

Parables of Jesus

The Lost Sheep & The Lost Coin

Luke 15:1-10



September 14, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

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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

Rejoicing at the amazing grace of God.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who do you know that may feel lost and need some support?

In Luke 15:1-10 Jesus tells parables about the lost being found. Our sin is a condition of being lost

and apart from God. God rejoices when, through faith in Christ, we, as the lost, are found, forgiven, and restored to a relationship with God. Hide chocolate coins or other candies and have others find them. After the treats are found, talk about the joy of finding them and then about God's joy at searching for and finding us.

***Pray:* Thank you, God, for searching for us when we stray from you. Thank you for finding us and forgiving us. 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 ushers or 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! Please sign our guest register in the lobby and fill out the Communication Card in the pew and place in the offering plate. Please include your local contact information and email. Members, please fill in your name for attendance. Thank you!

Should you have something we could privately pray about for you this week, we invite you to let our pastor or one of our members know so we can seek the Lord's face together.

Come visit us again sometime soon and may the Lord richly bless you!

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

711 SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.

- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.

- 3 You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.

Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.

4 Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.

(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.

☐ 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

☐ Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

☐ 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 119:169–176

TAW

P Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word!

C Let my plea come before you;
deliver me according to your word.

P My lips will pour forth praise,
for you teach me your statutes.

C My tongue will sing of your word,
for all your commandments are right.

P Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

C I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.

P Let my soul live and praise you,
and let your just decrees help me.

C I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek
your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

(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.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11–24

The Lord GOD Will Seek Them Out

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from

the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep

and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Timothy 1:5–11

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not

laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

[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

Luke 15:1–10

[P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

[C] Glory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me,

for I have found the coin that I had lost.’¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

609 JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE

(Stanzas 1–4)

1 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

2 We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.

Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

3 Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

4 I, a sinner, come to Thee
With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

SERMON

"Law or Gospel?"

. . . Pastor Karl

(Please rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the
dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB 159

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

710 THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'LL NOT WANT

**1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.**

**2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.**

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

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



Go and Serve the Lord

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander
Guest Pastor: Rev. Jon Zehnder

Organist: Holly Bell

Flutist: Nancy Rybak

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Greg Murray

Reader: Greg Murray



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

Celebrating birthdays this week: 9/15: Pat Duckwitz, 9/20: Sharon Goers

Celebrating anniversaries this week: 9/15: Carrie & Brad Stecklein (18yrs), 9/19: Diane and Mike Pfaff (45yrs)



Food and Fellowship: Please join us immediately after the service. We meet in the fellowship hall at the rear of the church before Bible study. The refreshments this week are from Murray's. Thank you!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall if you would like to sponsor a week.

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 44

Adult Bible Class – 14

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CALENDAR

September 14, 2025 – September 21, 2025

TODAY 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

SUNDAY: 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor

September 14 11:30 a.m. Sunday School

12:30 p.m. Church Council will meet (right after Adult Bible Class)

MONDAY:

September 15

TUESDAY:
September 16

WEDNESDAY: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study
September 17

THURSDAY:
September 18

FRIDAY:
September 19

SATURDAY:
September 20

NEXT 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion
SUNDAY: 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor
September 21 11:30 a.m. Sunday School



LWM Our first LWM meeting will be
Monday September 29th at 1 p.m.

We will be discussing our plans and projects for 25/26 season. All ladies are welcome, and we welcome everyone's input. A light snack will be served. If you have never joined us for a meeting,

come see what we are doing and help us plan for the upcoming year. We hope to see you there.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth - we are building shoeboxes again this year. Boxes and instructions are available at church, online at Samaritanspurse.org. National collection week is Nov. 17-24. We need to start collecting money to ship OCC boxes in November. Last year we had over 100 boxes and we expect to do at least that many, but probably more. \$10.00 is needed to ship each box. This also includes Christian education material. Money can be donated to Mickey, Terry, Mary or myself at any time. Please contact Betty Willis with any questions. 239-240-5972.

Meatloaf Dinner



Thursday, OCTOBER 9th,
4-7 pm

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

\$10.00 adult \$5.00 child

Eat in or take out

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Our Special Prayers and Intercessions

Matt – stroke
Theresa – stroke
Chris – lung cancer
Tim – health issues
Kurt – health issues
Jack – fighting depression, lung issues
JoAnn – heart issues
Tamara – medical issues
Susan – recovering from cancer
Chade – guidance
Steven – guidance
Ashton – esophageal atresia
Sandi – Hodgkins and autoimmune disease
Dorothy – in memory care
Gail – running tests for leukemia
Edison – health issues
Ava – cancer
Holly – start immunotherapy
Sharon – cancer
Joe – stage 4 lung cancer
Bob – need shots in eyes
Holly – needs pacemaker, hernia repaired, found a mass in her stomach area
Family with children who have strayed
Millie – bad fall
Lisa – family struggling in many ways
Sal Jr. – cancer
Sal – health issues & now worried about his son
Carol – heart, bursitis, eye mostly blind in one eye
Chip – physical health and rehab
Annette – ductal carcinoma in situ
Eddie – massive heart attack
Linda – open heart surgery
Texas – catastrophic floods
Martha – hospitalized for high blood pressure
Pam – health issues
Tim and his family - Grandma Jean has entered hospice and has about three days to live
Anonymous - wisdom to manage my time and resources effectively in my job. Physical and spiritual protection in my workplace.

Tara – health
Dustin – alcohol rehab
Brad – heart attack
Pat – health issues
Dave – health issues
Becky – cancer
Ken – cancer
Lidia – health issues
TA – spiritual guidance and removal of all temptation
Jenn – cancer
Yvonne – health issues
David – health issues
Rick – stage 3 lung cancer
Sean – God knows
Lynne – health issues
Ron – hospitalized
Pam – health issues
Terri – health issues
Joe – health issues
Jessica – health issues
Sam – health issues
Paul – strengthening of faith
Judy – cancer
Larry – cancer
Cole – cancer
Anonymous – cancer
Nicole – broke lower leg
Pat – lot of health issues
Ken - massive heart attack in January, still in hospital with major brain damage
Les – hernia surgery and kidney dialysis
Joan – stroke
Ron – prostate cancer
Andy – doing great after heart procedure
Barbara – had to remove part of her colon
Kenny – low oxygen and heart problems
Holly – going through a lot
Nancy Mihich - bone marrow issues
Sam – back surgery
Sarah - recently went blind in her right eye
Chico and his grandfather - they were hurt last night in an SUV accident
Rusty - My son was in an accident 16 going to school texting never even hit brakes.
Iris Smith – 10 years old, still in a coma from a head injury