



July 5, 2026

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

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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 gives rest to the weary.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help and support someone you know who is in need of rest?

Read Psalm 145:8-14 as a traditional prayer practice called *lectio divina*. Read the text two times slowly, pausing after each reading. After the

second reading, choose a word or phrase from the text that captures your attention. Focus on that word or phrase. Then read the text again and think about how the text connects with your life today. Pause, again, for reflection. Read the passage a fourth time and spend time reflecting on how this passage might direct your life to some action in the next few days. Conclude your time of prayer and reflection with verse 8: ***“The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 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 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!

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5, 2026

PRELUDE

"Before You Lord We Bow"

. . . Bell Choir

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

570 JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

- 1** Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 2** Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 3** Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 4** Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 5** Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(Please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

INVOCATION

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EXHORTATION

LSB 151

L 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

- L** 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

- L** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the

children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 145:1–14

Great Is the LORD

L I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

C Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

L Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

C One generation shall commend your works
to another,

and shall declare your mighty acts.

L On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

C They shall speak of the might of your
awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

L They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant
goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

C The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.

L The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

C All your works shall give thanks to you, O
LORD,

and all your saints shall bless you!

L They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,

C to make known to the children of man your
mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

L Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all
generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.

C The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

(Please rise)

KYRIE

LSB 152

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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

Zechariah 9:9–12

The Coming King of Zion

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my
covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the
waterless pit.
¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of
hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you
double.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 7:1–13

Released from the Law

7 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding

on a person only as long as he lives? ² For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³ Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴ Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

The Law and Sin

⁷ What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I

would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹ I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰ The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25–30

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,
the eleventh chapter.

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

Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my

yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,

And with the treasures of His grace
To _enrich the humble poor.

- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

SERMON

*(Today's message was written by Rev. Glander,
and is being delivered by Elder Greg Murray)*

(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

L Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

"My Country Tis of Thee"

. . . Bell Choir

♪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

965 GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND

- 1 God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
 Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
 By Thy great might.

- 2 So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
 On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
 God save the state!

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

- L** 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
Sermon delivered by Elder: Greg Murray
Organist: Holly Bell
Flutist: Nancy Rybak
Bells: Debbie Jackow
The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch
Elders: Greg Murray & Klaus Naumann
Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis
Ushers: Steve Hempel, Chris Jackow
Reader: Steve Hempel

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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 36

Adult Bible Class – 15

Celebrating birthdays this week: 7/5: William Adams, 7/8: Geoff Glander, 7/9: Lori Jensen

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

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

NO ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY and SUNDAY SCHOOL

Will resume on July 19th. 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.

New Monday Morning Gatherings!

Join us on Monday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a time of

health, fun, and fellowship. We will start each gathering with a gentle session of **Chair Exercises** to stretch and relax. Afterward, we will transition ourselves into other group activities. Everyone is invited to attend! **Bring a Friend:** Neighbors, family, and friends are always welcome! Please bring your own ideas of what activities, crafts, or games we might do together at these future gatherings. We hope to see you there!

NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Will resume at 10:30 A.M. on July 22nd. This gathering offers an opportunity to study God's Word together in the Fellowship Hall.

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:

Alan, Katie, John, Jim Rode, Becky, Johnny, Gail, David, Catherine, Holly, Kim, Kayla, Denny, Rose,

Helen, Tasha, Yvonne, Cody, Dan, Carl, Holly, Rose, Diane Pfaff, Ken Zanto, Gary, Chris Tobeck, Keith Tobeck, Paul, James and his family, John and Judy Wittenberg, And those in our hearts

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:

The family and friends of Marla Clausen, The family and friends of Larry and Tina Rosine, The family and friends of Edna

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

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), 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.**