



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, June 29, 2025**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Bonnie Ziegler**

**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

***When I was in distress :: I sought the Lord***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549

"As We Gather"

**As we gather may your spirit work within us**

**As we gather may we glorify your name**

**Knowing well that as our heart begin to worship**

**We'll be blessed because we came; We'll be blessed because we came**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Inspired by Psalm 77)**

**One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?**

**Many: You work wonders and display your glory. How great is our God!**

**One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so merciful as our God?**

**Many: You redeem your people from generation to generation. How merciful**

**is our God!**

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so just as our God?

**Many: You hear the cries of the troubled and move in righteousness. How just is our God!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**God who journeys with us, we gather together as we follow you. You have made rough ways smooth. You have parted seas. You have given us strength to climb mountains and courage to traverse valleys. We open ourselves to the heartbreak of caring for the world that you love. We claim hope and joy as our inheritance and portion. We remember that you are with us and give you thanks for the journey. Hallelujah and amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #37**

**"Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise"**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

**God of Grace, sometimes the call to follow you comes softly and gently. At other times, your call rushes in with urgency and may even overwhelm us as we balance the obligations of the day with the needs of the day. Gift us with discernment to know what needs our attention, focus, and energy. Free us of distractions, even and especially the ones we create for ourselves. At the same time remind us how to breathe and to be gracious toward one another. We travel a road we have not built and have not journeyed before. We rely upon you to demonstrate the way and lead us into the fullness of life and your kingdom. *Time of silent reflection...***

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, the grace of God companions with you along the road.

**We journey this life in Christ, through Christ, and with Christ.**

Trust and rely upon the wisdom of the Everlasting One who knows you, the gifts you bring, and the burdens you bear. New life and transformation, as all things, are possible with God.

**We receive God's grace to free us from fear in order to embrace the journey. Amen!**

**\*RESPONSE #560 (tune: Doxology) "Be Thou, O God Exalted High"**

**Be thou, O God exalted high; And as Thy glory fills the sky,  
So let it be on earth displayed, 'Til Thou art here, as there, obeyed. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### **2nd Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14**

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.

<sup>7</sup> Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

<sup>10</sup> “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

<sup>11</sup> As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup> Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

<sup>13</sup> Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. “Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

### **Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20**

I cried out to God for help;

I cried out to God to hear me.

**<sup>2</sup> When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;  
at night I stretched out untiring hands,  
and I would not be comforted.**

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the Lord;  
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

**<sup>12</sup> I will consider all your works  
and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”**

- <sup>13</sup> Your ways, God, are holy.  
What god is as great as our God?
- <sup>14</sup> **You are the God who performs miracles;  
you display your power among the peoples.**
- <sup>15</sup> With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,  
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
- <sup>16</sup> **The waters saw you, God,  
the waters saw you and writhed;  
the very depths were convulsed.**
- <sup>17</sup> The clouds poured down water,  
the heavens resounded with thunder;  
your arrows flashed back and forth.
- <sup>18</sup> **Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,  
your lightning lit up the world;  
the earth trembled and quaked.**
- <sup>19</sup> Your path led through the sea,  
your way through the mighty waters,  
though your footprints were not seen.
- <sup>20</sup> **You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

### **Luke 9:51-62**

- <sup>51</sup> As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them<sup>[a]</sup>?" <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then he and his disciples went to another village.
- <sup>57</sup> As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."
- <sup>58</sup> Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."
- <sup>59</sup> He said to another man, "Follow me."  
But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."
- <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."
- <sup>61</sup> Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."
- <sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SERMON

\*HYMN #317

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

### 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.**

#### PRAYER RESPONSE

#403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

### INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change supports "Strengthen the Church." From the UCC website: *"The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ."*)

\*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

**God our Provider, receive these gifts for your creation, for your kingdom, for your glory. Amen.**

\*CLOSING SONG #394

"I've got Peace Like a River"

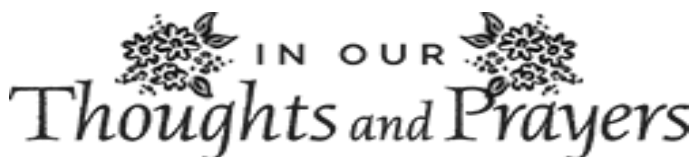
### BENEDICTION...POSTLUDE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ☐ Save the Date!!! July 13 - Bethlehem's Annual Summer Worship and Picnic – Food! Games! Bring the family! Bring a friend! Broasted chicken will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.
- ☐ Vacation Bible School will again be held in combination with St. Marks/ St. James. The dates will be August 12,13,14 from 9am-Noon. There is no cost. ANY child K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade may attend. Membership in the participating churches is not required. Transportation is still being worked out. We are also looking for volunteer helpers. Letters were mailed to eligible Sunday School families or see Pastor Randy to register your child or if you want to help. Please register by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ Feel free to look at the collection of pictures recording the construction of the "New" Bethlehem church, 20 years ago.
- ☐ You are invited to relax in the Lounge. There is coffee available and comfortable seating. We also have many resources on wellness if you're interested.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall**

- ☐ Wed. July 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Picnic in the Park** - 4pm-7pm - Kiel City Park – Sponsored by St. Peter's UCC – see flyer
- ☐ **Ride for a Cause – The Salvation Ride on July 12**  
Join The Salvation Army's *Salvation Ride* on **Saturday, July 12**—a **family-friendly cycling event** with route options for all ages and abilities (10, 25, 50, 75, and 100 miles). The ride starts and ends at **King Park** in Sheboygan, and all cyclists are treated to a **delicious broasted chicken meal from Pizza Ranch** upon their return. Form a team with others from your church—no need to ride the same distance—and support a great cause. **All proceeds benefit The Salvation Army's 45-bed homeless shelter** right here in Sheboygan. **Register today at [www.thesalvationride.org](http://www.thesalvationride.org)**
- ☐ Friday, August 1 - **Faith and Family Night** at the WIS Timber Rattlers game – See Flyer for details.
- ☐ August 15 and 16 – **Gospel Music Fest** – Hilbert Civic Park – See flyer for details



### **Joys!**

- ☐ The marriage of Leah Henning to Guillermo Cortes on June 14, 2025
- ☐ The marriage of Tasha Rabe to Adam Dreier on June 14, 2025
- ☐ The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Will & Lora Mathes on June 14
- ☐ The birth of Vander John Schisel, born June 6, 2025. Parents: John & Sarah Schisel  
Grandparents: Tom & Marie Mueller

### **Those Grieving:**

Family of Randy Popp (Ruthie's cousin)

### **Those struggling with health issues:**

Ross Sippel	Mike
Mary Beth Molitor	Louie Bowe
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 Nimmer      Helen Henning

### **2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

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

## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 6/29:** 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6:30pm VB @ Immanuel/Bethel

**Monday 6/30:**

**Tuesday 7/1:**

**Wednesday 7/2:**

**Thursday 7/3:**

**Friday 7/4:** *Happy Birthday Colton Aschenbach, Doris Rabe and the USA!!!*

**Saturday 7/5:** *Happy Birthday Emma Reis!*

**Sunday 7/6:** 8:15am WISE; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Communion; NO youth volleyball;  
*Happy Birthday Jason Brockway! Happy Anniversary Warren & Diane Fidlin!*

### **June Panty Item:**

**Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Lotion**