

The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings People of Bethlehem!

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and enjoying lots of relaxation and recreation. Summer seems to pass quickly in Wisconsin, so if you're like me, there's a definite "drive" to make the most of it. For us, the transition from May to June rushed in like a tidal wave. I always lament being so busy that there isn't time to pause, take a breath and enjoy the moment.

As you probably know, the pinnacle of our June experience was the cruise that Melissa and I took to Alaska. Alaska was always on my bucket list, but I never believed I'd actually get there. Then, when we researched Alaskan cruises, we took the leap and made the reservations. Boy, are we happy we did!

I have seen some beautiful places, but the Alaskan coast is beyond mere words. In the same way that a phone camera can't really capture the FULL beauty of the Alaskan landscape, ordinary words can't describe it either.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. - Psalm 95:4-5

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JULY 2026

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AUGUST DEADLINE:

Wednesday, July 15th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com



Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

The voyage through the inside passage forces you to live the beauty of God's creation. You cannot escape it. As far as the eye can see, is a vast, virtually untouched, wilderness. Towering majestic, snow-capped mountains, millions of spruce and other softwood trees rising from the steep slopes, and unending dark mysterious ocean waters filling the ice-cold fjords. The colors are nameless: from the endless shades of green creating the forests, to the ever-changing shades of the Pacific Ocean, to the brilliant blue that identifies the glaciers and glacial icebergs. The magnitude of God and God's creation surrounds you on all sides. You can literally FEEL God in the landscape. If you aren't moved and awestruck by the splendor of it all, there isn't much that will impress you.

We stopped in four ports along our journey: Sitka, Juneau, Icy Strait Point, and Ketchikan. Again, if you have an image in your mind of what a quaint Alaskan coastal town would be like, you will definitely find it in one of these. The area is rich with cultural heritage and Indigenous history. (It's also rich with cruise ship crowds!) We learned so much about Alaskan history: from the Russian connection, to the Gold Rush, to Totem Poles.

I guess this isn't exactly a theological article this month, but it's a reminder to take time and appreciate the grandeur of creation and experience God's presence in a new way. I'm sure there are locations that are closer and cheaper to travel to where you can experience the majesty of creation. However, if Alaska is on your bucket list, I highly encourage you to meet God there. It's worth the trip.

Have a great July! In Christ,
Pastor Randy



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are a caring community of Christians living our faith through worship, fellowship, study and service to others.

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



Follow Bethlehem UCC
on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/buccckiel/> or Bethlehem's
website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

Our Spiritual Leader: Reverend Randall Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com

- **Sunday School every Sunday September – May at 8am.**
- **Gather in the sanctuary for worship Sunday mornings at 9:30am.**



Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer

**WORSHIP STREAMING
LIVE**

NOW ON YOUTUBE

LIKE and **SUBSCRIBE** to Bethlehem UCC's YouTube channel
to view weekly worship.

<https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemuccckielwi>

2026 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

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

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

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!

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 JULY:

Sunday, July 5 ~ Genesis 24:34-67 and Psalm 45:10-17, OR Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 12 ~ Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19 ~ Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Song of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 OR Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 26 ~ Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b OR Psalm 128
1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52





Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 6-16-2026

Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Ruthie Rumpff, Traci Rabe and Rev. Randall Koppenhaver.

Call to order: 6:36 PM

Opening Prayer/Meditation – Steven opened with prayer

Monthly Reports

Financial Secretary – Ruthie

- Month income \$6,594.00 (\$2,259.00 below YTD collection) 36,326.00 (\$7,939.00 below YTD requirement)

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

Jingle Change – month of May – Undy 500 \$179.40

Treasurer – Jane

- Giving's received in May to date are \$7,278.40 bringing the checkbook balance to \$28,801.53

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

Building & Grounds Checking and Savings

- Checking = \$3,010.49
- Saving = \$8,681.95

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

Invested \$20,000 in four separate 7-month & 11-month CDs of \$5,000 each. The maturity dates are staggered throughout the year, with the principal reinvested and interest designated for a special cause.

