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/bucckiel/
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Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader:

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

Lord, in your mercy :: hear my prayer

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
One: The voice of God is heard in all the world.
All: In troubled lands, where people hunger and fear, it speaks of compassionate action.

One: The voice of God is heard in the church.
All: In encouragement of each other, in support of wider church, it speaks of community.
One: The voice of God is heard within each one of us.
All: It speaks of acceptance, it speaks of forgiveness, it speaks of peace, it speaks of hope.
One: It speaks now; it will never be silent!
All: Let us listen to God's voice.

*OPENING PRAYER:
One: You have blessed us with the sunlit glory of summer days.
All: And we praise you, Creator God.
One: You have blessed us with a Christian community of friends.
All: And we rejoice in our mutual support, O God.
One: You have blessed us with questioning, enthusiastic young persons, and with older persons full of good sense.
Men and Boys: Together they are our strength, O God.
One: You have blessed us with a church which stands with the powerless.
Women and Girls: And we know it reflects your mercy and compassion, O Loving God.
One: You have blessed us with the Way of Jesus.
All: And we will strive to make the Way of Jesus shine through all our venturing together, and through the path which we tread alone, eternal and ever present God. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #10 "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:
One: To build a community of disciples, we must be ready to appreciate the gifts and talents of some very different persons.
All: When we are not prepared to search carefully for the hidden abilities of others, perceptive God, forgive us!
One: To build a community of disciples, we must be ready to listen to the deepest concerns of our friends in Christ.
All: When we fail to listen with our heart as well as with mind, compassionate God, forgive us!
One: To build a community of disciples, we must be ready to walk the gospel walk, as well as talk the gospel talk.
All: When commitment is hard and selfish priorities win the day, suffering God, forgive us!
One: To build a community of disciples, we must be ready to listen to new truth

and act courageously on what we hear.

All: When our minds are closed, and our hearts remain unmoved by the needs of the tested ones, God of continuing revelation, forgive us!

One: To build a community of disciples, we must be ready to place Jesus Christ at the center of our life's pattern.

All: When we deny the cost of following Jesus Christ and ignore the challenge of his teaching, Loving God, forgive us!

Time of silent reflection…

WORDS OF GRACE

One: New life is our gift.

All: In the discovery of new insights,
in the acceptance of new truths,
in the naming of evil persons and evil work,
in the refusal to let guilt overburden us,
in the willingness to work to joyfully with fellow Christians,
in the reality of discipleship's cost,
new life is ours, abundant life is possible.

One: Sin is overcome; pardon and peace are truly ours!

All: 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 1

1 Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
2 **but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,**
and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.
4 **Not so the wicked!**
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 **For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,**
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE

*HYMN #317 "Will you come and follow me?"

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: "Fill our lives with what matters, O God. **Fill our lives with 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: As we have been given so many gifts, let us return a portion of those gifts to God.

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change supports The Crop Walk)

*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
One: Given freely, may these gifts bring freedom
All: To the powerless and rejected,
to the questioning and the sad,
to the distressed and anxious,
in the freeing Spirit of Jesus Christ. 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.

COMMISSIONING
One: We respond to God as we leave the church.
Having heard your Word, O God, encourage us to reflect and act.
All: Having seen the signs, give us confidence to follow.
One: Having sensed the truth, help us to be faithful.
All: Having encountered Jesus, lead us to discipleship.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Blessing of the Backpacks will be on Sunday, Sept 14. Everyone is invited to bring their backpacks, bookbags, workbags, etc!

- It's that time again… we are seeking people who would be interested in participating in the **United Christmas choir**? Rehearsals would be on Monday evenings at 7 pm beginning in October. The concert is planned for Sunday, December 14 at 1 pm at St. Peter's. Joint rehearsal on Monday, December 8 at 7 pm with a snow date of Wednesday, Dec. 10. Please see Pastor Randy to be added to the list.

- For Sale: (2) Patio Sets - Includes table (3' 2" X 3' 2") with 4 chairs (cushions included) $50.00 - displayed in new garage

- The Bethlehem Ladies are collecting 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 16th. 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 21st! 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. 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 to help make some delicious pies. All supplies are provided along with delicious food to keep you full of energy!

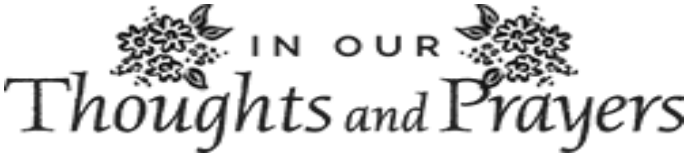
Gospellers Coming to Sheboygan, October 11 and 12

The Wisconsin Gospellers will be coming to Sheboygan on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12th. The Gospellers will be leading the 10:00 am worship service in the First Congregational UCC (FCC) sanctuary on Sun. Oct. 12th. All who like to sing are invited to join the Gospellers for the Sat. Oct. 11th music workshop that they will be hosting from 3-5 pm in the FCC sanctuary. Any questions can be directed to David Wernecke (davidmusic1213@yahoo.com). We look forward to you joining us for this exciting opportunity.

Tim Keenan, (who has served as a supply pastor at BUCC), is a Christian novelist and has published several books. There will a book signing at St. John's UCC in Ada from 2pm-4pm on Sunday, October 26. Please see the flyer for details and for information of ordering his books.

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



Those Grieving:
Kaitlin Johnson (Molly Rabe's sister)

Those struggling with health issues:

Ross Sippel	Dana
Mary Beth Molitor	Louie Bowe

Will Mathes
Darlene Horneck
Brad Westphalen
Jessica Horneck
Hubert
Scott Vogel
John (Friend of Schlegel's)
Heidi Konen
Donna Firman
Dawson Horneck
Tom Lefeber
Sarah Schisel
John Schmitt

Those unable to worship with us:
Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 9/7: 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship
Monday 9/8;
Tuesday 9/9; 6pm Consistory Mtg.; *Happy Birthday Lori Schmitt!*
Wednesday 9/10: 6pm Confirmation mtg with Parents and Mentors.
Thursday 9/11: 10:30am Field of Dreams worship; *Happy Birthday Kelly Ryba and Addison Salm!*
Friday 9/12: *Happy Birthday Molly Rabe and Traci Rabe!*
Saturday 9/13:
Sunday 9/14: 8:00am Sunday School! 8:15 WISE team; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ baptism and Blessing of the Backpacks; *Happy Birthday Ben Jeanty!*

September Panty Item:
Toilet paper or Paper towels