

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

He asked them,

**“But
who
do you
say
that I
am?”**

Mark 8:29, NRSV



Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018

Worship Leader:

Randy Koppenhaver

Ministers: All the People

Organist: Kathy Bowe

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 :

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

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.

Seventeenth 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

One: Jesus asks the disciples:

Many: "Who do people say I am?"

One: They answer,

"Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah;
and others say one of the prophets."

But Jesus presses them:

Many: "Who do you say I am?"

One: Peter answers,

"You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!"

Now Jesus pushes us:

Many: "What about you?"

**Here, in this moment, in this community,
Who do you say I am?"**

One: Where do we find the wisdom to answer?

*INVOCATION:

Holy Wisdom of God, You call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, Spirit - create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center. Amen

*OPENING HYMN: #552

"We Gather Together"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, We have sinned in our thoughts, with our word, through our actions, by what we have neglected to say or do. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not fulfilled our responsibilities, we have spoken harshly and unkindly. We have rejected your ways and your calling. We are sorry and repent of what we have done and who we have been. Have mercy upon us and forgive us, so that we may begin again to walk in your ways. (silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's grace is without end or limit; know that you are forgiven and loved by God; love and forgive one another and rise up now to follow Christ. **Thanks be to God. Amen**

*RESPONSE #558

"Gloria Patri"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she
speaks:
"How long, O simple ones, will you love
being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their
scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one
heeded,
and because you have ignored all my
counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a
whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon
you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not
answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not
find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their
way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys
them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of
disaster."

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we

guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

MESSAGE

*HYMN #408

“What a Friend we Have in Jesus”

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...SILENT PRAYER

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 (Jingle Change goes to CROP)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #282 “Give Thanks”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All-knowing God, teach us to use these gifts to create greater access, insights, and wisdom for people within and outside of these walls. So be it!

*HYMN #322

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

BENEDICTION

One: Let us ponder the challenge of Jesus this week:

Many: --Who do we say Christ is in our lives, our community, our world?

One: Let Holy Wisdom shine through all our pondering,

Many: and lead us to recognize and serve our Risen Savior in all our encounters.

One: Let us go forth from this place in humble service to our Lord,

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

- If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please make sure to contact Rev. Johnston or Randy.

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 proved 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.

Mission Fest!!

Thanks to EVERYONE who attended and helped organize last Sunday's Mission Fest activities and mortgage burning celebration. Initial feedback has been very positive. Please share your thoughts and feelings about the day with one of the members of the ministerial team or consistory. We'd love to learn how we can make it better!

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)

- 9/19 – 11a-12:30pm – Salad Luncheon – Holy Rosary, New Holstein

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 9/16: 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship;

Monday 9/17: *Happy Birthday Courtney Riesterer!*

Tuesday 9/18: 6pm Bethlehem Ladies Guest Night

Wednesday 9/19: Confirmation Class to Lakeland; *Happy Birthday Mary Raquet! **SPIRIT NEWS DUE***

Thursday 9/20: *Happy Birthday Bonnie Hoban, Jordan Meyer, and Josh Wilharms!*

Friday 9/21:

Saturday 9/22:

Sunday 9/23: 8am Sunday School; 8a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship;

Pantry item: Package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling



"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

MARK 8:34, NIV