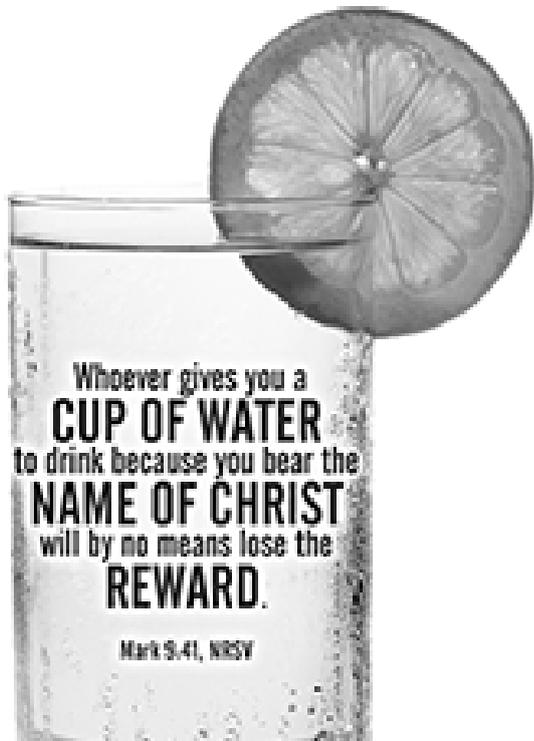


# Bethlehem United Church of Christ



*Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018*

*Worship Leader:*

*Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston*

*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](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.*

## Nineteenth 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

Leader: God welcomes us to worship on this new day!

**People: It is a day of new hopes and fresh opportunities!**

Leader: Let us leave behind our fears and doubts and offer our prayers to God.

**People: God calls us each by name and welcomes us as Christ welcomes the children.**

\*INVOCATION

**Loving God, you watch over us and take care of us. When the world seems frightening, you calm us, and assure us that you will never abandon us. And in doing that, you empower us to speak out for justice, to act on behalf of others, and to help make our world a better place. Be with us this day and always, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: #14 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in

attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

### **James 5:13-20**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

### **Mark 9:38-50**

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## MESSAGE

\*HYMN see insert "You are the Seed"

## 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 CROP Walk)

\*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

**Take our gifts, O God, and use them to change the world. Use them to bring justice and goodness. Use them to make our planet a safe home for all living things. Amen.**

\*HYMN see insert "For the Healing of the Nations"

## BENEDICTION

## 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 will hold rehearsals at BUCC at 6:30pm on Wednesday nights starting September 19th. 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)

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)

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 9/30:** 8am Sunday School; 8a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship; *Happy Birthday Chad Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Dan & Amy Wempner!*

**Monday 10/1:** *Happy Birthday Jack Meunier! Happy Anniversary Andrew & Natasha Verhulst!*

**Tuesday 10/2:** 6:30pm Merry Christians; *Happy Birthday Jennifer Meiselwitz & Cheri Vogel!*

**Wednesday 10/3:** 6pm Confirmation;

**Thursday 10/4:** *Happy Birthday Kerry Henning!*

**Friday 10/5:** *Happy Birthday Mike Nimmer!*

**Saturday 10/6:**

**Sunday 10/7:** 8am Sunday School; 8a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Josh Thiry!*

**Pantry item: Cleaning Supplies**