



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Musician: Kathy Bowe

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 am jubilant with joy :: I sing praises to God's name

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #299 v. 1

"My Country Tis of Thee"

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY (author: Jill Duffield)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: A breath in the stillness.

All: (*whisper*)...the breath of God surprisingly stirs within us.

One: A breeze to sway the treetops.

All: (*quietly*)...the Spirit of God brings us together to strengthen the faith community.

One: The strong wind sends the clouds flying.

All: (louder)...the Holy Spirit sends us out with the strength of Christian justice; and the compassion of Christ's love.

One: The force of the gale leaves nothing untouched, changing everything.

All: (very loudly)...with awe and wonder we rejoice, for God's realm is approaching.

***OPENING PRAYER:**

One: We are people of God's Spirit;

All: we are different in personality, in background, in age, and in status, but we worship as one.

One: We are people of God's Spirit;

All: we have different needs, different fears, different hopes, but we know that God is here for us.

One: We are people of God's Spirit;

All: we are aware of crying injustice, unequal wealth, and loneliness, but we are determined to be God's co-workers for good.

One: We are people of God's Spirit;

All: we are different in faith, in church background, in our spiritual lives, but we find inspiration in Jesus, the Holy One. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #239 vs 1,2,4**

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

God of wind and flame,

at Pentecost your Spirit inspired Jesus' followers to speak, in his name, what was needed in ways that all who heard could understand.

But we confess that we have ignored your guidance and kept to our own words and understandings rather than letting your Spirit speak through us.

We have not always attended to the lessons of that first Pentecost when the Spirit demonstrated that all cultures, all languages can speak your love.

We ask your forgiveness for when our witness has been false; when what we have said and done in your name came not from your Spirit or from love for you, but from love of ourselves or of power and control.

Forgive us for the sins we have committed by our actions and the sins we have committed by failing to act.

Send your Spirit to inspire our faith and energize us in repentance and transformation for just mission and loving ministry.

(time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

One: We thank you, O God, that you stand ready to bring renewal through the power of your Holy Spirit.

All: We believe you will grant us new insights, fresh resolve, and the peace that passes all understanding.

One: The peace of God is yours.

All: Thanks to be to God! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Corinthians 12:3-13

³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment,

because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^[b] ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’^[c]

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #495

“We are One in the Spirit”

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD’S PRAYER

Petitions end with: Spirit of Power and Promise,

Move within us and renew our faith.

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 #226 v. 1

“Spirit of the Living God”

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

One: These gifts, O God, will work in partnership with your Spirit:

**All: bringing old and young together in worship,
building faith community,
searching out the confused and lost,
restoring the sick and depressed,
reaching far beyond the shores of this nation, in practical help,
giving hope to those in the empty places of life.**

One: Bless these gifts, O God, and influence them with your love.

All: We pray in the name of Jesus, your Beloved One. 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/COMMISSIONING

One: In the power of the Holy Spirit, nothing is impossible!

**All: We will leave the past behind carefully;
we will share generously;
we will face decisions bravely;
we will participate gladly;
we will confront evil without fear;
we will venture confidently;
we will be reconciled joyfully;
we will grasp discipleship enthusiastically.**

One: With the Spirit you can find fulfillment, and live faithfully!

POSTLUDE

***liturgies and prayers for today we used with permission from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and Sparks, David. Prayers to Share: Year A. Wood Lake Books: Kelowna, BC, 2004.*

Bethlehem Announcements:

Vacation Bible School!

Top o' the mornin'! Get ready to explore the Emerald Isle and the powerful words of Psalm 23! In a confusing world, kids need to know there's a God who cares for them. As they journey through lush landscapes, they'll discover the shepherd - King David and learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, fear to faith, and uncertainty to trust in God's Word.

Once again, we are partnering with St. Marks/ St. James for Vacation Bible School! All are welcome, and needn't be members of any of the involved congregations. Invite a friend! Bonus: It's free!! There is no cost to families! If possible, we will attempt to work out some sort of transportation from Bethlehem to St. Marks. Additionally, we would always accept volunteers to help with activities, even if just for ONE hour!

Enrollment forms were mailed to Sunday School families, but if you need one, please ask Pastor Randy. Please return your enrollment by June 30 so we can begin preparing for classes.

- **Do you know a member of Bethlehem that is graduating this year from high school or place of higher learning? If so, please provide Pastor Randy with the name, school, and type of degree. We will honor them on June 21!**

- 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)**

****Pastor Randy and Melissa will be on vacation June 6-14. If you have an emergency pastoral need, please call Rev. David Kohls of St. John's UCC, New Holstein. (920-522-2565)**

Community Announcements:

- Memorial Day Dinner at the American Legion clubhouse in New Holstein on Monday, May 25th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Sponsored by the New Holstein American Auxiliary. Dinner is a choice of barbecued beef or pulled pork sandwich, sauerkraut, German potato salad, baked beans, dessert and beverage for \$12.00. Single BBQ beef or pulled pork sandwich \$6. Proceeds will go to Veterans' Programs.

- 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].



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

For those grieving:

Family of Joe Joas (neighbor of Bethlehem)

Those dealing with health concerns:

Elaine Brill

Tyler Meyer

Judy Brockway

Dayton Horneck

Louie Bowe

Heidi Konen

Jessica Horneck

Sofia

Hubert

Chase Goekes

Molly

Janet

Davin Horneck

Jackie Voland

Dawson Horneck

Darlene Horneck

Margaret

Willow

Larry

Tyler Smith

Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)

And for those in our church family who are dealing with concerns but wish to keep them private.

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer

Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 5/24: 9:30am Sunday worship; *Happy Anniversary Bill & Kelly Biwan!*

Monday 5/25: ~Memorial Day~

Tuesday 5/26: *Happy Birthday Noah Watson and Amber Hoeffner!*

Wednesday 5/27: *Happy Birthday Davin Horneck! Happy Anniversary David and Ann Moore!*

Thursday 5/28: 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry; *Happy Birthday Armond Wempner!*

Friday 5/29:

Saturday 5/30:

Sunday 5/31: 9:30am Mental Health Sunday worship w/ guest presenter *Happy Birthday Lloyd Rumpff!*

May/June Panty Item: Cereal

