



MARCH 9TH
FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT

March 9, 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

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

Trust in God to protect us.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who do you know that is feeling fearful?

How can you help them?

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for

Christians. Lent is a season of the church year when we focus on prayer. This Lenten season,

take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This first week in Lent we reflect on "*Father, hallowed be your name*" (v. 2a). Draw an outline of a cross on a sheet of paper. Write verse 2a at the top of the paper around the outside of the cross. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you. Place the cross in a visible place in your home to use as a devotional focus during Lent. Each week, another verse will be added around the cross.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



**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!

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

420 CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

(Stanzas 1-4)

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;

Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.

All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

(Please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

INVOCATION

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

EXHORTATION

PIf we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

☐ 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

☐ Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

☐ 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 +

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 91:1–13

My Refuge and My Fortress

P He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

C I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

P For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler

and from the deadly pestilence.

C He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

P You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

C nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

P A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

C You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

P Because you have made the LORD your
dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—

C no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

P For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

C On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

P You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample
underfoot.

(Please rise)

KYRIE

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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your

Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☪ Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Offerings of Firstfruits and Tithes

¹“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵“And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 10:8b–13

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

♪ **ALLELUIA AND VERSE** ♪ (LENT)

C Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and

abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:1–13

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

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

The Temptation of Jesus

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.”

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the
pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are
the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,
¹⁰for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’

¹¹and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall
not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when
the devil had ended every temptation, he departed
from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

657 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

(Stanzas 1–4)

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
 A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
 And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe.
 With craft and dreadful might
 He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

- 2 No strength of ours can match his might.
 We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
 Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He,
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
 God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
 All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;

They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage.

His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

"God's Truth"

. . . 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♪

192 CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

(Please rise)

△ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and
take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. 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

571 GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE

(Stanzas 1-3 and 6)

**1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.**

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

(Please rise)

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

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



Go and Serve the Lord

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Pianist: Cheryl Nelson

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Doug Grage, Greg Murray

Reader: Greg Murray

Acolyte: Mika Hidalgo



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



*Altar
Flowers*

Altar Flowers- are placed by Mary & Tim Tobeck in celebration of Mary's birthday and for the many blessings God has bestowed upon her. Happy Birthday!!

**Altar Flowers Needed for: May 4th, May 11th,
May 18th**

Celebrating birthdays this week: 3/9: Pam Barkhaus, 3/10: Mary Tobeck, 3/11: Christine Lemhouse, Ben Smith, 3/13: Ruthann Thornton, 3/15: Lillian Taylor

Celebrating anniversaries this week: 3/11: Barbara Bulmahn & Vern Stork (8yrs), 3/15: Terri & Richard Gerlach (57yrs)



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 from Glander's. Thank you!
There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall if you would like to sponsor a week.

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 83

Bible Study – 23

Confirmation –

Sunday School –

Ash Wednesday – 34

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CALENDAR

March 9, 2025 – March 16, 2025

TODAY: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

SUNDAY 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor

March 9 11:30 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation

MONDAY:

March 10

TUESDAY:

March 11

WEDNESDAY: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study

March 12 w/Pastor

THURSDAY: 4-7 p.m. Salisbury Steak Dinner

March 13

FRIDAY: 7:00 p.m. Game Night
March 14

SATURDAY: LWM Spring Rally will be at Peace
March 15 Lutheran Church in Naples
3:00 p.m. Judy Lawrence & Doug Johnson's
Wedding (all invited)

NEXT 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion
SUNDAY 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class w/Pastor
March 16 11:30 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation
6:00 p.m. Movie Night



We Need Easter Candy!

Bethlehem is doing our Annual Outreach Easter Egg Hunt. Lots of candy, fruit snacks, plastic eggs, or cash donations and we will do the shopping. Any Donations can be left in the Box in the Narthex under the table or in back of the fellowship hall by the church office. If donating candy, please keep in mind that this candy goes out to younger children. If all donations could be here by Sunday, April 13th. Remember we are reaching out to those in the Community with a chance to let them see we are here and Gods Love! Thank You!

Salisbury steak Dinner



Thursday, March 13th,
4-7 pm

Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn,
slaw, roll and butter, drink, and delicious dessert

\$10.00 adult \$5.00 child

Eat in or take out

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Our Special Prayers and Intercessions

Autumn – health issues
Emma – kidneys
Lou - health issues
Matt – stroke
Theresa – stroke
Chris – lung cancer
Sarah – stomach issues
Tim – health issues
Kurt – health issues
Jack – fighting depression,
lung issues
JoAnn – heart issues
Tamara – medical issues
Tamara’s brother –
hospitalized
Susan – recovering from
cancer
Chade – guidance
Steven – guidance
Connie – ICU
Ashton – esophageal atresia
Sharon – shoulder
Cammy – brain tumor stable
Cannon – cancer, recovering
from 2nd Bone Marrow
Transplant
Dorothy – in memory care
Edison – health issues

Haven – battling cancer
Gail – running tests for
leukemia
Tara. – health
Dustin – alcohol rehab
Brad – heart attack
Pat – health issues
Dave – health issues
Becky – cancer
Ken – cancer
Lidia – health issues
TA – spiritual guidance and
removal of all temptation
Belland/Calcagino – family
issues
Jenn – cancer
Yvonne – health issues
David – cancer
Sean – God knows
Lynne – health issues
Ron – hospitalized
Pam – health issues
Terry– health issues
Joe – health issues
Jessica – health issues
Sam – health issues
Carolyn – strengthening of
faith
Paul – strengthening of faith
Judy – cancer

***Please note: Those who are named in our special prayers and intercessions list are placed there by members of our congregation. St. Paul tells us in 1Timothy 2:1-2: “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.”** Those named remain joyfully in our prayers until the person who requested our prayers removes them or until the Lord resolves their need. Therefore, as St. Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.