

The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

Hello, Good People!

I hope that your summer has been rejuvenating and relaxing. As I write this, I am at my mother and stepfather's home on Island Lake, MN. The call of the loons, the racket of the blue jays, and the sound of the breeze in the trees fill my soul with peace. I love being here.

As summer winds down, planning for fall ramps up. But before we get ahead of ourselves, don't forget about the community worship at Kiel City Park on August 10 at 9:00am. (NOT 9:30!). We will be worshipping in a joint service with St. Peters UCC of Kiel. However, Pastor Herda will be out of town, so I, Pastor Randy, am leading the worship. We hope you will join us. (Separate offerings will be collected for BUCC and St. Peters.)

Fall events include the start of Sunday School on Sept. 7 and Mission and Service Sunday on Sept. 21. Bethlehem will also be sponsoring a mental health guest speaker at the Kiel Community Center on Monday, Oct 20 starting at 6pm. Please watch for details on these and more future events.

Acts 20:35 *In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

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AUGUST 2025

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SEPTEMBER DEADLINE:

Sunday, August 17th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at
trabefamily5@gmail.com



Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

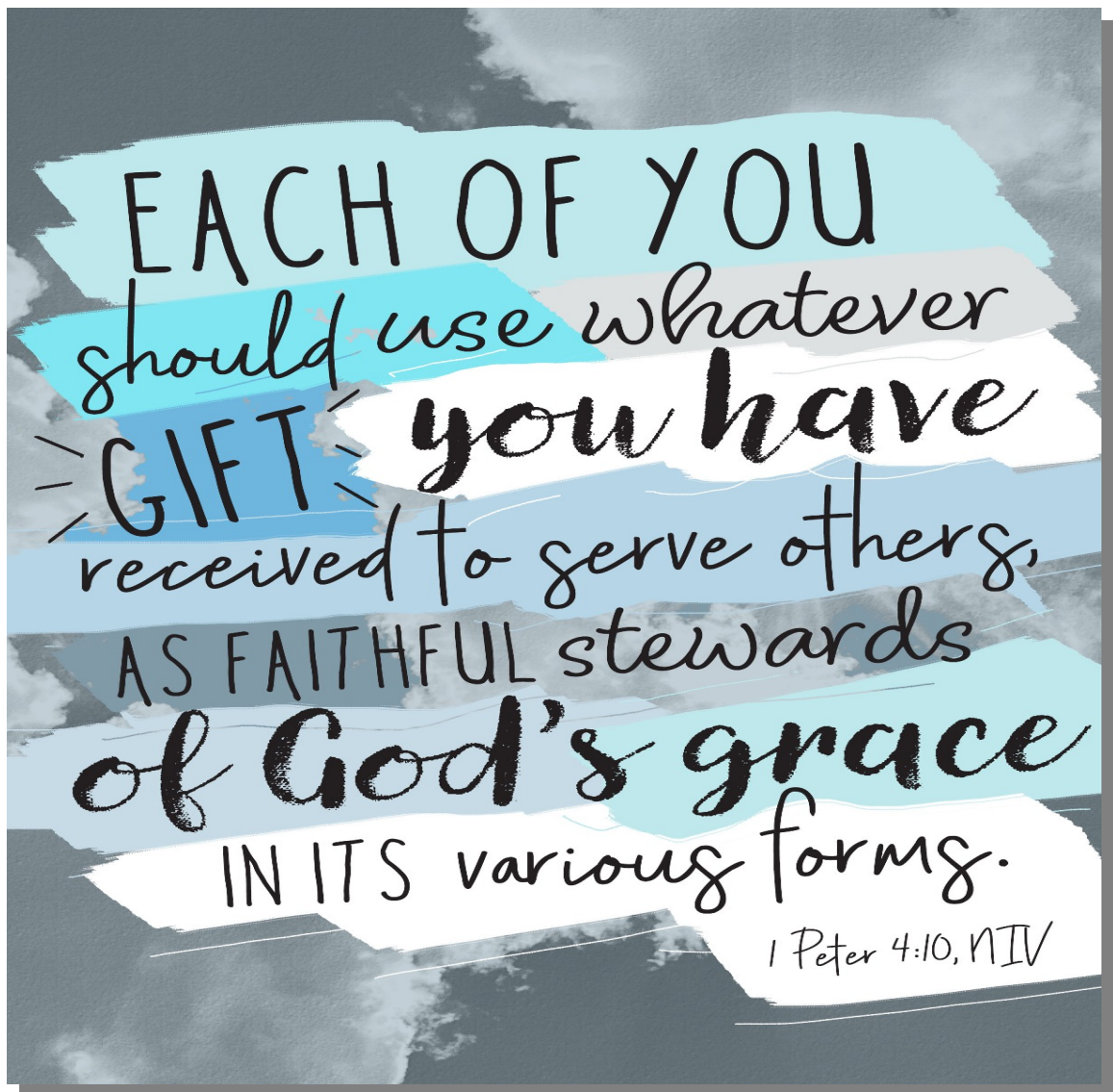
Luke 6:35 *But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High.*

