



The
LORD gave,
and the
LORD hath
taken away;
Blessed
be the name
of the LORD.

Job 1:21

February 22, 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:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

Jesus faces temptation and conquers evil.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is afraid to try something for fear of making a mistake?

To establish a ritual during Lent, make a Lenten Candle Cross. Place six purple tea-light or votive

candles in the shape of a cross, using a white seventh candle for the center. Each week, a candle will be lit during prayer time in your home. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) will be introduced as a way to pray. This first week in Lent represents “**A**” for Adoration, meaning love, respect, and worship. [Light one purple candle]

Pray: **Dear God, we praise your name and worship you. I praise you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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!

Theme of the Day: Theme of the Day: Like Job, we have three choices when something catastrophic happens. We can let it destroy us. We can let it define us. Or we can let it develop us. Today we learn how suffering can develop us and it all begins with one act—**surrender.**

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
SWEET SURRENDER
February 22, 2026

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

OPENING HYMN

420 CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

(Stanzas 1-3)

- 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.

(Please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Gracious and most merciful Father,

C **In the light of your holiness we see
ourselves as we really are.**

P And we are ashamed.

- C** We confess that we have impure thoughts and unclean lips.
- P** We think too highly of ourselves and too little of others.
- C** We cling so tightly to the treasures of this world,
- P** That we cannot open our hands to receive blessings from above.
- C** Our feet follow the paths of sin.
- P** We wander so far astray that we become strangers to righteousness.
- C** Forgive us, and set us again on the path that leads to life.
- P** Deal with us not as we deserve, but according to your mercy,
- C** Not because we are worthy but because you are gracious.
- P** While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that through God's love in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. God has shown his love

for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross and by his wounds we are healed. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: I know that my Redeemer lives!

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF RESPONSE

420 CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

(Stanzas 6, 7)

- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,

For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Gracious God, when life seems cruel and the going gets real rough, empower us to surrender to your loving will, even as we say, “Blessed be the name of the Lord;” through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS REFLECT THE THEME OF SURRENDERING TO GOD’S WILL

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 1:13–22

Satan Takes Job's Property and Children

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside

them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants^[a] with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return.

The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

EPISTLE READING
God of All Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3–9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our

strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 9:51–62

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

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

A Samaritan Village Rejects Jesus

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village.

The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 In a believer's ear!
 It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
 And drives away our fear.

- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
 And calms the heart's unrest;

'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!

SERMON

"Sweet Surrender"

. . . Pastor Karl

(Please rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** O God, when you allow suffering and pain instead of sunshine and gladness we will still believe and live by your Holy Word.
- C** **When we feel loss empower us to still bless your holy name.**
- P** For it is the weak and humble who receive your love;
- C** **Who are pardoned and healed,**
- P** Who are enlightened and strengthened.
- C** **And so we will find joy in suffering**
- P** And pray for your will to be done.

P Father, we surrender to our present circumstances that we can't control;

C Because we have your names—

P Yahweh, El Shaddai and Eloah.

C We have your name—

P Jesus.

ALL: “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.” Amen.

(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

725 Children of the Heavenly Father

1 Children of the heavenly Father
safely in His bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord His children sever;
unto them His grace He showeth,
and their sorrows all He knoweth.

4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

We Pray Together

Lord Jesus, I surrender to your will for my life
as I bless your holy name! 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: Doug Johnson

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Sue Hartmann, Sharon Spalding,

Mary Tobeck, Betty Willis

Reader: Emmy Larson

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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 89

Adult Bible Class – 22

Celebrating birthdays this week: 2/22: Karen Keiper, 2/25: Mickie Naumann

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies. The refreshments this week are from LWM Thank you!

Noisy Offering

Make a Joyful Noise for a Good Cause today, February 22, 2026.

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.

Lent Service

Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are updating the Church directory. If your contact information has changed since last year please complete a Directory update form available in the narthex or the church office. Thank you!

Note: Upcoming LWM Events & Announcements

- . **Collecting Pencils** New and gently used pencils are being collected and sent to children through Samaritans purse.
- . The **LWM** is holding a **handmade quilt raffle** during the **month of February**. Tickets can be purchased for **\$2 for one** or **\$5 for three tickets**. Tickets are available for purchase in the **narthex or fellowship hall** immediately following the church service. See Yvonne Murray today.
- . **Spring LWM rally** will be at Grace in Naples on February 28th from 11 to 3. All ladies are welcome to go. Please let Sandy, Terri, or

Mickie know if you would like to attend. We will be carpooling.



Lenten Services

February 25th at 7:00 p.m.

March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

March 11th at 7:00 p.m.

March 18th at 7:00 p.m.

March 25th at 7:00 p.m.



Palm Sunday Service

March 29th at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

Good Friday Service

April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

April 5th

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

8-10 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

We Need Easter Candy!

Bethlehem is doing our Annual Outreach Easter Egg Hunt. Lots of candy, fruit snacks, or cash donations can be given to Mickie Naumann. 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. When donating candy, please keep in mind that this candy goes out to younger children. If all donations could be here by Sunday, March 29th. **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!**

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 – Al, Andy, Anonymous, Ava, Barbara, Becky, Bill, Bill Zierline, Billie, Cannon, Chelsea, Cole, Dave, David, David, Don, Gail, Holly, Jenn, Joan, Joe, John Wittenberg, Judy, Ken, Kim, Larry, Pastor Paul Jensen, 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 - Kathleen

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

For Our Country and Leaders

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, Don, 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, Wayne

Hospice – Jean

Hospitalized – Eliot, Heather, Jim Meincke, Johnnie, Judy, Keith, Keith Tobeck, Liliana, Lynn,

Martha, Peggy, Randy, Rick, Rita, Ron, Rosa Aguirre, Rosa

Knee replacement - Helen

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

Lost Everything to House Fire – Daniel Skurka and his family

Marriage – Amy and Joe

Memory Care – Dorothy, Liz Paschen

Mental illness – Giney, Lisa, Viola

Need help walking - Denny

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, Kayla, Keith Tobeck, Sharon

Safe travels – Darrell, Joanne, sister

Sick - Sandi

Storm – Jessica, Heather, and all impacted by the
storm

Strengthening of faith – Carolyn, Paul

Struggling - Melinda

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

Surgery – Fred Boessel, Kathy, Sunny, Wayne

You know their needs – Amy, Bill, Bill Denny, Billie McCall, Betty, Carolyn B., Carolyn Barnes, Carolyn, Christa and Axel, Cindy, Deborah, Denny, Diane, Don, Glen, Jackie, Jim, John, Kayla, Leisa, Loraine, LuAnne, Nathaniel, Ralph, Ridge, Ron, Ron Tapak, Ron T, Sara, Sarah, Sarah, Sarah, Sherri and Gene, Suzanne, Tyler Wilke

Caregivers - Amy, Eugene, Judy Wittenberg, 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 Peter Doukas, The family and friends of Billie Waddick

Salisbury steak Dinner



Thursday, March 12th,
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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