

# The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

## Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
I hope you are doing well. The autumnal equinox is past, and we will soon find ourselves with more hours of darkness than light. Autumn is a time of obvious change. Leaves change colors and fall. Flowers and other garden plants wither and die. The days and nights get cooler. If you're like me, it's hard not to feel a little dispirited. I dread the winter. I have to be intentional about keeping my hope and spirits up.

*but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint. - Isaiah 40:31*

Of course, the critical word for me in this passage is "wait." It's difficult to have patience and the truth is, I don't want to wait. But of course, when it comes to seasonal change, I don't really have a choice! All I can do, is keep trusting and waiting and relying to God to keep renewing my strength. Prayer, meditation, and scripture reading are all ways I maintain my connection to God. Through these practices, I know he raises me like eagles' wings and holds me in the palm of his hand. His strength sustains me.

*Continued on page 2*



## OCTOBER 2024

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## NOVEMBER SPIRIT DEADLINE:

**Sunday, October 20th**

**@ 5pm**

**Send to Traci at**

**trabefamily5@gmail.com**



## Pastor Randy's Ramblings (continued):

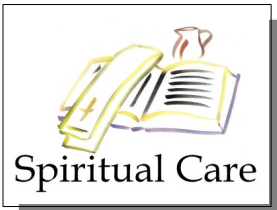
Perhaps part of my trepidation is knowing our travels for the year are complete. Melissa and I had a wonderful time in the Outer Banks with my cousin and his wife. Watching the waves roll in and out and listening to their eternal roar soothes and fills my soul. We visited a few national parks, climbed a lighthouse, and rode a Humvee through the dunes in search of wild horses. Despite dreading the impending seasonal change, I DO feel recharged and ready to get back to normal for a while.

As I inch closer to ordination (hopefully!), this fall I am enrolled in a theology course through Eden Seminary. I look forward to learning more and more about faith and understanding God's place in our lives. It will be a lot of work for me, but very meaningful work. So far I have really enjoyed the learning.

As you embark on YOUR autumn journey, I hope that God will also lift YOU up... and when you need it most, that he will hold you in the palm of his hand! Peace!

God bless you!

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 randynmel5@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](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

## Our Spiritual Leader:

**Pastor Randy Koppenhaver**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



- **Sunday School begins September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.**  
**All children 4 years – 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

## 2023 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

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

Elder/President - Steve 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 or [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

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

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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!*

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## **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 OCTOBER:**

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost      Job 1:1, 2:1-10      Genesis 2:18-24      Hebrews 1:1-4,      Mark 10:2-16  
October 6, 2024

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost      Job 23:1-9, 16-17      Amos 5:6-7      Hebrews 4:12-16      Mark 10:17-31  
October 13, 2024      Psalm 22:1-15      Psalm 90:12-17

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost      Job 38:1-7      Psalm 104:1-9, 24      Hebrews 5:1-10      Mark 10:35-45  
October 20, 2024      Psalm 91:9-16

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost      Job 42:1-6, 10-17      Jeremiah 31:7-9      Hebrews 7:23-28      Mark 10:46-52  
October 27, 2024      Psalm 34:1-8,      Psalm 126  
Psalm 19-22



## **Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 9-4-2024**

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

Call to order: 6:38 PM

Opening by Randy: Reading by Steven – John 13:34-35 Reading by Lee – I Corinthians 13:4-7

Leader Article read by Randy with questions and prayer to follow.

### **Monthly Reports**

#### **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

- Month income \$5,619.00 (\$2,565.00 below YTD collection) \$57,274.00 (\$8,198.00 below YTD requirement)

The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Traci)

Jingle Change – month of Aug – Mission Project – Clean-up kits – \$215.72

#### **Treasurer – Jane**

- Giving's received in Aug to date are \$5,834.72 bringing the checkbook balance to \$50,639.89
- Created CD at First Bank for \$5000.00

The report is approved as presented (motion by Traci and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ross)

#### **Building & Grounds checking and Savings**

- Checking = \$3975.39 (Deposit from banquet tables)
- Saving = \$8666.79
- Parsonage Roof donations to date \$8175.00

#### **Secretary – Kathy**

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the Aug Spirit of Bethlehem. Approved by Ruthie and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane

#### **Building & Grounds Updates**

- Water testing was completed – no issues
- North side of parsonage will need to be power washed
- Carport gutters cleaned out – Thank you Louie and Rick
- Family Seal has sealed cracks in parking lot.
- 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"
- New (used) lawn mower has been purchased by the Cemetery Association. Cemetery has asked for half the cost. Motion was made (Ross) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Lee) to give \$1700.00 to the Cemetery Association



## Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

### **Pastoral Report**



- Worship - 8/19
- Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: Sept. 15, Oct 20, Nov. 24, Dec. 15, Dec 29
- Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School
- VBS - Positive comments from the students who attended and their parents

### Confirmation:

- Five students committed - overwhelmingly prefer classes on Sunday am as opposed to Wed night
- I have mentors and students matched
- First class/parent-mentor meeting on Sept. 18 at 6pm
- Lakeland event is Thursday, Oct 17 @ 7pm. I don't think I can attend.
- Retreat with St. Peters and others tentatively scheduled for Jan. 17-18 at Daycholah. \$105/person

### Mission

- Loads of Love - Sept 9
- Crop Walk in Kiel on Oct. 6 at noon

### WISE

- Mental Wellness Survey in process
- Next step is covenant. Hope to be able to vote at the annual meeting in Jan.

Desires for worship on mission & service Sunday??

### Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 6x
- Other electronic communication 6x
- Cards 0x
- Visits 0x
- Care Center/Hospital visits 5x (1 for St. Peter's)
- Working on Doris Mae's funeral, Monday, Sept. 9
- Visitation 9a-12
- Service 12pm followed by burial
- Catered lunch at church

### Wider Church/MID process

- -My completed matrix, learning covenant, and ordination paper has been submitted to the committee on placement and transition.
- -Taking Constructive Theology course at Eden Theological Seminary. Thursdays 6pm
- -Enrolled in my Community of Practice - \$250

# **Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):**

## Communication and Other

- Hemauer baptisms (2) scheduled for 10/13
- Attended RCF meeting on 8/19
- Blessing of Backpacks on 9/8
- Acknowledge SS teachers On 9/8
- “Lounge” is complete and is available for anyone to use - Please leave the door open and light on whenever the congregation is present so it doesn't appear off limits.
- Upcoming trip: Pastor Herda has generously agreed to cover! (920-242-8308) Sept 10-17

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 8 ft banquet tables are now gone-proceeds went to the Building and Grounds Fund
- Mission Fest will be held on Sunday 9/22. Four projects have been confirmed. Hi-way cleanup, guest house sandwiches, cookie making and clean-up kits. On the menu is soup and all the fixings. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to pick your mission project!
- Confirmation and Sunday School letters have been sent out. 5 students are confirmed for Confirmation and 10 students confirmed for Sunday School.
- Still looking for help for Sunday School teachers.
- Thank you to all who volunteered to be a mentor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Pastoral review discussion will be held at the next meeting.
- Zero-givers will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Ruthie composed a letter to be sent to all members to keep everyone informed of our financial status.
- Hemauer baptism will be on 10/13/24
- Appalachia Service Project-If you are interested in a mission project next summer, watch for more detail to come. Plans are already in the planning stages with St Peters.



Motion to adjourn by Ruthie & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ross  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting – October 8, 2024 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe



## Bethlehem Sunday School:

### SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN

We are hearing the sounds of Sunday School children. They come running in the building in the morning and are leaving with papers in their hands. What did you learn today is asked by parents. The kids proudly show them their colored art works.

Up-coming events for kids. CROP walk will be held on Oct 6 beginning at St Peters in Kiel. Watch your bulletin and posters for details.

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.

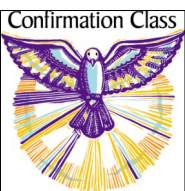
See you in class.

Keep collecting those cans!



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## Confirmation Classes:



Confirmation Class  
Oct 6 - Crop Walk in Kiel - 11:45am

Oct 17 - Confirmation event at Lakeland - meet at church at 6:30pm

Oct 27 - Confirmation class 8am

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## 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 Ladies:**



The Bethlehem Ladies hosted their annual Guest Night on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. There were 26 people in attendance. Our speakers for the evening were WASH for Life President Steve Hamer along with his daughter Shannon and granddaughter Charlotte. They spoke about their mission work to provide clean water to communities in Malawi. It started out with a small group of girls who wanted to make a difference. The group, Girls Reaching Out (GRO) was formed in 2013 and over the years has funded 34 boreholes in Malawi. Each borehole affects on average 500 kids, their communities, and their schools – 17,000 students in total. The total construction cost of a well is \$7,500. What an amazing accomplishment and difference this has made in so many lives. Thank you to all who took time to join us! It was enjoyed by all.

On to wash Communion glasses for October are:

Sunday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>: Shirley Henschel  
**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 signup sheet with all the dates for the upcoming year is in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping us out. Thank you!!

Our next meeting is Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM – ALL ladies are welcome to join us!

Polly Jeanty, Secretary

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On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bethlehem Ladies Member, Doris Mae Nimmer passed away. Doris Mae was a member of the Ladies Group for 69 years. We extend our deepest sympathies to Doris Mae's family. Doris Mae will be dearly missed.



