



So the LAST
will be
FIRST
and the FIRST
LAST.

Matthew 20:1-16

September 20, 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

God's generosity is amazing!

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show kindness to someone you feel has not been treated fairly?

September 21st is the day when the Christian church remembers the Apostle Matthew, one of Jesus' original twelve disciples (most of the

Gospel readings for this year are from Matthew's Gospel). One day, while seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at Matthew and said two words: *"Follow me."* This was all that was needed to make Matthew, a tax collector, rise and leave behind his pieces of silver to follow Christ. What does it take for someone to follow Jesus? Write a list of words that describe someone who follows Jesus. Take a moment to read through the list. *Pray:* **Lord, we give thanks for Matthew, the tax collector and disciple; help me to open my heart and mind to understand what it means to follow you. Amen.**



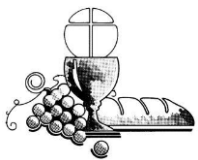
**IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP
WITH US TODAY!**

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!



ATTENDING COMMUNION AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love

as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem Lutheran Church LCMS and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are invited to speak with Pastor Karl Glander.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

PRELUDE

✠ **ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

528 OH, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

(Stanzas 1–4)

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.
- 3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

(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

Psalms 27:1–9

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!

(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.**

♪ **THIS IS THE FEAST** ♪

LSB 155

C **This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of
God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and
honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in
the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to
God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His
reign. Alleluia.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

The Advance of the Gospel

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been

granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1–16

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Laborers in the Vineyard

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the

morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But

he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

543 WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my

soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2 When I was sinking down, sinking down,
sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my
soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will
sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll
sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

SERMON

"Unthinkable"

. . . Pastor Karl

(Please rise)

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy
C Hear our prayer.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

♪**OFFERTORY**♪

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.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB 160

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

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. 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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

☐ Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own

testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

[P] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] Amen.

♪AGNUS DEI♪

LSB 163

[C] Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the
world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the
world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the
world; grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

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!

570 JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(Please rise)

♪ THANK THE LORD ♪

LSB 164

**☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell
ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and
proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His
people forth in joy**

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia,
alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that
You have refreshed us through this salutary
gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy
You would strengthen us through the same in
faith toward You and in fervent love toward
one another; 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)

HYMN TO DEPART

556 DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, **REJOICE**

(Stanzas 1–4)

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice

And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!

2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.

He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

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: Doug Johnson

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Chris Jackow, Greg Murray

Reader: Judy Lawrence

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

Introducing "**GIFTS OF THANKSGIVING**"

For many years, our congregation has beautifully adorned the sanctuary with flowers to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and the lives of loved ones. As our traditions evolve, we are introducing a new way to honor these special milestones: **The Gifts of Thanksgiving Program.**

Instead of altar flowers, you are invited to make a commemorative financial gift on your special day. These gifts directly sustain our church home and care for our church family. When you give, you can choose to direct your offering to one of four traditional areas of need:

Where would you like your gift used?

The Church Home: Supporting our mortgage and debt reduction.

The Church Grounds: Maintaining our lawn, trees, and outdoor spaces.

The Church Structure: Funding building maintenance, roofing, and structural repairs.

The Church Family: Providing direct benevolence to members in financial need.

Just like our traditional flower calendar, your milestone and dedication will be printed right here in the Sunday bulletin so the congregation can celebrate and pray with you.

Celebrating birthdays this week: 9/20: Sharon Goers, **9/22:** Steve Williams

Our Response to God's Love
Worship Service – 32

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

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

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.

MONDAY MORNING GATHERINGS!

Join us on Monday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a time of health, fun, and fellowship. We will start each gathering with a gentle session of **Chair Exercises** to stretch and relax. Afterward, we will transition ourselves into other group activities. Everyone is invited to attend! **Bring a Friend:** Neighbors, family, and friends are always welcome! Please bring your own ideas of what activities, crafts, or games we might do together at these future gatherings. We hope to see you there!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

10:30 A.M. This gathering offers an opportunity to study God's Word together in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH NIGHT & SLEEPOVER

All youth are welcome to join us for our next youth night on **Friday, September 25th**, starting at **6:00 PM**. Families are welcome to arrive anytime between 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Kids can stay as long as parents allow, and we are open to a sleepover for those interested (though staying overnight is not required to attend!). If you know any youth who would love to come, please contact **Mickie or Holly** to sign up or get more details.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday – October 25, 2026 Voter's meeting will be held after the service. Please plan on staying. No Bible study or Sunday school on the 25th because of the voter's meeting.

VDMA

Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum

JOIN US FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

✠ WITH GUEST PREACHER ✠

REV. DR. JAMES BUSHUR

*We preach
Christ Crucified*



DATE:
SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 25, 2026



TIME:
4:00 P.M.

