

The Spirit of Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI 53042
(920)894-3332

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings, Good People of Bethlehem!

I recently received an advertising email titled, "The leaves will be changing soon." It wouldn't have done a bit of good, but I really wanted to scream "NOOOOOOO!" as loud as I could at my computer. Many of you know that we live on a heavily wooded property, and most of the year I love the trees... just not in October when I have leaves six inches deep that need to be removed from the yard, lest the grass be killed. It's a very laborious process.

However, this year, clean-up isn't the only reason I bemoan the approaching autumn. I don't know about you, but to me, summer went by faster than usual and I didn't do everything I had hoped to do. I didn't get to sit on my deck enough and I never lit a campfire in our firepit. I never got the fallen tree cleaned up at the back of our property and neglected to mow the trail through our woods. Truth be told, the days got away from me.

Continued on page 2



SEPTEMBER 2024

Pastor Randy's Ramblings	1-2
Spiritual Needs	2
Bethlehem Information	3-4
Lectionary	5
Consistory Monthly Mtg.	6-9
Sunday School	9
Loads of Love	9
Merry Christians	10
Scrip	10
Mission & Service Sunday	10
Historian	11
Mentors Needed	11
Bethlehem Ladies	12
New Lounge	12
Rummage Sale Recap	13
Blessing of Backpacks	13
Pastor on Vacation	13
Prayers/Thank You	14
Announcements	14-15
Vinnie's/Jingle Change	16
Bethlehem Events	16
Birthdays & Anniversaries	17

OCTOBER SPIRIT DEADLINE:

Sunday, August 18th

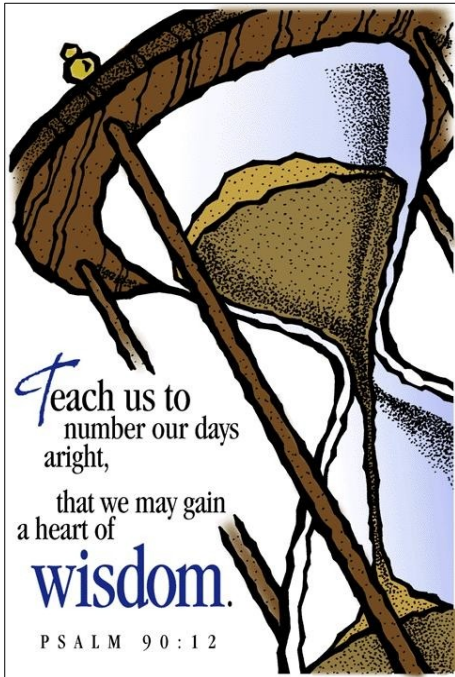
@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com



Pastor Randy's Ramblings (continued):



The older I get, the quicker time seems to pass and I HATE it! I've never been the type to cross off the days on the calendar. I know that my days on this earth are numbered and could never understand WANTING to acknowledge that a day is gone that I'll never get back. Psalm 90:12 says, "So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." This is an idea I have tried to embrace in the recent years of my life, especially following my daughters' car accident. Every day is a gift. Accept the gift and make the most of it. Life is fragile and finite. May we live wisely and fill our days doing things that bring glory to God, the GIVER of our days.

That being said, I hope that you will forgive my upcoming absences from the pulpit. Closely-spaced trips were not our intention, but when we learned that Peyton had some free time from her education over Labor Day weekend, we quickly booked flights to Portland. A week later, Melissa and I head to the Outer Backs of North Carolina with my cousin and his wife, a trip that's been in the works for a year. We look forward to ocean-side relaxation.

However you spend your last days of "summer," I hope it's meaningful and fulfilling. Life is too short for wasted days. May God bless you all, each and every day!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Randy



Pastoral Care: Please keep me informed of hospitalizations and other pastoral care needs. If you know of someone from our church family who is sick or in the hospital, ask if they've let me know. If not, offer to contact me on their behalf. I don't want anyone to feel unsupported in a time of need. That's part of my job! Recently I learned about a serious issue a week after it happened. The person said, "I thought someone from church would let you know." PLEASE... let me know! - Pastor Randy (920)286-2531 or randynme15@gmail.com

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Follow Bethlehem UCC

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

or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

Our Spiritual Leader:

Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com



- **Sunday School begins September 8th at 8:00am. All children 4 years – 6th grade welcome!**
- Gather in the sanctuary for worship Sunday mornings. Our service begins at 9:30am.
- Tune your car radio to 101.3FM to listen to the service in the church parking lot at 9:30am.
- View Sunday's service from the comfort of your home through Facebook live stream at 9:30am <http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/> OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website anytime that is convenient for you and your family www.bethlehemkiel.org

2023 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com

Elder/President - Steve 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 or LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or jm59umland@gmail.com

If you are not able to join us in person Sunday mornings, please mail your giving envelope/check to:

Bethlehem UCC

c/o Ruthie Rumpff

11608 Lax Chapel Road,

Kiel, WI 53042



You can also give electronically! Please contact Ruthie Rumpff for details

Bethlehem UCC has added a Donate Button on the Church Website

www.bethlehemkiel.org



Click on the donate button to make a secure online contribution today!

Your giving will go directly to offset our day-to-day costs of maintaining the church. This option was added in addition to giving at church, mailing your giving to church or giving electronically.

The on-line giving is secure by using your PayPal account, credit or debit card. The church is charged 1.99% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add this charge to your donation.

Thank you for all your support!

LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!

Pastor Randy is looking for persons interested in leading worship services as liturgists. Lead the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Read a portion of the scriptures. A sign-up sheet is on the door to the pastor's office. Let Randy know if you have any questions.



Lectionary Readings for SEPTEMBER:

<i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 01, 2024</i>	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15	James 1:17- 27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
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<i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 08, 2024</i>	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8- 9, 22-23 Psalm 125	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146	James 2:1- 10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
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<i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 15, 2024</i>	Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9	James 3:1- 12	Mark 8:27-38
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<i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 22, 2024</i>	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1	Wisdom of Solomon 1:16- 2:1, 12-22 Psalm 54	James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
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<i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 29, 2024</i>	Esther 7:1- 6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124	Numbers 11:4- 6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13- 20	Mark 9:38-50
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Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 8-13-2024

Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ruthie Rumpff, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Lee Watson, Traci Rabe, Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy: Prayer by John Killinger

Monthly Reports



Financial Secretary – Ruthie

- Month income \$6,317.00 (\$1,867.00 below YTD collection) \$51,665.00 (\$5,633.00 below YTD requirement)

The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2nd by Ross)

Jingle Change – month of July – Bethlehem Ladies – \$126.63

Treasurer – Jane

- Giving's received in July to date are \$6,443.63 bringing the checkbook balance to \$62,054.03

The report is approved as presented (motion by Traci and 2nd by Ruthie)

Building & Grounds checking and Savings

- Checking = \$3700.39
- Saving = \$8666.79
- Parsonage Roof donations to date \$8175.00

Secretary – Kathy

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the July Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Approved by Jane and 2nd by Ross

Building & Grounds Updates

- Water testing was completed on 8/14
- North side of parsonage will need to be power washed
- Carport gutters need to be cleaned out
- A motion was made (Traci) and 2nd (Ross) to accept the quote from Family Seal to seal the cracks in the parking lot for \$800.00
- Next spring the entire parking lot will need to be sealed and stripping done – we are looking at quotes on average of \$10,000. Anyone wishing to donate for this project can make a check to the maintenance fund and indicate "parking lot project"*

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

Pastoral Report – Pastor Randy

Led Worship -

7/14, 7/21, 8/4, 8/11

New member Sunday on 7/21- 1 family and 1 individual

Upcoming “OFF” Sundays: August 25, Sept. 1, Sept. 15

Community worship service on 8/11 (Kiel park) (22 Bethlehem members present)

Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

- VBS - Aug 13, 14, 15 (Two of the three BUCC students attended today)
- Confirmation:
Invitation/registration letters sent out on 8/9
First class/parent-mentor meeting on Sept. 18 at 6pm
Will need additional mentors

Mission

- Loads of Love - Aug 5 - 2 clients - \$59.50 expended
- WISE
Mental Wellness Survey in process
Next step is covenant. Hope to be able to vote at the annual meeting in Jan.

