



**...YOU SHALL
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF...**

LEVITICUS 19:18

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

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Sunday, October 29, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost "Love"

Worship lead by the Bethlehem Consistory

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP - HYMN #555 "SANCTUARY"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17)**

One: The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

Many: God has been with us from generation to generation.

One: We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.

Many: Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.

One: May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

Many: May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Righteous God, your law is love. Your message is love. Your presence is love. May Love fill our atmosphere and our interactions as we gather together in your name. May Love transform us, renew us, and revive us. Amen.

*HYMNS – Congregation’s choice (verses 1 and 2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, forgive us for the paths we seek that steer us away from you. We confess that we have embraced animosity over understanding, self-righteousness over grace, hopelessness over empowered action. Demonstrate the power of love to us anew. Help us to be loving agents of your kingdom for your glory and the restoration of the world. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, know that your path evolves and the Creator cuts through the wilderness to make the rough ways smooth. The Holy One is Companion and Guide gently and firmly encouraging us to the path of righteous love, justice, and peace.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Psalms 1 – *Leader reads odd verses, congregation reads even verses*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON

*HYMNS - Congregation’s choice (verses 1 and 2)

PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING (*Jingle Change for the month of October supports the UCC's Neighbor's in Need offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.*)

Sharing of the abundance we receive is a tangible way to love our neighbor as ourselves. May we give with generous and empathetic hearts stirred to compassion and to companion to meet the needs before us.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE – Hymn #282 “Give Thanks”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG “Go Now in Peace”

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.
Know he will guide you, in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.***

BENEDICTION

May the love of God dispel the gloom, ease the disquiet, and fill your soul with gladness. You are loved. You are love. Go in peace and the love of God for the glory of God and the hope for creation.

POSTLUDE

Love: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Randy and his wife will be on vacation from October 24-28. Please contact Rev. Nicole Herda of St. Peter's UCC-Kiel if you have pastoral care needs. Her phone number is 920-242-8308.



The WISE committee at Bethlehem UCC's next step will be meeting with the Donna Firman, Board President of NAMI Manitowoc County, to provide us with more resources on NAMI FaithNet.

PLEASE JOIN US on November 5th at Bethlehem UCC during our 9:30am worship to welcome Donna as a special guest to share her story with us.

Donna Firman, a successful retired business executive in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, has lived experience as a person with mental illness. She founded Mustard Seed Advisors where she worked as a social entrepreneur helping nonprofits raise money, drive operational excellence, and solve business problems that hold organizations back and prevent growth. Today, Donna is the Board President of NAMI Manitowoc County and is on the League of Women Voters Mental Health Committee, currently providing support for an Early Diversion Program in Manitowoc County. NAMI Manitowoc County was recently awarded the prestigious Imagining Grant from the West Foundation, Inc. to pilot an innovative mental Health program in Manitowoc County. Donna also serves on NAMI's state-wide Public Policy and Advocacy Committee. She holds a BS in Business Administration from Northern Michigan University. Donna is a 2022 Athena award recipient and a 2023 NAMI Wisconsin award recipient.

The Bethlehem Ladies are taking orders for Poinsettias. They are \$9 each and the colors available are red, white and pink. The last Sunday to order Poinsettias is December 3rd. The Poinsettias can be taken home on Christmas Day after worship service. The sign up is on the table in the fellowship hall. Cash or checks to "Bethlehem Ladies" can be given directly to Ginny Schultz or put in her mail box. Thank you!!!

Food Drive! Bethlehem is holding a food drive for the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry during the month of October. A list of requested items is located near the drop off box at the front door. Thank you for your support.

Youth Event!! TODAY - Sunday, Oct 29 - 5p-7pm
Fall fun! Campfire...Pumpkin Games... Food..."Ghost in the Graveyard"
Hosted by Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 11608 Lax Chapel Rd, Kiel

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com
Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com
Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us
Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com
Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com
Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net
Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com
Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

Community Announcements:

- Fall Fare – Sat. Nov. 11 – 9a-2p – First Congregational UCC, Plymouth – Craft Sale, Silent Auction – Bake Sale – Soup to Go

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Bob Radder

Those struggling with health issues:

Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Daisy Sippel
Darlean Rumpff	Darlene Horneck
Helen Henning	Molly
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Crystal	Neal (Louie's Brother)

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by gun violence.

Those affected by war in Israel.

Those affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan.



This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 10/29: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; 5pm RCF Youth event at Bethlehem; ~*Happy Birthday Hudson Hoban! Happy Anniversary Tony & Sandra Tesch!*

Monday 10/30:

Tuesday 10/31: ~*Happy Birthday Laura Mueller*

Wednesday 11/1: 6pm Confirmation class ~Happy Birthday Mark Riesterer

Thursday 11/2: ~*Happy Birthday Carolyn Riesterer*

Friday 11/3: ~ *Happy Birthday Doris Mae Ninmer*

Saturday 11/4: ~*Happy Anniversary Steve & Jennifer Deignan (2017)*

Sunday 11/5: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Communion Service w/Pastor Randy, Toten Fest and NAMI guest speaker Donna Firman

November Pantry Items: *A box of cake mix or frosting*