

# The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

## Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings, good people of Bethlehem!

The weather is changing. The trees are budding. And the lilies on the west end of my house are already several inches high. I walked around the yard today picking up sticks and some garbage. The temperature was comfortable and the winds were relatively calm. It was hard NOT to feel good! There was a definite air of newness, renewal, and awakening! A feeling we can only get as we transition to spring. Good things are on the way!

I like to believe that good things are on the way at Bethlehem, as well. Your leadership team is always trying to create "new" things to keep everyone engaged and involved. If there is something YOU'D like to see at Bethlehem, let someone know. Here are a few highlights of things that are coming up:

- Sunday, May 4, the adult mission trip team will be presenting about their trip during worship.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month and your WISE team will be planning some special events focusing on mental health and wellness. *Continued on page 2*



## MAY 2025

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## JUNE SPIRIT DEADLINE:

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**@ 5pm**

**Send to Traci at**

**trabefamily5@gmail.com**





## Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

- During the summer months I am planning a special sermon series. Each week we will focus on one of the lesser prophets from the Hebrew Testament.
- I have been in contact with Rev. Schultz at St. Marks/St. James. We ARE planning to conduct vacation bible school again this summer.

Just because it'll be summer, doesn't mean things will stop happening at Bethlehem. Stay connected... to church and to God!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Randy



“... EVERYONE WHO  
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME  
WILL NEVER DIE.  
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?”

*JOHN 11:26, NASB*



# 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:

**Reverend Randall Koppenhaver**

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



- **Sunday School begins 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)

## 2025 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Reverend Randall Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@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 [rrumpff@tm.net](mailto:rrumpff@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 detail



Bethlehem UCC has added a Donate Button on the Church Website  
[www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

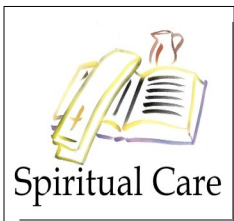


*Click on the donate button to make a secure online contribution today!*

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!*



**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. - Reverend Randy (920)286-2531 or [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

## **LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!**

Reverend 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 MAY:

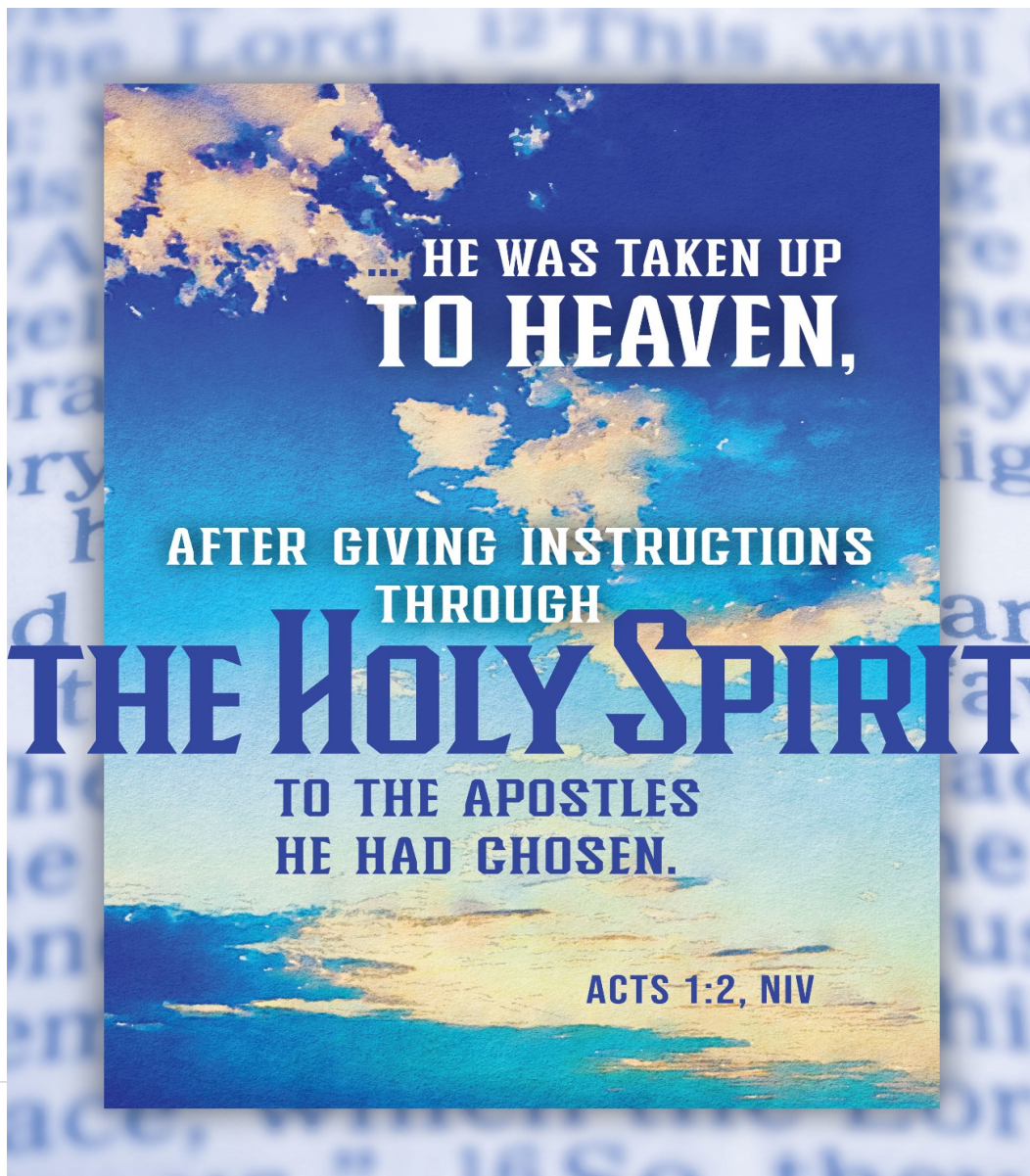
*Sunday, May 4 ~ Acts 9:1-20   Psalm 30   Revelations 5:11-14   John 21:1-19*