Pastoral care

Phone calls and left messages 5x
Other electronic communication 3x
Cards 0x
Visits 2x
Care Center/Hospital visits 1x

Wider Church/MID process

- MID work towards ordination:
 - ordination paper - Solicited lay readers and got responses from 10 people
 - Finishing up my competency matrix and learning covenant.
 - Taking Constructive Theology course at Eden Theological Seminary this fall.



Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

Communication and Other

Attended youth VB game at St. James on 7/21
Attended youth VB Tournament at St James on 8/4
Sept 1 - coverage? Are we moving communion?
Blessing of Backpacks on 9/8
Install SS teachers? On 9/8



- “Lounge” is complete and available for anyone to use

I am covering emergency care for Pastor Herda this week

Upcoming trips: Pastor Herda has generously agreed to cover all! (920-242-8308)



August 22-25

Aug 29-Sept 3

Sept 10-17

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem = 1 thinking of you & 1 birthday card

OLD BUSINESS

- VBS with St Marks/St James – 3 children signed up-car service was provided by St Marks from Bethlehem
- Outdoor Service – was moved indoors because of heat and possible rain
- Cookie/Candy collection – thank you so much for your donation. We collected 51 items for the Immanuel and Kiel Food Pantry’s.
- 8 ft banquet tables are still available at a lower price of \$25.00
- Mission Fest will be held on Sunday 9/22. Three projects have been confirmed. Hi-way cleanup, guest house sandwiches, and clean-up kits. A fourth project is being discussed--- cookie making. On the menu is soup and all the fixings. Clean-up kit items can be found on the easel at the entrance. Help yourself to a sticky and place your item in the basket below. If you don’t like to shop, you can donate monies in the box next to the easel.

NEW BUSINESS

- Confirmation/Sunday School – letters have been sent to parents for both groups. Looking for mentors for confirmation. Looking for teachers for Sunday School.
- Financial/Investment options – Motion was made (Ross) and 2nd (Ruthie) to invest in 3 CD’s (Bank First) for \$5000.00 at three-month intervals each (Aug/Nov/Feb) for 6 months. It will be reviewed in May as to any other amounts invested. The interest will be paid forward when each comes due. The consistory will decide on organization. Suggestions are welcome.
- Web-Pro contract – Motion was made (Lee) and 2nd (Ross) to use option 1 and prepay fuel for 2024-2025 season.
- Privacy issues – a short discussion was held on publishing full names for prayer concerns. Procedure will stay as is.

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie & 2nd by Lee
Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

Next meeting – September 4, 2024 6:30 PM (Note date change)

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Sunday School:

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS – SEPT 8TH AT 8:00 AM

Sunday School families should have received a letter outlining the details and the starting date in September. We begin classes the Sunday after Labor Day at 8:00 a.m. Please reply to the letter confirming “yes or no” to attending Sunday School. If you did not receive a letter, contact Kathy Bowe (920-894-7243)

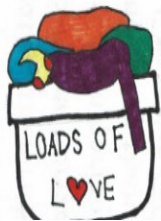
We are looking for more help in teaching Sunday School. This is not a full-time job. Teachers share weeks and set their own schedule. Lessons and supplies are provided. Feel free to sit in on any class and help with activities or just be a helper.

See you on Sunday Sept 8th.

Keep collecting those cans!



Loads of Love:



Once a month, recipients meet Bethlehem's Loads of Love team at the laundry mat and are supplied detergent and dryer sheets to wash and dry their clothing, towels, and bedding. Loads of Love also generously provides the quarters for the washers and dryers. With your help Bethlehem will continue to do God's work through this important mission. Your donations can be placed in the "Laundry Detergent" container located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Thank you for sharing God's love through your generosity!

Bethlehem Merry Christians:

Please Save Your Kiel Piggly Wiggly Receipts: The Merry Christians have been collecting cash register receipts from the Kiel Piggly Wiggly store. No other area store receipts are of any use to us. We receive a monetary rebate for every dollar that is spent on groceries. Please help us help others by placing your used store receipts in the box under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. Thank you!



Bethlehem Scrip:

Fall is fast approaching! Consider buying scrip cards for all your fall projects. I carry Menards, Fleet Farm, Ace Hardware, Lowes and Walmart cards and many more. Scrip cards work the same as cash, but they benefit the church as we buy them at a discounted rate. Our profit comes from the percentage that is discounted.

