



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com)

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

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**Sunday, May 10, 2026**

**Sixth Sunday of Eastertide**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Randall Koppenhaver**

**Musician: Polly Jeanty**

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

**\*= 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 trust in the Lord :: he is my help and shield***

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE**

**"Less like Me"**

**Zach Williams**

**WELCOME**

**MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP #554**

**"Holy Ground"**

**We are standing on holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around**

**Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in his presence on holy ground**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Let us see you this day, O God;

**Come to us as light.**

Let us hear you this day, O God;

**Come to us as truth.**

Let us sense your presence, O God;

**Come to us as love.**

Come and let us worship, God.

**We have come to rejoice in God, our Saviour.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**God of life, we praise you this day for the gift of your creation as new life rises around us in flower beds and farmers' fields, in the nests and burrows of your creatures. We praise you for the gift of our lives, and for all those people— from our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents to our teachers and coaches and good friends— who have encouraged us along the way.**

**In this time of worship, encourage us in the present moments of our lives, challenging as they may seem. Refresh us with the new life you promise us in Christ Jesus in whose name we praise you as the Spirit prays within us.**

**Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #288 v. 1,2,4

“Happy the Home When God is There”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**God of love, we are grateful for the love you bless us with in our homes and families. Yet you know family life is not always easy. Our love for each other gets strained some days. Forgive us if we have taken our family for granted. Give us grace to repair relationships where strain is showing. Amen.**

(time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

**Only Christ— and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

Believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to love more fully by God's generous grace.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Psalm 115** – p. 696 of hymnal – leader reads odd verses, people read evens

### **Peter 3:13-22 (ERV)**

<sup>13</sup> If you are always trying to do good, no one can really harm you. <sup>14</sup> But you may suffer for doing right. If that happens, you have God's blessing. "Don't be afraid of the people who make you suffer; don't be worried." <sup>15</sup> But keep the Lord Christ holy in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have. <sup>16</sup> But answer them in a gentle way with respect. Keep your conscience clear. Then people will see the good way you live as followers of Christ, and those who say bad things about you will be ashamed of what they said.

<sup>17</sup> It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong. Yes, it is better if that is what God wants. <sup>18</sup> Christ himself suffered when he died for you, and with that one death he paid for your sins. He was not guilty, but he died for people who are guilty. He did this to bring all of you to God.

In his physical form he was killed, but he was made alive by the Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> And by the Spirit he went and preached to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup> Those were the spirits who refused to obey God long ago in the time of Noah. God was waiting patiently for people while Noah was building the big boat. And only a few—eight in all—were saved in the boat through the floodwater. <sup>21</sup> And that water is like baptism, which now saves you. Baptism is not the washing of dirt from the body. It is asking God for a clean conscience. It saves you because Jesus Christ was raised from death. <sup>22</sup> Now he has gone into heaven. He is at God's right side and rules over angels, authorities, and powers.

### **John 14:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will do what I command. <sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> The Helper is the Spirit of truth. The people of the world cannot accept him, because they don't see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you all alone like orphans. I will come back to you. <sup>19</sup> In a very short time the people in the world will not see me anymore. But you will see me. You will live because I live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in the Father. You will know that you are in me and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Those who really love me are the ones who not only know my commands but also obey them. My Father will love such people, and I will love them. I will make myself known to them."

\*HYMN #227 v. 1-3

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

CHILDREN'S TIME

## MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER AND LITANY (Author unknown)

Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers.

We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from you, and gave it to us.

Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood.

Whether birth mom, adopted mom, foster mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else,

we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain.

We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

We pray for moms whose children are grown.

**Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.**

We pray for moms experiencing changes they could not predict.

**Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.**

We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.

**Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.**

We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.

**Grant them strength and wisdom.**

We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance.

**Grant them time to share with their families.**

We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty.

**Grant them relief and justice.**

We pray for step-moms.

**Grant them patience, understanding and love.**

We pray for moms who are separated from their children.

**Grant them faith and hope.**

We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.

**Grant them support and insight.**

We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.

**Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.**

We pray for foster and adoptive mothers.

**Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.**

We pray for women who think about becoming mothers.

**Grant them wisdom and discernment.**

We pray for women who desperately want, or wanted, to be mothers.

**Grant them grace to accept your timing.**

We pray for women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

**Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.**

We pray for those whose mothers are less than perfect: abusive, unloving, or who abandoned their children.

**Grant them the assurance that You are with them in their pain, and they are precious in your sight.**

We pray for persons who are grieving the loss of their mother.

**Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.**

Lord, we thank you for the gift of motherhood.

