



12-25-2025

**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](http://bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org)

E-Mail: [bethlehemlc@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemlc@gmail.com)

**Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor**

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

[pastorkarlglander@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkarlglander@gmail.com)

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

## ***Praising God for Jesus' birth.***

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Christmas Bible Readings and theme for this day, what are some ways you can bring joy to others?

The white candle placed in the center of the Advent wreath represents Christ. Light the Candles of

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on the wreath. Then light the Christ Candle.

**Leader: This candle is a symbol of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

***All: John 1:5 states, “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Jesus is the true light who gives light to every person. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light of the world. Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.***

**Pray: Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for being born into our world. Bring your eternal light to our hearts, our homes, and our world, for you are our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



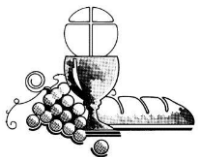
**IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN  
WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!**

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 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 at any time! Please sign our guest register in the narthex. We are blessed by your presence! Please take a moment and kindly sign our attendance registers on the sheet provided in your pew during the service. 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 fill out a prayer card so we can seek the Lord's face together.

Come visit us again sometime soon and may the Lord richly bless you!



## **ATTENDING COMMUNION AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the

forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem Lutheran Church LCMS and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are invited to speak with Pastor Karl Glander.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

*December 25, 2025*

### **PRELUDE**

### **✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠**

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION**

## 379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

*(Stanzas 1, ref, 2–4)*

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

ref O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: **Refrain**

**ref O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**4** Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

*(Please rise)*

## **+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

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

**[C]** Amen.

**[P]** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a  
true heart and confess our sins unto God our  
Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord  
Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**[P]** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C**who made heaven and earth.

**P**I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

**P**O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C**I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P**Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of



you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 2*

#### **The Reign of the LORD's Anointed**

**P** Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?

**C** The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his anointed,  
saying,

**P** "Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."

**C** He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.

**P** Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

**C** “As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”

**P** I will tell of the decree:  
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.

**C** Ask of me, and I will make the nations your  
heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.

**P** You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

**C** Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

**P** Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.

**ALL:** Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,

**for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.**

*(Please rise)*

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; 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 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of  
happiness,  
who publishes salvation,

who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;

together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **GRADUAL**

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

**P** To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and  
the government shall be upon his shoulder. And  
his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of

Peace. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

## **EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 1:1–12*

### **The Supremacy of God's Son**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of  
your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated  
wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your  
companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the  
beginning,

and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **367 ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY**

**1** Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story,  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. **Refrain**

**ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**2** Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

**3** Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

**ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**4** Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**

*(Please rise)*

△ **5** All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 1:1–18*

**[P]** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**[C]** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **The Word Became Flesh**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in



the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before

me.”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**[P]** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**[C]** 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **SERMON HYMN**

### **370 What Child Is This**

**1** What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

## **SERMON**

### **"Became Flesh"**

*. . . Pastor Karl*

*(Please rise)*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Lord, in Your mercy

**C** Hear our prayer.

*(Please be seated)*

## **OFFERING**

**SOLO** *(sung during offering)*

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

*. . . Doug Johnson*

## **♪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.**

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **♪SANCTUS♪**

**☐ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**☐** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in  
giving us Your body and blood to eat and to  
drink, You lead us to remember and confess  
Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed  
death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection  
from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and  
Your coming for the final judgment. So  
remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to  
pray:

## **♪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.

## **PAX DOMINI**

**[P]** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**[C]** Amen.

## **♪AGNUS DEI♪**

**[C]** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*(Please be seated)*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

### **364 AWAY IN A MANGER**

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the  
sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

### **361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**2** For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

**3** How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

**4** O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

*(Please rise)*

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **387 JOY TO THE WORLD**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

**2** Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**3** No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

**4** He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

## **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.



# *SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY*

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Flutist: Nancy Rybak

Bells: Debbie Jackow

Soloist: Douglas Johnson

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Doug Grage, Greg Murray

Reader: Greg Murray

## **New Year's Eve Service**

**Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.