From the profit, 10% is set aside for the families in need program. Your support is appreciated.

~Linda Rabe

Scrip Stats:	Total Sold	Profit
7/21/24	\$ 950.00	\$ 33.00
8/05/24	\$3,625.00	\$111.11



Bethlehem's Mission & Service Sunday is September 22nd



Along with preparing sandwiches for Guest House in Milwaukee and Highway clean-up, we will be putting together disaster clean-up kits for Church World Service. If you wish to contribute, please purchase the EXACT item(s) requested by grabbing a post-it note from the poster displayed in the Fellowship Hall next to the "example kit" (*please note that they are somewhat fussy about the items*). You can also donate money and the "team" will purchase the necessary supplies. The total cost of a disaster clean-up kits is about \$100.

All those volunteering to help complete projects that day will be treated to a delicious lunch.

From the Historical Records of Bethlehem U.C.C.

The history of Bethlehem notes that for two years prior to the official start of Bethlehem, Sunday School as well as worship was conducted at the local school house. That means Bethlehem's Sunday School program goes back to 1863.

As Sunday School resumes this month, here is a look at some of the pins pupils were rewarded for attendance and encouragement. The chain of pins on the left dates from the 1950's and 1960's. The chain on the right is from the 1930's.



Kaye Radder, Historian

Confirmation Mentors Needed



Once again, we are seeking individuals willing to be Confirmation Mentors. Your commitment is one meeting per month with your student. What's required: Your willingness to be accepting, a good listener, and supportive. What's NOT required: any special biblical or theological knowledge or the desire to impress your beliefs on the student. The job description is to be a mentor and friend, not a teacher. Please see Pastor Randy if you're willing to accept the challenge!

Bethlehem Ladies:



The Bethlehem Ladies met on Sunday, August 18th at 8:30am. Five members were present.

We received a check for the jingle change that was collected in the month of July. *Thank you for your generous donations!*

Thank you to ALL who brought in items for the Harbor House Abuse Shelter. At Harbor House, they rely heavily on the generosity of the community and greatly appreciate the donations.

Our Annual Guest Night will be Tuesday, September 17th. Our Guest Speaker will be Steve Hamer, President of Wash for Life. Wash for Life is a nonprofit organization that installs wells (boreholes) at schools and villages in Malawi, Africa so they can access clean water. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a light lunch and speaker to follow. Lunch will consist of broasted chicken, rolls, salads and dessert. The congregation and the community are invited to join us. Please invite your family and friends!! All are welcome! There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



On to wash Communion glasses for September are:

Sunday, Sept 8th: (NOTE: Communion has been changed to the 2nd Sunday of September)

Barb Henning

VOLUNTEER NEEDED PLEASE!

The Bethlehem Ladies would like to thank all that have volunteered to help wash the Communion Glasses. We are still looking for help through the remainder of the year. This is a very easy job and is a fun time of fellowship. There will be one Bethlehem Ladies member scheduled for each washing and we are looking for 1 or 2 more from the congregation to help. A sign-up sheet with all the dates for the upcoming year is in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping us out. Thank you!!

Jeanette will check with Field of Dreams to see if November 2nd will work for playing Bingo with residents.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Polly Jeanty, Secretary

Get Comfortable!

Bethlehem has a new "lounge" located in the middle Sunday School room.

Comfortable seating! Coffee! Books and Games!

Feel free to relax or meet for conversation.

Before church - After church – While your kids are at Sunday School!

Rummage Sale Thank You:

Thank you to all those who helped make the 2024 Rummage Sale a success.

Thank
You!



- Donors, including Bethlehem family and especially the greater community members who have been contributing sale items for several years.
- Volunteers who help with some heavy lifting, set up, sales and clean up.
- Buyers who often say "keep the change" and "I love coming here"

This year leftover items were donated to three organizations: St. Vinnie's in Kiel, Sharon Richardson in Sheboygan Falls, and Full Circle Community Closet in New Holstein.

The profits from this year's sale are more than \$500. And, of course those who worked together had some great opportunity to get to know one another.

It's never too soon to start savings some of your household unused items for next year's event.

On Sunday, Sept 8, we will conduct a Blessing of the Backpacks! Any student, young or otherwise, is invited to bring their book bags, backpacks, etc.