We thank you for the many examples of faithful mothers in scripture, like Sarah, Leah, Rachel, Hannah, Elizabeth, Priscilla, Lydia, Eunice and Lois.

We are mindful this day of all these women, and especially Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, who had the courage in faith to say "yes" to your calling.

May these women gathered here today emulate these examples of faith. And may they model for all the rest of us what it means to be your disciple.

Bless them on this special day; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-litany-for-mothers-day.html>)*

\*HYMN #242

"Mothering God, You Gave me Birth"

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Petitions end: God with a loving heart, **Hear our 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.**

### POST PRAYER RESPONSE

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.**

**Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.**

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. Jingle Change for May supports The Undy 500, a collection drive of new men's undergarments for the Guest House of Milwaukee men's shelter.)*

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Doxology"

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God our Creator and Redeemer, you made us in love to share that love with neighbour and stranger as Jesus commanded. Take our gifts and make them tokens of your love that we can share throughout our community and in the world you love, in Jesus' name. 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.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

POSTLUDE

*\*\*liturgies and prayers for this morning were used with permission from:  
[presbyterian.ca/worship/](http://presbyterian.ca/worship/)*

## **Bethlehem Announcements:**

- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation. See items next to the sound room. Couch and chair are in the youth room.
  - Small TV with VHS capability
  - DVD player
  - VHS tapes
  - Large TV stand
  - Also available is a couch and rocking chair

**It's UNDY 500 time!!!** Please bring your new undergarments for the Guest House (men's shelter) in Milwaukee. We are collecting throughout the month of May.

***Note: All items must be NEW and in the original packaging***

- Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY (No "tighty whiteys" please)
- Men's Undershirts

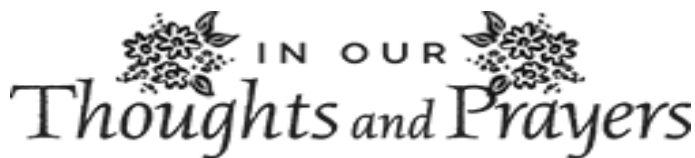
***Please buy a variety of sizes in each item***

- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2X,3x, and 4X Undershirts (**note: Guest House is currently completely out or low on M, L and XL t-shirts**)
- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X and 4X Underwear (**note: Guest House is currently completely out or low on M, L and XL underwear**)

## **Community Announcements:**

- Due to retirement, Salem UCC in Plymouth has an immediate opening for a shared, part-time secretary position working about 9-11 hours a week. The Church Secretary manages the work of the office, including producing announcements and bulletins, maintaining membership records, working with those leading worship, producing the Chapel Chimes newsletter and managing office communications, etc. Requirements for this position include proven office management or administrative experience, strong organizational, communication and problem solving skills and proficiency in MS Office and social media programs. A complete list of responsibilities and requirements is available by contacting the church office at [churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org](mailto:churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org). Resumes may be emailed to the church office email or sent to Salem UCC, 217 Salem Dr., Plymouth, WI 53073.
- Wed. May 13 – 4p-7p – Brat Fry at St. James UCC, Newton
- Friday, May 15 – 10am-4pm – Brat Fry at Blattner's Piggly Wiggly for St. John's UCC, New Holstein

- Sat. May 30 – Treasures in the Trunk Sale – 9am-2pm @ Salem UCC, Plymouth – Vendor spots still available too! See Flyer!
- **OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH SOCIAL – AT JOHNSBURG!**  
 Saturday, June 6th, 2026. Outdoor Polka Mass @ 4PM. 5PM-8PM 2/5's Party Band. Brats, hamburgers, and refreshments available in the beer stand following mass. Raffle drawing held at 8:00PM. Putting Contest, Meat Raffle, Kid's Games, and Pot of Gold Raffle during event. Hope to see you there! St. John the Baptist Church [N9288 County Road W, Malone].



**Those dealing with health concerns:**

Tyler Meyer	Janet
Judy Brockway	Davin Horneck
Dayton Horneck	Jackie Volland
Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Margaret
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 5/10:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship w/ Mission Trip Presentation; *Happy Birthday Bryan Jeanty!*

**Monday 5/11:** *Happy Birthday Pam Bowe!*

**Tuesday 5/12:** 6:30pm Consistory Mtg; *Happy Birthday Jennifer Stroschine!*

**Wednesday 5/13:**

**Thursday 5/14:** *Happy Birthday Sarah Arnold and Brenda Riesterer! Happy Anniversary Brian & Ashley Radder!*

**Friday 5/15:**

**Saturday 5/16:**

**Sunday 5/17:** 8am Sunday School;  
9:30am Sunday worship



**May/June Panty Item: Cereal**