



January 11, 2026

**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**

[bethlehmlutheranfortmyers.org](http://bethlehmlutheranfortmyers.org)

E-Mail: [bethlehemlc@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemlc@gmail.com)

**Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor**

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

[pastorkarlglandler@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkarlglandler@gmail.com)

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

***Jesus is declared as God's beloved Son.***

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what does it mean to serve others in Jesus' name?

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we

too, become a beloved member of God's family. Share in a ritual of baptismal remembrance. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Dip a finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or that of another person. **Say: You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.**



## **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!

## **BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

*January 11, 2026*

### **PRELUDE**

**† ORDER OF WORSHIP †**

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION**

**578 THY STRONG WORD**

*(Stanzas 1–2, 5–6)*

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

**2** Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
    Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
    Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

**5** Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
    Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
    Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

*(Please rise)*

△ **6** God the Father, light-creator,  
    To Thee laud and honor be.

To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

## **+ 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  $\div$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**Amen.

(Please be seated)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM**

*Psalm 29*

**Ascribe to the LORD Glory**

**P** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**C** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

**P** The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over many waters.

**C** The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

**P** The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**C** He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**P** The voice of the LORD  
flashes forth flames of fire.

**C** The voice of the LORD shakes the  
wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**P** The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth  
and strips the forests bare,  
and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

**C** The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

**P** May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

*(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.

## **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**

**P**The Lord be with you.

**C**And also with you.

**P**Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same 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**

### **The LORD's Chosen Servant**

*Isaiah 42:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup>He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,

or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break,

and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them  
out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from  
it,

who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>“I am the LORD; I have called you in  
righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,

<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.

<sup>9</sup>Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them.”

**L**This is the Word of the Lord.

**C**Thanks be to God.

## **EPISTLE**

*Romans 6:1–11*

### **Dead to Sin, Alive to God**

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died

has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**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 3:13–17*

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

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

## The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

**P**This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

## SERMON HYMN

**406 TO JORDAN CAME THE CHRIST, OUR  
LORD**

*(Stanzas 1-4)*

1 To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord,  
    To do His Father's pleasure;  
Baptized by John, the Father's Word  
    Was given us to treasure.

This heav'nly washing now shall be  
    A cleansing from transgression  
And by His blood and agony  
    Release from death's oppression.  
A new life now awaits us.

2 O hear and mark the message well,  
    For God Himself has spoken.  
Let faith, not doubt, among us dwell  
    And so receive this token.  
Our Lord here with His Word endows  
    Pure water, freely flowing.  
God's Holy Spirit here avows  
    Our kinship while bestowing  
The Baptism of His blessing.

3 These truths on Jordan's banks were shown  
    By mighty word and wonder.  
The Father's voice from heav'n came down,  
    Which we do well to ponder:  
"This man is My belovèd Son,

In whom My heart has pleasure.  
Him you must hear, and Him alone,  
    And trust in fullest measure  
The word that He has spoken.”

4 There stood the Son of God in love,  
    His grace to us extending;  
The Holy Spirit like a dove  
    Upon the scene descending;  
The triune God assuring us,  
    With promises compelling,  
That in our Baptism He will thus  
    Among us find a dwelling  
To comfort and sustain us.

## **SERMON**

### **“*The Spirit-Marked Servant*”**

... Pastor Karl

(Please rise)

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C**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  $\ddagger$  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**

### **537 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR**

**1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee,  
Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows,  
Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**3** Fair is the sunshine,  
    Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
    Jesus shines brighter,  
    Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.

**4** Beautiful Savior,  
    Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
    Glory and honor,  
    Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

## **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

Guest Pianist: Sharon Burns

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 – 87

**Celebrating birthdays this week: 1/13: Greg  
Murray, 1/14: Alan Taylor, 1/15: Edison Johnson**

## **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies.

## **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.

### **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.

## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK**

10:30 A.M., January 14<sup>th</sup>

## **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.

**Your 2026 offering envelopes have arrived and are on the table in the narthex, please pick them up.**

### **Church Council**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026 ~ will meet after Bible Class**

### **MOVIE NIGHT**

#### ***Unsung Hero***

**Sunday, January 18, 2026~ 6:00 p.m. ~ POPCORN  
AND ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE SERVED  
STARTING AT 5:30 p.m. COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!**

**JANUARY 25, 2026**

**Voter's Meeting ~ right after service**

Our annual Voters' Meeting will be held this Sunday right after the Worship service. Each of the Bethlehem Church Boards will present their plans for 2026 so please plan to attend. (No Bible class or Sunday school)

**SAFETY DAY**

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

**UN-decorating**

**Thank you to all who helped with UN-decorating the church last Sunday! I hope you had as much fun as I did!!!** We had many hands to help. Snacks were served following the work.  
Great fellowship!!

**ROAST PORK DINNER**

Thank You for Assisting We sincerely thank all those who volunteered their assistance with the Roast Pork Dinner Thursday. The baked goods were wonderful, and the teamwork done by so many was outstanding! Thank you! We could never have done it without you!

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

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

**Accidents** – Iris Smith, Rusty

**ALS** – Linda

**Better Support System** – Leigh

**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, 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

**Find their way back to God** – David, Keenan

**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, Jim Meincke, 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, Mehlia, 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, Pat, Shirley, Theresa

**Surgery** – Kathy, Sunny

**You know their needs** - Carolyn, Cindy, Deborah, Glen,  
John, Kayla, Leisa, LuAnne, Nathaniel, Ralph, Ron, Sarah,  
Sarah

**Caregivers** - Amy, Eugene, Lorrie, Paul, Tina

**Dave** – for health and salvation

**Anonymous** – pray for a healthy pregnancy

**For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:** The family and friends of Rick Trammell, The family and friends of Kurt Laser, The family and friends of Joy Kulbacki

# Meatloaf Dinner



Thursday, FEBRUARY 12<sup>th</sup>,  
4-7 pm

Delicious homemade meatloaf, mashed  
potatoes/gravy, coleslaw, green beans, bun, drink, and  
delicious dessert

\$10.00 adult \$5.00 child

Eat in or take out

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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