*Well done, good and faithful servant. ~Matthew 25:23*

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**Bethlehem Ladies (pictures from Guest Night):**



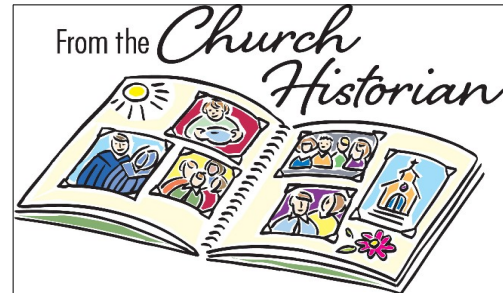
## From the Historical Records of Bethlehem U.C.C.

Taken from the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet for Bethlehem United Church of Christ:

“During Bethlehem’s hundred year history 567 persons were baptized, 462 were confirmed, 186 couples joined in marriage, and 206 persons laid to rest. The present communicant membership is 163. Baptized but not confirmed membership is 59.”

As of September 15, 2024:

Persons baptized is 802  
Persons confirmed is 719  
Couples married is 307  
Persons laid to rest is 346  
Communicant membership is 175  
Baptized but not confirmed is 36



~Kaye Radder

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## 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 or Confirmation Class!*



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## Merry Christians:

Using profits from the brat fry in May and the rummage sale in August, the Merry Christians were able to make the following donations.

The United Church Men and Women scholarship fund received \$500. Scholarship recipients will be announced later in October. This program awards scholarships to those seeking to go into the ministry.

To help support the Mission and Service Sunday projects, items were purchased to fill one disaster relief cleanup buckets.

Kaye Radder

# Those in our Thoughts and Prayers

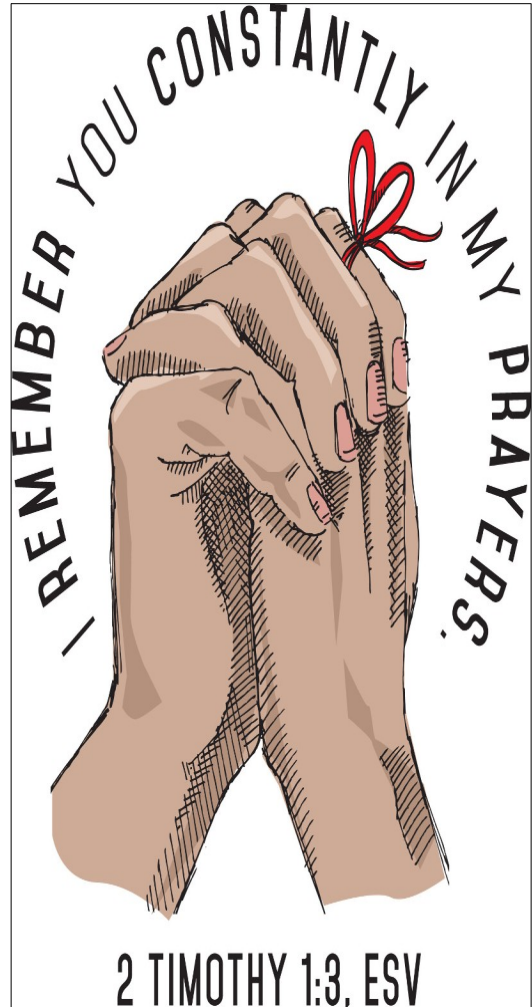


## ***Families who have lost loved ones:***

*The family of Doris Mae Ninmer*

## ***Those struggling with health issues:***

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



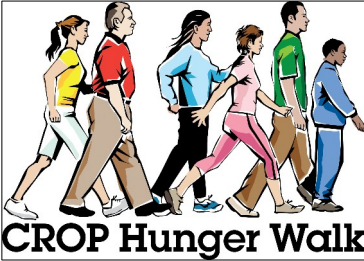
## **Those unable to worship with us:**

*Merlin Ninmer  
Helen Henning*

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Check church bulletin board for flyers

**Upcoming NAMI Events:** If interested, Let Pastor Randy know and he will forward you the email with registration links

- o NAMI Walk – Sat. Oct 5 – 12-2pm – Kiwanis Park, Sheboygan



**The Rural Church Fellowship CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, Oct 6 starting at noon. The walk for hunger will begin in Kiel City Park behind St. Peter's UCC. ANYONE can walk in the event. Please see Pastor Randy if you'd like to walk and collect donations. Bethlehem's confirmation students are also participating. Please support them as you can!**

### **Cardboard City 2024: Raising awareness of Homelessness in Manitowoc County** Oct 12, 4-

10pm, First Presbyterian Church, 502 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Manitowoc. For a firsthand experience, you can also sleep overnight in a cardboard box, tent, or in your car. Minimum pledge is \$20. All proceeds support agencies that assist the unhoused. See flyer for more details.

