



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, July 27, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. 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

Show me your steadfast love, O Lord :: grant me your salvation

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

*****Today's bulletins are sponsored by Bruce and Polly Jeanty in honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary and also Jeanette Wriedt's 95th Birthday. Both were celebrated on July 26th.*****

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Count Your Many Blessings" Kathy Bowe and Polly Jeanty

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Inspired by Psalm 85)

One: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

Many: Restore us, O God, and stir anger within for the pain and injustices of the world.

One: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

Many: Revive us, O God, and bring joy to our hearts and a song of praise on our lips.

One: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

Many: Redeem us, O God, and call your people back to you in spirit and in truth.

*OPENING PRAYER:

Holy One, make us like new, show us your way, teach us to pray with our hearts and our hands. Give us the word today that we need to know you. Give us hope today to be a beacon in a world full of lost and confused. Give us joy today to make your name known. Give us peace today to respond with courage, fortitude, and conviction. Give us love today to love as you have loved us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #413

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

God Who Reigns in Glory and meets us in need, we seek your forgiveness and restoration. We drown in a system of debt rather than generosity and common good. May our obligations not burden us, and may we not burden others when compassion is abundantly available. We struggle not to encroach on our neighbor’s territory when boundaries are arbitrary and limiting rather than purposeful and expansive. Help us turn from sin and temptation as well as guilt and shame when we struggle to live fully in your kingdom. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

Children of the Living God, let us live in the grace of the kingdom.

We will receive the vision of restored creation: abundance, compassion, generosity, and inclusion.

Let us live in your full humanity as image bearers of the Holy.

Thanks be to 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

Psalm 85 – p.666 in hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens


Jonah 1:1-6

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come up before me.” ³ But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

⁴ But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ Then the sailors were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶ The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up; call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.”

Jonah 1:14-17

¹⁴ Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” ¹⁵ So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

¹⁷  But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:1-10

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying,

“I called to the Lord out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.

³ You cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, ‘I am driven away
from your sight;

how^[a] shall I look again

upon your holy temple?’

⁵ The waters closed in over me;

the deep surrounded me;

weeds were wrapped around my head

⁶ at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land

whose bars closed upon me forever;

yet you brought up my life from the Pit,

O Lord my God.

⁷ As my life was ebbing away,

I remembered the Lord,

and my prayer came to you,

into your holy temple.

⁸ Those who worship vain idols

forsake their true loyalty.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving

will sacrifice to you;

what I have vowed I will pay.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord!”

¹⁰ Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out onto the dry land.

Jonah 3:1-6, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ² “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

Jonah 4: 1, 3-11

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Jonah

*HYMN #316

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

PRAYER CONCERNS

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 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**

Our God in Glory, may the good gifts we bring of time, talent, and treasure be used and magnified for the benefit of your beloved. Thank you, Holy One, for enabling us to join in your kingdom come on earth. 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:

- ☐ The Church Landscaping update project has begun. Today, the following plants are available: Lilies, Sedum, Hostas, & Hydrangeas. First come, first serve

☐ **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.

- During the month of **August**, the Bethlehem Ladies will have a special collection of items for the Kiel Area Community Center and will be presented to the pantry at our Guest Night on Tuesday, September 16th. These items can be brought to church and placed in the basket at the entrance.

Here is a list of their current needs. Thank you for your generosity!!!

Kiel Area Community Food Pantry Inc.

July 2025

Most Needed Items:


- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Boxed Cereal (Adult or Children) | 7. Canned Beef Stew/Chili/ Hash |
| 2. Pasta Sauce | 8. Hamburger Helper |
| 3. Large & Small cans of Soup | 9. Pork & Beans |
| 4. Canned Fruits | 10. Salad Dressing/Mayo |
| 5. Jam/Jelly | |
| 6. Mac & Cheese | |

Other Items: Laundry Soap/ Dish Soap


- **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.
 - Please check the display board in the fellowship hall. It lists the items needed for creating the disaster-relief hygiene kits. Take a post-it note and purchase the items. Please bring them in by Sept. 14. You can also donate cash or gifts cards and items will be purchased by the mission team.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall

- Tuesday, July 29th – 4pm-7pm - **Bethel Summer Supper** – Bethel United Methodist Church – 10509 Meggars Rd, New Holstein
- 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



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

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

Monday 7/28:

Tuesday 7/29: *Happy Birthday Mandy Voland, Allyson Jeanty, and Kendra Muehlbauer!*

Wednesday 7/30: *Happy Anniversary Steven & Jackie Voland!*

Thursday 7/31: *Happy Birthday Dan Rugowski!*

Friday 8/1:

Saturday 8/2:

Sunday 8/3: 9:30am Sunday Worship; 12pm youth volleyball tournament @ Immanuel/Bethel; *Happy Birthday Logan Tesch and Jaden Witkowski!*

August Panty Item: Jar of Peanut Butter or Jelly

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