

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, July 7, 2024
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver
Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM

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

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

Our eyes look to the Lord our God :: have mercy on us

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549

"As We Gather"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (Inspired by Psalm 48)**

One: Great is the Holy One who sits sovereign and near!

Many: The earth rejoices on the holy mountain, at the heights and depths of God's love.

One: We gather, we observe, we recognize, we ponder the wonders of Creator's majesty!

Many: God's name, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

One: The mighty deeds of power astound and amaze. We remember and recount

from generation to generation!

Many: Our Guide reigns forever and ever. Praise our God!

*OPENING PRAYER:

Powerful One, we come into this gathering humbled by your presence among us, grateful for the companionship of your people, and eager to worship your name. As we tell your story anew, we enter your story as the objects of your attention, love, and care. May we know you more deeply and clearly. May we be transformed and transfixed by the mystery of you. May we be inspired by your deeds of power to be instruments of your reign in the world. Empower us, O Holy One. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: #7 all "Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Gracious and Loving God, have mercy on us. We confess our own forms of rebellion and stubbornness. We seek our own way and fail to wait for your counsel, wisdom, and insight. We hold fast to hopes and dreams that do not include your kingdom or our neighbors. We choose comfort over holy confrontation, doctrine over faithful discipleship and position over spiritual power. Awaken in us hunger and thirst for righteousness. Amen.

(time of silent reflection...)

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, the Holy One is with you and fuels your journey.

God grants us the power to be the church, to be faithful, and to be active agents in the kingdom. We have power to make things new in our hearts, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities.

Receive the grace to try even when your way is uncertain, to hope even when circumstances seem dim, and to love even when love does not come easily.

God is with us and will be with us. All honor and praise to Him! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Tune: Doxology

Be thou, O God, exalted high, and as thy glory fills the sky

So let it be on Earth displayed, Till thou art here, as there, obeyed. Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Ezekiel 2:1-5

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their

ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Psalm 123 – p. 706 of hymnal

Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

SERMON

*HYMN: #463

"I Love to Tell the Story"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to the Bethlehem Ladies to help support their many service projects throughout the year.)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #447 v.1 "All Things are Yours"

**All things are Yours: we make that true, when we return our gifts to you,
And so we give, and so we share, In Christ's strong name expressing care.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator, all we have emanates from you and your creation. Receive these gifts we give with thanksgiving and hope for a shared future without lack, disparities, and unmet needs. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION RESPONSE #525 Refrain only

"One Bread, One Body"

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. 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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- “I wish to pass along a special ‘thank-you’ for all the cards and notes that encouraged me during my recovery from a heart attack. Bless you all!” – Will Mathes
- **Next Sunday, July 14 – Come and join us for the outdoor worship/picnic Sunday.** Bring your lawn chair and wear your old/silly hat. After the service we will be serving broasted chicken. Please sign-up in the fellowship hall with a dish to pass. We will also be collecting a bag of candy and/or a package of cookies to donate to Immanuel’s food pantry. Donations will be open thru August 18th. There will be a basket in the entrance.
- Sunday school families received information regarding Vacation Bible School @ St. Mark’s UCC on August 13-15 from 9a-12. Transportation to St. Marks will be available. Please let Pastor Randy or Kathy Bowe know if your child will attend **BY NEXT SUNDAY, 7/14.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- Sat. July 20th – 10a-2p – Clements Farewell Party (Long term Mission trip to Africa). Christian Life Church, 300 Rustic Rd., Plymouth
- Sun. July 21 – St. Marks/James Polka and Potluck – 1424 Spring Lake Rd. – 11a Outdoor service, 12p Potluck, 12:30p dancing – see flyer
- Friday, Aug. 2 – Faith and Family Night @ Timber Rattlers – see flyer
- August 16-17 – Gospel Music Fest – Hilbert Civic Park – Flyer posted and copies available in the Fellowship Hall

2024 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

**PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED
THE BETHLEHEM FAITH COMMUNITY ON JUNE 30!**

- Heidi Konen
- Cassie Jeanty
- The Hemauer family: Hunter, Chelsea, Beau and Dutton
 - The Pennel family: Kyle, Brianna and Case

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE THEM! MEMBERS, PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS SO OUR NEW MEMBERS CAN GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOU.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER "NEW MEMBER RECEPTION" ON JULY 21. SEE PASTOR RANDY TO JOIN!