These verses are a reminder of a continuous theme throughout the Gospels: **We are called to serve.** I'm very grateful for the many members of our church who give up personal time for the act of volunteerism. I know we have many members who work at food pantries, volunteer at care centers, or perhaps are even members of local service organizations. Melissa and I recently joined an area Kiwanis club. It feels great to serve neighbors and the larger community. I strongly encourage everyone to "step up" and volunteer in some way. As we hear in Acts, *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

Enjoy these final weeks of summer. God bless you all!

In Christ's Love,

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:

Reverend Randall 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 anytime that is convenient for you and your family www.bethlehemkiel.org
- **Sunday School September – May beginning at 8am**

2025 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Reverend Randall Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com

Elder/President - Steve 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 or LandKBowe@outlook.com

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

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

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 detail

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!

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 1.99% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add this charge to your donation.

Thank you for all your support!



Pastoral Care: Please keep me informed of hospitalizations and other pastoral care needs. If you know of someone from our church family who is sick or in the hospital, ask if they've let me know. If not, offer to contact me on their behalf. I don't want anyone to feel unsupported in a time of need. - Reverend Randy (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!

Reverend Randy is looking for persons interested in leading worship services as liturgists. Lead the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Read a portion of the scriptures. A sign-up sheet is on the door to the pastor's office. Let Randy know if you have any questions.



Lectionary Readings for AUGUST:

Sunday, August 4 ~ Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Ecclesiastes 1:12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 10 ~ Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 17 ~ Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 24 ~ Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:6 Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 31 ~ Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Proverbs 25:6-7 Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14



Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 7-8-2025

Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Traci Rabe, Lee Watson, Ruthie Runpff and Rev Randy Koppenhaver

Call to order: 6:45 PM

Opening by Randy: Brian Erickson prayer reflecting on TX disaster

Monthly Reports

Financial Secretary – Ruthie

- Month income \$7,063.00 (\$1,628.00 below YTD collection) \$40,844.00 (\$11,302.00 below YTD requirement)

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

Jingle Change – month of June – Strengthen the Church– \$286.99

Treasurer – Jane

- Giving's received in June to date are \$7,221.89 bringing the checkbook balance to \$45,434.66

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

Building & Grounds Checking and Savings

- Checking = \$9,452.16
- Saving = \$8,675.46

CD update (Bank First) (\$5000.00 ea.)

- CD-#3077 invested (\$5000.00)
- CD #2548 invested (\$5000.00)
- CD #5815 invested (\$5000.00)
- CD #5409 invested (\$5000.00)

Secretary – Kathy

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the June Spirit of Bethlehem.

Approved by Traci and 2nd by Ross.