CD #6473 invested Due May (\$5000.00) – closed 5/15

CD #7648 invested Due Oct (\$5000.00)

CD #9661 invested Due Nov (\$5000.00)

CD #2553 invested Due Dec (\$5000.00)

CD #3541 invested Due Dec (\$5000.00)

Secretary – Kathy

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the May Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Approved by Ross and 2nd by Jane.

Building & Grounds Updates

- Meeting held with several projects to complete
 - There have been no projects completed as of now
 - X-mas lights turned in - \$160.10 monies went to Bldg & Grds

Pastoral Report

Worship 5/24, 5/31

- Field of Dreams 5/14
- Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: July 5, September 13
- Summer picnic worship

Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

- Confirmation: options sent to parent of single student
- VBS with St. Marks/James will be August 18,19,20 in the mornings again. Planning in progress. Enrollment forms sent - two from BUCC registered so far - 1-2 adult volunteers
- Attended VB games on 6/14

Mission

- Loads of Love - 6/1 2 clients, \$68.25 expended - \$72.50 collected in May (Thanks, Ruthie!)
- WISE - Mental Health Sunday - May 31 - Guest speaker on borderline personality disorder
- Undy 500 - Thanks, Jane for delivering the goods and the check

Pastoral care

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

Professional Development

- Completed WI Conference book study (Nice Racism by Robin Diangelo) May 5, 12, and 19
- Grief coach certification #2 in process

Conference/Wider Church

- Community of Practice final for the year was May 13- registered for 2026-27

Other

- Dayna Schultz wedding was 5/31/2026 (off site)
- Watson/Meyer Wedding scheduled for 10/3/2026 (off site) - premarital meetings have begun
- Conducting off-site non-member wedding on 10/17/26
- BUCC presence at Celebrate Kiel on June 22

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem – 2 sympathy



OLD BUSINESS

- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation.
 - VHS tapes
 - Large TV stand
 - Old projection screen and equipment
- Also available is a couch and rocking chair
- Flags – flags need to be replaced – Jane will ask Memorial committee for funds
- Volleyball Tournament – Bethlehem will be hosting on 7/26 – looking for volunteers to fry, serve and help with tourney. See Steven
- YouTube Channel – Up and running – see bulletin as to how to log on
- Financial Audit – All organization did a good job of record keeping
- Sabbatical – Will review at next meeting
- James Imaging Systems – Copy machine 5 yr contract ends in Sept.-more discussion on renewing new quote from James

NEW BUSINESS

- Kiel Connection Sponsorship – Bethlehem will co-host with Yard65 Brewery at the Celebrate Kiel event on 6/22. We can put out our brochures and church sign. Bethlehem will receive a donation from Yard65. Motion was made by Ross and 2nd by Kathy
- Member has asked to sponsor special music on 8/2 – watch for more detail
- Mission fest – looking for new suggestions for projects
 - Highway clean-up
 - Food kits
- CD interest – consistory is looking for mission suggestions as to paying forward the interest monies
- Summer Picnic – Will be held on 7/26 (same day as v-ball tournament) – more details to come
- Piano in library – if anyone is interested, the piano in the library is no longer used – it's yours for free
- Thank you Polly for having the grand piano tuned
- Undy 500collection – We collected 92 underwear items and sent a check for \$294.40

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 7/26 Summer Picnic
- 7/26 Volleyball Tournament
- 8/2 Special Music
- 8/6-8/8 Church Garage Sale
- 9/27 Mission Fest



Motion to adjourn by Ruthie & 2nd by Ross

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM

Next meeting – July 14th 2026 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Scrip:

Summer is for fun and family vacations. Consider using scrip when going on vacation. I carry several gas cards and restaurant cards. If there is something specific that you need, please let me know. We can check and see if it is offered. I would need a week to order specific cards, so a bit of pre-planning is needed. Stop at the scrip table and check it out!

Remember 10% of the profits go to our families in need program.
Thank you!

Linda Rabe

	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Profit</u>
5/31/26	\$ 4,220.00	\$131.38



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!

Get Comfortable!

Make yourself at home! Enjoy fellowship and a cup of coffee in our cozy seating areas before or after worship. The "lounge" also offers comfortable seating as well as games, books and wellness resources.



