

April 17, 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

Pastor Karl's Monday Morning Message

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

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

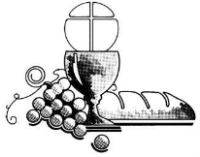
Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary



**Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran
Church in the name of Jesus!**

We are pleased to welcome you to our congregation. Here at Bethlehem, we are a community of the broken finding comfort and

grace in the Good News of Christ Jesus' death and resurrection. Together we confess the historic faith of the Christian Church both in our doctrine and our practice.



ATTENDING COMMUNION AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

The Lord's Supper was established as a meal of fellowship and confession. In this meal, we confess together our one faith in Christ and our Confessions, especially the doctrine set forth in Luther's Small Catechism. Therefore, those who are not one in membership in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor.

"They shall not hunger or thirst." Isaiah 49:9

Holy Thursday He Prepares a Table

"As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice; So when You call Your family Lord, We follow and rejoice" (*LSB* 641:1). While the specific word *shepherd* does not appear in Isaiah 49:7–13, the words *graze*, *pasture*, *lead*, and *guide* make it clear that the Suffering Servant

is a very good Shepherd. He leads His flock to find food on barren heights, and in the hottest of weather He gives His sheep unlimited water. The Servant promises, “They shall not hunger or thirst” (Isaiah 49:10). Indeed, He prepares a table for us where we feast on His true body and true blood. We celebrate these marvelous gifts on Holy Thursday, even as we sing, “You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat. Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat” (*LSB* 641).

This Lent, our **Call to Worship/Confession and Absolution** is drawn from the Seven Penitential Psalms, so named by Cassiodorus (c. AD 485–c. AD 585) in the sixth century AD. For centuries, Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 have served as a source of prayer and reflection during Lent. Their honest confessions invite us to turn to our Lord with the same candor and humility.

INVOCATION

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

C Amen.

*(Please follow the cross as it makes its way from
the narthex to the chancel.)*

PROCESSION HYMN

563 JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Stanzas 1–3)

- 1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.
- 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- 3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 143

P Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in Your faithfulness and righteousness come to
my relief.

C Do not bring Your servant into judgment, for
no one living is righteous before You.

P The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the
ground; he makes me dwell in darkness like
those long dead.

C So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart
within me is dismayed.

P I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on
all Your works and consider what Your hands
have done.

C I spread out my hands to You; my soul
thirsts for You like a parched land.

P Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide Your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

C Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.

P Our Father invites us to confess our sins, believe in Christ's cleansing mercy, and embrace the gift of His Holy Spirit. 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.

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.

[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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

[C] Teach us to do Your will, for You are our God; may Your good Spirit lead us on level ground.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[P] The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, in Your great love and faithfulness You prepared a feast for us in Your true body and Your true blood. Give us repentant and thankful hearts as we eat and drink at Your table, receiving forgiveness for all of our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

. . . Pastor Karl

The Scripture Lessons have as their Theme "The Lord's Supper."

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 49:7–13

⁷Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and His Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:

“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

⁸Thus says the Lord:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;
I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages,
⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike
them,

for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.

¹¹And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.

¹²Behold, these shall come from afar,

and behold, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.”
¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted His people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 8:6–13

⁶But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant He mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. ⁷For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

⁸For He finds fault with them when He says:
“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant with the
house of Israel

and with the house of Judah,
⁹not like the covenant that I made with their
fathers

on the day when I took them by the hand to
bring them out of the land of Egypt.

For they did not continue in My covenant,
and so I showed no concern for them, declares
the Lord.

¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the
house of Israel

after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put My laws into their minds,

and write them on their hearts,

and I will be their God,

and they shall be My people.

¹¹And they shall not teach, each one his
neighbor

and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the
Lord,'

for they shall all know Me,

from the least of them to the greatest.

¹²For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more."

¹³In speaking of a new covenant, He makes
the first one obsolete. And what is becoming
obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish
away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:26–29

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

²⁷And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according
to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven**

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

618 I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE

(Stanzas 1, ref, 4–5)

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: **Refrain**

**ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain**

5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain**

SERMON

"He Prepares a Table"

. . . Pastor Karl

OFFERINGS

♪OFFERTORY RESPONSE♪

805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

(Please Stand)

△ **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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[P] “Lord, may Your body and Your blood”

[C] “Be for my soul the highest good.”

LORD’S PRAYER

LSB 162

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

[C] 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.**

+ CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER +

PREFACE

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.

PROPER PREFACE (FULL)

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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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♪

LSB 161

☐ 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

☐ Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my

blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

C Amen.

♪ **AGNUS DEI** ♪ ~ Lamb of God

LSB 180

C Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

618 I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;

Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: **Refrain**

**ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **Refrain**

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain**

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain**

5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain**

617 O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore
Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy!

♪ **NUNC DIMITTIS** ♪ ~ *Song of Simeon* *LSB165*

☐ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all
people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of Thy people, Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

563 JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Stanzas 4–6)

- 4** Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.
- 5** When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6** Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

+ Stripping of the Altar +

Silent Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Your true body and true blood announces that Your mercy plus nothing equals absolutely everything. Thank You, forever. Amen.

(All leave the church in silence.)



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, Paul Rugenstein

Reader: Mickie Naumann

Acolyte: Irie Hidalgo

FRIDAY: 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

April 18

SUNDAY 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

April 20 8-10 a.m. Easter Breakfast

**10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service w/Holy
Communion**

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt