The Spirit of Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI 53042 (920)894-3332

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

At the time of this writing, it's fairly sunny, not too cold, and the daffodil cross at Bethlehem is beginning to bloom with a bright yellow. It certainly has the "feels" of spring. Yet unfortunately, as I look at the weather forecast for the upcoming weekend, it's obvious that winter isn't done with us yet. In fact, if you've lived in Wisconsin long enough, you know that's how it works this time of year: cold/snow...warm weather... cold/snow... warm weather.

Sometimes, we have the same on again, off again patterns in our spiritual lives. During some periods of our lives, we might seem committed to attending church. When the kids are young or in confirmation, we make great efforts to keep our kids involved in church activities. Later, after the kids are confirmed, our presence in worship might be limited. Maybe even to just Christmas and Easter!

The same hot and cold pattern can exist in our relationship with God. Sometimes we feel close to God, other times we feel isolated or distant from God. Even worse, there COULD be times where we don't feel God's presence at all! We might wonder if he even exists.

But in their distress they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him. - 2 Chronicles 15:4



V	Λ	v	9	n	6	9
WI	A	Т	4	u	~	O

Pastor Randy's Ramblings	1-2
	3-4
Pastor Randy's Installation	5
_ectionary	6
Consistory Monthly Mtg. (6-9
New Member Opportunities	9
Sunday School	9
Confirmands	9
Bethlehem Ladies	10
Scrip	10
_oads of Love	11
Merry Christians	11
Historian	11
Rummage Sale	11
Thoughts & Prayers	12
Jndy 500	13
Period Packs	13
Graduates	13
Community Events	14
Just for Fun	15
Pantry Needs/Jingle Change	16
Bethlehem Events	16
Birthdays & Anniversaries	17

JUNE SPIRIT DEADLINE:

Wed., May 17th

@ 5pm
Send to Traci at
trabefamily5@gmail.com

Continued on page 2

Pastor Randy's Ramblings continued:

Throughout the history of the ancient Israelites, as told on the Old Testament, God's people continually wandered away from him. These ancient scriptures tell the tales of the Israelites, who over and over again, lost sight of God, and became estranged from him. Yet, even though they greatly disappointed God sometimes, he always took them back. He never stopped loving and caring for his people, regardless of their wayward behavior. And the Good News is, it's the same for us!

The story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) reminds us that God will always take us back, no matter how far we've strayed, or why. In the parable, the son went off and lived a fast and free lifestyle, squandered his inheritance, and came back when the money was gone. Was the father upset? Not according to the parable. The father was just happy to have him home.

It's important that we try to stay in right relationship with God, so we aren't likely to walk away. During Lent, I encouraged you to adopt spiritual practices that would strengthen your relationship and draw you closer to God. This month, even though Lent is in the rearview mirror, I encourage you to continue, or adopt a practice if you never started.

A recent email from the Wisconsin Conference highlighted "A Spiritual Practice for Generosity." It was written by Andy DeBraber of the National Ministry office. He explain how each morning, while drinking his coffee, he jots notes to the following prompts:

- 3 things I accomplished yesterday
- 2 things I need to do today
- 1 thing I'm grateful for
- A self-affirmation (say something positive about yourself)
- A fear we have
- One way I will nurture my heart/soul today
- One act of generosity today

What a great, positive way to begin each day. Mr. DeBraber explains how meaningful the practice has been for him: "This short and simple morning practice sets me on a course for the day that brings healing and opens me to seeing and sharing the peace and love of God with those around. Try it for two or three weeks and see what kind of difference it makes in your life."

Remember, whether you're estranged from God, or estranged from the church, you will always be welcomed back! Peace be with you!

In Christ,

Pastor Randy

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042 Phone: 920.894.3332 Follow Bethlehem UCC

on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/ or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

Our Spiritual Leader: Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com

- Gather in the sanctuary for worship Sunday mornings. Our service begins at 9:30am.
- Tune your car radio to 101.3FM to listen to the service in the church parking lot at 9:30am.
- View Sunday's service from the comfort of your home through Facebook live stream at 9:30am http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/
- <u>OR</u> watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website at a time that is convenient for you and your family <u>www.bethlehemkiel.org</u>
- In-person Sunday School begins at 8:00am. All children 4 years 6th grade are welcome!



Pastoral Care:

PLEASE let Pastor Randy know of any pastoral/spiritual care needs. I don't always hear about illnesses, surgeries, hospitalizations, etc., until well after the fact. I am willing to support you and be present. I have tried to contact all the members whom Pastor Roy was seeing. I've left voicemails, sent cards, emails, etc, sometimes with no response. If you or a loved one are someone I should be seeing, please help make sure we can get in touch.



