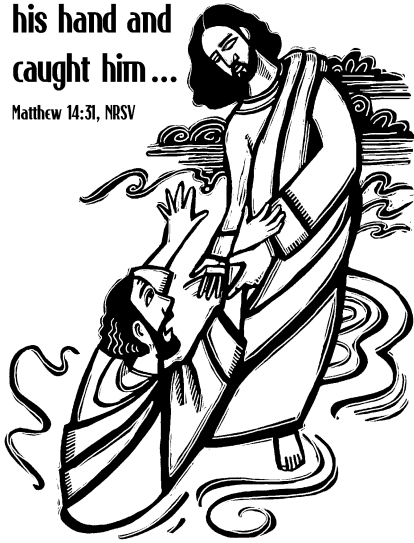


Jesus immediately reached out
his hand and
caught him...

Matthew 14:31, NRSV



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, August 13, 2023

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #556 "Surely the Presence..."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "By and By Medley"

Polly Jeanty and Kathy Bowe

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Give thanks to the Lord!

We will tell the world what God has done.

Let us bring praise to the name of our Maker.

We will honour God's name with shouts of joy!

Be mindful of all that God provides for us.

Let us give thanks for all the wonders God has made!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Surprising and mysterious God, you come to us when we least expect it, calling us out of our routines and plans, inviting us to follow Christ into new opportunities. We praise you for the many ways you come to us. In moments of fear, you speak with words of reassurance. In moments of doubt, you reach out your hand to hold. In moments of turmoil, you bring calm to the storm. You are faithful to us through everything life can bring. And so we place our trust in you this day and every day, and honor you as our Redeemer and Saviour, in the name of Christ, our Lord and friend. Amen.

*HYMN #

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and patient God, we confess that we still experience fear and doubt, even though you reach out to us with saving grace. You call us to live with courage and perseverance, yet we can give up too easily and opt for the safer route. You encourage us to be bold in our struggles for justice, yet we remain silent in the face of unfairness. Forgive us all the times we let you down. Renew our lives through your mercy and grace.

Time of reflection...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rest assured, God offers forgiveness and saving grace to everyone. Accept these gifts for yourselves and offer forgiveness to others in the name of Christ our Lord. **Thanks be to God, Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE “Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’

Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’ When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’

MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Polly Jeanty and Kathy Bowe

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: Steadying God, **Reach out to us in the storms of life.**

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of August supports Bethlehem's Families in Need Fund.)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v. 1 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, bless the gifts we bring to you today. Use them and us to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in the world so that your goodness will flourish and your name be honored for Christ's sake. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG "Go Now in Peace"

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.
Know he will guide you, in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.***

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bethlehem Ladies Annual Guest Night will be Tuesday, September 19th. The Guest Speaker will be from Harbor House. *Harbor House* Domestic Abuse Programs provides safe shelter and support services to survivors of domestic abuse in Northeast *Wisconsin*. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a light lunch and speaker to follow. Please invite your friends and family to attend.

For the next couple weeks, the Bethlehem Ladies will be collecting items needed for the Harbor House Abuse Shelter. These items can be brought to church and placed in the basket at the entrance until Sunday, September 17th. There is a list of their current needs printed and placed by the basket at the front entrance for you to take. Thank you for your generosity!!

The WISE Committee has been studying the topic of mental health since February. Now it's time to get the congregation involved! The first activity is going to be a **book study of Blessed are the Crazy by Rev. Sarah Lund**. (The WISE team studied this book in the spring.) The book study will be led by Traci Rabe and will begin on Sept. 10 before church. At that time the group will decide the schedule going forward. Please sign up in the fellowship hall. The book will be provided for you.

SEEKING FAITH MENTORS!!!

We would like to re-implement the "faith mentors" program for our confirmation students. Are you willing to accept the challenge? We need three mentors for our students this year.

What is required: Willingness to meet one time per month with a student to discuss various aspects of faith. Have an open mind – be a good listener... be supportive.

What is NOT required: extensive knowledge of the bible, faith, etc. There are no correct answers and your job will not be to "correct" the student or say the right things. Just listen and be supportive. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are willing to consider this challenge. It will be beneficial to YOU, as well as the student.

MISSION TRIP!!!

We have been invited to participate in a mission trip next summer with St. Peter's UCC and other area churches. The trip is open to 9th grade and above and will be part of ASP: Appalachia Service project. (www.asphome.org)

There will be a planning meeting on Sept. 11 at 6pm at St. Peters. Dates will be decided at that meeting. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are interested in taking part in this trip.

August Rummage Sale - Your Help is Needed - Volunteer Opportunities:

- Saturday, August 19: 8:00am to noon Sales Staff
- Saturday, August 19: 12:00 to 1:00pm Clean Up Crew

Please see the signup sheets in the fellowship hall or email to kayerad@hotmail.com or call (920) 894-7229 if you can spare even an hour to help.

HHT A-Cappella

- Special music will be provided during our church service on Sunday, August 20th. Our very own Ross Westphalen is a member of this local barbershop group.

Mission Fest – Sunday, October 8th

- Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 8th as we celebrate Mission Fest. This year's outreach activities will include:
 1. Assembling Period Packs
 2. Making sandwiches for Mission House
 3. Highway clean-up
 4. Playing BINGO at an assisted living facility

Lunch will be provided for everyone participating.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Gaiden Schultz (Garrett's sister)

Those struggling with health issues:

Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Darlean Rumpff	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Crystal (Friend of Randy/Melissa)	Brenda Voland
Molly	
Mary Beth Molitor	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 8/13: 8:30a WISE; 9:30am Worship ~Happy Birthday Polly Jeanty and Linda Rabe!

Monday 8/14:

Tuesday 8/15:

Wednesday 8/16:

Thursday 8/17: ~ Happy Birthday Cooper Tesch!

Friday 8/18: 8a-5p Rummage Sale

Saturday 8/19: 8a-12p Rummage Sale; ~Happy Birthday Ian Schmidt!

Sunday 8/20: 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Worship w/ HHT Barbershoppers; ~Happy Birthday Rachel Muehlbauer and Tess Rabe! Happy Anniversary Rich and Lori Schmitt! ** SPIRIT ARTICLES DUE 5pm**

August Pantry Items:

Jar of Peanut Butter or Jelly