If you're not a student and just want your "work bag" blessed, bring it along!!



Pastor Randy & Melissa will be on vacation the following days



- August 22-25
- Aug 29-Sept 3
- Sept 10-17

If you or a family member is in need of spiritual care while Pastor Randy is away, please contact Pastor Herda (920-242-8308).

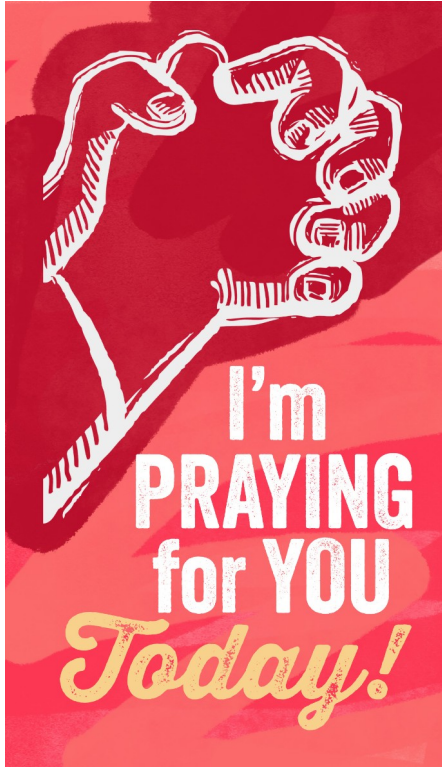


Those in our thoughts and prayers

Joys:

Those struggling with health issues:

<i>Will Mathes</i>	<i>Jeanette Wriedt</i>
<i>Doris Mae Ninmer</i>	<i>Ross Westphalen</i>
<i>Chad Jeanty</i>	<i>Wanda Matzdorf</i>
<i>Art Matzdorf</i>	<i>Jim Markelz</i>
<i>Brad Westphalen</i>	<i>Nancy Zimmermann</i>
<i>Nancy Henschel</i>	<i>Heidi Konen</i>
<i>Darlene Horneck</i>	<i>Dawson Horneck</i>
<i>Jessica Horneck</i>	<i>Mason Kannel</i>
<i>Mary Beth Molitor</i>	<i>Marie Rietbrock</i>
<i>Gary Steinhardt</i>	<i>Tom Lefeber</i>
<i>Emily (cousin of Melissa)</i>	<i>Shari</i>
<i>Heather</i>	<i>Brenda Voland</i>
<i>Rhonda Schroeder (friend of Ruthie)</i>	



Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin & Doris Mae Ninmer
Helen Henning

Other important Bethlehem Announcements:

Ready to talk about Christmas? We are once again organizing the "United Church Choir" to perform on Dec. 8. See Randy if interested!

Save your Aluminum Cans:



Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans.
Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.