*Sunday, May 11~ Acts 9:36-43   Psalm 23   Revelations 7:9-17   John 10:22-30*

*Sunday, May 18 ~ Acts 11:1-18   Psalm 148   Revelations 21:1-6   John 13:31-36*

*Sunday, May 25 ~ Acts 16:9-15   Psalm 67   Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5   John 5:1-9*

*Thurs., May 29 Ascension of the Lord ~ Acts 1:1-11   Psalm 47   Ephesians 1:15-23   Luke 24:44-53*





## **Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 4-8-2025**

Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Lee Watson, Rev Randy Koppenhaver, and Traci Rabe

Call to order: 6:34 PM

Opening by Randy: Lenten Devotions by Kate Bowler-Beloved based on Psalms 139:14-15. Thought for today – write a letter to a loved one.

### **Monthly Reports**



#### **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

- Month income \$6,471.00 (\$2,220.00 below YTD collection) \$20,496.00 (\$5,577.00 below

YTD requirement)

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

*Jingle Change – month of Mar – OCWM – \$220.87*

#### **Treasurer – Jane**

- Giving's received in Mar to date are \$6,917.33 bringing the checkbook balance to \$48,906.68

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

Building & Grounds Checking and Savings

- Checking = \$4,418.60

- Saving = \$8,673.27

CD update (Bank First) (\$5000.00 ea.)

1st CD invested (8/12) (\$5000.00)

2nd CD invested (11/15) (\$5000.00)

3rd CD invested (2/14) (\$5000.00)

#### **Secretary – Kathy**

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

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

- The entire parking lot will need to be sealed and stripping done – we are looking at quotes on average of \$12,000. Anyone wishing to donate for this project can make a check to the maintenance fund and indicate "parking lot project".
- Door and window seals are being looked at by Rick & Tom R



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

- Merry Christians have been approved to update landscaping around the church
- Outside water will be turned on within a week
- We are receiving quotes for maintaining the church roof.

### **Pastoral Report**

Worship - 3/30, 4/6

- Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: May 11, May 18, June 1, June 29
- Ecumenical Good Friday (April 18) @ Bethlehem - Gathering 5:30 - Worship @ 6pm
- Sanctuary needs to be stripped, including banners
- Can lights get progressively darker throughout service?
- Easter Vigil - Saturday April 19 @ 6pm - St. Johns UCC, New Holstein
- Anything special for Easter?

Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

- Confirmation:
  - Last class was April 7 - still a couple remaining requirements that must be met.
  - Confirmation Sunday is April 27 - 1 being confirmed - There WILL be communion!!
- Communion Class scheduled for May 4

Mission

- Loads of Love - 4/7 - 2 clients - \$81.00 expended (March income was \$116)

WISE

- MHN experiencing staff changes - Approval of our WISE covenant is still pending
- Randy attended Blessed Minds: Breaking the Silence about Neurodiversity -
- UCC Webinar w/ Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund on 3/20

Food Pantry - Immanuel date is 4/24

Mission team served dinner at the Sheboygan County Warming Center on 3/30

Mission trip - March 16-22 - (Randy, Melissa, Marie) PRESENTATION ON MAY 4

Families in Need gave \$100 gift card to the family who had the fire in NH (and lost a child)



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

Undy 500?

