

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!

As I write this, it's early evening. I'm sitting on my deck under our screened gazebo. It isn't overly warm, but it's comfortable. When not drowned out by traffic noise on the county highway, I'm being treated to a symphony: the song of the oriole... the call of the robins... the buzz of the hummingbirds as they zoom to and from the feeder... the squawking of the peepers down in the swamp not too far through the woods from our property line.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. - 2 Corinthians 9:8

Even though my body aches from the weekend's lawn work, and the road noise drowns out the birds I love to hear, I can't help but take note of my blessings. There are so many good things in my life... so many reasons to be happy and celebrate... I just can't thank God enough.

Many of my blessings are found right in the community of Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Thank you SO much, for investing your faith and trust in me, and for calling me to be your pastor.

Continued on page 2



JUNE 2023

Pastor Randy's Ramblings	1-2
Bethlehem Information	3-4
Lectionary	4
Consistory Monthly Mtg.	5-7
Sunday School	7
Loads of Love	7
Bethlehem Ladies	8
Scrip	9
Merry Christians	9
Historian	10
Rummage Sale	10
Graduates	11
Delegates Needed	11
Prayers	12
Period Packs	13
Thank You	13
Community Events	14
Pantry Needs/Jingle Change	15
Bethlehem Events	15
Birthdays & Anniversaries	16

JULY SPIRIT DEADLINE:

SUN., JUNE 18th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com

Pastor Randy's Ramblings continued:

A special thank you to everyone who made the special trip BACK to church on the afternoon of Sunday, May 7 for my installation. Thank you also for the fabulous gifts you gave me as a congregation.

So here is an explanation and an update: some have asked what it means to be the “settled” pastor. Basically that implies that I’m “your guy.” Permanently; or until one of us ends the covenantal relationship. I’m now your “official pastor.” Previously I was part time and considered a “lay” leader who worked alongside ordained ministers such as pastor’s Becky and Roy. There’s no more sharing of the job, and I’m no longer considered a “lay” person.

Installation is great, but my next goal is ordination. It won’t really change anything for you, the people of Bethlehem, but it will place me in full standing with the association, conference, and national body of the United Church of Christ. My current *license* has to be renewed each year and only allows me to serve Bethlehem. Ordination changes that and opens up other doors.

The process requires me to explore my competencies and pinpoint areas for growth. I then work to try and gain those skills through coursework or other experiences. How long will the process take? It’s really unclear, but it probably won’t be quick.

Just so you’re aware, you won’t see much of me the next few Sundays. May 28th will be my off-week for May, and June 4 is my June off-week due to Kenzie’s high school graduation. June 11, I’ll be “on duty” but not at Bethlehem. I’ll be attending the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake, Friday through Sunday. However, just because I won’t be leading worship, doesn’t mean I’m not available for you. I will still be around Monday-Saturday of all those weeks. Please reach out if you need something.

Enjoy your holiday weekend and have a great start to your summer!

In Christ,
Pastor Randy



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

You can also 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/>
- OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website at a time that is convenient for you and your family www.bethlehemkiel.org



Pastoral Care: If you have any pastoral/spiritual care needs please contact Pastor Randy.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steve Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@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 or LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or rrumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com

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

Lectionary Readings for JUNE:

<i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i> June 4, 2023	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8		2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Second Sunday after Pentecost June 11, 2023	Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12	Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm 50:7-15	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Third Sunday after Pentecost June 18, 2023	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 25, 2023	Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39

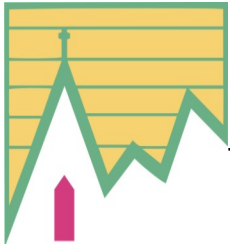
Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 5-10-2023

Present: Randy Koppenhaver, Steven Voland, Kathy Bowe, Jane Umland, Ruthie Rumpff, Lee Watson, Traci Rabe, Ross Westphalen

Call to order: 6:38 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy – Prayer by William Barkley

Monthly Reports



- **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

- Month income \$8,409.00 (\$663.00 above YTD collection) \$27,202.00 (\$3,782.00 below YTD requirement)

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

- **Treasurer – Jane**

- Giving's received in April to date are \$8,629.89 bringing the checkbook balance to \$53,138.57

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

Building & Grounds checking and Savings – \$17,593.25.

- **Secretary – Kathy**

Approved by Lee and 2nd by Traci

Building & Grounds Updates

- Sound System – will be working on wiring for audio/visual
- Parsonage furnace – received 2 estimates – will present to Bldg & Grds
- Checking leak in choir room ceiling – will need re-caulking – Westerbarth
- Canister lighting in front of church – complete
- Looking into outside lighting issues
- Repaired urinal in men's room

Pastoral Reports – *Pastor Randy*

Worship -

- 4/23, 4/30, 5/7
- Baptisms April 23 and May 7
- Participated in ecumenical National Day of Prayer service on May 4
- Installation 5/7
- Field of Dreams 5/11
- Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: May 28, June 4, June 11 (Annual Mtg.), July 16, July 23, Aug. 27, Oct. 15

Confirmation/Youth

-Confirmation Sunday went off with any issues.

