



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Eastertide
Worship Leader: Rev. Darren Beachy
Organist: Polly Jeanty

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

Praise the Lord in the heavens! :: Praise him in the heights!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

"Holy Ground"

We are standing on holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in his presence on holy ground

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the heights!

Praise God, all you angels; praise God, all creatures high and low!

Rulers of the earth and all peoples, praise God's holy name!

All people together!

With one voice, let us praise the Lord!

***OPENING PRAYER:**

Holy God, the first and the last, beginning and end of all things, you are worthy of praise from all your creation. Sun, moon, and stars praise you. Earth, sea, and sky praise you. Every living thing praises you in its own way. And so, we praise you in our human diversity, joining our varied voices with all your creatures in heaven and on earth. You fill our lives with the wonder of your love in Christ Jesus. Your Spirit moves throughout the world to reveal your purposes for every living thing. Receive our prayers and praise this day, for you are the Source of our life and our hope, Holy God, ever Three and Ever One. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #485**

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: Holy God, as we praise your perfection, we recognize our shortcomings and confess to you our sin, to begin again with you and one another:

Loving God,

**Jesus commanded us to love one another
so the world would know we follow him.**

**Yet we confess we do not always love one another,
as Jesus loves us.**

**The world has seen our squabbling, our history of hypocrisy,
and our lack of compassion for those who are in pain.**

Loving God, forgive us.

Lord Jesus, continue to love us.

Holy Spirit, fill us with love,

so that the world will witness your love in our words and actions. Amen.

(time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

Jesus taught us that no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. Christ has laid down his life for us and invites us to love one another as he has loved us.

Let us rejoice in his forgiving love and share it with each other day by day.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 32:22-32 - NIV - Jacob Wrestles With God

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

²⁷ The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

²⁹ Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”

³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob’s hip was touched near the tendon.

Romans 7:18-25 - NIV

¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

“All Star Wrestling”

Rev. Darren Beachy

*HYMN #325

“Just as I Am, Without one Plea”

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

#403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

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.

POST PRAYER RESPONSE

#403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: The season of Easter is unfolding while the gifts of spring also remind us of God’s generosity in Christ and in creation. May the gifts we offer show our gratitude for God’s goodness to us, and the hope for new life we have in Christ Jesus.

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for May supports The Guest House of Milwaukee)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune “Doxology”

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
And given life eternal breath. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ’s love, and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Bless the gifts we bring and make them signs of hope and renewal in the world we serve in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. 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:

- ☐ Each Sunday of May, there has been a “mental health moment” as we focus on normalizing and de-stigmatizing mental health issues. The first week, we encouraged you to write a note card to someone. Last week, we focused on positive affirmations. If you missed either week or just wanted another notecard or affirmation card, there are some in the lounge for you to take. Be kind to yourself! – The WISE team
- ☐ Each year we like to recognize our graduates. Do you know a member of Bethlehem who is graduating from high school, college, graduate school, military academy, etc.? If so, please provide pastor Randy with the student's name, school they are graduating from, and “next plans” if they wish to share. You can send him the info by email or leave a note in the office.
- ☐ The Bethlehem Merry Christians have signed up for the "PIG ROUND UP PROGRAM". This will take place in the month of May. This program is through Tietz's Piggly Wiggly in Kiel. The cashier will ask you upon check out if you would like to round up your total to the next dollar amount. At the end of the month the Merry Christians will receive a check on the amount that was rounded up for the month of May.
- ☐ Building and Grounds Meeting - Tuesday May 20th at 6:30 in the church library. All are welcome.
- ☐ Benefit for Ross Sippel: Saturday, June 7th from 3:00 to ? At Fat Boys Bar & Grill in St. Cloud.
- ☐ Feel free to look at the collection of pictures recording the construction of the "New" Bethlehem church, 20 years ago.
- ☐ **It's UNDY 500 time again!** During the month of May, we are collecting NEW (in the package) undergarments for the Guest House of Milwaukee (shelter).

- Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY (No “tighty whiteys” please)
- Men's Undershirts
- Women's Underwear
- Please buy a variety of sizes in each item***
- Men's S, M, and L Undershirts
- Men's S, M, and L Underwear
- Women's S, M, and L Underwear

Help Us with Church Tech! - Volunteers Needed – All Ages Welcome!

Bethlehem UCC is looking for volunteers—including youth—to help with our growing **technology ministry**. Whether you're tech-savvy or just willing to learn, we would love your help!

Areas Where We Need Support:

- **Sound Room** – Operate audio equipment during worship and events.
- **Live Streaming** – Run our laptop and camera to stream services online.

Youth volunteers can count this as **community service** or simply as a gift of your time and talents to your church.

No experience necessary—training will be provided!

Interested or have questions?

Please speak to Rev. Randy or any of the members of the Consistory

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Bethlehem UCC with your time and heart!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall

- Memorial Day, May 26, 11a-1p – Dinner @ American Legion Clubhouse in New Holstein. See flyer for details
- **OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH SOCIAL – AT JOHNSBURG!**

Saturday, June 7th, 2025. Outdoor Polka Mass @ 4PM. 5PM-9PM 2/5's Party Band. Brats, hamburgers, and refreshments available in the beer stand following mass. Raffle drawing held at 9:00PM. Putting Contest, Bean Bag Tournament, and Pot of Gold Raffle during event. Hope to see you there! St. John the Baptist Church [N9288 County Road W, Malone].

Stay Informed! Sign up to receive Bethlehem's weekly email update, The Bethlehem Blurb. Send your email address to BethUCCKiel@outlook.com and you will be added!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Those Grieving:

Those struggling with health issues:

Linda Smith	Ross Sippel
Jill Sheets	Mary Beth Molitor
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefeber
Marie Rietbrock	Donna Firman
Dana	Hubert

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@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 rrumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor - Rev. Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 5/18: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship; 5pm **SPIRIT NEWS DUE**

Monday 5/19: *Happy Birthday Melanie Volland! Happy Anniversary Ben & Cassie Jeanty!*

Tuesday 5/20: *Happy Birthday Charly Deignan!!*

Wednesday 5/21: *Happy Birthday Allyson Wirtz!!*

Thursday 5/22: 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry

Friday 5/23:

Saturday 5/24: *Happy Anniversary Bill & Kelly Biwan!*

Sunday 5/25: 9:30am Sunday Worship;

**May Pantry Items:
Laundry Soap or Fabric Softener**