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:



We hope you are having a good summer so far. Congratulations to Jacob Riesterer and Stephen Deignan. They met the qualifications for attendance during the Sunday School year. If you only miss 2 Sundays or less, you get your name on the attendance board. The board is now found in the Primary classroom on the south wall. If you attend another church during the Sunday year, bring the bulletin along. That will count as attendance at Bethlehem.

Did you have a graduation party or birthday party? Save those cans, but before you bring them to the old garage next to the cemetery, pull off the tabs and bring them to church for the Ronald McDonald House.

Why do we save the cans and tabs?

We did start saving cans in 2005 to help our fund-raising efforts. The Sunday School used the money from the cans to fulfill our new building pledge. The new building is paid and we continue to save the cans. The money now helps us send money to Leprosy. We also buy Bibles for kids starting Sunday School.

There is still time to attend VBS at St. Marks. If you are interested, refer to the letter you received and contact Pastor Randy or any teacher.

Have a safe and happy summer.

See you in church!

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE:



Rural Church UCC Summer Volleyball Schedule All games begin at 6:30pm

JULY 5 - Bye Week For All Teams

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Immanuel/Bethel at Bethlehem/St. Peters 1

Bethlehem/St. Peters 2 - Bye

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Bethlehem/St. Peters 2 at Immanuel/Bethel

Bethlehem/St. Peters 1 at Saron

Sunday, July 26 – Tournament at Bethlehem

Coaches/Captains Meeting at 11:45 am Tournament Begins at Noon Volunteers will be needed to help with concessions, brat fry and bake sale.

Bethlehem UCC Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic:



Save the Date: Sunday, July 26th

Enjoy outdoor worship, food & fellowship and an afternoon cheering on the youth volleyball teams!

Worship begins at 9:30am.
Please bring your lawn chairs.

Check Bethlehem's website, the weekly Bethlehem Blurb, and Sunday bulletins for more details.

Bethlehem UCC Rummage Sale:

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 have items to donate, these can be dropped off in the new garage, next to the church. There is a table inside to locate your items.

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

Save the Dates:

Your Help will be needed. Sign up sheets are available.

- Monday, July 27, 8:00 am to 10:00 am Garage Cleanup
- Monday, August 3, 8:00 to noon Pricing & Setup
- Tuesday, August 4, 8:00 to noon Pricing & Setup
- Wednesday, August 5, 8:00 to noon Pricing & Setup
- Thursday, August 6, 3:00pm to 7 pm Sales Staff
- Friday, August 7, 8:00am to 5:00 pm Sales Staff
- Saturday, August 8, 8:00am to noon Sales Staff
- Saturday, August 8, 12:00 to 1:00pm Clean Up Crew



Due to the generous donation of Jeanette Wriedt estate items, there will be many special articles available. Be sure to tell family and friends of this special Rummage/Estate sale.

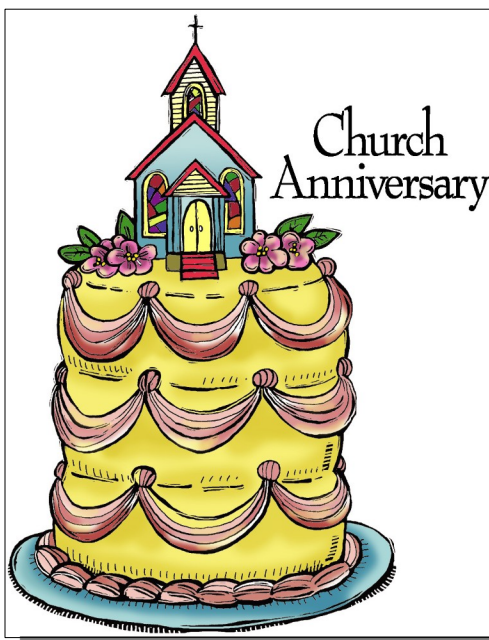
From the Historical Records of Bethlehem U.C.C.:

As we continue the celebration of 160 years at Bethlehem, here is a look at some of the Celebrations at Bethlehem:

Children's Day – held the Sunday after Vacation Bible School. The children presented songs, recitations and stories about their learning adventures. For many years a regular worship service in the morning, followed by a meal, and then the program in the afternoon.

