

JESUS AGAIN SAID TO THEM,
"TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU



I am the Door of the Sheep

Knowing-Jesus.com

April 26, 2026

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

Pastor Karl's Monday Morning Message

live Monday's at 9:00 a.m. on

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BLCEFM/>

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

Followers of Jesus shepherd one another.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you provide food, clothing, or shelter to someone in need?

Draw or find a picture of a sheep. Imagine you are the shepherd for this sheep. Make a list of things you would do to take care of the sheep. Psalm 23 begins with the words, *“The Lord is my shepherd.”* Read Psalm 23 and compare your list with the ways the Lord cares for sheep. How are the lists the same? How are they different? Then take a moment to breathe in and say: **The Lord is my shepherd.** Breathe out and say: **I shall not want.**



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 any time! We want to know who

you are, so please provide your contact information in the Friendship Book as it is passed during the Offertory. If you are visiting, honor us by signing the Guest Register in the Narthex.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a Blue Prayer Card from the pew rack and usher will be collecting them.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

OPENING HYMN

711 SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Your fold prepare.

Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.

2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.

4 Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;

Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.

(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 +

Psalm 23 *(read in unison)*

The LORD Is My Shepherd

**¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

**²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.**

**³He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for
his name's sake.**

**⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

**all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.**

(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.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42–47

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For

what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

John 10:1–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

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

I Am the Good Shepherd

¹[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

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.

SERMON

"The Door of Jesus' Cross"

. . . 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** ♪ *(Please rise)*

955 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

1 Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

**And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were
sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give
us
A foretaste of the feast to come.**

♪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

525 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

- 3** Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.
- 4** Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.
- 5** Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;

Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

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: Doug Grage, Tim Tobeck

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 – 56

Adult Bible Class – 15

**Celebrating birthdays this week: 4/26: Paul
Olson, 4/30: Joe McVoy,**

Celebrating anniversaries this week: 5/1: Pam & Gary Barkhaus (39yrs)

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies. The refreshments this week are from several people. Thank you!

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.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

10:30 A.M. This gathering offers an opportunity to study God's Word together in the Fellowship Hall.

Blessing Our Own: Special Collection

Let's bless one of our own! Donation jars have been set up in the narthex and fellowship hall to help a member in need. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity and prayers!

Tropical Trek: Neighborhood Flyering Guide

Saturday, May 2 | 9:00 AM | Meet in the Church Lobby

Flyers: Hand these to neighbors or leave them in door-hangers (do not put them in mailboxes!).

What to Say (The 30-Second "Elevator Pitch")


“Hi there! We’re from Bethlehem Lutheran Church just down Old Olga. We’re stopping by to invite your family to our Tropical Trek VBS this June! It’s a week of fun, games, and a free dinner every night for the kids. Here is a flyer with all the details—we’d love to see you there!”

Get Ready for a Tropical Trek!

Grab your gear and join us for VBS 2026: Tropical Trek, where we’ll discover that Jesus Comes to Seek and Save! It’s going to be an adventurous week of music, games, and incredible stories.




 **Dates:** June 8–12

 **Dinner:** 6:00 PM

 **VBS Program:** 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Join Our Expedition Crew!

We can't make this trek without you! We are looking for volunteers to help our jungle travelers refuel. We need help with:

-  Purchasing food and supplies
-  Preparing nightly meals
-  Set-up & Clean-up

Whether you're a master chef or a helping hand, we have a spot for you on the team.

Godspeed and Blessings!

As you prepare to journey North, we send you with our love and prayers. We thank God for the season we shared and the warmth you brought to our church family. May the road ahead be smooth and the skies clear. May His presence be your constant companion, providing safety in every mile and peace in every rest stop. We pray that you find your homes and loved ones in good health, and that the joy of our fellowship remains with you through the months ahead. Travel safely, dear friends. We look forward with joy to the day the Lord brings you back to us again.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Haven, Cassie, Buckingham Exceptional School, Cheryl Miller, John, Will, Addison, Diane Pfaff, Beth, Diane, Sara, Susan, Pam, Betty, Ron, Jim, Carolyn Barnes, Tyler Wilke, Gary Cooper, Gary, Betty, Maeve, Jon and Joyce, Alica, Betty, Chris Tobeck, Keith Tobeck, Andy, Peggy, Jack, Karen and Doug, Jim, Ron, Helen, Happiness for my family, For all God's creation for all mistreated animals, Larry and Linda, Helen, Sandi, Peggy, Tim Carlton, Roberta Lasocki Carlton, Ron Perry, Les Dreischerf, Cannon, Debbie Steele, Levi, Dominick Junior, Abigail and family, Amy and family, Terri, Thersea L., Scot, Melinda, Nick, Rose, Don, Carl, James and his family, Pam and Paul, John and Judy Wittenberg, Paul, Dick, Larry, Bill Denny, Bill, Denny, Sharyn, Christa and Axel, Johnie, Sherri and Gene, Ken T., Sarah, Jackie, Wayne, And those in our hearts

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones: The family and friends of Audrey Sterka, The family and friends of Andy MacDonald, The family and friends of Joe Calcagino, The family and friends of George Kranz

PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who can't attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

Pam, Edison and Karen Johnson, Chester and Linda Rust, Dorothy Riddle

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families. Son-in-law (being deployed for a year in the Coast Guard), Donald Sepulveda, Smiths (missionaries)

Dear Lord, We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit Amen.