-Next year classes will meet 2x/month on Sundays

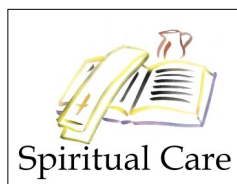
- Next youth event on May 21, 5-7pm at Bethel. Outdoor activities like volleyball and a campfire.
- Please give me any receipts for reimbursement for items you bought for the conf. reception. I will submit them to Ginny.

Mission

- Loads of Love on 5/1 - \$16 spent
- Ongoing work on the WISE initiative (Committee: Traci Rabe, Sarah Mueller, Scott Umland, Jane Umland, Nancy Zimmermann, Melissa Koppenhaver, myself) - mtgs. 5/7 @ 8:30am - Book study concluded. Looking at getting a guest speaker from NAMI
- Undy 500 is on-going
- Period Pack starting this summer

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 6x
- Other electronic communication 1x
- Cards 2x
- Visits 1x
- Hospital visits 0x



Wider Church/MID process

- COP (communities of practice) meeting on 4/27
- Finished New Testament course @ Lakeland
- worked a lot on my MID portfolio - UMAT meeting scheduled for 5/11 @ 2:30
- Attended NE Assoc. Annual meeting on 4/22
- registered for WI Conf annual meeting in Green Lake, June 9-11

Communication and Other

- Weekly Blurbs and monthly newsletter articles
- New member Sunday: Abbi Reis, Heidi Konen, Nancy Zimmerman, Sharon Rumpff
What about coffee and donuts before worship? 9am?
- Next ecumenical meeting on June 1
- letter from missionaries Clements Family

Member Outreach – 1 birthday

OLD BUSINESS

Pulpit Supply

May – Lou Norsetter
June (4) – Karl Kuhn
June (11) Consistory

Request to change evening services to 6:30 PM

Steven checking into procedure to make the change

New Member Letter/Class

Fellowship before church service on 5/21 9:00AM

Bethlehem Consistory Meeting continued:

Installation

Event was well received

Period Pack Project

Collection to begin June and run thru August

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 - Tentative menu – hot dogs, chips, drinks and baked goods.
- Parsonage furnace – approved 4,500.00 with go ahead – Motion Traci/2nd Ruthie Amended to \$7050.00 with new quotes – Motion made by Traci and 2nd by Lee This would cover the quote from Maple Valley.
- Received a letter from the Clements Family who will be doing a mission project for 1 year. Family will be speaking at our church on July 16th. Watch for further details.
- Summer Outdoor Service/Picnic
 - Tentative plans for an outdoor service on 8/6/23 with a picnic to follow-watch for information.
- Copy Paper – Jane will purchase 2 cases of 8X11 copy paper



Motion to adjourn 8:20PM by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross

Next meeting – June 13, 2023 7:00 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Consistory Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Sunday School:



Enjoy your summers everyone! Sunday School will see the students back in Sunday School in the fall!

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!

Bethlehem Ladies:

Six members met on Tuesday, May 16th, at 5pm at Riverview Restaurant. We enjoyed a meal together and had a short meeting to follow.



Thank you card was read from Shirley Henschel.

We will be playing Bingo at Field of Dreams on Saturday, June 24 at 10am. Polly will get the prizes.

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 June 4th are Ginny and Polly.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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:

Summer is here! Please remember to keep scrip in mind if you are taking a vacation. With some pre-planning, we could offer gas cards or restaurant cards. I have a list of all cards available. I currently sell the 1st and 3rd sundays, but you can always give me a call if needed other than those dates.

Please remember 10% of our profits are put aside for the families in need.

Thank you for your continued support.

Linda Rabe

SCRIP STATS:

4/30/2023	\$2,450.00	\$ 86.00
5/07/2023	\$3,230.00	\$ 94.76



Merry Christians:

The Bethlehem Merry Christians made a special donation to Heifer International who has been approached by another institution with an offer to multiply by 10 times whatever donations are made to Heifer before June first.

The Merry Christians annually support Heifer International with a Christmas appeal to our congregation. The short notice made it difficult to do that in this case.

So the Bethlehem Merry Christians is sending a check to Heifer for \$1,000.00 along with a private check from one of our members for another \$1,000.00 for this very important drive to assist in getting poor people around the world to become self-sufficient. The multiplying factor of times ten will be given credit for the gift of \$20,000.00 altogether.

