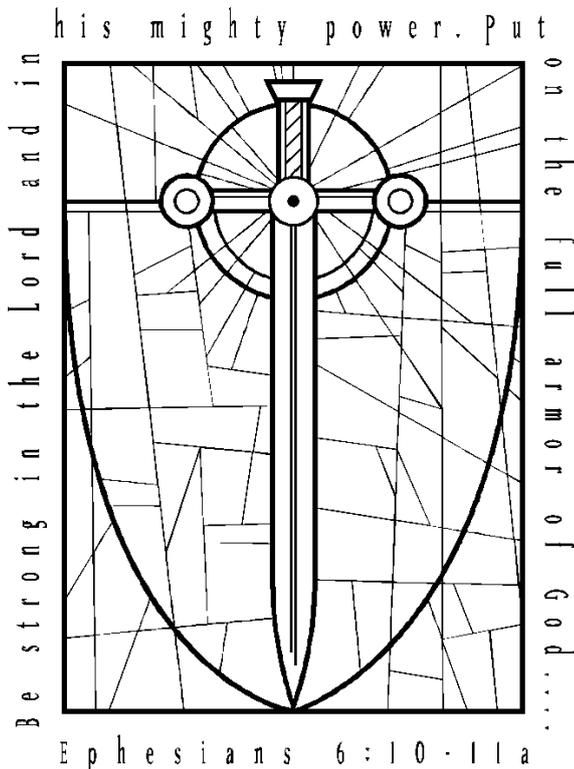


# Bethlehem United Church of Christ



*Sunday, August 26, 2018*

*Worship Leader:*

*Randy Koppenhaver*

*Ministers: All the People*

*Organist: Polly Jeanty*

*We hope that you find a warm welcome at Bethlehem United Church of Christ and will worship with us again soon.*

*Mission Statement*

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

## **Bethlehem United Church of Christ**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920-894-3332

www.bethlehemkiel.org

Sunday School - 8:00 a.m. (Sept. – May)

Worship time is 9:30 a.m.

Office hours Tuesdays 9a-12p, Wednesdays 9a-3p

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston, Pastor

(920-918-3654 - revbecky1124@gmail.com)

Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister

(920-286-2531 - randynmel5@gmail.com)

**2018 Consistory:**

Elder /President: Bob Radder

Elder: Traci Rabe

Elder : Amy Wempner

Deacon : Ross Westphalen

Deacon/Secretary : Natasha Verhulst

Financial Secretary : Ruthie Rumpff

Treasurer : Rick Rabe

Please use the email address below to submit information, photos, etc. for the church website:

[bethlehemucckiel@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemucckiel@gmail.com)

*Welcome to Bethlehem United Church of Christ! We trust that you will know God's presence here in worship. If you are visiting for the first time, please sign our guest registry outside the sanctuary doors.*

*A special note to families with young children:*

*We have a long tradition at Bethlehem of including children in worship, but we know sometimes their attention spans are not as long as ours. Children under about 6 years old are welcome to borrow a "Bethlehem Bag" from the main doors of the sanctuary, along with books or soft toys from the library, to help occupy them. If necessary, please feel free to accompany your child to the library during the service – you will be able to hear and observe the service from there.*

## Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

\*PLEASE STAND if you are able, where noted by an asterisk.

*Please sign and pass the pew pads during worship. This will help us recognize those who might be visiting. There is one for each row. No need to pass across the aisles.*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL TO WORSHIP #549 “As We Gather”

**AS WE GATHER MAY YOUR SPIRIT WORK WITHIN US  
AS WE GATHER MAY WE GLORIFY YOUR NAME  
KNOWING WELL THAT AS OUR HEARTS BEGIN TO WORSHIP  
WE’LL BE BLEST BECAUSE WE CAME, WE’LL BE BLEST BECAUSE WE CAME**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “How Majestic is your Name” Polly Jeanty, Piano; Natasha Verhulst, flute

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Follow God’s signs to the place of worship and open your hearts with praise and thanksgiving. The beauty of flowers, the chorus of birdsong, the glimmer of sunrise,

**All: invite us to worship God, creator and sustainer of life.**

One: The smiles and laughter of children at play (running through the sprinkler),

**All: invite us to worship God, who wishes us to enjoy life to the full.**

One: The struggle of persons who are sick or enduring life’s trials,

**All: invite us to worship God, whose way is compassion and wholeness.**

One: The crying needs of our well-populated planet,

**All: invite us to worship God, the source of justice and mercy for all people.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**You have walked with us, O God, in the joys and challenges of daily life; walk with us now. You have been our companion in the families and the faith communities of which we are a part, and you will accompany us in the coming days. You have gone with us into the heartache of this small corner of the world. You will never leave us. You have been an instrument for peace and compassion in the past and you will renew your dedication as we worship this morning. In all the changes of life, you were there, you are there, and you will be there. Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #35 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

PRAYER OF CONFIDENCE/CONFESSION (based on Ephesians 6:10–17)

One: Equip us, O God, to be your people. We need the whole range of Christian values and talents, if we are to withstand the dark forces and the self-serving choices of this world.

