

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/buccckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

**Sunday, July 20, 2025
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship Leader: Steven Voland

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

I thank you, Lord, forever :: because of what you have done

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 52)**

One: In the presence of the faithful, we proclaim the name of God, for it is good.

Many: We thank you forever because of what you have done.

One: Holy One, we trust in you. We take refuge in your safety. We call your presence our home.

Many: We are like olive trees rooted in your soil—growing and fruitful. You nourish us and shine your light upon us.

One: Faithful God, in you, we find love and truth, abundance and compassion, community and care.

Many: We praise and exalt you, Eternal One. We trust in your steadfast love forever and ever.

***OPENING PRAYER:**

Abiding God, we invite you to inhabit our space. We long to renew our minds, restore our souls, and rest our presence before you. Still, we bring the burdens we carry into this gathering. We hold our responsibilities, cares, and concerns. Let us bind ourselves in your love and strength and the community of faithful and curious. We affirm that this time with you and one another equips and fortifies us for the journey and helps us discern the better way. Be glorified in our worship. Be honored by our praise. Be known by your people, O Creator, Teacher, and Friend. In your many names, we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #215**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Gracious God, evil surrounds us and entices us to join in its ways, of matching energy and returning evil for evil, of seeking the comfortable and convenient way over the common good, of turning from pain and despair rather than leaning into solidarity and support. Help us, O God, to choose the path you have paved and give us strength to journey into rough spaces. Surround us with hosts of righteousness and infuse us with peace that surpasses understanding as we serve as agents and ambassadors of your kingdom. As you continually make all things new, fill us with the joy of new life. Amen.

Time of silent reflection...

WORDS OF GRACE

Citizens of the kingdom, let us commit anew to the joys and costs of discipleship.

Our Creator has endowed us, in grace, the power to be witnesses of the Living God and the promise of the reign of God on earth.

Let us release shame, doubt, and fear in order to choose good things and better ways to be in communion with our Triune God and neighbor.

Thanks be to our loving God. Amen.

***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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 18:1-10 - The Three Visitors

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord,^[a] do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs^[b] of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

⁹ "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

Psalms 15

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

² **The one whose walk is blameless,**

who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;

³ whose tongue utters no slander,

who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others;

⁴ **who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord;**

who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;

⁵ who lends money to the poor without interest;

who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called

Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. ^[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE

*HYMN #354

"Open my Eyes that I May See"

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Petitions end with: God with an open heart, **Open our hearts to you.**

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

Leader: Let us give generously from the abundance of God's provision, demonstrate our trust in God's provision, and embrace mutuality with God's creation.

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**

Giver of all good and perfect gifts, we celebrate the opportunity to contribute to the ministry of this faith community. Receive the resources we offer in love and hope that needs will be met, lives will be changed, and the world will receive the testimony of compassionate care, action, and sharing. 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

**As we go, let us boast in the goodness of God
Let us live in the abundance of God’s love.
Remember that you are more than enough.
We will find rest and joy in the day, and know hope and safety in the night.
Let us go forth in peace to love and to serve.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ☐ **The Annual Bethlehem Church Rummage Sale is on!!**

Volunteer Opportunities:

August 6 thru August 9: Please see the signup sheets in the fellowship hall or email to kayerad@hotmail.com or call (920) 894-7229 if you can spare even an hour to help.

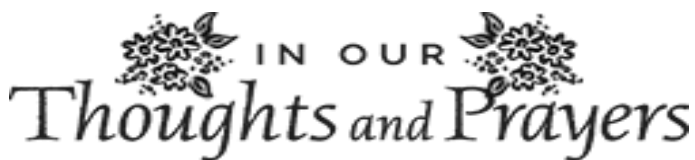
Donations Accepted:

If you have items to donate, these can be dropped off in the new garage. If you would like us to pick up your items, do not hesitate to contact members of the Merry Christians. We will be happy to make arrangements. Please no TVs or other electronics.

- ❑ On Sunday, Aug 10, there will be NO WORSHIP SERVICE at Bethlehem. Members are encouraged to attend the “community” worship service which will be held at Kiel City Park at **9:00 am**. Pastor Randy is leading that service.
- ❑ **Mission and Service Sunday** will be September 21st! Save the date! We will be making sandwiches for the Guest House, Cleaning up Hwy X, and making hygiene kits for Church World Service. More details to come!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall

- ❑ TODAY! – **St. Marks/St James “Festive Sunday”** @ Spring Hope Barn- Outdoor worship @ 11a, Potluck Lunch @ noon, Live music starts @ 12:30 pm - registration required – See Flyer for details.
- ❑ Friday, July 25th - 4:30pm-6pm – **Kiwanis Night at Kiwanis Park (NH)** – Free swimming, free food! Come learn about all the wonderful community service our organization provides! (Randy and Melissa are members!)
- ❑ Friday, August 1 - **Faith and Family Night** at the WIS Timber Rattlers game – See Flyer for details.
- ❑ Vacation Bible School for Adults and Children with Disabilities – August 4-7, 9:30a-12pm @ St. James Episcopal Church- Manitowoc. Details on the bulletin board
- ❑ August 15 and 16 – **Gospel Music Fest** – Hilbert Civic Park – See flyer for details



Joys:

For the birth of Daniel Otto Koch – July 15, 2025 – Parents: Andrew & Michelle Koch;
Grandparents: Kerry & Barb Henning

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	Tom Lefeber
Marie Rietbrock	Hubert

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

2025 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 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 7/20: 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6:30pm youth volleyball @ St. Marks/St. James; 5pm Spirit Articles due to Traci; *Happy Anniversary Eric & Dawn Muehlbauer!!*

Monday 7/21:

Tuesday 7/22:

Wednesday 7/23:

Thursday 7/24: 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry; 10:30am Field of Dream Worship; *Happy Anniversary Scott & Jane Umland!*

Friday 7/25: *Happy Birthday Bill Schlegel and Gerald Schnell!*

Saturday 7/26: *Happy Birthday Jeanette Wriedt! Happy Anniversary Bruce and Polly Jeanty*

Sunday 7/27: 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6:30pm youth volleyball @ BUCC vs. Immanuel/Bethel; *Happy Birthday Ruthie Rumpff, Bob Marklez, and Tom Brickbauer!*

**July Panty Item:
School Supplies**

Wanted!!! A volunteer to assist with music at Vacation Bible School! No musical expertise required. The minimum is leading the kids in the pre-recorded music... you can expand from there if you like! Aug 12,13, and 14 - 9a-12pm is the time commitment. See Pastor Randy if you can help