2023 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

If you are not able to join us in person Sunday mornings, please mail your giving envelope/check to:

Bethlehem UCC c/o Ruthie Rumpff 11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI 53042



You can also give electronically! Please contact Ruthie Rumpff for details.

Bethlehem UCC has added a Donate Button on the Church Website

www.bethlehemkiel.org



Click on the Donate button to make a secure online contribution today!

Donate

Your giving will go directly to offset our day-to-day costs of maintaining the church. This option was added in addition to giving at church, mailing your giving to church or giving electronically.

The On-line giving is secure by using your PayPal account, credit or debit card. (The church is charged a 2.89% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add that to your donation.)

Thank you for all your support!





The Church and Ministry Team of The Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ and

The congregation of Bethlehem U.C.C. proudly invites you to join in welcoming Randy Koppenhaver as their settled pastor



Pastor Randy's installation service will be celebrated:
Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2:00pm at
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI, 53042

A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.

An offering will be received for the Wisconsin Conference Seminarian Fund.

Gifts may be made online here.

Northeast Association Wisconsin Conference UCC

https://www.wcucc.org/associations/northeast-association/

Lectionary Readings for MAY:

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023	*Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1- 14
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023	*Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15- 21
Ascension of the Lord May 18, 2023	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or Psalm 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44- 53
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023	*Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1- 11
Day of Pentecost May 28, 2023	*Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24- 34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19- 23



Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 4-18-2023

Present: Randy Koppenhaver, Steven Voland, Kathy Bowe, Jane Umland, Ruthie Rumpff, Lee

Watson, Traci Rabe

Call to order: 6:34 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy – A Cry For Mercy – Henry Nouwen

Monthly Reports

• Financial Secretary - Ruthie

Month income \$6,622.00 (\$1,124.00 below YTD collection) \$18,793.00 (\$4,445.00 below YTD requirement)

The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2nd by Traci)

• Treasurer - Jane

- Giving's received in March to date are \$6,642.92 bringing the checkbook balance to \$51,069.88

The report is approved as presented (motion by Traci and 2nd by Kathy)

Additional discussion on Association dues, Insurance increase, Web-Pro, Website changes

• Building & Grounds checking and Savings - \$16,993.25.

Continued on page 7

Bethlehem Consistory Meeting continued:

- Secretary Kathy
- Approved by Ruthie and 2nd by Traci
- Building & Grounds Updates
- Carpet cleaning complete in aisles of sanctuary and library
- Sound System meeting w/Brian 4/19/23?
- Parsonage furnace getting new estimate
- Checking leak in choir room ceiling will need re-caulking Westerbarth
- Rick Rabe will be looking into canister lighting in front of church
- Looking into outside lighting issues

Pastoral Reports -

- Pastor Randy

Worship -

3/26, 4/2, 4/6, 4/9

Organized Prayer stations for Lent

Participated in Maundy Thursday worship

Participated in Good Friday Worship @ Bethel

Baptisms scheduled for April 23 and May 7

Field of Dreams scheduled for 5/11

Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: May 28, June 4, June 11 (Annual Mtg.), July 16, July 23.

Confirmation/Youth

Class on 3/29 and 4/12

Students did Lenten prayer journals

- 4 students being confirmed on 4/30. They are working on Statements of Faith. I have 4 wooden crosses to give as gifts from the church. Flowers? Cake?
- Two students with schedule conflicts for April. Doing "independent study" with them.
- Next year- would like to hold classes on Sundays 2x/month during Sunday School time.
- Would also like to consider different books for next year. (My Confirmation)
- I'd also like to require participation in a "retreat."

RCF youth game night held at Immanuel UCC on 4/16 - one attended w/ a friend

<u>Mission</u>

- Loads of Love on 4/3 1 client \$19.75 in expenses Next date 5/1 **Can someone cover?**
- Ongoing work on the WISE initiative (Committee: Traci Rabe, Sarah Mueller, Scott Umland, Jane Umland, Nancy Zimmermann, Melissa Koppenhaver, myself) - mtgs. 3/26, 4/2, 5/7 @ 8:30am - Book study will conclude after the May Meeting.
- Do we want to do the Undy 500 again this year? I need to register by April 30.
- Period packs?
- Do we want to continue Highway Clean Up?