**All: Enable us to speak the truth, even when this costs us dearly.**

One: The truth will make you free!

**All: Give us the strength to follow the right way, the path of clear conscience.**

One: The righteous path is not an easy one!

**All: Help us make the gospel of peace relevant to our friends.**

One: The life, death, and rising of Jesus is still the best of all good news!

**All: Strengthen our faith so that it will hold us strong when temptation comes.**

One: May your faith be a rock in your hour of need!

**All: Although we do not have all the spiritual equipment we need, with God's Spirit and God's Word, we will know and share God's saving grace.**

One: God will be your companion and guide!

*Time of reflection...*

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: When it seems that being a contemporary follower of Jesus Christ is beyond us, God breaks through and gives us a sign of hope.

**All: A child is noticed for giving an honest response, a friend hears an encouraging word from the scriptures, a sufferer takes heart in the midst of crisis. We know we are not alone!**

One: God will never give up on you or desert you; God is with you for the long haul!

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*RESPONSE #558

"Gloria Patri"

#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

##### **Ephesians 6:10–20**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

## John 6:56–69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

## MESSAGE

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #153                      “We are Marching in the Light of God”  
vs 2 = “dancing,” vs 3 = “singing,” vs 4 = “praying”

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### ...LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### RESPONSE                                      “Masithi”

**Amen, we praise your name O God. Amen, we praise your name, O God.  
Amen, amen, amen, amen. Amen, we praise your name or God.**

### OFFERTORY                                      Natasha Verhulst, Piano (Jingle Change goes to Our Church’s Wider Mission)

++If using a pew envelope, please put your name on it so we can include it on your statement for tax purposes.

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #282                      “Give Thanks”

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Accept our offerings of praise in grateful thanksgiving for your presence in our lives and the many blessings you bestow upon us. Consecrate our offering, O God, that it may become bread to fill the emptiness and heal the brokenness of the lives in this community and beyond. And may we be reminded that our real life begins when we give with generous hearts to proclaim the gospel in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #47**

**“Great is Thy Faithfulness”**

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**One:** We dedicate ourselves to you, O God.

**All: We will be faithful in following Jesus;**

**we will be joyful as we go about our week;**

**we will be ready to help the disadvantaged;**

**we will play an active part in the faith community;**

**we will be conscious of the terrorized and changing world;**

**we will never rest until all have been challenged by the teaching, death, and rising of Jesus Christ. Amen**

**POSTLUDE “Proclaim the Glory of the Lord” Polly Jeanty, Piano; Natasha Verhulst, flute**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** *(Info. for next Sunday’s bulletin is due to Randy/Melissa Koppenhaver by Tuesday night. [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com) or 286-2531.)*

- Pastor Johnston is out of the country through the end of the month. Please contact Randy with any pastoral needs.
- Calling All Voices! Choir will be starting Again. We will be practicing at 8:45 on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and singing the second Sunday of the month. See You There!
- Mission Fest will be Sunday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. (please see last page of bulletin) After worship and lunch, we will be participating in several mission projects, either at church or out in the community. Please see the sign up sheets in the fellowship and put your name on the mission you want to join!
- If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please make sure to contact Rev. Johnston or Randy.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 8/26:** 8:15 Adult Study; 9:30am Worship; *Happy Anniversary Chris & Renee Freund!*

**Monday 8/27:** *Happy Birthday Ken Henschel and Tasha Rabe!*

**Tuesday 8/28:** *Happy Anniversary Ken & Shirley Henschel!*

**Wednesday 8/29:** *Happy Anniversary Rich & Lori Schmitt!*

**Thursday 8/30:** *Happy Birthday Cameron Freund and Lee Watson! Happy Anniversary Brian & Tricia Frink!*

**Friday 8/31:**

**Saturday 9/1:**

**Sunday 9/2:** 8:15 Adult Study; 9:30am Worship; *Happy Birthday Tony Tesch!*

**Pantry item: Package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling**

### **Bethlehem Ladies – Guest Speaker**

The Bethlehem Ladies will have their annual guest night on Tuesday, September 18th. Bethlehem member, Darla Otto, will be our guest speaker.

Her company is called Professional Family Services. She will be talking about trauma, homeless youth, sex trafficking, and mental health in Manitowoc County. The evening will begin with a light supper provided by the Ladies at 6:00 pm, with the presentation to follow. The congregation and the public are invited. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Community Announcements:**

*(Please check the bulletin board for more details. **Community events are published in our bulletin as space and time permits.** For best results, email or call the bulletin secretary)*

None at this time

The Bethlehem Blurb email comes out each Thursday. If you signed up and you are not receiving it, please check your “junk” mail or “spam” folder. If you’d like to receive it, you may sign up on our webpage:  
[www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)