Building & Grounds Updates

- Door and window seals are being looked at by Rick & Tom R
- A few other small projects are on hold pending weather and help
 - Church blacktop project is complete
 - Landscape project by Merry Christians will proceed as soon as weather permits



Pastoral Report



Worship -

- Upcoming “OFF” Sundays:, July 20, Aug 31, Sept 7
- Picnic/outdoor worship on July 13 - planning regular worship unless consistory wants otherwise
- Still working on a date for Field of Dreams in July
- **Summer Worship in the Park - August 10 - No service @ BUCC - Randy leading worship**
- Aug 24- Rodriguez baptism

Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

- VBS w/ St. Mark's/James: 9a-12 - August 12, 13, 14 - 3 committed
- Confirmation: never received some “assigned” items from students
- Attended youth volleyball games on 6/15, 6/22

Mission

- Loads of Love - 7/7 - \$38.75 (1 Client) \$36.50 was donations for June
- WISE
- Approval of our WISE covenant is still pending
- Looking at some partnerships with NAMI of Manitowoc County
- Met on 7/6 - Try to arrange Officer Adam Meyers as a guest speaker (cost \$500) This would be a community event. <https://stopthethreatstopthestigma.org/> Possible date 19 or 20 of October.
- Food Pantry - I attended on 6/26, along with 4 other volunteers; Immanuel date is 7/24 - Looking at the possibility of going twice a month.

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 5x
- Other electronic communication 3x
- Cards 2x
- Visits 1x
- Care Center/Hospital visits 1x
- Communication and Other

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem – 1 baby

OLD BUSINESS

Binder Up-date – Date/Volunteered. Steven, Jane and Kathy volunteered to meet at a different date to review all positions and any other binder materials.

Summer Service Sunday/Game Day (indoor – due to weather)

- Food – Dishes to pass
- Broasted Chicken
- Games



August Park Service – Aug 10 – Kiel 9:00am

Mission Sunday – Sept 21st

- Sandwiches for Guest House
- Highway clean-up
- Disaster Hygiene kit – see items needed and poster board

NEW BUSINESS

Bethlehem Ladies collection – approved to collect items for Sept guest night with Randy Olm

Future Financial ideas – possibly set up a special meeting to brainstorm on fund-raising ideas to increase bldg. & grds funds for future repairs (etc)

- Egg roll sale (similar to pizza sale)
- Raffle

Rent to General fund will stay at 10%

Any month with a 5th Sunday, Jingle change will be given to the W.I.S.E. committee – Motion made by Ross and 2nd by Lee

Jingle change for the month of August will go to a designated community facility - Pathways

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 8/10 – **Church Service at the Kiel park 9:00 am**
- 9/21 – Mission Sunday

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie & Traci

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

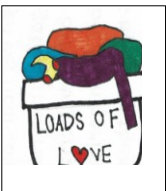
Next meeting – Aug 12, 2025, 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe



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 Sunday School:

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS – SEPT 7TH AT 8:00 AM

Sunday School families will be receiving a letter soon, outlining the details and the starting date in September. We begin classes the Sunday after Labor Day at 8:00 a.m. Please reply to the letter confirming “yes or no” to attending Sunday School. If you do not receive a letter, contact Kathy Bowe (920-894-7243)

We are looking for more help in teaching Sunday School. This is not a full-time job. Teachers share weeks and set their own schedule. Lessons and supplies are provided. Feel free to sit in on any class and help with activities or just be a helper.

See you on Sunday Sept 7th.

Keep collecting those cans!



Bethlehem Scrip:

Summer is flying by! "Back to School" fliers are starting to appear. Consider buying scrip cards to support your back to school needs.

I carry Walmart, Meijer, and Kohls on a weekly basis. Stop at the scrip table and check it out!

Thank you for your continued support of the scrip program!

~Linda Rabe

Scrip Stats:		Profit
6/29/25	\$3,300.00	\$104.76
7/06/25	\$1,845.00	\$ 48.65
7/20/25	\$1,000.00	\$ 40.05



CAPS AND EGG CARTONS:

Thank you to all who save egg cartons and caps. The egg cartons are used in a food bank, as eggs are re-packaged. The caps are recycled and used to make plastic park benches. ***Please make sure that your caps are washed and free of any food or milk, otherwise they tend to mold and they are not passed along.*** Thank you!

