

*Fifth Sunday
after
Epiphany*



February 8, 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

The power of knowing Christ crucified.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show love and hope to those who are hungry or homeless?

Jesus calls his followers the “*salt of the earth and the light of the world*” (Matthew 5:13-14). When gathered with friends and family in your home,

give a candle to each person. As a candle lighting ritual, light one another's candles in turn either by using a lighter or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each candle is lit, say: ***"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*** (Matthew 5:16)



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!

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 8, 2026

PRELUDE

† ORDER OF WORSHIP †

HYMN OF INVOCATION

825 RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.

2 See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and
healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness
hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.

4 Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.

(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 112:1–9

The Righteous Will Never Be Moved

P Praise the LORD!
Blessèd is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commandments!

C His offspring will be mighty in the land;

the generation of the upright will be blessed.

P Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.

C **Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;**
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

P It is well with the man who deals generously
and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.

C **For the righteous will never be moved;**
he will be remembered forever.

P He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

C **His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,**
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

P He has distributed freely; he has given to the
poor;

his righteousness endures forever;
his horn is exalted in honor.

(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.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you

take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,

and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day

will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,

a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,

and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your

house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom,

but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men
but in the power of God.

Wisdom from the Spirit

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love
him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit

who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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 5:13–20

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

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

Salt and Light

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is

accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

578 THY STRONG WORD

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

Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

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

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
 Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
 And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining
 Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
 All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

(Please rise)

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

SERMON

"Wisdom vs Fasting"

... 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 ✝ 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'ly 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

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**

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: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Sue Hartmann, Mickie Naumann

Reader: Pat Wittrack

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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 85

Adult Bible Class – 25

Celebrating birthdays this week: 2/9: Judy Wittenberg, 2/13: Paul Rugenstein, 2/14: Ginny Glander

Celebrating anniversaries this week: 2/14: Gary & Carolyn Fernberg (56yrs)

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies. The refreshments this week are wide variety of muffin flavors for free-will offering. Pick up your favorites to enjoy during Bible study or to take home. 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.

Note: Upcoming LWM Events & Announcements

- **Muffin Sunday:** Today, **Sunday, February 8, 2026.** A wide variety of muffin flavors available for 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.
- 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.

MEATLOAF DINNER
Thursday, February 12th
4-7 pm

Church Council
Sunday, **February 15, 2026** ~ will meet after Bible Class

MOVIE NIGHT *Defending Your Life*

Sunday, February 15, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ POPCORN
AND ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE SERVED
STARTING AT 5:30 p.m. COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!



Ash Wednesday
February 18th at 7:00 p.m.



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

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, Judy, Ken, Kim, 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

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, 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, Keith, 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, 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

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, Keith Tobeck, Sharon

Safe travels – Darrell, Joanne, sister

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 – Kathy, Sunny

You know their needs - Carolyn B., Carolyn, Cindy, Deborah, Diane, Glen, Jackie, Jim, John, Kayla, Leisa, LuAnne, Nathaniel, Ralph, Ron, Ron T, Sara, 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 Peter Doukas, The family and friends of Billie Waddick

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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