



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2026

Happy Mother's Day!



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

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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

Pastor Karl's Monday Morning Message

live Monday's at 9:00 a.m. on

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BLCEFM/>

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

The Holy Spirit is our helper.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support someone who feels alone?

Today is Mother's Day in the United States. It is a time to recognize and be thankful for those women in our lives who have loved and cared for us and for others. Be a witness for God's love and reach out to a woman you know who deserves a special thank you with a phone call, text, or a visit. Say this prayer for her: **Lord God, thank you for [name]. May she know how grateful I am to have her in my life. Please bless her on this day and every day with your love and care. 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!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2026

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

OPENING HYMN

**655 LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR
WORD**

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;

Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

(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

Psalm 66:8–20

P Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,

C who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

P For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

C You brought us into the net;
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

P you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of
abundance.

C I will come into your house with burnt
offerings;
I will perform my vows to you,

P that which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

C I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened
animals,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

C I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.

P If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

C But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

P Blessèd be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!

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 God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those

things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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)

FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

Paul in Athens

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you

are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Paul Addresses the Areopagus

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward

him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed.

Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with

angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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

John 14:15–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

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

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor

knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

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

(Stanzas 1-5)

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.

- 5 God said to His beloved Son:
"It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."

SERMON

"Is God's Love for Us "Iffy"?"

... Pastor Karl

(Please rise)

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

♪OFFERTORY RESPONSE♪

**805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL
BLESSINGS FLOW**

(Please rise)

△ **1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

♪LORD'S PRAYER♪

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
Forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

645 BUILT ON THE ROCK

- 1** Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

- 2** Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,

All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.

3 We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.

4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.

5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:

“I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

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: Carolyn Fernberg, Carol Harrison

Reader: Judy Lawrence

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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 49

Adult Bible Class – 17

Sunday School – 4

**Celebrating birthdays this week: 5/15: Sam
Harrison, 5/16: Chris Jackow**

**Celebrating anniversaries this week: 5/15:
Beverly & Joe Kogoy (60 yrs)**

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee and goodies. The refreshments this week are from the Steckelberg's. 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.

Here are the key details for your VBS schedule:

- **Meeting:** Monday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- **VBS Dates:** June 8 – 12, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Evening session)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

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

Church Council

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ will meet right after Bible Class

MOVIE NIGHT

Soul on Fire

**May 17, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ POPCORN AND
ROOTBEER FLOATS WILL BE SERVED
STARTING AT 5:30 p.m. COME JOIN IN THE
FUN!!**

Blessing Our Own: Special Collection


Let's bless one of our own! Donation jars have been set up in the narthex and fellowship hall to help a member in need. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity and prayers!

Get Ready for a Tropical Trek!

Grab your gear and join us for VBS 2026: Tropical Trek, where we'll discover that Jesus Comes to Seek and Save! It's going to be an adventurous week of music, games, and incredible stories.




 **Dates: June 8–12**

 **Dinner: 6:00 PM**

 **VBS Program: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

 **Join Our Expedition Crew!**

We can't make this trek without you! We are looking for volunteers to help our jungle travelers refuel. We need help with:

-  Purchasing food and supplies
-  Preparing nightly meals
-  Set-up & Clean-up

Whether you're a master chef or a helping hand, we have a spot for you on the team.

VBS 2026: Tropical Trek Grocery List

Target Date to be at Church: By Friday, June 5th

Paper & Plastic Goods

Plates: Sturdy paper/foam (Dinner size)

Cups: 9oz or 12oz (For water)

Napkins: Large packs

Paper Towels: 4–6 rolls for kitchen/cleanup

Plastic Forks/Spoons: Bulk boxes

Serving Gloves: Disposable (Large/Medium)


Food Items

Spaghetti Noodles: (Bulk boxes)

Marinara Sauce: (Large jars/cans)

Frozen Meatballs: (Pre-cooked/Italian style)

Parmesan Cheese: (Shaker bottles)

 Single-Serve Fritos/Doritos: (Large variety packs)
Ground Beef: (To be browned with taco seasoning)
Taco Seasoning: (Large canisters)
Shredded Lettuce & Tomatoes: (Pre-chopped is easier!)
Shredded Cheddar Cheese: (Large bags)
Sour Cream & Salsa: (Squeeze bottles preferred)

Treats & Drinks

Ice Pops: (Box of 100+)
Ice Cream Cups: (Individual vanilla/chocolate)
Chips

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:

Katie, Cody Martin, Amy, Larry, Peggy, Rose, Haven, Cassie, Buckingham Exceptional School, Cheryl Miller, John, Will, Addison, Diane Pfaff, Beth, Diane, Sara, Susan, Pam, Betty, Ron, Jim,

Carolyn Barnes, Tyler Wilke, Gary Cooper, Gary, Betty, Jon and Joyce, Alica, Betty, Chris Tobeck, Keith Tobeck, Andy, Peggy, Jack, Karen and Doug, Jim, Ron, Helen, Happiness for my family, For all God's creation for all mistreated animals, Larry and Linda, Helen, Sandi, Peggy, Tim Carlton, Roberta Lasocki Carlton, Ron Perry, Les Dreischerf, Cannon, Debbie Steele, Levi, Dominick Junior, Abigail and family, Amy and family, Terri, Thersea L., Scot, Melinda, Nick, Rose, Don, Carl, James and his family, Pam and Paul, John and Judy Wittenberg, Paul, Dick, Bill Denny, Bill, Denny, Sharyn, Christa and Axel, Johnie, Sherri and Gene, Ken T., Sarah, Jackie, Wayne, And those in our hearts

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:
The family and friends of Dorothy Riddle, The family and friends of little Maeve, The family and friends of Audrey Sterka, The family and friends of Andy MacDonald, The family and friends of Joe Calcagino, The family and friends of George Kranz

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.

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.