



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

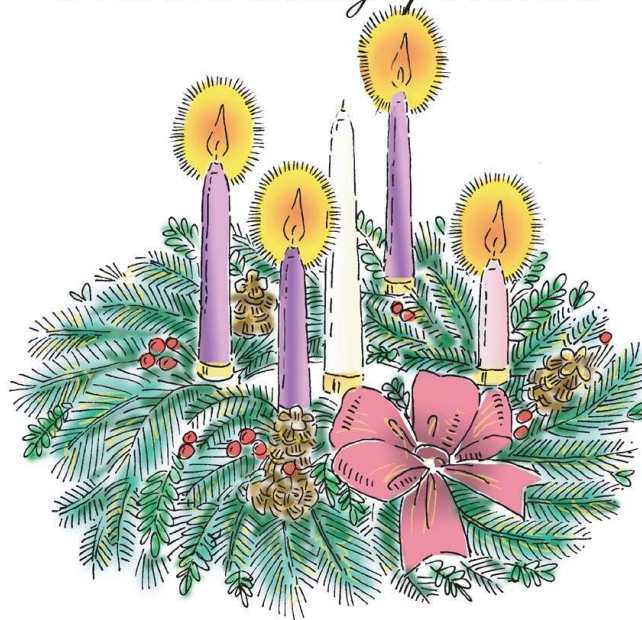
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road

Fort Myers, FL

12-22-2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

God shows love through a humble servant

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show God's love to someone in need?

The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of love. Discuss or think about the love that Jesus brings to the world. Light

the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent Wreath.

Say: “*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*” Mary’s song in Luke, also known as the Magnificat, expresses her love for God and revelation that all generations will call her blessed. She rejoices in all that God does for those in need.

Pray: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much. Fill our lives with love now and always. 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!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Children's Christmas Program

December 22, 2024

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

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.

(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

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

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

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 80:1–7

Restore Us, O God

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine
forth.

C Before Ephraim and Benjamin and
Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!

P Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's
prayers?

P You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

C You make us an object of contention for our
neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

P Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of
Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in
the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his
God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be
great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your
will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired
nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and
burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are
offered according to the law), ⁹then he added,
“Behold, I have come to do your will.” He
abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through
the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

♪ ALLELUIA AND VERSE ♪

C Alleluia.

**Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–45

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

GGlory to You, O Lord.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

CPraise to You, O Christ.

O Come, Little Children

(Congregation)

1 O come, little children, O come, one and all,
O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall
And see what the Father in heaven so true
Has done to prepare a bright Christmas for you.

2 Behold, in the manger, that strange little bed,
A Child, sweet and gentle, is resting His head,
A Babe, clad in garments so pure and so white,
And fairer by far than the angels of light.

3 On hay and on straw in the manger He lies;
Both Mary and Joseph, with fond, loving eyes,
Are gazing upon Him, and shepherds draw near,
And jubilant angels from heaven appear.

4 O kneel with the shepherds in worshipful prayer
And join the dear angels who also are there;
Sing glory to God in the heavens above
And thank Him for Jesus, the gift of His love.

5 O dearest, O sweetest, O wonderful Child,
So pure and so holy, so good and so mild;
For us poor and weak in the manger hast lain,
For us like an innocent lamb Thou wast slain.

6 Receive then our hearts, which we offer to Thee,
And keep them from sin and from wickedness
free;
O render them holy and blessed like Thine,
Thou Son of the Highest, Thou Infant divine.

358 FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME

(Stanzas 1-3, 6, 15)

(Congregation)

1 “From heav’n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 “To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

6 How glad we’ll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

AWAY IN THE MANGER

*(Children verse 1, congregation join in on verse 2
and 3)*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

(Congregation)

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

388 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*(Children verse 1, congregation join in on verse 2
and 3)*

**ref Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain**

393 INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

(Children)

SERMONETTE

. . . Pastor Karl

(Please rise)

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

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**☐ 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 trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

**1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.**

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



Serving the Lord with Gladness

Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Pianist: Cheryl Nelson

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Darrell Erdman, Doug Grage, Irie Hidalgo,
Nala Hidalgo

Reader: Raul Puga

Acolyte: Mika Hidalgo

Children's Program Coordinator: Sandy Grage,
Mickie Naumann

Youth Participants:

Gary Denny, Diallo Hidalgo, Irie Hidalgo, Mika Hidalgo, Nala Hidalgo, Bristol Nelson, Landon Nelson, Junior Soto Perez, Raul Puga, Benjamin Smith, Johnieann Smith



The Flowers on the Lord's Altar were given to the *Glory of God* this morning by Holly Bell



Birthday Greetings!!

12/24: Judy Young

12/26: Audrey Vine



Anniversary Greetings!!

12/26: Mary & Timothy Tobeck (54yrs)

12/29: Jean & John Rousch (36yrs)



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 provided by Holly Bell. Thank you! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall if you would like to sponsor a week.

Attendance

Worship Service – 67

Adult Bible Class – 22

Youth Classes – 8

Advent 3 Midweek – 15



Your **2025 offering envelopes** have arrived and are on the table in the narthex, please pick them up.

News & Notes



TODAY ~ DECEMBER 22, 2024, ADULT BIBLE CLASS at 11:30 a.m.



TODAY ~ DECEMBER 22, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL



Edison and Karen Johnson
Chester and Linda Rust

LOOKING AHEAD



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Service

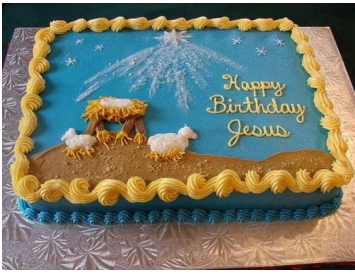
Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25th at 10:30 A.M.

New Year's Eve Service

Tuesday, December 31st at 7:00 P.M.



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 d'oeuvres, or goodies to share. Bring a friend or neighbors who will be alone along.



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



CHURCH GAME NIGHT~ COME ONE, COME ALL, ADULTS & YOUTH, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 7:00-8:30 P.M.



MOVIE NIGHT ~ SUNDAY ~ JANUARY 19, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ POPCORN AND ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE SERVED STARTING AT 5:30 p.m. COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!



YOUTH GROUP~ FRIDAY~ JANUARY 31ST~ 7:00-8:30 P.M.



Flower Calendar: The flowers decorating the chancel at Bethlehem are placed there as an act of worship and devotion to glorify God.

They are also, an expression of the beauty and goodness of God. Members of the congregation may donate altar flowers as an expression of thanksgiving to God, in

remembrance of departed loved one, on the occasion of a special event, such as a baptism, birthday, wedding anniversary, or simply to praise God. The 2025 Flower calendar has already been posted in the narthex. If you wish to donate flowers for use on the chancel, the cost is \$40.00 for two vases. Please sign up! It is also tax deductible.

Roast Pork Dinner



Thursday, JANUARY 9th,
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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
14531 Old Olga RD S.E.
Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 694-3878