

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Missions
Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018

Worship Leader:

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston

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.

Sixteenth 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: Why have we gathered here?

People: To worship our God.

Leader: And who is God?

People: The maker of heaven and earth, of sun and moon, of wind and sky.

Leader: And how shall we worship God?

People: With songs and prayers, with open hearts to listen to God's word, and with willing spirits to go forth in loving service.

All: Come! Let us worship God!

*INVOCATION:

God, we have gathered as a faith community of prayer and praise. We gather as newcomers and long-time members. Some of us could not wait to get here; some of us just made it. Some of us know exactly why we've come; others are not sure. Still, something has called each of us here, and we come to seek you in worship. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: #35 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:

the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,

and the rod of anger will fail.
Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.
Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

MESSAGE

*HYMN see insert

“A Place at the Table”

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - Litany Prayer of Confession

Leader: Forgive us, O God, when we think we have all of the answers and know everything.

Response: Open our hearts to listen to you.

Leader: Forgive us, O God, when we laugh at the questions of others and put them down.

Response: Open our hearts to listen to you.

Leader: Forgive us, O God, when we get impatient and insist on having answers right this minute to questions that are as big as life itself.

Response: Open our hearts to listen to you.

Leader: Forgive us, O God, when we ignore the questions that would challenge us to re-think our beliefs.

Response: Open our hearts to listen to you. Amen.

PASTORAL AND 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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God invites our questions, our wondering, and even our doubts. God invites us into a new relationship of openness. God invites us to be made whole – to accept the gift of forgiveness and to journey toward new answers. We are a forgiven people...

Response: Thanks be to God.

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.

A Covenant Ritual for Teachers and Leaders

Minister: It is a new year in the life of our church – a chance to bring new questions as we gather together. A chance for all of us to wonder and learn new things about God, our Bible, and our Christian faith. These people are answering the call to offer leadership with our children, youth and adults.

Teachers and Leaders: We bring questions about how we can best help our students; we bring questions about our own faith journeys; and we wonder how we will all be changed by this experience together.

Congregation: We offer you our prayers of support.

Minister: Some are answering the call to be students, sharing with one another.

Children and Youth: We have lots of questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and the world. We ask for your prayers that we might be open to our teachers, to each other, and to God’s presence with us.

Congregation: We offer you our prayers of support.

Minister: Let us pray: God, we ask your blessing on our community, as we covenant to learn together through our worship and our Christian education programs. Help us all to be open to new ideas, and open to our sense of wonder and awe about you and about each other. And help us to remember that we all have much to share and learn from each other. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 “Halle, Halle Hallelujah”

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE STORY OF OUR FAITH

THE BLESSING AND SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to CROP)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (Tune to Old Hundredth)

**From all who dwell beneath the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue! Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we offer you our money, our questions and ourselves knowing that you accept what we offer, blessing and transforming it, that Shalom may come to our world. Amen.

*HYMN #442

“The Servant Song”

BENEDICTION...POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *(Info. for next Sunday's bulletin is due to Randy/Melissa Kopenhagen 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 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)

- 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



Hurray
for our
Sunday
School
Teachers!

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, 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!*

Monday 9/10:

Tuesday 9/11: 6:30pm Consistory

Wednesday 9/12: 6pm Confirmation Class; *Happy Birthday Traci Rabe!*

Thursday 9/13:

Friday 9/14: *Happy Birthday Ben Jeanty!*

Saturday 9/15: *Happy Anniversary Louie & Kathy Bowe!*

Sunday 9/16: 8:15 Adult Study; 9:30am Worship;

Pantry item: Package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling

**A CHURCH ON A
MISSION**