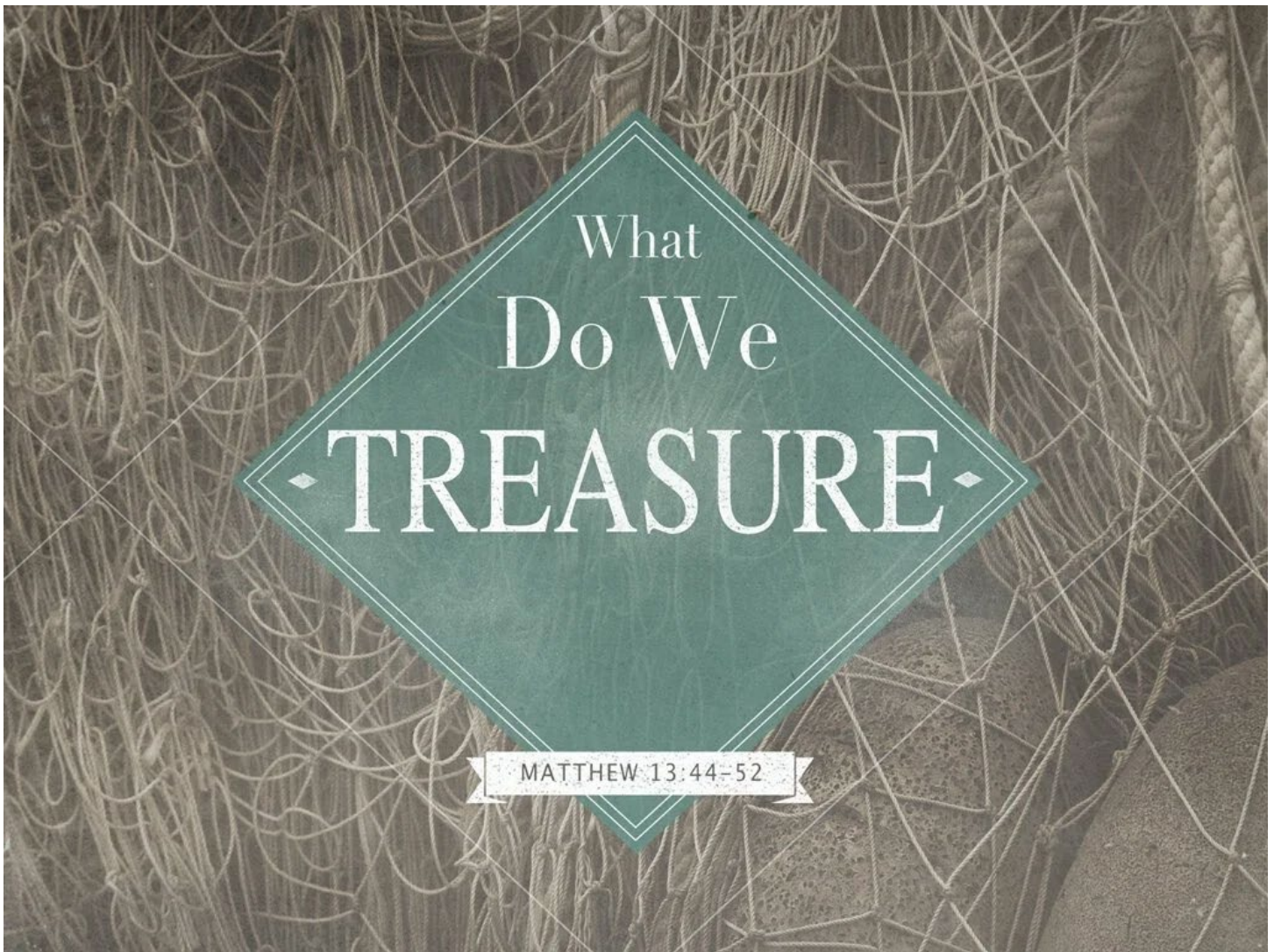




July 26, 2026

**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

The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love.

Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help or support someone who is struggling with a health issue?

Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can

happen from the smallest of things (Matthew 13:31-32). Growing the church involves being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Think or talk about how you have told your faith story or passed on Christian rituals and traditions to others. How might you sow seeds of faith that grow into something great?

***Pray:* Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to grow your kingdom and take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught 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 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!

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2026

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

657 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

(Stanzas 1–4)

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
 A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
 And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe.
 With craft and dreadful might
 He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

- 2 No strength of ours can match his might.
 We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
 Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He,
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
 God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
 All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;

They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

(Please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION + INVOCATION

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

EXHORTATION

LSB 151

PIf we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

CBut 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

PLet us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CMost 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.

[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 125

The LORD Surrounds His People

[P] Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,

which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

[C] As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

P For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

C Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

P But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

(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.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

LThis is the Word of the Lord.

📖 Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Everlasting Love

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or

persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:44–52

PThe Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

GGlory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into

the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

New and Old Treasures

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

C**Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

752 BE STILL, MY SOUL

1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

- 2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your
fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are
past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

SERMON

"More, More, More-in Christ"

. . . Pastor Karl

Outline

I. Through Christ, We are more than Conquerors over sin.

II. Through Christ, We are more than Conquerors over death.

III. Through Christ, We are more than Conquerors over the devil.

(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

727 ON EAGLES' WINGS

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!” **Refrain**

ref And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. **Refrain**

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come. **Refrain**

ref And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

4 For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. **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: Debbie Jackow, Chris Jackow

Reader: Holly Bell

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

Our Response to God's Love

Worship Service – 41

**Celebrating birthdays this week: 7/26: Joanne
Holt, 8/1: Nova Mcilwinn**

**Celebrating anniversaries this week: 7/26: Betty
& Ralph Willis (23 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 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.

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:

Bill, Cindy, Klaus, Linda, Gail, Johnny, Wendy, Les Dreischerf, Will, Denny, Melissa Johnson, Barb, Kayla, Katie, John, Jim Rode, Becky, Johnny, Gail, David, Catherine, Holly, Kim, Kayla, Denny, Rose, Helen, Tasha, Yvonne, Cody, Dan, Carl, Holly, Rose, Diane Pfaff, Ken Zanto, Gary, Chris Tobeck, Keith Tobeck, Paul, James and his family, John and Judy Wittenberg, And those in our hearts

For Those Who have recently lost loved ones:

The family and friends of Cheryl Miller, The family and friends of The Morey Family in the death of patriarch The family and friends of Marla Clausen,

The family and friends of Larry and Tina Rosine,
The family and friends of Edna

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.**