Mission Fest – a celebration of Mission work. Many years included a special guest speaker involved with Mission work. Years ago a morning worship, followed by a meal, and then another worship in the afternoon. Today this has evolved into a Mission and Service day, whereby Bethlehem people are involved in several mission projects.

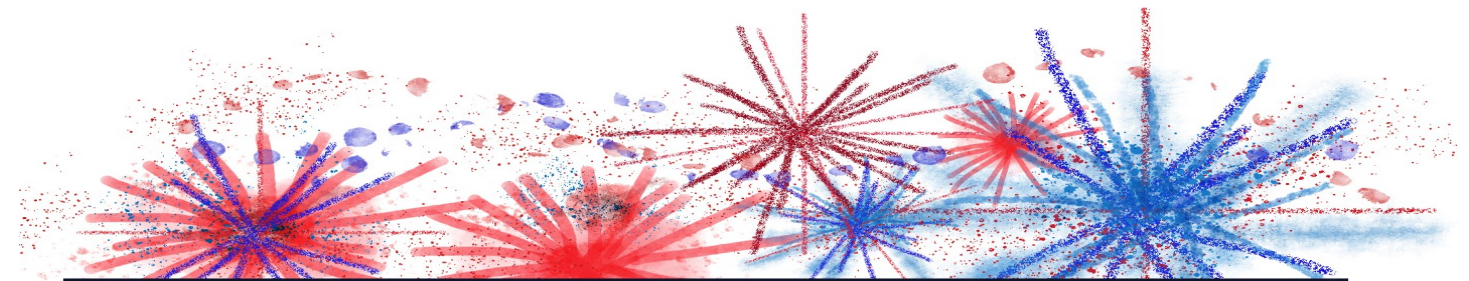
Easter – Throughout Lent and Holy Week special services and meals are celebrated at Bethlehem. The sanctuary is decorated with palms, lilies & crosses.



Christmas – During Advent and Christmas season, the church is specially decorated. For many years the Choir performed a Cantata during these weeks. The Sunday School children present a program telling the Christmas story.

Anniversaries - Each time Bethlehem reached milestone anniversaries a special celebration was held. These included special services and meals. And a program or booklet was prepared. This included the 50th in 1915, the 75th in 1940, the 100th in 1965, the 125th in 1990, the 140th in 2005, the 145th in 2010, and the 150th in 2015. Just as the Easter and Christmas stories are told again and again, the anniversaries allowed the re-telling of Bethlehem's history.

For the month of July, please see the Celebrations display in the Fellowship Hall.
Kaye Radder, Historian



Message to Congregation: Investing the CDs' Interest Suggestions:

At our August 13, 2024, Consistory meeting, a motion was approved to invest a portion of our General Fund in special 7-month Certificates of Deposit (CDs). The Consistory also agreed that the interest earned from these investments would be donated to a mission, outreach ministry, or charitable organization.

Since the program began, we have welcomed suggestions from our congregation regarding where these interest funds might best be shared. Below is a history of past donations made from CD interest earnings, along with the upcoming CD maturity dates.

Each CD is invested in a 7-month special certificate. When a CD matures, the interest earned is donated, and the original investment amount is reinvested into a new 7-month CD. We currently have four active CDs as part of this program.

As we prepare for our upcoming Consistory meeting, we invite you to share suggestions for future recipients of these interest donations. We welcome ideas for local, national, or outreach ministries, community organizations, or other charitable causes that reflect the values and ministry of Bethlehem UCC.

Thank you for helping us steward these gifts in a way that extends God's love and support to others.

1st CD invested – donated interest of \$143.46 to **The Warming Center of Sheboygan**

2nd CD invested – donated interest of \$129.27 to **NAMI of Manitowoc County**

3rd CD invested- donated interest of \$120.81 to **Hygiene Kits – Mission Group**

4th CD invested-donated interest of \$121.78 to **Kiel First Responder – In Honor of Steve Deignan labor services to Bethlehem UCC**

5th CD invested-donated interest of \$117.36 to **Good Samaritan Fund – Kiel (small area clergy group that Rev. Randy is a part of)**

6th CD invested- donated interest of \$115.95 to **Good Samaritan Fund – rounding up Good Friday worship givings**

7th CD invested- donated interest of \$115.00 to **Milwaukee Guest House-Undy 500**

8th CD invested- Interest the congregation available to donate is \$115.00 –

Future maturity dates left on the open CD's are as follows:

Matures 10/18/26

Matures 11/15/26

Matures 12/15/26

Matures 12/20/26

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Joys: The birth of Rylee Collyns Heugel on 5/28/26. Proud grandparents are Jane & Scott Umland
The marriage of Eric & Dayna (Schultz) Baake on 5/31/26

Those Grieving: the family of Kaitlynn Reinhardt
the family of Janice Schad (Bonnie Zorn's mother)

Those struggling with health issues:

Bob Markelz	Janet
Elaine Brill	Davin Horneck
Karen Laack	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)
Judy Brockway	Dawson Horneck
Louie Bowe	Darlene Horneck
Heidi Konen	Jackie Volland
Jessica Horneck	Willow
Sofia	Larry
Hubert	Tyler Smith
Chase Goekes	Margaret
Molly	Tom Knier
Tyler Meyer	

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*

Congrats to our 2026 Graduates:

Mason Wempner, Kiel High School

Merri Wempner, Kiel High School

Emiliee Wirtz, Kiel High School, Plans to attend UW
Madison with Major in Early Childhood education -
minors in math and psychology



Other Bethlehem Announcements:

Worship on July 5th

Pastor Randy will be visiting family in Minnesota over the Fourth of July weekend. Due to members' travels, camping, etc. There will NOT be communion on July 5. Rather, communion will be celebrated on July 12. July 5 will also be a hymn-sing.

Community Announcements:

How Far Would You Ride to Help the Homeless?

Join The Salvation Ride on Saturday, July 11, 2026, and help support The Salvation Army's homeless shelter in Sheboygan. This family-friendly cycling event offers 10-, 25-, 50-, 75-, and 100-mile routes, welcoming riders of all ages, abilities, and e-bikes. Gather a team from our church—participants can each choose the distance that's right for them—and ride for a cause that changes lives right here in our community.

Register today at www.thesalvationride.org



**JULY/AUGUST Community Food Pantry Items Needed:
Peanut Butter & Jelly**

JINGLE CHANGE FOR JULY SUPPORTS: W.I.S.E.



JULY BETHLEHEM EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 
5 9:30am Worship (Hymn Sing)	6 Loads of Love 4pm	7	8	9 Field of Dreams worship at 10:30am	10	11
12 9:30am Worship w/communion	13	14 6:30PM Consistory mtg.	15 5PM August Spirit articles due to Traci	16	17	18
19 9:30am Worship	20	21	22	23 9am Bethlehem @ Immanuel Food Pantry	24	25
26 9:30am Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic  Youth Volleyball Tourney @ Bethlehem	27	28	29	30	31	

Can't attend worship this summer? Bethlehem's live streams have moved from Facebook to YouTube. Check us out at <https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemucckielwi>

JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Colton Aschenbach Doris Rabe
5 Emma Reis	6 Jason Brockway Warren & Diane Fidlin	7 Mark & Dawn Wirtz Aaron & Rachel Suttner	8 Abigail Reis	9	10	11 Brad Hoban Jerry & Tammy Aschenbach
12 Case Pennell	13	14	15 Dan Wempner Chad & Sara Jeanty	16	17	18 Helen Henning
19 Austin Lau	20 Eric & Dawn Muehlbauer	21	22	23	24 Scott & Jane Umland	25 Bill Schlegel Gerald Schnell
26 Bruce & Polly Jeanty	27 Tom Brickbauer Bob Markelz Ruthie Rumpff	28	29 Allyson Jeanty Mandy Voland Kendra Muehlbauer	30 Steven & Jackie Voland	31 Dan Rugowski	



Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB L Z D G B O O K
 D K F Q R O M T B H J O B S Q E X Z T
 O K X W J H O B M I Z T I J S D Q K U
 E W X B H E Q N I T K I S I Z N Y O U
 R P J Z O W B E Q R T O A X C Z T X J

DO NOT _____

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV