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 0x
- Cards 1x for encouragement x1 to visitor "Thanks for joining us"
- Visits 4x
- Hospital visits 0x

(Continued on page 8)

Bethlehem Consistory Meeting continued:

Wider Church/MID process

- -COP (communities of practice) meeting on 3/23, next on 4/27
- -Still attending New Testament course @ Lakeland with Dr. Kuhn
- -working on my MID portfolio UMAT meeting scheduled for 5/11 @ 2:30
 - · Meeting with pastoral support team or selected consistory members?
- NE Assoc. Annual meeting on 4/22

Communication and Other

- -Installation will be Sunday, May 7 at 2pm Pastor Nolte preaching
- -Weekly Blurbs and monthly newsletter articles
- -Meeting with Ecumenical pastors on 4/13 at Bethlehem presentation by Calumet County Dementia Care Specialist
- -I have one commitment (Heidi K) for new member Sunday. One declined
- -Anyone having trouble with copier
- -buy additional copy of "Book of Worship"

Additional discussion on pastor report

- -Consistory will provide flowers for confirmation
- -Jane & Kathy will cover Loads of Love for May
- -Undy 500 yes
- -Highway clean-up yes
- -Additional copy of Worship Book yes
- -Period Packs More info to follow Collect items June-August assemble for Sept Mission

Member Outreach – 1 sympathy, 1 get well, 3-thinking of you

OLD BUSINESS

Pulpit Supply

May - Lou Norsetter

June (4) - Karl Kuhn

June (11) Consistory

Sound System

Waiting for meeting date and time

Request to change evening services to 6:30 PM

Card handed out on 4/9 – more discussion/procedure needed

New Member Letter/Class

New member class will be held on 5/21 at 8:00AM to 9:00AM for anyone wishing to become a member, with installation to follow at the 9:30 service-Any questions can be directed to the consistory or Pastor Randy.

NEW BUSINESS

- Road sign to be up-dated to include Pastor Randy's name as settled pastor
- Band Concert Concessions Signed up to sell food & drinks in Kiel on 8/9/23-more info at a later date
- Request from Gideons to do presentation declined
- Request from Lifeline Screening declined
- Welcome to Lee Watson for joining the consistory
- o Parsonage furnace approved 4,500.00 with go ahead Motion Traci/2nd Ruthie

Continued on page 9

Bethlehem Consistory Meeting continued:

INSTALLATION

- o Sunday May 7th 2:00 PM
- Preaching Pastor Ashley Nolte
- o Fellowship and Refreshments to follow
- o Sign-up sheets for volunteers

Motion to adjourn 8:42PM by Ruthie and 2nd by Jane

Next meeting - May 10, 2023 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Consistory Secretary, Kathy Bowe



Been attending awhile, but not a member? Bethlehem will be holding a "New-Member Sunday on May 21. From 8-9a we will have a brief "class" and discussion about Bethlehem. New members will be "installed" during the 9:30 worship service. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are interested in joining.

Bethlehem Sunday School:

We are grateful for another wonderful Sunday School year! It was a joy to see our children grow in their faith together! The last Sunday of our Sunday School year will be May 21. We hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to connecting with your families in our church services over the summer!



Newly Confirmed Members of Bethlehem:

Congratulations to this year's Confirmands:

Confirmation

Lillie Brockway Ryan Holz Cooper Tesch Logan Tesch

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Bethlehem Ladies:

There was no meeting in April. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16^{th,} at 5pm at Riverview Restaurant. We will have a short meeting and enjoy a meal together. All ladies of the church are welcome to join us.



No meeting in June or July.

Mark your calendar: Bethlehem Ladies Annual Guest Night, Tuesday, September 19th. The Guest Speaker will be from Harbor House. **Harbor House** Domestic Abuse Programs provides safe shelter and support services to survivors of domestic abuse in Northeast **Wisconsin**. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a light lunch and speaker to follow. Please invite your friends and family to attend. More details to follow.

On to wash communion glasses on May 7th are Jeanette and Shirley.

Polly Jeanty Secretary

Reminders:

Just a reminder that the Ladies have a wonderful selection of greeting cards and napkins for sale. The display is located in the Fellowship Hall by the sound room. All cards are marked with a price. Take a look and if you find something you like, simply drop your money in the box found on the display.



One of the Bethlehem Ladies' mission projects is recycling greeting cards. You can help them out by saving all your old greeting cards throughout the year and placing them in one of the Ladies mailboxes at church or giving them to a Consistory member Sunday morning. The cards are given to Project Angel Hugs (children with cancer) and to four assisted living homes in Kiel and New Holstein. Thank you for your help!

Bethlehem Scrip:

Spring is here! Remember to purchase scrip cards when planning your spring needs. Consider using the scrip program when planning your garden or lawn needs.

