days to live
Maxwell Maldonado – entered into the presence of Jesus, please pray for the Maldonado family
Anonymous - wisdom to manage my time and resources effectively in my job. Physical and spiritual protection in my workplace.

Tara – health
Dustin – alcohol rehab
Brad – heart attack
Pat – health issues
Dave – health issues
Becky – cancer
Ken – cancer
Lidia – health issues
TA – spiritual guidance and removal of all temptation
Jenn – cancer
Yvonne – health issues
David – health issues
Rick – stage 3 lung cancer
Sean – God knows
Lynne – health issues
Ron – hospitalized
Pam – health issues
Terri – health issues
Joe – health issues
Jessica – health issues
Sam – health issues
Paul – strengthening of faith
Judy – cancer
Larry – cancer
Cole – cancer
Anonymous – cancer
Nicole – broke lower leg
Pat – lot of health issues
Ken - massive heart attack in January, still in hospital with major brain damage
Les – hernia surgery and kidney dialysis
Joan – stroke
Ron – prostate cancer
Andy – doing great after heart procedure
Barbara – had to remove part of her colon
Kenny – low oxygen and heart problems
Holly – going through a lot
Rev. Dennis Glander - entered into the presence of Jesus, please pray for the Glander family
Robert Walton – in hospital, will be going in rehab
Ralph – had a bad fall
Nancy Mihich - bone marrow issues
Sam – back surgery
Sarah - recently went blind in her right eye
Jean Reddel - entered into the presence of Jesus, please pray for the Reddel family