

# Bethlehem United Church of Christ



*Sunday, October 14, 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](http://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](mailto:revbecky1124@gmail.com))

Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister

(920-286-2531 - [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com))

### **2018 Consistory:**

Elder /President: Bob Radder

Elder: Traci Rabe

Elder : Jennifer Friend

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.*

## Twenty-First 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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Hebrews 4:12-16*)

One: The word of God is alive and active,  
sharper than any two-edged sword,  
piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;  
it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

**Many: We cannot hide  
for we are naked and laid bare  
to the one whom we must render an account.**

One: Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you  
and I and yet was without sin.

**Many: We approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy  
and find grace to help in our time of need.**

\*INVOCATION

**O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world. Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone, it is hardly divided fairly. There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime. May we remember that all we have comes from you and that you have entrusted to us all that we have. May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us. Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this disparity. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: #388

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and Holy One,  
we cannot begin to count all our possessions.  
We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.  
We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years,  
and still we acquire more.  
We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities  
who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.  
We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their need.  
But we, O God, need your forgiveness  
for we are more attached to our things than we willingly acknowledge.  
Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly  
so we can share our own abundance more equitably.**  
(time of silence)

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.  
True comfort comes from God's love for us  
and by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger.  
By God's love we are forgiven. **Let us do likewise. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE #558

"Gloria Patri"

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### **Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

Seek the LORD and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.  
Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.  
Therefore, because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.  
For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.  
Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

### **Mark 10:17-31**

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

ANTHEM

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MESSAGE

\*HYMN #447

"All Things are Yours"

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Each petition will end with "...in passionate prayer" and the congregation responds, "**Holy Spirit guide us.**")

### 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 O God.**

### OFFERTORY

(Jingle Change goes to Neighbors In Need)

### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #282

"Give Thanks"

**Give thanks with a grateful heart**

**Give thanks to the Holy One**

**Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (Sing verse twice)**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong"**

**Let the poor say, "I am rich**

**Because of what the Lord has done for us" (Sing verse twice)**

**Give thanks, Give thanks**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, we thank you for all that we have – for all of it comes from you.**

**We gratefully return a portion of what we have to you. May our offerings sustain and support the work of this church to close the disparity between those who have much and those who have little in this community. Amen.**

### \*HYMN #342

"When We are Living"

### BENEDICTION (*Based upon Psalm 90:12, 14, 17 adapted*)

Let us count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**Let God satisfy us this morning with steadfast love,**

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Let us depart in peace and let God's favor be upon us to prosper the work of our hands. Amen**

### POSTLUDE

**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.)

- A building and grounds meeting will be held on Monday, October 15 at 6:30 in the library. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please make sure to contact Rev. Johnston or Randy.
- The choir of Bethlehem United Church of Christ will be participating in a joint Christmas concert this year with First Congregational UCC, Salem UCC, and St. Peter's UCC. We are looking forward to hopefully starting a new tradition. Please join us at St. Peter's UCC on December 9th at 4:00pm for a concert full of beautiful music that will put you in the Christmas spirit. BUCC choir is looking for voices to add for Sundays and for the Joint Christmas Concert! If you are interested in singing with us for the Christmas Concert, we hold rehearsals at BUCC at 6:30pm on Wednesday nights. One joint rehearsal will be held at St. Peter's UCC on Wednesday December 5th at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions please contact Natasha Verhulst, BUCC choir director at (920)286-0517, or by email at [nbehnke17@gmail.com](mailto:nbehnke17@gmail.com).

**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)

- Wednesday, 10/17, 4pm-7:30pm – Chili Supper - Our Shepherd UCC – Howards Grove
- Thursday, 10/18, 4pm-7pm – Fall

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)

Harvest Meal – Bethel United Methodist, Meggers Road

- Sunday, October 21, 10am – Mark Behle, Global Ministries Missionary @ St. James UCC–Followed by Ham Dinner from 11-1.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 10/14:** 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship; CROP WALK @ Howards Grove Memorial Park; *Happy Birthday Rick Rabe!*

**Monday 10/15:** *Happy Birthday Mark and Brenda Riesterer!*

**Tuesday 10/16:** *Happy Birthday Darla Otto and Lisa Westphalen! Happy Anniversary Tom & Marie Mueller!*

**Wednesday 10/17:** 6pm Confirmation; 6:30pm Choir; **\*\*Spirit News Due\*\****Happy Birthday Cameron Wempner! Happy Anniversary Joey & Sallie Rabe!*

**Thursday 10/18:** *Happy Birthday Steve Vogel, Todd Brickbauer & Bryan Westphalen!*

**Friday 10/19:**

**Saturday 10/20:** *Happy Anniversary Joe & Mary-Beth Molitor!*

**Sunday 10/21:** 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 8:30am Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Worship;

**Pantry item: Cleaning Supplies**