Remember Mom on Mother's Day! Stop and pick up a gift card for her.

Thank you for your support!

Linda Rabe



SCRIP STATS:

4/02/23 \$3,505.00 \$102.53 4/16/23 \$2,875.00 \$89.25

Loads of Love:



Once a month, recipients meet Bethlehem's Loads of Love team at the laundry mat and are supplied detergent and dryer sheets to wash and dry their clothing, towels, and bedding. Loads of Love also generously provides the quarters for the washers and dryers.

With your help Bethlehem will continue to do God's work through this important mission. Your donations can be placed in the "Laundry Detergent" container located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Thank you for sharing God's love through your generosity!

Merry Christians:

In April, the Merry Christians hosted a pizza party for the Bethlehem family. Approximately thirty people enjoyed pepperoni, hamburger, cheese and deluxe pizza as well as veggie pizza, fruit pizza cookies, and ice cream sundaes with all the toppings.

Kaye Radder

From Our Church Historian:

In 1915 Bethlehem celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its founding. Here is a quote from the 50th Anniversary booklet

"We cannot close this short History of Bethlehem's Congregation without mentioning and boasting about our Devine God. We are happy for what he has done for us; he lifted up all the weakness of his servants. He saw us through the heated discussions and heard all our prayers. He led us through the darkness into the light, the light of his word led the Congregation through all these years. We increased more in spiritual ways, so that he has fewer concerns about our future, but certainly is gracious and a merciful God, and here through Christian glorification, on the poor and sacred souls, that here through Christ, found peace. May the grace and merciful news of the Gospel here, still hunger and thirst many souls in the right direction."



Spring House Cleaning? think trash to treasures

Remember if you are doing some spring housecleaning or downsizing; your trash may be someone else's treasure.

There are plans underway for a church rummage sale in August. If you have items that other households might find useful, please save them for the sale. If you don't have room to store until summer, please contact Merry Christians members who can arrange storage.

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys: We welcome Piercy Edward Hoeper Heugel into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. Piercy was born on 11/6/2022. Piercy's parents are Sage & Emily Heugel and is the grandson of Scott & Jane Umland

Families who have lost loved ones:

June Propson (Sarah Mueller's Fiance`s Grandmother) Lucy Dreifuerst (Brian Witkowski's Grandmother)



Those struggling with health issues:



Scott Umland
Shirley Henschel
Bob Radder
Doreen Schmidt
Gary Steinhardt
Sandra Tesch
Darlene Horneck
John Buchholz
Daisy Sippel
Ross Sippel
Tom Lefeber
Helen Henning
Hattie Lucille
Dawson Horneck

Jessica Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin & Doris Mae Ninmer

Other concerns:

Those affected by gun violence
Those affected by the war in Ukraine
Those affected by violence and oppression in other places of the world
Those affected by wildfires or other natural disasters

Undy 500:

It's time for the Undy 500!!! During the month of May, we will again be collecting items for the Milwaukee Guest House. Along with your jingle change please prayerfully consider bringing NEW men and women's undergarments.



Period Pack - Menstrual Hygiene Kit Collection:



In may parts of the world, women and girls live in period poverty – lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies. During the menstrual cycle, these hygiene materials are especially important to healthy practices. Not having supplies like sanitary napkins, tampons, soap and disposable plastic bags can create challenges that lead to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Now you can help women and girls around the world living in period poverty. The CWS (Church World Services) Period Pack gives women and girls the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy and live with dignity during the menstrual cycle.

During the months of May, June, July, August and September our Bethlehem family will be collecting menstrual hygiene supplies and will then assemble these kits as part of our Mission Fest Sunday. Supplies can be brought to church during these months.

Supplies Needed:

- One 1 gallon Ziploc bag
- Two 2 oz bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4 gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of Wet Ones
- Ten unscented tampons (5 regular, 5 super absorbency)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package (3oz bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen's soap)
- One pack of flushable wipes (Unscented. 42 count)
- Six laundry detergent sheets (place sheets in small Ziploc bag.)
- Monetary donations will also be accepted to put towards completing kits and shipping/processing fees

Graduates:

Please let Pastor Randy know if you have a high school or college graduate in your family.

Save your Christmas Lights:

Do you have Christmas lights that no longer work? DON'T THROW THEM OUT! Please bring them to church and place them in the basket under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall.

Save your Aluminum Cans:

Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans. Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.



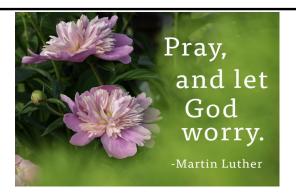
Snow Shoveling Volunteers:

Hats off to ALL who took the time to shovel the sidewalks at church this past winter! Thank you so much for keeping the walkways clear and safe for your Bethlehem family and friends!!