**Ham Dinner** - Sunday, Oct 20, 11a-12:30pm – ST. James UCC- Newton – Carryout only. \$14/meal – See flyer

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

*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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Times are approximately 8:30 – 11am. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall for Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.**



## OCTOBER Vinnie's Pantry Collection: Cleaning Supplies

OCTOBER Jingle Change supports Neighbors in Need



## OCTOBER Bethlehem Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>6</b> 8am Sunday School 9:30am Communion Service w/Pastor Randy 11:45am CROP Hunger Walk - Kiel	<b>7</b> Loads of Love 4pm	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Consistory mtg.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Confirmation Event @ Lakeland – meet at church 6:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8am Sunday School 8:30am Bethlehem Ladies 9:30am Worship  5pm November Spirit articles due to Traci	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30am Immanuel Food Pantry  6:30pm United Men & Women's Scholarship Banquet @ St. John's Sheboygan	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8am Sunday School <b>8am Confirmation Class</b> 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy 6pm Rural Church Fellowship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



# OCTOBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Kerry Henning	5
6	7	8	9 Lloyd & Darlean Rumpff (1954)	10	11	12 Abby Wilharms
13	14 Rick Rabe	15 Mark & Brenda Riesterer (2005)	16 Lisa Westphalen Tom & Marie Mueller (1992)  Daniel & McKenna Rugowski (2021)	17 Cameron Wempner	18 Kyle & Brianna Pennell (2014)	19
20 Harold Shaver  Joe & Mary Beth Molitor (1990)	21	22	23	24 Randy & Melissa Koppenhaver (1998)	25	26
27 Aliyah Arnold Tyson Arnold Steve Deignan	28	29 Hudson Hoban	30	31 Laura Mueller		



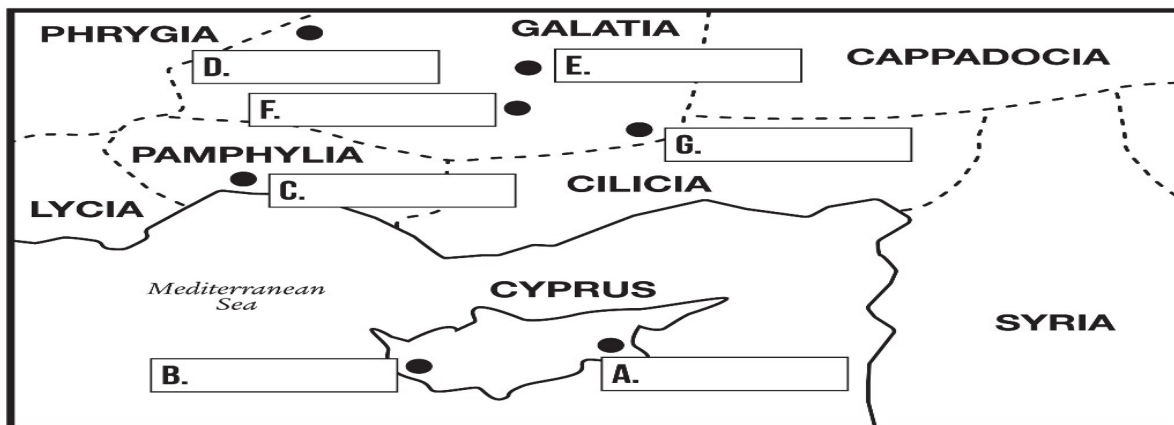
# PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

**Directions:** From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map. Use the Bible references to help.



- |                       |              |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| A. <del>SALAMIS</del> | (ACTS 13:5)  | E. <del>ICONIUM</del> | (ACTS 13:51) |
| B. <del>PAPHOS</del>  | (ACTS 13:6)  | F. <del>LYSTRA</del>  | (ACTS 14:6)  |
| C. <del>PERGA</del>   | (ACTS 13:13) | G. <del>DERBE</del>   | (ACTS 14:6)  |
| D. <del>ANTIOCH</del> | (ACTS 13:14) |                       |              |




Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe


## Bible Quiz

Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to \_\_\_\_ the world, but to \_\_\_\_ the world." Fill in the blanks.

- A. judge; save
- B. hate; love
- C. condemn; teach
- D. disrupt; conform to



Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV.)



EVERY DAY  
I WILL  
BLESS YOU  
AND PRAISE  
YOUR NAME  
FOREVER  
AND EVER.

PSALM 145:2