



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED**

### **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, August 3, 2025**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver**

**Musician: 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

***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**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

**God's faithful love endures forever.**

Has the Lord redeemed you? Then say so!

**God has redeemed us from trouble and leads us on paths of justice and righteousness.**

**Praise the Lord for God's steadfast love is great!**

**Let us praise the Lord! Let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**God of justice and joy, as we gather to worship, we join your whole creation to offer you honor and praise. We sense your glory in the grandeur of open skies and the expanding horizon. We sense your power of new life in growing gardens and growing children. We trust your gift of new life in Christ, rising in us with courage and compassion.**

**Your Spirit blows through us like a fresh breeze in the breath of prayer.**

**Fill us with a sense of your holiness in this hour, O God, to renew us in our love for you and our care for your creation as we worship you as the Creating God, redeeming Son and guiding Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #259 vs 1,2,4,5,6      "For the Beauty of the Earth"**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

**God of justice and generosity, we trust that all life flows from your hand, yet we confess we often worry about how much life costs us.**

**We like to have much more than enough, and we hesitate to share.**

**Forgive us when our hearts long for the security of this world, not the security of your love. Amen. *Time of silent reflection...***

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. -- 1 Timothy 1:15**

**Let us hear Christ's word of grace to us: Our sins are forgiven.**

**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**

**Psalms 107:1-9, 43**

**<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.**

**<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup> those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>4</sup> **Some wandered in desert wastelands,  
finding no way to a city where they could settle.**  
<sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty,  
and their lives ebbed away.  
<sup>6</sup> **Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.**  
<sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way  
to a city where they could settle.  
<sup>8</sup> **Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,**  
<sup>9</sup> for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things.  
<sup>43</sup> **Let the one who is wise heed these things  
and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord.**

### **Luke 12:13-21**

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

### **Micah 1:2 – *The Lord’s judgment on all nations***

“Hear, you peoples, all of you;  
pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it,  
and let the Lord God be a witness against you,  
the Lord from his holy temple.”

### **Micah 3:1–2 – *Condemnation of unjust leaders***

“Hear, you heads of Jacob  
and rulers of the house of Israel!

Is it not for you to know justice?—  
you who hate the good and love the evil...”

**Micah 4:1–2** – *A vision of peace and restoration*

“It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the Lord  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains...  
and many nations shall come, and say:  
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.’”

**Micah 5:2** – *The promise of a coming ruler from Bethlehem*

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.”

**Micah 6:8** – *The heart of God’s requirements*

“He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?”

**Micah 7:18–19** – *God’s mercy and forgiveness*

“Who is a God like you,  
pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression  
for the remnant of his inheritance?  
He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in steadfast love.  
He will again have compassion on us;  
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.  
You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.”

SERMON

“Who is Like the Lord?”

\*HYMN #309

“Micah 6:8”

## 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: *Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all: **Bring healing, bring peace.***

**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: Pathways to a Better Life of Kiel)

\*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**

**Abundant God, we bring you our gifts in gratitude for your generosity. Bless and multiply these gifts in Jesus' name, so that they can spread your goodness in the world and touch lives of those in need, for Christ's sake. 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**

Let us go with God to offer life to those around us.

**We will gather up the broken to offer them healing.**

Let us go with Jesus to wrap people in hope.

**We will reach out to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.**

Let us go with the Spirit to love all those in our midst who have been forgotten.

**We will take them in our arms and welcome them to our hearts.**

**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](mailto: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

- The **Bethlehem Ladies Annual Guest Night** will be Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Guest Speaker will be Randy Olm who is a coordinator of the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry. There will be a light lunch served at 5:30 pm with the presentation to follow. Please invite your friends and family.
- **Mission and Service Sunday** will be September 21<sup>st</sup>! 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.
- Friday, October 31, 2025. – **WHAT WE SING MATTERS – A Sing-a-Long Workshop** 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, Academic Dean | Professor of Worship and Preaching | Dean of the Chapel, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri -- Event Venue: Lakeland University, Bradley Auditorium, W3718 South Dr, Plymouth, WI 53073 The event is free, but please register with Pastor Randy and he will procure your tickets

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

- 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         |
| Scott Vogel       | John Schmitt   |

### **Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

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

**Monday 8/4:** *Happy Birthday Lillie Brockway!!*

**Tuesday 8/5:** *Happy Birthday Donna Truttman-Retlich!*

**Wednesday 8/6:**

**Thursday 8/7:** *Happy Birthday Tony Bowe!!*

**Friday 8/8:** *Happy Birthday David Meyer!*

**Saturday 8/9:** *Happy Birthday David Radder!*

**Sunday 8/10:** NO WORSHIP AT BUCC! 9:00am Sunday Worship @ Kiel City Park (You will not be able to access from Fremont Street. Enter the area from the north) *Happy Anniversary Ryan & Molly Rabe!*

**August Panty Item:  
Jar of Peanut Butter or Jelly**