

*"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/buccckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at

www.bethlehemkiel.org

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

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

Send out your light and your truth :: Let them lead me to your holy hill

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL 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 heart begin to worship

We'll be blessed because we came; We'll be blessed because we came

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Inspired by Psalms 42 and 43)

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so we long for you, O God.

As the plants turn toward the sun, so we turn to you, O God.

As the tide ebbs and flows, so we move with you, O God.

Many: Hope in God! Again, we worship the Holy One, our help and our God.
One: When tears are our constant companion, when our souls become weary, when we feel forgotten or alone, we may ask the question, “Where is God?”

Many: Trust in God! Again, we honor the Present One, our strength and our God.

One: Deep calls to deep. The steadfast love of God surrounds us. The Spirit of Truth leads us to everlasting joy.

Many: Rejoice in God. Again, we praise the Living One, our source and our God.

***OPENING PRAYER:**

God in whom we take refuge, we seek you as the calm in the storm, the path in the wilderness, and the order in the chaos. Renew our strength with a vision of your kingdom made real and expanding before us. Encourage us with a word of possibility and an encounter with your presence. Enliven us as we pray, sing, laugh, cry, witness, listen, ponder, and imagine in your midst and in our own way. We come to you with our full selves knowing you offer us the fullness of your being. May we find hope and challenge, joy and rest, peace and power as we immerse ourselves in you and glorify your name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #351**

“As the Deer”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Holy One, as we experience difficult moments, we so often fail to recognize your abiding presence. We question if you exist or if you are with us when things do not go our way or when it seems that you have not kept promises we’ve manufactured from our wishes and dreams—and that you’ve never pledged to keep. Help us to turn to you in trust even when the present troubles us and the future seems bleak. Guide us into a prophetic imagination that realizes that your covenant is everlasting. Sustain us by faith for transformation and new life. Amen.

Time of silent reflection...

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, the grace of God meets us even when we question, “Where is our God?”
God is near, with us, behind us, and before us. Sometimes, the answers we seek come slowly in silence.

Sometimes, God charges us to become the solution we need for one another.

Whatever and however God replies to our cries,

we may be assured that God's peace, justice, and righteousness are central to the response. Let us receive the gift of new and renewing life in Christ.

***RESPONSE #560 (tune: Doxology) "Be Thou, O God Exalted High"**
Be thou, O God exalted high; And as Thy glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth displayed, 'Til Thou art here, as there, obeyed. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 42 – p. 623 in hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even

Psalm 43 – p. 624 in hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even

Joel 1:1-7 – NIV

1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, you elders;

listen, all who live in the land.

Has anything like this ever happened in your days

or in the days of your ancestors?

3 Tell it to your children,

and let your children tell it to their children,

and their children to the next generation.

4 What the locust swarm has left

the great locusts have eaten;

what the great locusts have left

the young locusts have eaten;

what the young locusts have left

other locusts^[a] have eaten.

5 Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!

Wail, all you drinkers of wine;

wail because of the new wine,

for it has been snatched from your lips.

6 A nation has invaded my land,

a mighty army without number;

it has the teeth of a lion,

the fangs of a lioness.

7 It has laid waste my vines

and ruined my fig trees.
It has stripped off their bark
and thrown it away,
leaving their branches white.

Joel 2:25-31 – NIV – The Lord will rescue his people

²⁵ “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—
the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm^[a]—
my great army that I sent among you.

²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.

²⁷ Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the Lord your God,
and that there is no other;
never again will my people be shamed.

The Day of the Lord

²⁸ “And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

“Joel”

*HYMN #226

“Spirit of the Living God”

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

#403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...THE LORD’S PRAYER

Petitions end with: “God of the earth and all its peoples, **Let your light shine!**”

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 supports “Strengthen the Church.” From the UCC website: *“The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.”*)

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

All things are yours! We make that true, when we return our gifts to you. And so we give, and so we share, in Christ's strong name expressing care.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, through our giving, we acknowledge the role you have delegated to us in meeting our collective needs and allocating our resources of time, talent, and treasure for the good of all. May these offerings nurture ministry, further community engagement, and bring glory to your name. 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.*

BENEDICTION

We depart from this time of worship but let us not leave it behind.