Bethlehem Ladies:



There was no meeting in July.

Our Annual Guest Night will be Tuesday, September 16th. (**Note:** The date was listed incorrectly in the last Spirit). 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.

During the month of **August**, the Bethlehem Ladies will be accepting donations of items for the Kiel Area Community Center and will be presented to the pantry at our Guest Night. These items can be brought to church and placed in the basket at the entrance.

Here is a list of their current needs. Thank you for your generosity!!!

Kiel Area Community Food Pantry Inc.

July 2025

Most Needed Items:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Boxed Cereal (Adult or Children) | 7. Canned Beef Stew/Chili/ Hash |
| 2. Pasta Sauce | 8. Hamburger Helper |
| 3. Large & Small cans of Soup | 9. Pork & Beans |
| 4. Canned Fruits | 10. Salad Dressing/Mayo |
| 5. Jam/Jelly | |
| 6. Mac & Cheese | |

Other Items: Laundry Soap/ Dish Soap

On to wash Communion Glasses on Sunday, August 3rd is Heidi Konen. A special THANK YOU to those who have been helping us out with the glasses. If you are interested in washing communion glasses, please sign up for a Sunday or just stop in the kitchen after worship. Thank you!!

Our next meeting is Sunday, August 17th at 8:30 am.

Polly Jeanty
Secretary

Bethlehem Merry Christians:



A huge THANK YOU to all of you who participated in the Kiel Piggly Wiggly Round Up in the month of May.

The Merry Christians received a check for \$1,569.12 which will be used for our Mission Projects.

Bethlehem's Annual Rummage Sale:

Church rummage sale is on. If you have items that other households might find useful, please bring them for the sale.

Your Help will be needed. Sign up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall, or email to schedule a time (kayerad@hotmail.com). Even an hour will help.

- *Wednesday, August 6: 8:00 am to noon pricing and set up*
- *Thursday, August 7: 3:00pm to 7 pm Sales Staff*
- *Friday, August 8: 8:00am to 5:00 pm Sales Staff*
- *Saturday, August 9, 8:00am to noon Sales Staff*
- *Saturday, August 9: 12:00 to 1:00pm Clean Up Crew*



If you have items to donate, these can be dropped off in the new garage. If you would like us to pick up your items, do not hesitate to contact members of the Merry Christians. We will be happy to make arrangements.

Please no TVs or other electronics. These have not been selling and require a disposal fee.

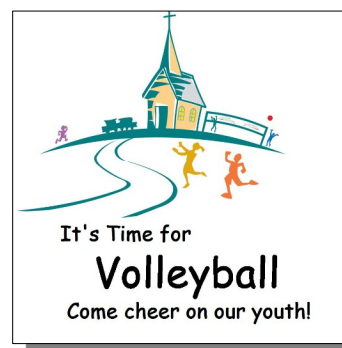
Get Comfortable!



*Bethlehem has a new "lounge" located in the middle Sunday School room.
Comfortable seating! Coffee! Books and Games!
We also have many resources on wellness if you're interested.
Feel free to relax or meet for conversation.*

Rural Church Summer Volleyball Schedule

Tournament Date = August 3 at St. Marks/St. James at Noon



Feel free to look at the collection of pictures recording the construction of the “New” Bethlehem church, 20 years ago. These pictures were taken by Delores Rabe, who came to the building site almost everyday to capture the building progress.



From the Church Historian:

Twenty years ago, many items were brought from the old church to the new church. Here is a little history of two of those items.

The Organ: In May 1999, a fund was begun for a new organ. On June 24 & 25 the new organ was installed. The Ahlborn-Galanti electronic organ was purchased for \$18,000. Then on June 27, 1999 the new organ was used for the first time. Polly Jeanty was the organist. Several other organists provided the music for services with this fine new instrument. Fast forward to 2005. The new organ was moved to the new church where today Kathy Bowe and Polly Jeanty share the organist role.

