



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, August 24, 2025**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver**  
**Musician: 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

***Be my rock of refuge, O Lord :: to which I can always go***

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 71)**

**One:** Let us worship the Holy One, our refuge, hope and trust. Our praise is continually of our God!

**Many:** God will not put us to shame. God is our rock!

One: Turn to the God who saves and delivers. Our praise is continually of our God!

**Many: God's righteousness redeems. God is our shelter!**

One: Find rest and delight in the Holy One. Our praise is continually of our God!

**Many: We lean upon the Holy One. God is our sure foundation!**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**God of the Sabbath, you make this day holy. As we gather in your name, redeem the days when our focus wandered and draw us back to you. Let your wisdom, justice, and compassion guide us. Slow our pace to attend to those things that matter. Open our understanding to the good that needs to be done. Sustain us for the challenges we face, Make your name known among us and through us. We glorify and honor you in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed, in season and out of season. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #19

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

**O God, our judge and our hope,  
we confess we often turn away from your truth,  
and ignore your call to do justice.  
Forgive us when we say one thing in worship  
but do another in the ways we live.  
Forgive us when we ignore how others are treated  
and think only of ourselves.  
Let your judgement awaken us and your mercy refresh us. Amen.**  
*Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
Believe this good news of the Gospel:

**In Christ, God has offered us mercy and love. We receive God's forgiveness this day and share it with each other for Christ's sake. 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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup> The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew<sup>[a]</sup> you,  
before you were born I set you apart;

I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

### Psalms 71:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup> **In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;  
turn your ear to me and save me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;  
give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

<sup>4</sup> **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.**

<sup>5</sup> For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,  
my confidence since my youth.

<sup>6</sup> **From birth I have relied on you;  
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.  
I will ever praise you.**

1. **Habakkuk 1:2** – The prophet's cry of confusion

*"How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you do not save?"*

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2. **Habakkuk 2:3–4** – God's answer of hope and faith

*"For the revelation awaits an appointed time... Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness."*

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3. **Habakkuk 2:14** – God’s ultimate purpose

*"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*

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4. **Habakkuk 3:17–18** – Habakkuk’s declaration of trust

*"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."*

SERMON

Habakkuk

\*HYMN #313

vs1,3,4,6

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*This morning, we officially welcome Emilia Ann Marie Rodriguez to God’s family. Emilia was born on August 20, 2024, to parents, Juan and Rebecca Rodriguez. Emilia’s sponsors are Nic Schoenberger and Claire Oestreich.*

INVITATION

WELCOME

Leader: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

**People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."**

Leader: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.<sup>4</sup>

ADDRESS

Leader: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible ...and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.<sup>9</sup>

**People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.**

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please stand)

**People: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he/she explores life. We enfold this child in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with these parents in telling the gospel in our midst so that this child may live with us for Christ, showing forth Christ's love for all people.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God with the United Church of Christ's Statement of Faith.

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,  
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

\*HYMN #516

“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

## 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: 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

**O God, we place our hope and trust in your loving kindness. Because we want to praise you with more than words, we offer our gifts to support Christ’s mission in the world. Bless these gifts and our lives, so that all the world will know your loving kindness. 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:**

- Thank you to all who helped make the annual church rummage sale a success. Watch the September Spirit for more details.
- **Sunday, August 31, The WISE Team will be leading worship.** A guest speaker, Susan Beattie, founder and owner of Pathways to a Better Life, will share with us more about Pathways and their mission for those struggling with addiction. Getting help is the first step toward a better life. With a commitment to breaking the cycle of addiction and a staff that truly understands recovery, Pathways to a Better Life is changing the way detox and treatment are approached – Giving Hope and healing to those who need it most and finding a purpose and connection.
- During the month of **August**, the Bethlehem Ladies will have a special collection of items for the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry 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. Thank you for your generosity!!!
- 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. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Mission and Service Sunday** will be September 21<sup>st</sup>! Save the date! We will be making sandwiches and cookies 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.
- Thursday, Oct 30 - United Church Men & Women's Scholarship Banquet – Ebenezer UCC, Sheboygan – Meal starts @ 6:30pm – Program at 7:45 with Music by Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy. The program is free. Tickets are \$20 if you want to join for the meal. See Pastor Randy for tickets. If you like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, donations are always welcome!
- 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**

It's Apple Pie Time! Please join the families of Divine Savior Catholic School in Kiel on September 19th and 20th with celebrating 25 years of making delicious Apple Pies. Made from scratch with love and care, each pie is made fresh and not baked. Pies are ready-to-bake or freeze to enjoy later. Apple Pies are \$15 each and can be ordered by calling (920) 894-3533 or online at [divinesaviorschool.org/apple-pie-sale](http://divinesaviorschool.org/apple-pie-sale). We are also looking for some volunteers to help make pies. From quality control to pie assembly we have jobs to fit all abilities. Contact us at [divinesaviorapplepiefundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:divinesaviorapplepiefundraiser@gmail.com) to help make some delicious pies. All supplies are provided along with delicious food to keep you full of energy!

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

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

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

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

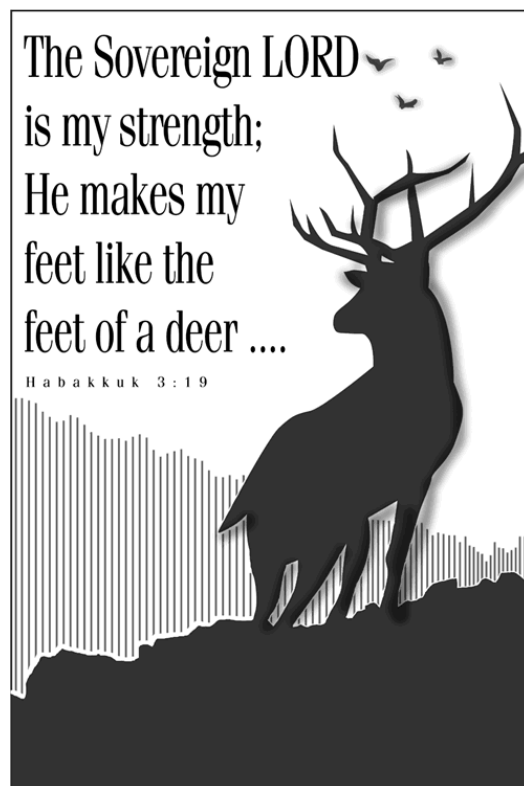
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Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)


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







IN OUR



# Thoughts and Prayers

## **Those Grieving:**

The Family of Malachi Plocher (Lexi Horneck's fiancé)  
Kristin Johnson (Molly Rabe's sister)

## **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
Hubert	Sarah Schisel
Scott Vogel	John Schmitt
John (Friend of Schlegel's)	

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

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 8/24:** 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Baptism

**Monday 8/25:**

**Tuesday 8/26:**

**Wednesday 8/27:**

**Thursday 8/28:** 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry;

**Friday 8/29:** *Happy Anniversary Rich & Lori Schmitt!*

**Saturday 8/30:** *Happy Birthday Lee Watson!*

**Sunday 8/31:** 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Guest Speaker

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