

## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com)

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

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

or Bethlehem's website at [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

**Sunday, July 13, 2025**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

*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

***Make me to know your ways, O Lord :: teach me your paths***

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:**

One: We come to worship this day, knowing deeply what it means to struggle.

**Many: We remember times in our lives when we've felt hopeless, yearning for someone to care for us.**

One: In this divided climate that might tempt us to ignore the neighbors in our

midst, we need only tap into our own humanity.

**Many: Because we know what it means to struggle, we are challenged each day to show radical love to our neighbors.**

One: Even those who aren't like us.

**Many: Especially those who aren't like us.**

One: May our worship today help us remember times we have been helped...

**Many: ...and how we can become the helpers, and the hope-bearers, in this world.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**Christ, who shows us how to be in community together, thank you for gathering us into community together, onsite and online. We give you thanks for the ways we have been held in love in this community of faith. We are comforted by memories of mercy shown to us in difficult times, both by our friends in this space, and by your gracious presence in our lives. Empower us to be Good Samaritans in our own ways. Embolden us to seek out those who are hopeless and in need, not out of pity, but out of a deep understanding of difficulty in our own lives. Guided by your example. may we lead with radical love and brave compassion. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #7**

**"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

**God of the oppressed, we confess that it's sometimes easier to ignore those in need than it is to help them. We confess that we sometimes ask ourselves, "what will it cost us?" "what will others think?"—rather than remembering your call to care for our neighbors, whether we think they "deserve it" or not. Forgive us. Help us repent of our embarrassment at those in need, and turn instead toward empathy and compassion. We pray this in the name of your son, who teaches us how to love all of our neighbors. Amen.**

*Time of silent reflection...*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

One: Friends, take comfort. None of us get this right all the time. We are utterly human—fallible people in need of redirection and second chances.

This is the good news:

**we believe in a God who gives us a chance to start again. We are forgiven. May we respond to this grace with grateful hearts attuned to the pursuit of justice, mercy, and hope for all. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*RESPONSE (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 25: 1-10** – p. 606 in hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

### **Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

### **Obadiah 1:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> The vision of Obadiah.

This is what the Sovereign Lord says about Edom—

We have heard a message from the Lord:

An envoy was sent to the nations to say,

“Rise, let us go against her for battle”—

<sup>2</sup> “See, I will make you small among the nations;  
you will be utterly despised.  
<sup>3</sup> The pride of your heart has deceived you,  
you who live in the clefts of the rocks  
and make your home on the heights,  
you who say to yourself,  
‘Who can bring me down to the ground?’  
<sup>4</sup> Though you soar like the eagle  
and make your nest among the stars,  
from there I will bring you down,”  
declares the Lord.

### **Obadiah 1:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> Because of the violence against your brother Jacob,  
you will be covered with shame;  
you will be destroyed forever.  
<sup>11</sup> On the day you stood aloof  
while strangers carried off his wealth  
and foreigners entered his gates  
and cast lots for Jerusalem,  
you were like one of them.  
<sup>12</sup> You should not gloat over your brother  
in the day of his misfortune,  
nor rejoice over the people of Judah  
in the day of their destruction,  
nor boast so much  
in the day of their trouble.

### **Obadiah 1:15**

“The day of the Lord is near  
for all nations.  
As you have done, it will be done to you;  
your deeds will return upon your own head.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

\*HYMN #446

“Jesu, Jesu”

PRAYER CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...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 GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change supports the Bethlehem Ladies)

\*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

**God of love, we give these gifts back to you with humility, remembering time we've needed help in our own lives. Help us use the gifts we give to love others as we have been loved. 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

## POSTLUDE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **The Annual Bethlehem Church Rummage Sale is on!!**

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

August 6 thru August 9: Please see the signup sheets in the fellowship hall or email to [kayerad@hotmail.com](mailto:kayerad@hotmail.com) or call (920) 894-7229 if you can spare even an hour to help.

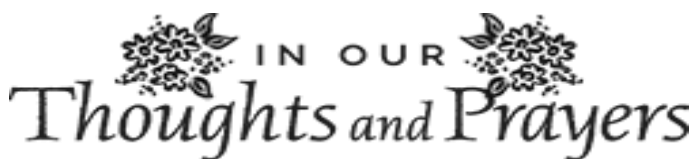
### **Donations Accepted:**

If you have items to donate, these can be dropped off in the new garage. If you would like us to pick up your items, do not hesitate to contact members of the Merry Christians. We will be happy to make arrangements. Please no TVs or other electronics.

- On Sunday, Aug 10, there will be NO WORSHIP SERVICE at Bethlehem. Members are encouraged to attend the “community” worship service which will be held at Kiel City Park at 9:00 am. Pastor Randy is leading that service.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall**

- Tuesday, July 15 – Ice Cream Social and Brat Fry – Immanuel UCC – 4p-7p
- Sunday, July 20 – **St. Marks/St James “Festive Sunday”** @ Spring Hope Barn- Outdoor worship @ 11a, Potluck Lunch @ noon, Live music starts @ 12:30 pm - registration required – See Flyer for details.
- Friday, August 1 - **Faith and Family Night** at the WIS Timber Rattlers game – See Flyer for details.
- Vacation Bible School for Adults and Children with Disabilities – August 4-7, 9:30a-12pm @ St. James Episcopal Church- Manitowoc. Details on the bulletin board
- 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Family of Randy Popp (Ruthie's cousin)

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Ross Sippel	Dana
Mary Beth Molitor	Louie Bowe
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Donna Firman
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefeber
Marie Rietbrock	Hubert

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

**2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)  
Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)  
Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)  
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)  
[Pastor - Rev. Randy Koppenhaver \(920\)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 7/13:** 9:30am Sunday Worship Followed by Church Picnic; 6:30pm youth volleyball @ St. Marks/St. James

**Monday 7/14:**

**Tuesday 7/15:** *Happy Birthday Dan Wempner! Happy Anniversary Chad & Sara Jeanty!*

**Wednesday 7/16:**

**Thursday 7/17:**

**Friday 7/18:** *Happy Birthday Helen Henning*

**Saturday 7/19:**

**Sunday 7/20:** 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6:30pm youth volleyball @ BUCC vs. Saron; *Happy Anniversary Eric & Dawn Muehlbauer!!*

**July Panty Item:  
School Supplies**