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

- *Our new members
- *Our graduates Allyson Jeanty, Ryan Jeanty, and Greg Schultz
- *The birth of Sebastian Daniel Richard Rugowski (Parents: McKenna & Daniel, Grandparents: Tom & Marie Mueller)

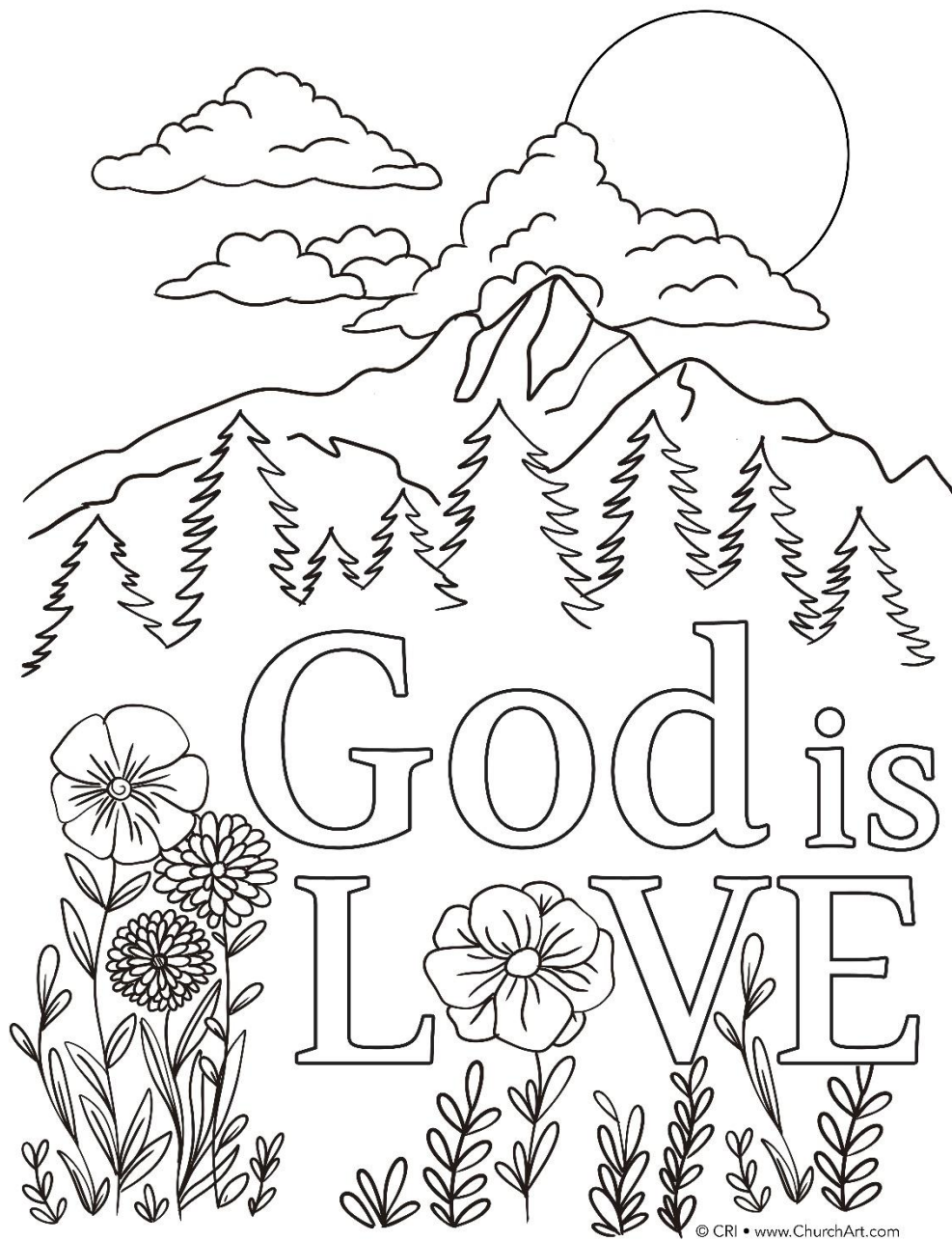
Those struggling with health issues:

Doris Mae Ninmer	Shari
Ross Westphalen	Wanda Matzdorf
Brad Westphalen	Chad Jeanty
Art Matzdorf	Jessica Horneck
Nancy Zimmermann	Jim Markelz
Gary Steinhardt	Marie Rietbrock
Mason Kannell	Heather
Heidi Konen	Mary Beth Molitor
Dawson Horneck	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Darlene Horneck	Tom Lefeber

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer
Helen Henning

Doris Mae is now at Willowdale in room 110.
She would welcome any visits or cards.



This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 7/7: 8:30am WISE Mtg; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; ~Happy Anniversary Mark & Dawn Wirtz and Aaron & Rachel Suttner!

Monday 7/8:

Tuesday 7/9: 6:30pm Consistory Mtg

Wednesday 7/10:

Thursday 7/11; ~Happy Birthday Brad Hoban!

Friday 7/12: ~Happy Birthday Case Pennell!

Saturday 7/13:

Sunday 7/14: 9:30am Outdoor Worship followed by Church Picnic

**July Pantry Items:
School Supplies**