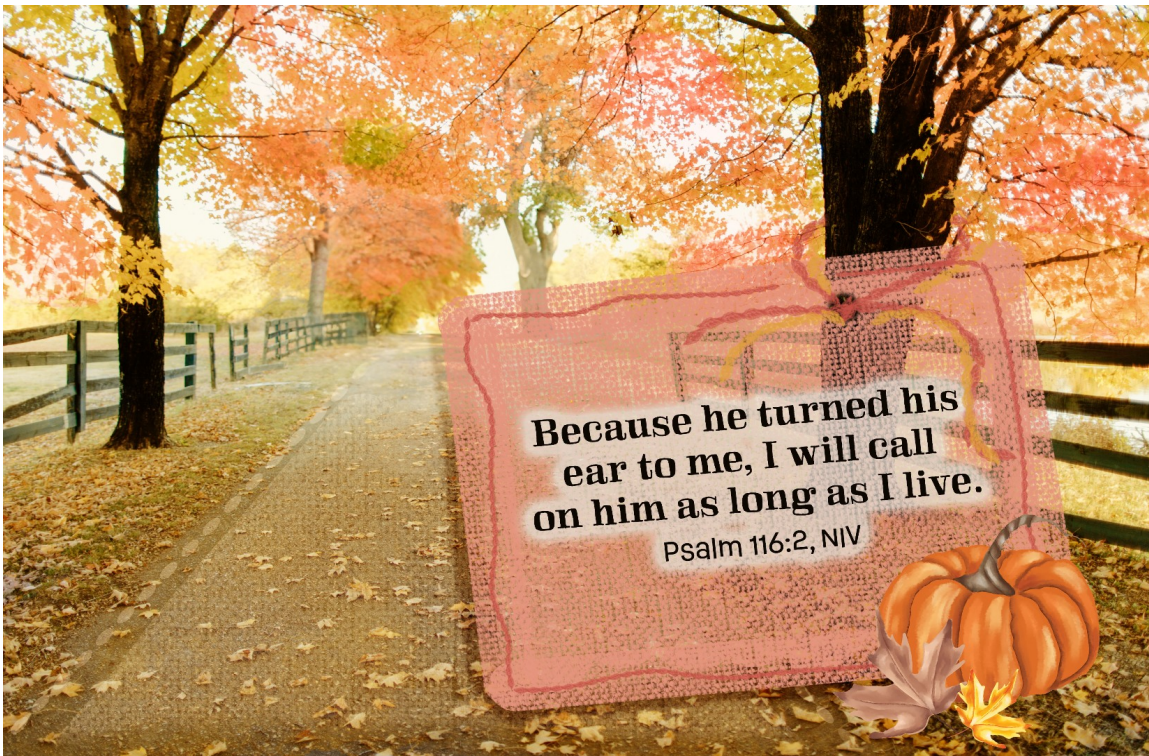
~Can you help? Bethlehem will be assisting at the Immanuel UCC Food Pantry on the 4th Thursday of the month. Times are approximately 8:30 – 11am. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall for Thursday, September 26th.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

Come join other Manitowoc Residents to the Stepping On Workshop. Stepping On is an Evidence Based Falls Prevention Program hosted by the ADRC of the Lakeshore that will take place in September, starting September 12th thru October 29th at the Kiel Community Center. A weekly workshop that changes how to prepare "Not to Fall" as you age. Learn from experts and gather knowledge directly related to falls prevention. Sign up today for the workshop, seating is limited. Call the ADRC of the Lakeshore at 1-877-416-7083 to RSVP

Faith in the Fall - Our Shepherd UCC in Howards Grove, Sunday, September 8th 10am - 2pm (Lunch 11am-2pm). Join us for our annual music festival with live music, food, 50/50 raffle (benefit for Sheboygan County Food Bank), raffle baskets, children's activities and fellowship. Rain or shine. Please bring lawn chairs.

The United Church Men and Women will hold their annual scholarship banquet at St. John's UCC in Sheboygan on Thursday, October 24th at 6:30pm. WI Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert is the keynote speaker. Please see Pastor Randy for tickets. They are \$20 each.





SEPTEMBER Vinnie's Pantry Collection: a package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling



SEPTEMBER Jingle Change supports CROP - CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

SEPTEMBER Bethlehem Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Worship	2 	3	4 6:30pm Consistory	5	6	7
8 8am Sunday School 9:30am Communion Service w/Pastor Randy – Blessing of Backpacks & Sunday School Teacher Installation	9 Loads of Love 4pm	10	11	12	13	14
15 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship	16	17 5:30pm Bethlehem Ladies Guest Night s/Guest Speaker Steve Hamer	18 6pm Confirmation meeting with parents and mentors 5pm October Spirit articles due to Traci	19	20	21
22 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy – Mission & Service Sunday	23	24	25	26 8:30am Immanuel Food Pantry	27	28
29 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship	30					

Aug. 22 – 25, Aug. 29 – Sept. 3 and Sept. 10-17 - Pastor Randy on vacation - Contact Pastor Herda with any spiritual needs. (920-242-8308)

