

3rd Sunday of *Advent*

The **JOY** of the Lord is my strength.
Nehemiah 8:10



December 14, 2025

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

Advent is a season of joy.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help supply daily needs to those in your community who are dealing with hardships?

This week light three candles on the Advent wreath: The Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, and the Candle of Joy. The Candle of Joy reflects the joyful return of God's people to Zion.

Leader: This is the third week of Advent.

Advent means coming. We are waiting for the coming of Christ. Let us light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. [Light three candles]

All: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

Leader: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us joy.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, and joy. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. 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 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!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

348 THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
 And light triumphant breaks,
 When beauty gilds the eastern hills
 And life to joy awakes.

- 2 Not as of old a little child,
 To bear and fight and die,
 But crowned with glory like the sun
 That lights the morning sky.

- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
 When Christ, victorious, rose
 And left the lonesome place of death
 Despite the rage of foes.

- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

(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

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)

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.

C And 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
The Ransomed Shall Return

Isaiah 35:1–10

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 ♪

LSB 156

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.

CPraise 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!

SERMON

"Waiting Without Wondering"

. . . 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

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

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

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



SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Flutist: Nancy Rybak

Bells: Debbie Jackow

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Greg and Yvonne Murray

Reader: Greg Murray



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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 63

Sunday School – 2

Midweek Advent – 25

Celebrating birthdays this week: 12/18: Dennis Hartmann

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies.

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY and SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Glander leads a Bible study in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service and Sunday school for the children is in the classroom.

NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Class will resume on Wednesday, January 7th.

HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday Advent Worship: December 17 at 7:00pm

Join us at 6:00pm for a light dinner of soup & sandwiches (free) before the 7:00pm Worship.

**Christmas Eve: 7:00pm (Communion)
Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 P.M
Join Us for our Annual Christmas Eve
Celebration!**

Immediately following the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ... we will be hosting (in the fellowship hall) a FESTIVE CHRISTMAS EVE GATHERING!! It will be a time of...food... fellowship...some Christmas music... AND A GREAT TIME TO CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY!! Bring some Christmas hors d'oeuvres, or goodies to share. Bring a friend or neighbors who will be alone along.

Christmas Day: 10:30am (Communion)
Thursday, December 25th at 10:30 A.M.

New Year's Eve Service
Wednesday, December 31st at 7:00 P.M.

New Year's Eve celebration follows the service. Bring some hors d'oeuvres, or goodies to share. Bring a friend or neighbors who will be alone along.

LWM COLLECTING PENCILS

New and gently used pencils are being collected and sent to children through Samaritans purse. It's a good time to clean out your pencil drawer and donate them to church. We thank you for the

children who need them and are trying to write
with a pencil stub.

HAM DINNER

Thank You for Assisting We sincerely thank all
those who volunteered their assistance with the
Ham Dinner Thursday. The baked goods were
wonderful, and the teamwork done by so many
was outstanding! Thank you! We could never have
done it without you!

COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2025

MOVIE NIGHT

Ordinary Angels

Sunday, December 21, 2025~ 6:00 p.m. ~
POPCORN AND ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE
SERVED STARTING AT 5:30 p.m. COME JOIN
IN THE FUN!!

IN MEMORY OF

Kurt Laser

Funeral Service

3:00 pm Sunday, January 11, 2026

Potluck to follow, if you can, please bring a covered dish to share. Thank you!

SAFETY DAY

January 28, 2026 from 10-11 am
to register call 694-3878

LWM start saving your change and extra coins for our noisy offering in February. More details will be coming after the holidays.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

(Names remain on the prayer list up to a month unless requests are renewed.)

Accidents – Iris Smith, Rusty

ALS – Linda

Cancer – Andy, Anonymous, Ava, Barbara, Becky, Billie, Cannon, Chelsea, Cole, Dave, David, David, Don, Gail, Holly, Jenn, Joan, Joe, Judy, Ken, Larry, Rachel, Richard, Rick, Ron, Sharon, Sharon Rowe, Steve, Susan, Tina

In Remission – Annette, Cammy, Haven, Sandi

Convalescing: Betty, Bill, Chester, Debi, Dick, Edison, Joyce, Nancy, Norma, Rick, Shirley, Ted

Eye – Bob, Carol, Sarah

Fighting for their lives - Barb, Dennis' mom, Jack Kirsch, James, Julie, Lisa, Lola, Rita, Robert's mom, Samuel Albritton, Scott, Shannon

Flu – James and family, Nancy

Guidance – Amy, Anonymous, Chade, Holly, Kaden, Paul, Sean, Steven, TA

Head Injuries – Iris Smith, Jena, Ken, Maria Clara

Health Issues – Annie, Barb, Bob, Bruce, Carol, Christine, Christine, Dave, Edison, Emily Snider, Gary, Jana, Jeanne, Jeff, Jessica, Joe, Kurt, Pam, Pat, Richard, Sal, Sam, Samantha, Sandy, Sharon, Tamara, Tara, Terri, Tim, Yvonne

Heart Issues – Andy, Brad, Carol, Eddie, Holly, JoAnn, Ken Holt, Kenny, Linda, Sharon

Hospice – Jean

Hospitalized – Heather, Judy, Liliana, Lynn, Martha, Randy, Rick, Rita, Ron, Rosa Aguirre, Rosa

Long-term Illness/Treatment: Alan, Ann, Bella, Betty, Bill, Bob, Brian, Buck, Charleen, Chip, Daphne, Darlene, David, Debi, Dennis, Doug, Dylan, Edison, Ellen, Elizabeth, Jake, James, Jene, Jennifer, Jonathan, Judy, Julianna, Julie, Katie, Kim, Kim Lewis, Les, Lidia, Lillie Anne, Lisa, Liz mom, Lizzy, Madden, Mehliia, Mike, Millie, Myra and family, Nathan, Neil Fiore, Nicole, Pam, Phillip, Rebecca, Richard, Richard, Rick, Rita, Sandy, Terri, Theresa, Timmy, Trace Ryan

Memory Care - Dorothy

Mental illness – Giney, Lisa, Viola

Natural Disasters: Texas

Our Homebound - Edison and Karen Johnson, Chester and Linda Rust

Physical health and Rehab – Chip, Iris
Recovering from Surgery – Chip, Holly, Jeff

Strengthening of faith – Carolyn, Paul

Struggling - Melinda

Suffered a stroke - Adrian, Doug, Ed, Gary, Joan, Kevin, Shirley, Theresa

Caregivers - Amy, Eugene, Lorrie, Paul, Tina

Anonymous – prayer for discernment whether to move back to Midwest, finding the right path.

Dave – for health and salvation

For mom – trip to Florida in December

Anonymous – pray for a healthy pregnancy

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:

The family and friends of Kurt Laser, The family and friends of Joy Kulbacki, The family and friends of Nancy Mihich

Roast Pork Dinner



Thursday, JANUARY 8th,
4-7 pm

Delicious roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, coleslaw,
corn, rolls and butter, drink, and delicious dessert

\$10.00 adult ~ \$5.00 child

Eat in or take out

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