

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

Worship Leader: WISE Team

Organist: Polly Jeanty

If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM

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

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

When I cry out in your presence :: Incline your ear to my cry

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549

"As We Gather"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Come, let us worship God who is creating a new heaven and a new earth. Today is a new day, a fresh start, and a day of new beginnings.

All: Come, let us worship God who creates peace out of chaos, calm out of anxiety, and hope out of despair. Even when we are depressed, we trust God is with us.

One: Come, let us praise God who chooses to be among us, one of us, a God dwelling among us living with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, brain disorders, and neurodiversity.

All: Come, let us praise God who says to each one of us, “no matter who we are or what medications we take or our diagnoses or where we are on life’s journey: I will be your God.”

One: Come, let us give thanks to God who promises to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

All: Come, let us give thanks to God who loves us so much that death, mourning, crying, and pain cannot stop God from loving us. This is our greatest hope: we are held in God’s love.

Everyone: Come, let us rejoice, for God, the Alpha and Omega, is making all things new! (Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund)

***OPENING PRAYER:**

One: O God, come into our place of worship this day and enliven us.

All: Come into each heart, each story, each prayer, each song, each life here today so that we may live and love with purpose, courage, and beauty.

One: O God, who has created each of us in your image and made us one body, each as holy vessels of your presence to one another, create in and among us a holy place.

All: Give us hearts and minds, we pray, to be open to human vulnerability, To listen to each other with patient and thoughtful attention and support. To perceive the grace of the differences in our embodied experience, To resist what excludes and diminishes, and to dismantle what acts as barriers to flourishing together in love and justice

One: O God, help us to trust your Spirit’s work to make us whole, together in relationships of mutuality and partnership, in sacred rhythms of giving and receiving.

All: Gather us together to be your people in the world.

One: In Jesus’ name we pray,

All: Amen. (Dr. Tom Reynolds)

***OPENING HYMN #319 sing 3x**

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of promise and possibility, we come before you broken and breathless, thinking we are trudging through a valley of lifeless bones. We look for life amidst the bones and dust and fail to notice your breath flowing in and around us. We think we need to be perfect before we can enter the new life you have for us. We become fearful when illness in body, mind,

or spirit enters into our lives or the lives of those around us. We worry that sickness of body, that mental illness, is a judgement from you. We would rather walk in a valley of bones than believe that your Love, your Spirit, claims us all—in our brokenness and our wholeness. Open us to the power of your Spirit, a power that makes us all whole: bone, sinew, and flesh filled with your breath. Let us remember that you do not leave us alone in a valley filled with dusty, dry bones; You call us into new life, again and again. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Hear the Good News: No valley is too despairing, broken, or dusty for God to enter in. No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life.

All: Through Christ, God sees only our wholeness. Through Christ, forgiveness, love, and new life are always possible.

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Make all things new.

All: We are reclaimed and remade by the Spirit of Life. In our brokenness and in our wholeness we are God's beloved. Thanks be to God. Amen. (Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, based on Ezekiel 37)

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #560

"Be Thou, O God Exalted High"

LITANY OF NAMING

Leader: On this Mental Health Sunday, we join in this Litany of Naming.

People: As a congregation we are glad to lift up our voices and our spirits to break the silence that often happens when we are confronted with mental illness.

L: As a faith community, we name the gifts and the often unnamed experiences which come to those who live with a mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, substance use, addiction, historic and generational trauma, racial trauma, grief and eating disorder. We name:

P: The Hope which upholds our spirit through honest sharing;

L: The Pain when people turn away because of fear;

P: The Courage to speak in a safe place the way that Jesus spoke truth with love;

L: The Strength from being with others who listen compassionately;

L: The Isolation that comes when no one knows what to say;

P: The Realization that mental illnesses and brain disorders can be managed;

L: The Exhaustion that comes with living with a mental illness as well as for those who are caregivers;

P: The Welcome of mental health as part of our church's ministry and outreach;

L: The Wisdom that comes when we become educated about mental health;

L: The Spirituality that comes when we walk alongside those who show both resilience and vulnerability in their lives affected by mental illness;

All: We receive these gifts that we have named, those which are welcomed and those that are challenges. We come before you, our God, knowing we are not alone and that You will show us a way to be and live. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen. (Rev. Alan Johnson)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 88

¹ O LORD, God of my salvation,
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,

² **let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.**

³ For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.