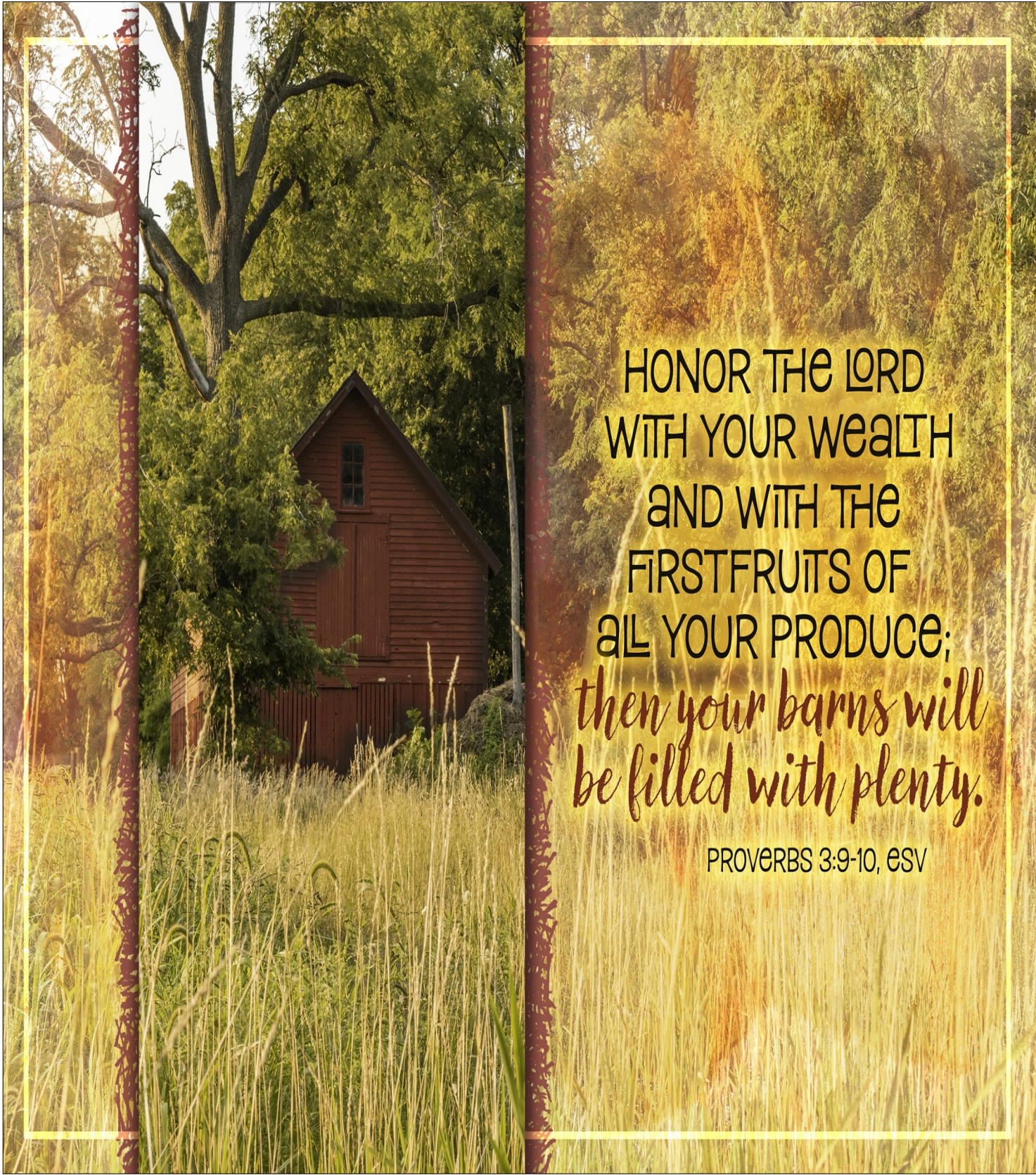


SEPTEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Tony Tesch	3 Brian Witkowski Wyat Snyder	4	5	6	7
8	9 Lori Schmitt	10	11 Addison Salm Kelly Ryba	12 Molly Rabe Traci Rabe	13	14 Ben Jeanty
15 <i>Louie & Kathy Bowe (1973)</i>	16 <i>John & Sarah Schisel (2023)</i>	17 Courtney Riesterer	18	19 <i>Hunter & Chelsea Hemauer (2020)</i>	20 Bonnie Hoban	21
22	23	24 <i>Ross & Lisa Westphalen (2005)</i>	25 Robert Schnell	26	27	28
29	30 Chad Jeanty <i>Dan & Amy Wempner (1995)</i>					





HONOR THE LORD
WITH YOUR WEALTH
AND WITH THE
FIRSTFRUITS OF
ALL YOUR PRODUCE;
*then your barns will
be filled with plenty.*

PROVERBS 3:9-10, ESV