

First Sunday After *Christmas*

“As we prepare for Epiphany, we have even more reasons to recognize God’s grace, respond with gratitude, and share that love with others.”

December 28, 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

**The coming of Christ brings joy but causes
fear.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help care for refugees or homeless people near you?

Read Psalm 148. As you are reading, highlight or circle the word praise in each verse. Make a list of all the things in God's creation that are praising God throughout Psalm 148 (for example: the sun, the moon, and even sea monsters!). Take a moment to read through the list. Think or talk about what you can add to the list that you praise God for (for example: friends, family, and pets). Say: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord!** (Psalm 148:1)



**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!

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

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

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 +

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 111

Great Are the LORD's Works

[P] Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the
congregation.

[C] Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

[P] Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

[C] He has caused his wondrous works to be
remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

[P] He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

[C] He has shown his people the power of his
works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

P The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

C they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and
uprightness.

P He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

C The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good
understanding.
His praise endures 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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be

alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;
through Jesus Christ, 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

Isaiah 63:7–14

The LORD's Mercy Remembered

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of
Israel

that he has granted them according to his
compassion,

according to the abundance of his steadfast
love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”

And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled

and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.

Where is he who brought them up out of the sea

with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,

¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.

¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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

Matthew 2:13–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,
the second chapter.

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

The Flight to Egypt

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Herod Kills the Children

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they
are no more.”

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.
²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

- 3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

SERMON

"A Son and Heir"

. . . 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♪

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

367 ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. **Refrain**

ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

**ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**

(Please rise)

△ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

(Please be seated)

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: Sam and Carol Harrison

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 – 74

Adult Bible Class – 24

Sunday School – 6

Christmas Eve – 109

Christmas Day – 37

Celebrating birthdays this week: 1/3: Steve Hempel

Celebrating anniversaries this week: 12/29: Jean & John Rousch(37yrs)

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies. Thank you, Gary and Sylvester.

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.

NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Class will resume on Wednesday, January 7th.

HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

New Year's Eve Service

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

New Year's Eve celebration follows the service.
Bring some hors d'oeuvres, or goodies to share.

Bring
a friend or neighbors who will be alone along.

IN MEMORY OF

Kurt Laser

Funeral Service

3:00 pm Sunday, January 11, 2026

Potluck to follow, if you can, please bring a
covered dish to share. Thank you!

LWM

LWM would like to invite all ladies to a luncheon at
11:30 on January 12th. Come enjoy some
fellowship and delicious food.

LWM COLLECTING PENCILS

New and gently used pencils are being collected and sent to children through Samaritans purse. It's a good time to clean out your pencil drawer and donate them to church. We thank you for the children who need them and are trying to write with a pencil stub.

LWM start saving your change and extra coins for our noisy offering in February. More details will be coming after the holidays.

SAFETY DAY

January 28, 2026 from 10-11 am
to register call 694-3878

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

(Names remain on the prayer list up to a month unless requests are renewed.)

Accidents – Iris Smith, Rusty

ALS – Linda

Cancer – Andy, Anonymous, Ava, Barbara, Becky, Billie, Cannon, Chelsea, Cole, Dave, David, David, Don, Gail, Holly, Jenn, Joan, Joe, John, Judy, Ken, Larry, Rachel, Richard, Rick, Ron, Sharon, Sharon Rowe, Steve, Susan
In Remission – Annette, Cammy, Haven, Sandi, Tina

Coast Guard – Son-in-law (being deployed)

Convalescing: Betty, Bill, Chester, Debi, Dick, Edison, John, Joyce, Nancy, Norma, Rick, Shirley, Ted

Eye – Bob, Carol, Sarah

Fall – Holly

Fighting for their lives - Barb, Dennis' mom, Jack Kirsch, James, Julie, Lisa, Lola, Rita, Robert's mom, Samuel Albritton, Scott, Shannon

Flu – James and family, Nancy

Guidance – Amy, Anonymous, Chade, Holly, Kaden, Paul, Sean, Steven, TA

Head Injuries – Iris Smith, Jena, Ken, Maria Clara

Health Issues – Annie, Barb, Bob, Bruce, Carol, Christine, Christine, Dave, Edison, Emily Snider, Gary, Jana, Jeanne, Jeff, Jessica, Joe, Kurt, Pam, Pat, Richard, Sal, Sam, Samantha, Sandy, Sharon, Tamara, Tara, Terri, Tim, Toby Yvonne

Heart Issues – Andy, Brad, Carol, Eddie, Holly, JoAnn, Ken Holt, Kenny, Linda, Sharon, Simi

Hospice – Jean

Hospitalized – Eliot, Heather, Judy, Liliana, Lynn, Martha, Peggy, Randy, Rick, Rita, Ron, Rosa Aguirre, Rosa

Long-term Illness/Treatment: Alan, Ann, Bella, Betty, Bill, Bob, Brian, Buck, Charleen, Chip, Daphne, Darlene, David, Debi, Dennis, Doug, Dylan, Edison, Ellen, Elizabeth, Jake, James, Jene, Jennifer, Jonathan, Judy, Julianna, Julie,

Katie, Kim, Kim Lewis, Les, Lidia, Lillie Anne, Lisa, Liz mom, Lizzy, Madden, Mehliia, Mike, Millie, Myra and family, Nathan, Neil Fiore, Nicole, Pam, Phillip, Rebecca, Richard, Richard, Rick, Rita, Sandy, Terri, Theresa, Timmy, Trace Ryan

Memory Care – Dorothy, Liz Paschen

Mental illness – Giney, Lisa, Viola

Our Homebound - Edison and Karen Johnson, Chester and Linda Rust

Physical health and Rehab – Chip, Iris

Recovering from Surgery – Andy, Chip, Holly, Jeff, Kathy Hayes, Sharon

Safe travels – Sharon, sister

Strengthening of faith – Carolyn, Paul

Struggling - Melinda

Suffered a stroke - Adrian, Doug, Ed, Eliot, Gary, Joan, Kevin, Shirley, Theresa

Surgery – Kathy, Sunny

You know their needs - Carolyn, Deborah, Glen, John, Kayla, Ralph, Ron, Sarah

Caregivers - Amy, Eugene, Lorrie, Paul, Tina

Anonymous – prayer for discernment whether to move back to Midwest, finding the right path.

Dave – for health and salvation

For mom – trip to Florida in December

Anonymous – pray for a healthy pregnancy

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:

The family and friends of Kurt Laser, The family and friends of Joy Kulbacki, The family and friends of Nancy Mihich

Roast Pork Dinner



Thursday, JANUARY 8th,
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