Community Outreach and Events:

- There is a flyer on the bulletin board regarding grief support and cancer support groups at Holy Family in Manitowoc. There is also a flyer re: foster parenting.
- All you can Eat Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Dinner on Sunday April 30, 2023 from 3-6pm. Also Serving: Brats, Hamburgers, Applesauce, Desserts, Milk, & Coffee Cost: \$14.00 for Adults, \$8.00 for Children 6-12 years, Free for Children 5 & Under Zion Lutheran Church, 1702 Van Buren St., New Holstein, proceeds benefit the Zion LYF
 - W. May 10th 4-7pm Brat Fry at St. James UCC in Spring Valley Brats, Burgers, Chicken Breasts and Tortes – <u>Carry Outs Only</u>
 - May 11 (8am to 5pm) and May (8am to 3pm) Rummage Sale at Zion Lutheran Church in New Holstein
 - May 12 Community UCC Drive-thru Fish Fry at Anchor Lanes in Elkhart Lake 4-7pm



Just for Fun:



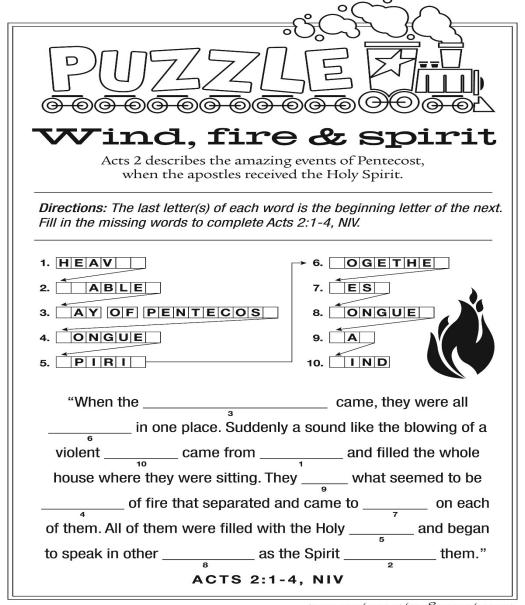
For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

What you need:

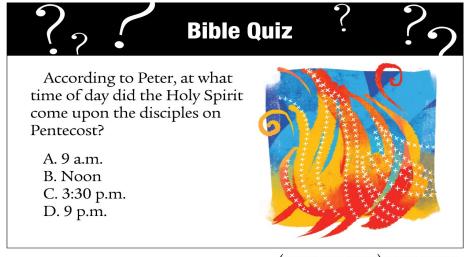
- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



- Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper.
 Carefully cut them out.
- 2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
- 3. Color the two images with markers.
- Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
- Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.



Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)



MAY VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS - Laundry Detergent or Fabric Softener

MAY JINGLE CHANGE supports Undy 500



MAY 2023 – BETHLEHEM EVENTS

	1417-7 1			IVI EVEIVI		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Loads of Love	2	3	National Day	5	6
7 8:30am S. School 8:30am WISE mtg. 9:30am Communion Service & Baptism w/Pastor Randy 2pm Pastor Randy's Installation Services	8	9	6:30pm Consistory Mtg.	11	12	13
8:30am S. School 9:30am Worship W/Pastor Randy Mothers Day	15	5pm Bethlehem Ladies mtg at Riverview Restaurant in Kiel	June Spirit News due to Traci by 5pm	18	19	20
8:30am S. School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship	29	30	31			

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDA Y	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Rick & Linda Rabe (1982) Kerry & Sharon Rumpff (2020)	2 Elizabeth Deignan Barb Henning	3 Sara Jeanty Garrett & Ginny Schultz (1997) Kevin & Mandy Voland (2014)	4	5 Grant & Christa Taylor (1972)	6
7 Dayna Schultz Jenna Rumpff	8 Nick Hanson Merri Wempner	9 Jennifer Brockway Tim Mueller	10 Bryan Jeanty	11 Pam Bowe	Jennifer Stroschine	13
14 Sarah Arnold Brenda Riesterer	15	16	17	18	19 Melanie Voland Ben & Cassie Jeanty (2018)	20
21 Allyson Wirtz Merlin & Doris Mae Ninmer (1949)	22	23	24 Bill & Kelly Biwan (1997)	25 Trevor & Tess Rabe (2019)	26	27 Noah Watson Amber Hoeffner
28 Davin Horneck	29 Armond Wempner	30	31 Lloyd Rumpff			

