



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/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemuccckielwi>

or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org CCLI

Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

Sunday, July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Leader: Steven Volland
Musician: Kathy Bowe

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

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

This morning's service is a Hymn-Sing. Members of the congregation will be asked to suggest their favorite hymns and we will sing the first two verses. Please browse through your hymnal as you prepare for worship and select your favorite hymns.

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

The Lord is compassionate:: Slow to anger and rich in love

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: Hold us in your prayerful gaze, O God, as we come to worship;

All: we are your committed people, but we need your inspiration.

One: Remind us of your shadow over us, O God, as we come to worship;

All: you have gone with us in times past, but we need your reassuring presence.

One: Enable us to sense your love around us, O God, as we come to worship;

All: we are filled with thanksgiving, but there are testing times ahead.

One: Enliven us through your Holy Spirit, O God, as we come to worship;

All: we are ready for action, but we need you to work within our faith community.

*OPENING PRAYER:

One: God, whose beauty is revealed in a summer rose,

All: we praise your creative perfection.

One: God, whose joy is revealed in the reunion of old friends,

All: we praise your never-failing companionship.

One: God, whose concern is revealed in the tough struggles,

All: We adore your essential peacefulness.

One: Be revealed in this time of worship, O God,

All: as our voices sing your praise, as our minds are challenged by your Word, and as our hearts respond to your great love in Jesus, your Anointed One. Amen.

HYMNS

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: We mean well, O God, but often we do the wrong thing.

All: We are quick to give advice, but are slow to stop and listen.

One: We mean well, O God, but often we do the wrong thing.

All: We give a promise to another person, but then do not follow through.

One: We mean well, O God, but often we do the wrong thing.

All: We affirm our willingness to grow in the faith, but when the opportunity comes, we cannot find the time.

One: We mean well, O God, but often we do the wrong thing.

All: We pledge support to the faith community, but go it on our own.

One: We mean well, O God, but often we do the wrong thing.

All: We say we are "members of the family of all humankind," but fail to support those beyond the boundaries of our nation.

(time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Jesus says, “come to me all you who are weary
and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

**All: Jesus says, “take my yoke upon you, and
you will find rest for your souls.”**

One: Jesus says, “For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
The peace of Christ is yours!

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.**

HYMNS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷ “‘We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

God, source of all freedom,
this day is bright with the memory of those
who declared life and liberty are your gift to every human being.

Help us to continue a good work begun long ago.

Make our vision clear and our will strong:

**that only in human solidarity will we find liberty,
and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life on earth.**

Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:

**to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship,
and to find safety only in the common good of all.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

– from Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

MESSAGE

HYMNS

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Petitions end with: ...bring peace and hope, we pray. **And let your kingdom come.**

**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.**

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #226 v. 1 "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. Jingle Change for July supports Bethlehem's WISE efforts to de-stigmatize mental health and to be an active advocate in the community for those dealing with mental health conditions.*

* 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

One: O God, you have given to us beyond our wildest dreams,
and we are called to a thankful response.

All: Empower us, O God, to respond generously, wisely and compassionately, that our gifts combined with the gifts of others, may follow the pattern of Jesus Christ, and become a lively blessing. Amen.

HYMNS

BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

One: Give us a child-like faith as we leave the church:

**All: looking with awe at the billowing clouds,
and star-spread night sky;
celebrating the joy of each new day,
finding the deepest lessons in the simplest games,
ready to trust and share with friends,
prepared to forgive and start again,
wondering at the sheer goodness of Jesus,
believing totally in the love of our Heavenly Parent.**

One: Go confidently in that love, for God goes with you.

POSTLUDE

***liturgies and prayers for today were used with permission from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>
And Sparks, David. Prayers to Share: Year A, Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC, 2004.*

Bethlehem Announcements:

☐ **SPECIAL MUSIC!!**

Join us on Sunday, July 19 for special music sponsored by Donna Truttman-Retlich. Beginning before worship, at approximately 9am, Alex Meer will sharing his talents. Alex will also play a piece during worship.

☐ **Vacation Bible School!**

Once again, we are partnering with St. Marks/ St. James for Vacation Bible School! All are welcome and needn't be members of any of the participating congregations. Invite a friend! Bonus: It's free!! There is no cost to families! If possible, we will attempt to work out some sort of transportation from Bethlehem to St. Marks. Additionally, we would always accept volunteers to help with activities, even if just for ONE hour!

Enrollment forms were mailed to Sunday School families, but if you need one, please ask Pastor Randy. Please return your enrollment ASAP.

- ☐ With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation. See items next to the sound room. Couch and chair are in the youth room.
 - VHS tapes
 - Large TV stand
 - Also available is a couch and rocking chair



Those dealing with health concerns:

Bob Markelz	
Elaine Brill	Tom Knier
Tyler Meyer	Janet
Judy Brockway	Davin Horneck
Jackie Volland	Karen Laack
Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Margaret
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)

And for those in our church family who are dealing with concerns but wish to keep them private.

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

Community Announcements

How Far Would You Ride to Help the Homeless?

Join The Salvation Ride on Saturday, July 11, 2026, and help support The Salvation Army's homeless shelter in Sheboygan. This family-friendly cycling event offers 10-, 25-, 50-, 75-, and 100-mile routes, welcoming riders of all ages, abilities, and e-bikes. Gather a team from our church—participants can each choose the distance that's right for them—and ride for a cause that changes lives right here in our community.

Register today at www.thesalvationride.org

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 7/5: 9:30am Sunday worship w/ Hymn Sing- NO COMMUNION. NO Volleyball game; *Happy Birthday Emma Reis!*

Monday 7/6: 4pm Loads of Love Laundry Ministry; *Happy Birthday Jason Brockway! Happy Anniversary Warren & Diane Fidlin!*

Tuesday 7/7: *Happy Anniversary Mark & Dawn Wirtz and Aaron & Rachel Suttner!*

Wednesday 7/8: *Happy Birthday Abigail Reis!*

Thursday 7/9: 10:30am BUCC leads worship at Field of Dreams

Friday 7/10:

Saturday 7/11: *Happy Birthday Brad Hoban! Happy Anniversary Jeremy & Tammy Aschenbach!*

Sunday 7/12: 9:30am Sunday worship w/ Communion; 6:30pm Youth Volleyball; *Happy Birthday Case Pennell!*

**July/August Panty Item:
Jar of Peanut Butter or Jelly**

Save the Date!

Sunday, July 26 will be our annual outdoor worship and picnic. Details coming soon!

July 26 is also the date for the Rural Church Fellowship Youth Volleyball tournament to be held at Bethlehem. Volunteers will be needed to help with concessions, brat fry and bake sale.