

**Repent,
for the kingdom
of heaven
is at hand.**

January 25, 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**

bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

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

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglandler@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

Jesus lights our way, calling us to follow him.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give hope to someone in need?

Epiphany is a season that emphasizes the light of Christ in the world so that we may follow Jesus without fear. Make a list of things that can make

you afraid. Light a candle and name these fears aloud. *After each fear is named say: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”* (Psalm 27:1).

At the end, pray: As we face our fears remind us that you are with us through the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who calls us to live free of our fears and anxieties. 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 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!

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 25, 2026

PRELUDE

† ORDER OF WORSHIP †

HYMN OF INVOCATION

644 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

(Stanzas 1–5)

- 1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.

From heav'n He came and sought her
 To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
 And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
 Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
 One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
 Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
 With ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
 The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
 By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
 Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
 Shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
 And tumult of her war

She waits the consummation
 Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
 Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
 With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'ly chorus!
 Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
 May see You face to face.

(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.)

CONFSSION 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 27

The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

P The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

C When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

P Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

C One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.

P For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

C And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

P Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

C You have said, “Seek my face.”
My heart says to you,
“Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

P Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

C For my father and my mother have forsaken
me,
but the LORD will take me in.

P Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

C Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.

P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

C Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

(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.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 9:1–4

For to Us a Child Is Born

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Divisions in the Church

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Christ the Wisdom and Power of God

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of 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 4:12–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,
the fourth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and
shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw
two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and
Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for
they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them,
“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
²¹And going on from there he saw two other
brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his
brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father,
mending their nets, and he called them.
²²Immediately they left the boat and their father
and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

411 I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. **Refrain**

**ref In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

SERMON

"Ordinary Discipleship"

... 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

643 SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take
leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His
call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
 To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
 Our faith ever sharing,
 In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and
race.
 With Your feast You feed us,
 With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
 Then may all the living
 With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we
bear.

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: Cheryl Nelson

Flutist: Nancy Rybak

Bells: Debbie Jackow

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Doug Grage, Greg Murray

Reader: Gary Barkhaus

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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 76

Celebrating birthdays this week: 1/26: Janice Bradtmiller, 1/28: Caydence Albert, 1/29: Chip Rinehart, 1/31: Linda Hedrick

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the voter's meeting for coffee and goodies. The refreshments this week are from the Church. Thank you!

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)

Dear Cheryl, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your ministry in music these past couple Sunday's. It was a blessing to have you lead us in worship. Thank you for your dedication

and for traveling to share your God-given talent with our congregation. Your music helped create a wonderful atmosphere of praise!

SAFETY DAY

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

Kickoff Meeting: VBS 2026 Planning!

It's time to start dreaming about the brightest week of the year! You are invited to our first planning meeting for **VBS 2026** on **Monday, February 2, at 10:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

As we begin our journey for 2026, we will focus on:

- .Theme Selection:** Reviewing 2026 options
- .Vision Casting:** Defining our goals for reaching children in our community.
- .Key Roles:** Identifying coordinators for crafts, music, and snacks.
- .Dates & Schedule:** Confirming the 2026 VBS dates and daily rotation flow.

Whether you are a returning veteran or new to the team, your heart and ideas are needed.

Note: Upcoming LWM Events & Announcements

- .LWM Meeting:** Join us on **Monday, February 2, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.** We will be finalizing plans for February and viewing the new banners selected by the committee. All ladies are invited to attend!

- .Muffin Sunday:** Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 8, 2026**. A wide variety of muffin flavors will be available for a free-will offering. Pick up your favorites to enjoy during Bible study or to take home.
- .Noisy Offering:** The next Noisy Offering will take place on **Sunday, February 22, 2026**.
- .Collecting Pencils** New and gently used pencils are being collected and sent to children through Samaritans purse.

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

Healing – Kathy, Toby

Health Issues – Annie, Barb, Bob, Bruce, Carol, Christine, Christine, Dave, Edison, Emily Snider, Gary, Holly Chaney, Jana, Jeanne, Jeff, Jessica, Joe, Katie, Keith, 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

Lost Everything to House Fire – Daniel Skurka and his family

Marriage – Amy and Joe

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 – Darrell, Joanne, 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 B., Carolyn, Cindy, Deborah, Glen, Jackie, Jim, John, Kayla, Leisa, LuAnne, Nathaniel, Ralph, Ron, Ron T, Sarah, Sarah, Sarah, Suzanne

Caregivers - Amy, Eugene, Judy, 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 Billie Waddick, 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 12th,
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

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