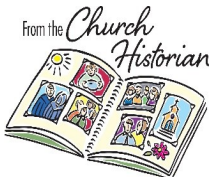
Research was also done to check with Heifer to assure this was not a scam.

Thank you to the Bethlehem congregation for your support in our endeavor.

*Thanks,
Everyone!*

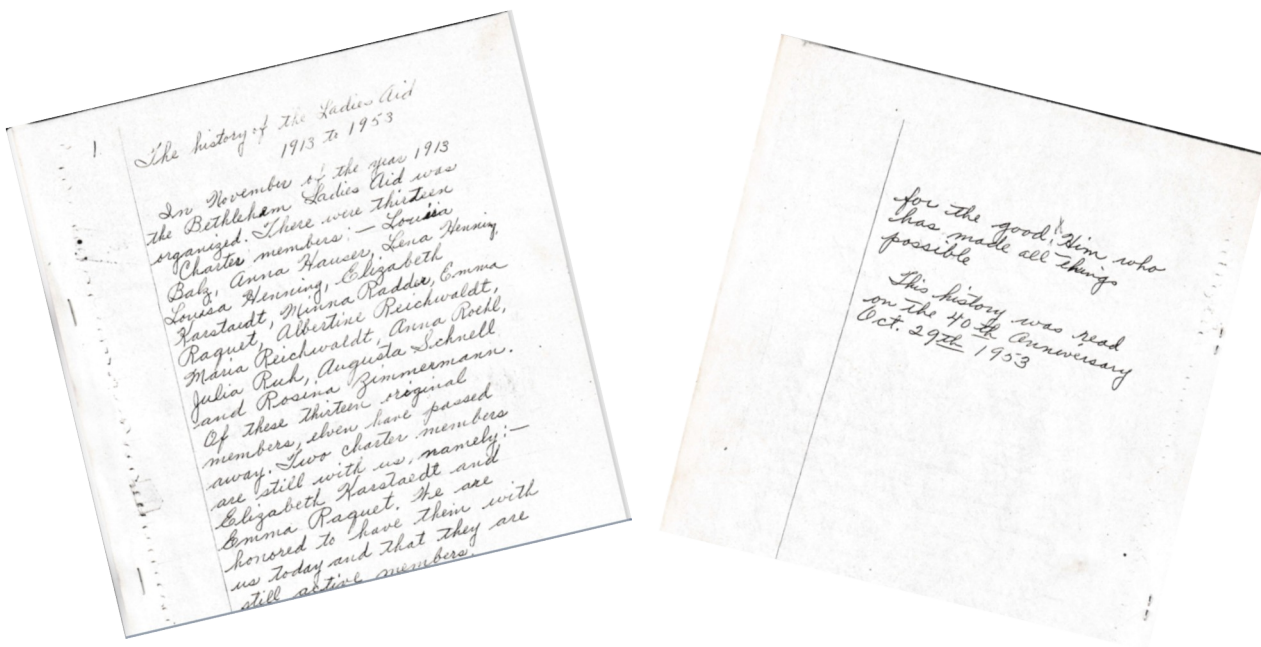
A stylized green and yellow flower graphic with multiple petals, positioned to the right of the 'Thanks, Everyone!' text.

From Our Church Historian:



I was recently excited when Judy Mueller presented to me a 16 page handwritten history of the Ladies Aid. This was from Adeline Balz Schmitz who grew up at Bethlehem. The document will be available in the Fellowship hall for anyone to read in its entirety.

This is just one of the types of items that I encourage people to donate to Bethlehem's history files. Other things that would be appropriate include Confirmation pictures, wedding pictures, information about building projects, and information about our pastors. Many times individuals who served on committees as our church leaders may have kept papers, folders, and files at home. While the pictures and papers don't tell the whole story, these can be part of Bethlehem's important records.



Kaye Radder, Historian

Just a reminder of the upcoming church rummage sale in August.

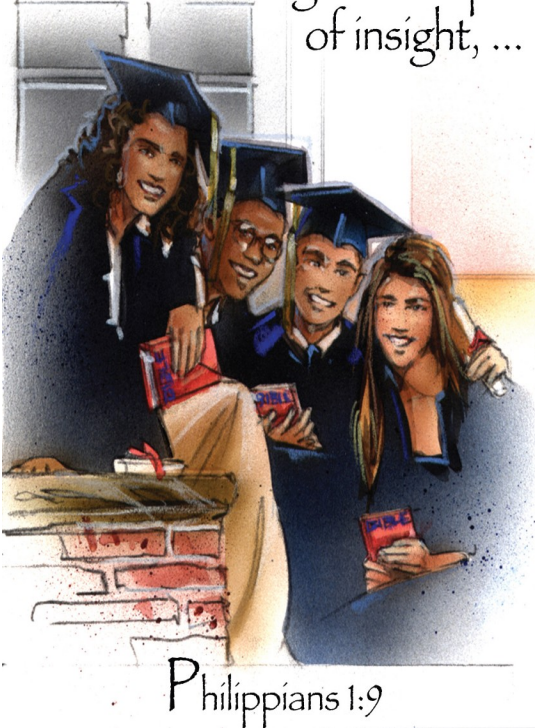
Your trash may be someone else's treasure.