**Let our worship inform our attitudes and dispositions,
our choices and our actions, our words and our witness.**

Let our lives be a living proclamation,
of what God has done, is doing, and will do.

Go in the peace of God for the glory of God.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

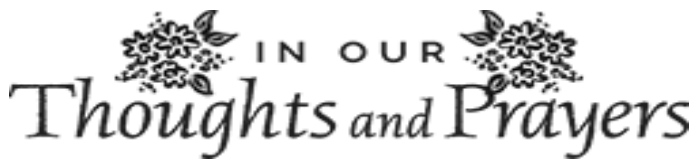
- ☐ Save the Date!!! July 13 - Bethlehem's Annual Summer Worship and Picnic – Food! Games! Bring the family! Bring a friend! Broasted chicken will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.
- ☐ Vacation Bible School will again be held in combination with St. Marks/ St. 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. Please register by June 30th.
- ☐ Feel free to look at the collection of pictures recording the construction of the "New" Bethlehem church, 20 years ago.
- ☐ You are invited to relax in the 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

- ☐ **Ride for a Cause – The Salvation Ride on July 12**
Join The Salvation Army's *Salvation Ride* on **Saturday, July 12**—a **family-friendly cycling event** with route options for all ages and abilities (10, 25, 50, 75, and 100 miles). The ride starts and ends at **King Park** in Sheboygan, and all cyclists are treated to a **delicious broasted chicken meal from Pizza Ranch** upon their return. Form a team

with others from your church—no need to ride the same distance—and support a great cause. **All proceeds benefit The Salvation Army's 45-bed homeless shelter** right here in Sheboygan. **Register today at www.thesalvationride.org**

- ☐ Friday, August 1 - **Faith and Family Night** at the WIS Timber Rattlers game – See Flyer for details.
- ☐ August 15 and 16 – Gospel Music Fest – Hilbert Civic Park – See flyer for details



Joys!

- ☐ The marriage of Leah Henning to Guillermo Cortes on June 14, 2025
- ☐ The marriage of Tasha Rabe to Adam Dreier on June 14, 2025
- ☐ The 50th Anniversary of Will & Lora Mathes on June 14
- ☐ The birth of Vander John Schisel, born June 6, 2025. Parents: John & Sarah Schisel
Grandparents: Tom & Marie Mueller

Those Grieving:

Eric (Louie & Kathy's brother-in law)

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

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

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 6/22: 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6:30pm VB @ Bethlehem; *Happy Birthday John Schisel!*

Monday 6/23: *Happy Anniversary Lee & Nikki Watson!*

Tuesday 6/24:

Wednesday 6/25: *Happy Birthday McKenna Rugowski and Tyler Hanson!*

Thursday 6/26: 9 am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry; *Happy Birthday Jerry Wehrmann!*

Friday 6/27: *Happy Birthday Warren Fidlin and Kayla Hanson! Happy Anniversary Brad & Maria Hoban!*

Saturday 6/28:

Sunday 6/29: 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6:30pm VB @ Immanuel/Bethel

June Panty Item:

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Lotion

Congrats to our 2025 Graduates

Dylan Jeanty, Fox Valley Tech - Woodworking Technology

Brenna Koppenhaver, Edgewood College - Bachelor's Degree in Art Therapy

Peyton Koppenhaver, Lewis & Clark University (Portland, OR) - Master's Degree in counseling with emphasis on addictions

Kendra Muehlbauer, Kiel High School - Plans to attend UW-Green Bay/Sheboygan to study Early Childhood Education

Carolyn Riesterer, Kiel High School - Plans to attend UW Stevens Point

Dayna Schultz, Lakeland University - Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with emphasis in human resources

Greg Schultz, Lakeshore Technical College - Auto Body Technician

Lily Watson, Kiel High School – Plans to attend UW-Whitewater where she will study K-12 Physical Ed. and health & run for cross country and track teams

Hailey (Schmidt) Wolf, Northeast WI Technical College - Dental Hygiene

Harrison Zorn, Kiel High School – plans to attend UW-Platteville and study civil engineering