



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, July 6, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

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

Hear me, O Lord :: and be gracious to me

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:**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

We will sing to the glory of God with resounding praise.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!"

**God has turned our mourning into dancing and clothed us with joy.
Let all the earth worship God and sing praises to God's holy name.
O Lord, our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

***OPENING PRAYER:**

God of majesty and mercy, in creation you gave us all that we need to live and all that we can cherish. You came to us in Jesus Christ to show us the face of your love. You walk into our lives to meet us in the midst of joy and pain.

Through the Holy Spirit, you speak words of wisdom to help us find our way. God in our midst, speak to us today in this time of worship. Speak the words we need to hear so that we know you still walk with us in Jesus Christ. For we honor you, Source, Savior and Spirit of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #537**

"Lift High the Cross"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

**Loving God,
you send us into the world as ambassadors of your love and peace,
yet too often we create discord and division.
We serve our own interests first, ignoring those in need.
We value our understanding of the world you love,
and fail to listen to the stories of others.
Forgive us for such self-centeredness.
Help us to be more faithful disciples of Jesus,
eager to serve, willing to listen, glad to be of service in his name.
*Time of silent reflection...***

WORDS OF GRACE

The Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

Everything old has passed away and everything has become new!

Thanks be to God that by God's mercy, we can all make a new start!

***RESPONSE (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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 30 – p. 611 in hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, the people read evens

Galatians 6:1-16 (NIV) - Doing Good to All

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

¹¹ See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

¹² Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God.

Amos 1:1-2

The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash^[a] was king of Israel.

² He said:

“The Lord roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”

Amos 2:6-7

⁶ This is what the Lord says:

“For three sins of Israel,
even for four, I will not relent.
They sell the innocent for silver,
and the needy for a pair of sandals.

⁷ They trample on the heads of the poor
as on the dust of the ground
and deny justice to the oppressed.

Amos 5:21-24

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.

²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

²³ Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.

²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 6:1

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion,
and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
you notable men of the foremost nation,
to whom the people of Israel come!

Amos 9:11-15

¹¹ “In that day

“I will restore David’s fallen shelter—
I will repair its broken walls
and restore its ruins—
and will rebuild it as it used to be,

¹² so that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations that bear my name,^[a]”
declares the Lord, who will do these things.

¹³ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman
and the planter by the one treading grapes.
New wine will drip from the mountains

and flow from all the hills,
14 and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.^[b]
“They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.
15 I will plant Israel in their own land,
never again to be uprooted
from the land I have given them,”
says the Lord your God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Amos – Justice for All

*HYMN “Lord, Make us Servants of your Peace”

1 Lord, make us servants of your peace:
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.

2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.

3 Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.

4 May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.

5 Dying, we live, and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
to wake at last in heaven's light.

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

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

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.

COMMUNION RESPONSE #533

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: God of all the earth, **Teach us to live in love.**

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 the Bethlehem Ladies)

*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**

Generous God, you have blessed our lives with gifts, both visible and invisible. We offer our gifts in gratitude, to build up your kingdom in the world. Bless all that we give to make a difference in the lives of others, for the sake of Christ, our 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 (Galatians 6:9-10)

The Apostle Paul gives us these words of challenge and encouragement:

“Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.”

Let us go out into the world in the strength and grace of God, challenged and encouraged by one another, and know that God is with us.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ☐ The blacktop will be sealed on Monday (7/7) (weather permitting).
You will not be able to drive on it until Wed (7/9).
If you need to get into church, park in the volleyball lot, then walk across the grass behind the garage and enter the back kitchen door.
- ☐ 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. Please register ASAP.

- ❑ 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

- ❑ **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**
- ❑ 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 50th 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	Dana
Mary Beth Molitor	Louie Bowe
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Donna Firman
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck

Jessica Horneck
Marie Rietbrock

Tom Lefeber
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
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[Pastor - Rev. Randy Koppenhaver \(920\)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

This Week at Bethlehem:

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

Monday 7/7: *Happy Anniversary Aaron & Rachel Suttner and Mark & Dawn Wirtz!*

Tuesday 7/8:

Wednesday 7/9:

Thursday 7/10:

Friday 7/11: *Happy Birthday Brad Hoban! Happy Anniversary Jeremy and Tanny Aschenbach!*

Saturday 7/12: *Happy Birthday Case Pennell!*

Sunday 7/13: 9:30am Sunday Worship Followed by Church Picnic; 6:30pm youth volleyball @ BUCC vs. Saron;

**July Panty Item:
School Supplies**