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. If you need boxes or bags to gather items, just ask.



Congrats to our 2023 Graduates

This is my prayer: that your
love may abound more and
more in knowledge and depth
of insight, ...



Dylan Jeanty, Kiel High School - Attending Fox Valley Technical College in the fall to study Wood Manufacturing Technology

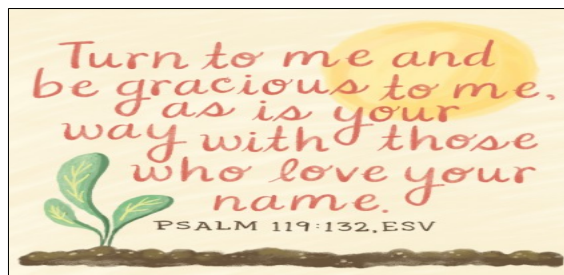
Kenzie Koppenhaver, Kiel High School - Attending Edgewood College in Madison in the fall to study music production. She will also be a member of the women's soccer team.

Trevor Muehlbauer, Kiel High School - Working at Drexel Building Supply

Laura Mueller, UW-Green Bay - Majored in Communications

Zoe Watson, Kiel High School - Attending UW Oshkosh in Oshkosh, WI in the fall to study nursing. She will also be competing on the women's cross-country and track teams.

We are in need of delegates to attend the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake from June 9-11. You can attend only part of the weekend if that works better. Please let Pastor Randy if you are interested in attending.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

The baptism of Emma Marie Reis on 5/7/23. Parents are Abbi and Ben Reis.

For Lillie Brockway, Ryan Holz, Cooper Tesch and Logan Tesch who affirmed their baptisms though the Rite of Confirmation on 4/30/23.

The baptism of Piercy Edward Hoeper Heugel on 4/23/23. He is the grandson of Jane & Scott Umland.

Families who have lost loved ones:

Robert Suttner



Those struggling with health issues:



Scott Umland

Bob Radder

Doreen Schmidt

Gary Steinhardt

Sandra Tesch

Darlene Horneck

John Buchholz

Daisy Sippel

Ross Sippel

Tom Lefebber

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

Period Pack – Menstrual Hygiene Kit Collection:



In many 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*



Members of Bethlehem, Thank you so much for the faith and trust you've placed in me over the past seven years. It is my privilege to be your settled pastor! Thank you also for the gifts I received at installation. I love them! May God bless you all! – Pastor Randy

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.



Community Outreach and Events:

*Looking for a fun way to start your 4th of July weekend?
Come support Sheboygan's own amateur baseball team
while meeting up with area church members!*

**YOU are invited to share in
a local UCC Congregations
evening of fellowship & fun
at the Sheboygan A's
7:30pm game on
Friday, June 30th!**





JUNE VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS -

Tube of Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Deodorant or Lotion

JUNE Jingle Change supports Strengthen the Church



JUNE 2023 – BETHLEHEM EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9:30am Worship w/Karl Kuhn  Trinity Sunday	5 Loads of Love	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30am Worship led by Consistory members "Hymn Sing"	12	13 7pm Consistory mtg.	14  FLAG DAY	15	16	17
18 8am WISE Team mtg. -NAMI speaker  9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy July Spirit News due to Traci by 5pm	19  Juneteenth	20	21  First Day of Summer	22	23	24
25 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	26	27	28	29	30	

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake from June 9-11



JUNE

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Tim & Judy Mueller (2000)	2	3 Kylie Brockway Brenna Kopenhagen Brian Radder
4 Brooke Muehlbauer	5	6 Keatyn Suttner Gene Radder Jesse & Jenna Rumpff (2015)	7	8 Ginny Schultz	9	10
11 Melissa Kopenhagen	12	13 Julie Mueller Kate Wilharms	14 Will & Lora Mathes (1975)	15 Kevin Volland	16 Zoe Watson	17 Jason & Jennifer Brockway (2006)
18 Mike Brockway	19 Ryan & Sarah Arnold (1999)	20 Bonnie Zorn Maria Hoban Eric Muehlbauer	21	22	23 Lee & Nicole Watson (2001)	24
25 Trent Hanson Marissa Molitor	26 Jerry Wehrmann	27 Warren Fidlin Kayla Hanson Brad & Maria Hoban (2015)				



AND GOD SAID,

"Let there be lights
in the expanse of the
heavens to separate the day
from the night. And let them be for signs
and for seasons, and for days and years."

Genesis 1:14