

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018
Worship Leader:
Steven Voland
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

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.

Fifteenth 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: Holy God, you call us to worship you.

All: In your presence we find truth and learn to follow you.

One: Holy God, you call us to worship you.

All: In your presence we receive forgiveness and open our hearts to forgive others.

One: Holy God, you call us to worship you.

All: In your presence we discover hope and begin to live in new ways.

*OPENING PRAYER

You alone are our help and security, you alone are our strength, and you alone are our rest and comfort. You make the seasons to change, the sun to shine and the rain to fall, the vines to flower and to bear fruit, and the fields to bring forth good things. To you we turn as the source of our life, in your heights we find fulfillment, in your depths we find wisdom and meaning. And so we worship you as the creating Father, the loving Son, the guiding Holy Spirit. Amen

*OPENING HYMN #484

"The Church's One Foundation"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: You remind us, O God, that people are not always what they appear to be.

All: On the outside they appear to be friendly and accommodating, but on the inside they are wary and suspicious. And we are sometimes like that.

One: You caution us, O God, that people are not always what they appear to be.

All: On the outside they seem knowledgeable and wise, but this is a front for uncertainty and biased opinions. And we are sometimes like that.

One: You warn us, O God, that people are not always what they appear to be.

All: On the outside they seek the opportunity to work with others, but this masks an ambition to get their own way. And we are sometimes like that.

One: You put us on our guard, O God; people are not always what they appear to be.

All: On the outside they follow Jesus, your Chosen One, but their faith denies justice for the poor and despised ones. And we are sometimes like that.

Time of reflection...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: You are not fooled, O God. You see us as we really are and you stand ready to change us for good.

All: Where we hold back from the truth, you call us to account.

Where we lack the courage to confront, you empower us.

Where we will not apologize, you enable us.

Where our words are not matched by deeds, you inspire us.

Where our discipleship is lackluster, you enthuse us.

One: When change becomes reality, peace follows and pardon is experienced.

All: And we are renewed. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE #558

“Gloria Patri”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 15

A Psalm of David.

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In

fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

MESSAGE

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #436

"O Master, Let me Walk with Thee"

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

(Jingle Change goes to Bethlehem's Families in Need program)

++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

Receive these gifts, O God. May they restore the downhearted, encourage those without hope, bring wholeness to the sick, put zest back into lives that lack interest and direction, and go to work in communities far from the shores of this nation. Bless these gifts, O God, as they bring change in the Way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN #420

“Change My Heart, O God”

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

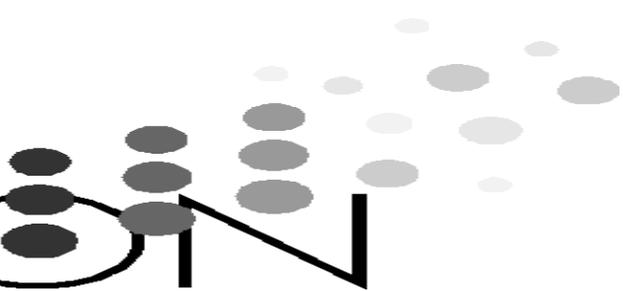
One: You are sent out to be Christians of integrity:

**All: to search for the truth with courage and tenacity,
to counter the powerful with persistence and honesty,
to work against evil with single-mindedness and determination,
to listen to the opinions of others with patience and with an open mind,
to work with others with dedication and good humor,
to follow Jesus Christ with faithfulness and enthusiasm.**

One: Go in Peace. **Amen**

POSTLUDE

**A CHURCH ON A
MISSION**



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

- Pastor Johnston is out of the country through Sept 3rd. Please contact Randy with any pastoral needs.
- Calling All Voices! Choir will be starting Again. We will be practicing at 8:45 on September 9th, and singing the second Sunday of the month. See You There!
- Mission Fest will be Sunday, Sept 9th. (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! **Please sign up!!**

- 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.

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)

- 9/9 – 10a-3pm “Faith in the Fall”- Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove
- 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 9/2: 8:15 Adult Study; 9:30am Worship; *Happy Birthday Tony Tesch!*

Monday 9/3: *Happy Birthday Marion Balz, Wyatt Snyder, and Brian Witkowski!*

Tuesday 9/4:

Wednesday 9/5: *Happy Birthday Brian Loose!*

Thursday 9/6: *Happy Birthday Destiny Otto!*

Friday 9/7:

Saturday 9/8: *Happy Anniversary Mark & Amber Krueger!*

Sunday 9/9: 8:15 Adult Study; 9:30am Worship; Luncheon; 12pm Mission Fest Activities; 3:30pm Mortgage Burning Celebration; *Happy Birthday Lori Schmitt and Andy Verhulst!*

Pantry item: Package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling