



TEACHING THE UNCHANGING TRUTH OF GOD'S SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

Church Office: 239-995-0988
Pastor's Cell Phone: 1-630-947-4317
Pastor's Email: revagumm@hotmail.com
Church Website: www.bethanyfm.com
Church Email: lutheranbethany@gmail.com
Church Address: 264 Evergreen Road
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Meeting Times

Sunday Worship	8:30 AM
Bible Study	9:45 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 15, 2018

Welcome! If you are visiting with us, please take a moment to sign the "guest register" in the back of the sanctuary so that we might better get to know you.

- **Restrooms** are located in the Fellowship Hall and a baby changing station is located in the Women's bathroom in the Preschool wing.
- **Cry-room.** If you have need of a cry-room, you may use the entryway couch area.

OPENING HYMN: #225 – “THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE”

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: (sung) And my mouth shall declare your praise.

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: (sung) O Lord, come quickly to help me.

P: The Lord is risen: let us worship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

The deep places of the earth are in his hand; the heights of the hills are also his.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hand formed the dry land.

Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 4:8-12

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹He is

“the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
(NIV 1984)

PSALM 118 on page 108 in the front of your hymnal

SECOND LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

(NIV 1984)

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 24:36-49

³⁶While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

(NIV 1984)

SEASONAL RESPONSE:

C: The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Death has been swallowed up in victory. Alleluia!

HYMN: #145– *“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”*

SERMON TEXT: LUKE 24:36-49

SERMON THEME: *“Looking At Easter Through Luke’s Eyes”*

HYMN: #160 – *“This Joyful Eastertide”*

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you: be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: (sung) Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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 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.**

PRAYER FOR GRACE

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us praise the Lord.

C: (sung) **Thanks be to God.**

THE BLESSING

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: #332 – “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Announcements:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY:

49

COMMUNED: 45

FELLOWSHIP AND SERVING

Volunteers for this week: *Ushers:* Steve Mueller (C) & Richard Dettmann *Counters:* Brenda Henschen & Cynthia Champlain *Snacks:* JoAnn Miller

Volunteers for next week: *Ushers:* Don Bublitz (C) & “Volunteer” *Counters:* Brenda Henschen & Cynthia Champlain *Snacks:* Brenda Henschen *Communion Set-up:* JoAnn Miller *Communion Assistant:* John Henschen

PRAYERS FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Chronic pain or illness – Jean Johnson; David Champlain (brother of Allan Champlain); Betsy Pritchard; Allan Champlain; Evelyn Lothar;Carolynn Perkins; Lois Montesano; Tammie Mueller; David Schield; John Ladner; Bill & Elaine Geisser; Rose Marie Lenz; Ray Renner; Manny Vega (brother-in-law of Allan Champlain); John Roth; John Saylor; and Bradley Orahood (great-nephew of Cynthia Champlain)

Recovering from surgery – Lois Terry

In rehab – Carroll Lothar

THIS WEEK: APRIL 15TH – 22ND

Sunday: **8:30 am – Worship Service**
 9:45 am – Bible Class

Wednesday: **9:30 am – Bible Class**

Friday: **1:00 pm – Membership Class**

Sunday: **8:30 am – Worship Service with Holy Communion**
 9:30 am – Fellowship
 9:45 am – Bible Class

2018 Flower Chart is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up if you would like to provide flowers for our worship services.

The new **Meditations** and **Forward In Christ** are available on the table in the rear of the church!

LWMS:

The Suncoast circuit is always looking for new officers. If interested, talk to Susan Halverson.

HEADS UP:

The Central African Medical Mission is in need of pill bottles. Bethany's Women's Ministry is going to make this our fall project and thought you might like to start saving pill bottles now!

Please read the attached letter from the Central Africa Medical Mission:

It is still the rainy season in Malawi with hit or miss afternoon showers most days. February and March had regular rains for crops but there was an unusually dry period in January, such that fields of maize (the staple crop here) failed to grow. Some people planted a second crop and we see some healthy maize fields which will soon be ready to harvest. It is the right amount of moisture at the right time which can determine whether Malawians go hungry next year or not. But where there is standing water, mosquitos thrive, and as they are the vector for malaria parasites getting into people's bloodstreams, malarial illness increases. In March the LMC staff have treated over 1200 patients who tested positive for malaria, with a total number of patients seen for all reasons totaling nearly 5,000.

As part of the Malawian Nursing Registration process, the nurse in charge must initially spend time in the government hospital working on various wards. As challenging as these shifts are, I am always reminded that the Lutheran Mobile Clinic is helping to keep children and adults out of the hospital. The primary health care we do is focused on prevention using screening, immunization, education and early treatment for things like malnutrition, diarrhea, and anemia, as well as malaria. Pregnant women and their babies are healthier due to being seen at our antenatal clinic, receiving insecticide treated mosquito nets, iron and folic acid, tetanus vaccine, screening for HIV, and malaria treatment as needed. The devastating consequences I have seen in the hospital of malaria- severe anemia from destruction of red blood cells, very low blood glucose, damage to the brain and other organs, and infections such as pneumonia, are less likely to happen due to the care our clinic provides in four different villages outside of Lilongwe.

Having been a part of CAMM in Malawi in the 1980's, and returning now, I am again familiar with the feeling that there is always something to trust God for. It may be the traffic and dangerous roads or it may be having a full staff each day we go to clinic. It could be having the needed medicines and test kits available for our work, or it might be having electricity available to keep our vaccines cold. It is certainly also trusting Him for the health and safety of loved ones in the US. We are always thankful for each day's end where we have seen answered prayers and abundant grace. Your prayers make a difference.

My husband Gary will be joining me this week to start his orientation to become the clinic administrator for the next 3 years. We intend to continue the good stewardship that the previous administrators have done with the very careful use of funds, thus managing to keep the budget balanced despite no longer having government help for our staff salaries. Your financial gifts are generous, timely and necessary. The pill bottles used for dispensing liquid medicine, sunscreen for albino children, cards and letters are much appreciated.

I am looking forward to worshipping at the Easter service in Mwaleloumwe, one of the villages we serve. May the good news of Jesus continue to be spread both in Zambia and Malawi through our Lutheran pastors, medical clinics and those of you at home who sustain this gospel outreach.

Yours in Christ,