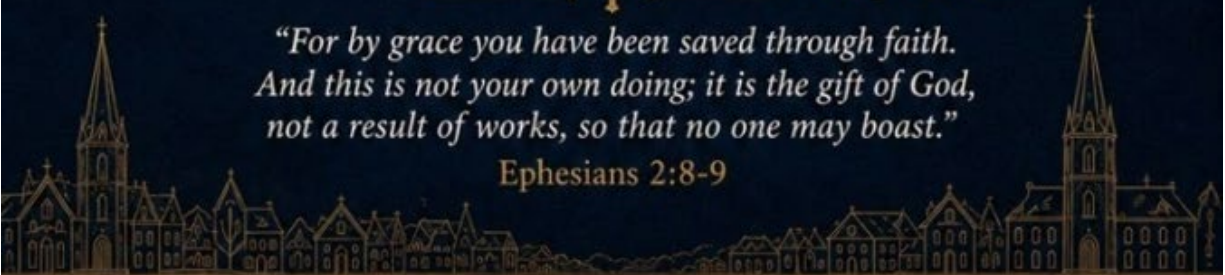


LOCATION:
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
25999 Old 41 Rd
Bonita Springs, FL 34135



*"For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Ephesians 2:8-9





COMPELLED

Mission Advancement Initiative

MISSION ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE SUPPORT BANQUET

Hosted by
Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool, Naples, FL
November 17 at 5pm – 7:30pm

Join us for an evening of **reception, dinner, and program**, filled with fellowship and a look ahead at what God is doing across our District. Hear exciting plans for **planting new churches, launching outreach ministries, and raising up new workers** for the mission field.

Please register at
FLGADistrict.org/mission-advancement
or by phone at 407-258-5052

To learn more about the Florida-Georgia District's
Mission Advancement Initiative,
visit flgadistrict.org/mission-advancement/

florida **georgia**
district



LWML FALL RALLY

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Southwest Zone Fall Rally will be hosted by Faith Lutheran Church — Naples, Florida on October 17, 2026 at 11:15 A.M. Let Mickie know by Sunday, October 4th if you'll be attending.



Operation Christmas Child: Sharing Joy and Hope!

Last year, our church family sent a remarkable 142 shoeboxes to children around the world! It is time once again to share Jesus' love through Operation Christmas Child. There are four wonderful ways you can participate this year:

- .Pack a box:** Grab a shoebox and fill it with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for a boy or girl.
- .Donate supplies:** Bring individual gift items to the collection tables located in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall.
- .Sponsor shipping:** Donate \$10 per box to cover shipping and ministry costs. (Tip: Give

online through Samaritan's Purse to "Follow Your Box" and see which country it reaches!)

.Write a letter: Write a heartfelt note of encouragement and prayer to be tucked inside a child's box.

Important Reminder: Please do not include toothpaste, candy, food, liquids, lotions, or toy weapons, as these cannot be shipped.

For gift ideas and packing lists, please visit the information tables in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. Let's work together to bless even more children this year!

For any questions see Betty Willis, Mary Tobeck or Mickie Naumann. Thank you all for your generosity.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Nancy, McGee family, Christine, Sonia, Chelsie, Kyle and family, Jack, Melinda, Sandi, Pam, Paul, Debbie, Amy, Jennifer, Bill, Denny, Guatemala, David, Holly, Matt, Maggie, Doug, Johanna, Kerry, Addison, Dustin, Peggy, Andrea, Jackson, Sue, Pat, Tim, Phil S., Tina, Thomas, Nick, Felix, Cindy, Klaus, Linda, Gail, Johnny, Wendy, Les Dreischerf, Sharon, Will, Melissa Johnson, Barb, Kayla, Katie, John, Jim Rode, Becky, Johnny, Catherine, Kim, Kayla, Rose, Helen, Tasha, Yvonne, Cody, Dan, Carl, Holly, Rose, Ken Zanto, Gary, Chris Tobeck, Keith Tobeck, Paul, James and his family, And those in our hearts

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:
The family and friends of John Wittenberg, The family and friends of Meme

PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who can't attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

Pam, Edison and Karen Johnson, Chester and Linda Rust

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

missionaries in Guatemala, Son-in-law (being deployed for a year in the Coast Guard), Smiths (missionaries)

Dear Lord, we come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit Amen.

The election for Council Officers and Board Positions will be held on October 25 Voters' Meeting. The Nominating committee recommended the following slate of individuals for election:

Council Officers

President - Richard Gerlach

Vice President - Doug Grage

Secretary - Holly Bell

Treasurer – Yvonne Murray

Member at Large – Kerry Ferguson

Board Positions

Board of Education - Mickie Naumann, Lori Jensen

Board of Elders - Doug Johnson, Chris Jackow, Greg Murray, Tim Tobeck

Board of Evangelism –

Board of Stewardship – Tim and Mary Tobeck, Rollin and Pat Duckwitz

Board of Trustees - Jeff Kirsch

NOTE: *If you would like to be considered for one of these positions please contact any council member before October 11th.*

No Bible study or Sunday school on the 25th due to the voter's meeting.