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**Sunday, July 25, 2021**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

### **Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines**

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- The congregation will refrain from singing (Humming is permitted)
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- For those who wish to congregate, you are asked to do so outside
- Please stay home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well.
- Scrip will be available for purchase on the first and third Sundays. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Come now to worship the God who is the very definition of generosity, and who calls each of us to be generous as well.

**A:** **God of all good things, we invite you to be present today to receive our worship, to find our hearts' desires pleasing to you, and to watch as we live out your example of abundant love and grace.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**May my life be filled with thanksgiving and praise for your countless blessings. Give me assurance that you supply my every need through your generosity. May grace, mercy, and peace be with me, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Son, in truth and love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

SONG #259            “For the Beauty of the Earth”    (no singing, please)

**READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**Ephesians 3: 14-20**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

SERMON            “Above and Beyond”

SONG #485            “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”    (no singing, please)

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER...THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**(Thanks) For this congregation**

Holy and just God, we thank you for the great gift of this church community and all the people who have been touched by your grace here. Keep us from pure self-serving behavior and stir us to serve people who are most in need of your mercy. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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For your blessings upon this assembly, that it continue to dream dreams, sing new songs, and be a sign of your living presence in the world, let us pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

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Bless our congregation as it embarks on the future of this church. Help us to make the right decisions, so that our community may be a font of life for many generations to come. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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We pray for our elected consistory leaders: bless their lives and their service; energize their souls. Grant them the desire to grow in faith and inspire others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

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O God, challenge and strengthen our faith. Weed out what is soft and shallow; grow in us faith rich in nutrients, resistant to periods of drought and pests— faith that bears fruit in good times and in bad times.

Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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Lord we thank you for this church, built through the sacrifices of our ancestors in faith. May our worship be genuine and sincere; may the ministries that flow out of this place lift up people in the name of Christ. And despite all our efforts, may we never forget that we are saved by grace alone. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

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Gracious God, we thank you this morning for the gift of this church community and all the people who are active here in various ministries and roles, giving of their time, talent and treasure. Together we pray:

**C Thanks be to God.**

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Lord, in this week of we remember all the treasures that have been given to us: our families, our closest friends and neighbors, our church and the wealth of this land that provides for our needs. Together we thank you, o Lord.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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Lord, this time of year we remember those who have walked the journey of life before us. We remember how they influenced our lives, shaped our character and enabled us to become the people we are. Together we thank you for their presence in our lives.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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Holy God, we pray for our youngest church members and for parents rejoicing in the birth of a new child. Bless them and empower them to teach, practice and model faith at home. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

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O Lord, this morning we remember our elderly parishioners who live in Nursing Homes, especially (...) We pray for them along with all those who live in retirement communities. May they always feel our loving embrace. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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Lord, we want to thank you this morning for all the grandparents in our congregation who often take such good care of their grandchildren and provide help and support to other members of the family. Bless and sustain them, and help them through their own trials. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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Lord God, you are faithful all the time. Show us the way to live faithfully as your church on earth. Help us to make good decisions and be united. Bless our church consistory leaders and all of our lay leaders who work with so much passion and commitment.

Holy God,

**C hear our prayer**

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In thanksgiving for the children that were recently born in our community and in gratitude for those who finished their journey of life, in solidarity with those who mourn and grief, let us pray

**C Have mercy, O God.**

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Let us pray for our church community and all those among us you are struggling with a major challenge in their life. Lord, be with them this very moment and give them the strength they need. Together we pray:

**C Have mercy, O God.**

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(Thanks) For the Worship in this Congregation

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day of rest and this opportunity to restore our souls. Strengthen our desire to keep your day holy and help us resist the urge to be busy at all times. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

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Dear Lord, your word is living and active in the church, in our worship and in our spiritual discernment. By your Spirit, give us the will to leave behind the things that hold

us back from following you and serving others. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C hear our prayer.**

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Everlasting God, deepen your people's commitment to worship, study, prayer and spiritual growth and begin here in our church. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C hear our prayer.**

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Your Spirit awakens the souls of young people and leads them to seek a greater purpose in life. Help us to nurture the faith of those who are trying to find out what their life will be all about. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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We pray for the people of this congregation. Give us the desire to seek and love you with all our hearts and minds and souls. Revive our spirits; soothe those of us who have been tested by the hardships of life. Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

O God our Savior, lead your people to generosity, charity and spiritual depth. Uphold and restore a good moral compass in our church and among the people in our community. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

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Reveal yourself to this congregation and to our community, gracious God. Deepen our love for one another. In this season, give us compassion for all who suffer, and keep us from selfish excess. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

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**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.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (*Please wait to be dismissed by the ushers. Thank you.*)

## Those in our thoughts and prayers:

### Joys:

### Families who have lost loved ones:

### Those struggling with health issues:

Casey Litz (Cousin of Bonnie Zorn)  
Everett Henning  
Warren Fidlin  
Mother of Dawn Wirtz  
Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)  
Mike Mathes  
Tom Brickbauer

Macullen Schnell  
Jane Markelz  
Dale Horneck  
Olivia Marie  
Jessica Horneck

### Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

### Other concerns:

Those affected by the building collapse in FL.

Division in the U.S.

Racial Justice and equality in our country

Health Care workers

Those whose businesses are struggling

Those who are out of work

People who live where violence and injustice prevails.

## *2021 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members*

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

**Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family**

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

**JULY'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING  
SUPPORTS THE BETHELEHEM LADIES  
AND THEIR SERVICE PROJECTS TO  
OTHERS.**

### **YOUTH VOLLEYBALL**

All games begin at 6:30pm

**July 25 – Immanuel/Bethel @ BUCC**

**August 1 – Tournament (Tentative)**

**Noon @ St. James**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Plan a visit to our homebound members!** Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer are at Field of Dreams in Kiel (286-6189) Call to arrange a visit.

Save the date:

Sept 12: First day of Sunday School

Sept 19: Mission Sunday

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 7/25:** 9:30a Worship; *Happy Birthday Bill Schlegel and Gerald Schnell!*

**Monday 7/26:** *Happy Anniversary Bruce & Polly Jeanty! Happy Birthday Jeanette Wriedt!*

**Tuesday 7/27:** *Happy Birthday Tom Brickbauer, Bob Markelz, and Ruthie Rumpff!*

**Wednesday 7/28:**

**Thursday 7/29:** *Happy Birthday Allyson Jeanty, Mandy Volland, and Kendra Muehlbauer!*

**Friday 7/30:**

**Saturday 7/31:**

**Sunday 8/1:** 9:30a Worship; *Happy Anniversary DuWayne & Marcia Ninmer!*

**Pantry item: School Supplies**