The Pews: In 1969 a committee was chosen to select new pews to replace the curved pews being used. In 1970 a dedication was held for the new pews, altar, pulpit and railings. Then in September 1970, lightning struck the church steeple and fire broke out. Only the steeple area needed repair, the new pews were unscathed. In 1989 the seats of the pews were covered with padded cushion seats. In January 2006, these padded pews were moved to the new church. However, there were not enough pews to fill the seating space in the new sanctuary. A generous donor provided pew chairs for the side aisles and choir area.

Kaye Radder, Historian



Mission and Service Sunday will be September 21st! Save the date!



We will be making sandwiches 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.

On Sunday, Aug 10, there will be NO WORSHIP SERVICE at Bethlehem. *Members are encouraged to attend the "community" worship service which will be held at Kiel City Park at 9:00 am. Pastor Randy is leading that service.*



Those in our Thoughts and Prayers

Joys:

*For the birth of Daniel Otto Koch – July 15, 2025 – Parents: Andrew & Michelle Koch;
Grandparents: Kerry & Barb Henning*

Those struggling with health issues:



*Louie Bowe
Ross Sippel
Will Mathes
Brad Westphalen
Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck
Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck
Mary Beth Molitor
Tom Lefeber
Dana
Marie Rietbrock
Donna Firman
Hubert*

Those unable to worship with us:

*Merlin Ninmer
Helen Henning*

Other BETHLEHEM IMPORTANT Announcements:



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

~Can you help? Bethlehem will be assisting at the Immanuel UCC Food Pantry on a Thursday once a month. Times are approximately 8:30 – 11am. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall for Thursday, August 28th.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Check church bulletin board for flyers

- Friday, August 1 - **Faith and Family Night** at the WIS Timber Rattlers game – See Flyer in Fellowship Hall for details.
- *Vacation Bible School for Adults and Children with Disabilities – August 4-7, 9:30a-12pm @ St. James Episcopal Church- Manitowoc. Details on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall*
- August 15 and 16 – Gospel Music Fest – Hilbert Civic Park – See flyer in Fellowship Hall for details



AUGUST Kiel Pantry items: Jar of Peanut Butter or Jelly



AUGUST Jingle Change supports: Pathways



AUGUST BETHLEHEM Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30am Communion Service	4 Loads of Love 4pm	5	6 8am- noon Rummage Sale Pricing and Set up at church garage	7 3pm -7 pm Rummage Sale at church garage	8 8am to 5pm Rummage Sale at church garage	9 8am-noon Rummage Sale at Church garage 12 – 1pm Rummage Sale Clean Up
10 9am Worship @ Kiel City Park w/St. Peters	11	12 VBS 9-N @ St. Mark's/St. James 6:30pm Consistory mtg	13 VBS 9-N @ St. Mark's/St. James	14 VBS 9-N @ St. Mark's/St. James	15	16
17 9:30am Worship 5PM September Spirit articles due to Traci	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30am Worship 31 9:30am Worship	25	26	27	28 9am Bethlehem @ Immanuel Food Pantry	29	30



AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Logan Tesch Jaden Witkowski	4 Lillie Brockway	5 Donna Truttmann-Retlich	6	7 Tony Bowe	8 David Meyer	9 David Radder
10 Ryan & Molly Rabe	11	12 Maxwell Volland	13 Polly Jeanty Linda Rabe	14	15	16
17 Cooper Tesch	18	19 Ian Schmidt	20 Rachel Muehlbauer David & Julie Meyer	21 Kyle Pennell	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Rich & Lori Schmitt	30 Lee Watson
31						

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Bethlehem UCC

11608 Lax Chapel Road

Kiel, WI 53042

Thursday, August 7 - 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Friday, August 8 - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, August 9 – 8:00 am to noon

Something for everyone

Lots of Miscellaneous

Half price on Saturday