⁴ **I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,**

⁵ like those forsaken among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶ **You have put me in the depths of the Pit,
in the regions dark and deep.**

⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

⁸ **You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a thing of horror to them.**

I am shut in so that I cannot escape;

⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call on you, O LORD;

I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ **Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the shades rise up to praise you?**

¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,

or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

¹² **Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?**

¹³ But I, O LORD, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ **O LORD, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?**

¹⁵ Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

¹⁶ **Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.**

¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long;
from all sides they close in on me.

¹⁸ **You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
my companions are in darkness.**

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

CHILDREN'S TIME

MENTAL HEALTH MESSAGE

Amy Patthoff

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE

"Still Waters"

Leanna Crawford

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

#403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE(written by Rev. Sarah Lund)...

THE 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

#403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to NAMI of Manitowoc County)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #447 v.1 "All Things are Yours"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May these gifts help to build the community of care and compassion that we hope to create. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Amen. (Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith)

***CLOSING SONG #334 v. 1**

"Amazing Grace"

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

One: The One who created all that is calls us by name and invites us into a life of abundant Love.

All: We go out into the world as God's beloved people, bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet.

One: Jesus taught us to love one another as fiercely and freely as God loves each of us, with the power that binds us together as the Body of Christ.

All: We will embody Christ by shattering stigma and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.

One: The Spirit fills us with the Breath of Life and urges us to imagine anew how to be Church in the world today.

All: We will breathe deeply and move beyond what has been and what is. We will follow the Spirit and bring hope and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness. We will be the Church! (Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe)

POSTLUDE

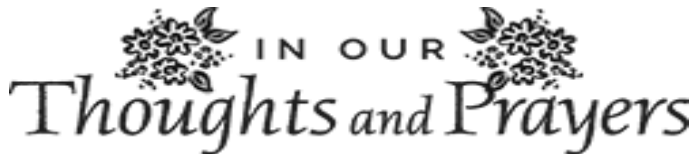
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ☐ Vacation Bible School will again be held in combination with St. Marks/ St. James. The dates will be August 12,13,14 from 9am-Noon. There is no cost. ANY child K-6th Grade may attend. Membership in the participating churches is not required. Transportation is still being worked out. We are also looking for volunteer helpers. Letters were mailed to eligible Sunday School families or see Pastor Randy to register your child or if you want to help.
- ☐ Each year we like to recognize our graduates. Do you know a member of Bethlehem who is graduating from high school, college, graduate school, military academy, etc.? If so, please provide pastor Randy (in writing) with the student's name, school they are graduating from, and "next plans" if they wish to share. You can send him the info by email or leave a note in the office. We will honor the graduates on June 15 during worship for any that would like to attend.
- ☐ Feel free to look at the collection of pictures recording the construction of the "New" Bethlehem church, 20 years ago.

- Feel free to relax in the Wellness Lounge. There is coffee available and comfortable seating. We also have many resources on wellness if you're interested.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall

- **Kingdom Fest!** Sat. June 14 – Free Christian music festival – Held at United Ministries in St. Nazianz. See bulletin board for details.



Joys!

The birth of Hudson Tommy Erdmann on May 14, 2025. Parents: Armond Wempner and Mckayla Erdmann. Very proud grandparents: Dan & Amy Wempner

Those Grieving:

Eric (Louie & Kathy's brother-in law)
Family of Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets

Those struggling with health issues:

Linda Smith	Ross Sippel
Mary Beth Molitor	Louie Bowe
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefeber
Marie Rietbrock	Donna Firman
Dana	Hubert

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

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Stay Informed! Sign up to receive Bethlehem's weekly email update, The Bethlehem Blurb. Send your email address to BethUCCKiel@outlook.com and you will be added!

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 6/8: 9:30am Mental Health Sunday Worship w/ Guest Speaker; *Happy Birthday Ginny Schultz!*

Monday 6/9:

Tuesday 6/10: 6:30pm Consistory Mtg.

Wednesday 6/11: *Happy Birthday Melissa Koppenhaver, Ethan Aschenbach, and Evan Ashenbach!!!*

Thursday 6/12:

Friday 6/13: *Happy Birthday Julie Mueller!*

Saturday 6/14: *Happy 50th Anniversary Will & Lora Mathes!*

Sunday 6/15: 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Blessing of the Graduates; *Happy Birthday Kevin Volland! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!*

June Panty Item:

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Lotion