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 4x
- Cards 0x
- Visits 3x
- Care Center/Hospital visits 1x

Wider Church

- Community of Practice on 3/25
- 4/3 - Attended "Becoming the Beloved Community" by WIUCC - topic was youth engagement
- Melissa and I are registered for WIUCC Conference annual meeting for June 6-7.

Communication and Other

- Attended Pension Boards -Promoting Mental Health Awareness Webinar Mar 31, 2:00 PM
- Officiating the wedding of David Kohls at St. Johns UCC on August 9.

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem – None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Attendance/Membership Review – Moved to May meeting
- Binder Up-date – Date/Volunteered. Steven, Jane and Kathy volunteered to meet at a different date to review all positions and any other binder materials.
- Pew brochures are being reviewed – waiting for information on the W.I.S.E. program
- Lenten Services/Holy Week
  - Ecumenical Good Friday at Bethlehem – Looking for readers
  - Easter – Looking for special music
  - Weekly Lent Devotion – not very well attended
- Discrepancy in membership dues – decided to pay the additional \$166.50
- CD due in June – Will decide at next meeting to renew or not

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Formal motion was made by Ross and 2nd by Traci to allow the Merry Christians to move forward with the landscaping project.
- Discussion on donating for the family in the New Holstein fire (lost a child) – Kathy will contact the Endowment committee for a donation



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

- Projector/Screen Update – There has been a request to look into up-dating our 90's equipment. Looking for anyone interested in helping or leading this project.
- Camp Daycholah donations were \$84.00. Motion made by Ross and 2nd by Traci to round up to \$100.00. Additional money added by member, which brings total donation to \$175.00
- Indy 500 has been approved for May – collection box will be in the fellowship hall

### ***IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR***

- 4/27 – Confirmation w/communion
- 5/4 – Younger children communion class before church

Motion to adjourn by Lee & 2nd by Ross

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

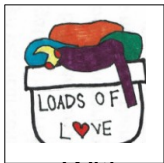
Next meeting – May 8, 2025 6:30 PM (note week change)

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe

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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 Sunday School:**



What some strange weather we had in April. Hopefully the snow is finally behind us. Hope you had a great Easter.

Just a few short weeks of Sunday School are left. The last day of Sunday School is May 18.

Looking for some fun this summer. Check out a summer camp at Daycholah Center. See Rev Randy if you are interested in attending a camp. Camps are for children, families and adults.

Coming up - Happy Mother's Day!

We continue to collect aluminum cans, that can be placed in the old garage next to the parsonage. Thank you for your support in this collection.

See you on Sunday at 8:00

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## **Bethlehem Ladies:**



The Bethlehem Ladies did not meet in April.

We will have our annual Ladies Outing on Tuesday, May 20th. Meet at Riverview at 5:00 pm for a short meeting and dinner. All Ladies of the church are invited to join us!

We will be playing Bingo with the residents at Field of Dreams on Saturday, June 21st at 10:00 am.

On to wash Communion Glasses on May 4th is Polly Jeanty. We are still looking for people to help wash communion glasses on the 1st Sunday of each month. Please sign up for a Sunday or just stop in the kitchen after worship. Thank you!!

Polly Jeanty, Secretary

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## **Bethlehem Merry Christians:**

The Bethlehem Merry Christians have signed up for the **"PIG ROUND UP PROGRAM"**. This will take place in the month of May.

**This program is through Tietz's Piggly Wiggly in Kiel.** The cashier will ask you upon check out if you would like to round up your total to the next dollar amount. At the end of the month the Merry Christians will receive a check on the amount that was rounded up for the month of May.

Please support this program which benefits the Merry Christians and the mission projects which we contribute to. Thank you!



## From the Church Historian:

On May 8, 2005, Bethlehem UCC of rural Kiel celebrated a Service of Groundbreaking to build a new church.

A Committee for Building Accessibility and a Building Fund had been established as early as 1999. The decision to build a new church took years of plans, debates, and votes.

The new building would address the issues of a Pastor's Office, Secretarial Office, Five Sunday School Rooms, a Youth Room, Handicap Accessible Restrooms, Handicap Accessible Building, Large Kitchen, Large Fellowship Hall, Choir Room, Library, Sound Room and Storage.



It was soon realized that bake sales, brat fries, and chili suppers would not be sufficient to fund a 1.2 million dollar building project. A professional fund raising firm was hired which helped develop a capital campaign "Stepping Forward in Faith". This fund raising brought the realization that it would be the commitment and dedication of the members of Bethlehem UCC which would support the project. Members were asked to make pledges for the next 5 years.

Many items were brought from the old church to the new church. These included: pews, stained glass windows, the organ, the steeple and ....the people.

The first service in the new building was the December 19, 2005 wedding of Helen Riesterer & Everett Henning.

The first worship service in the new building was January 8, 2006.

As we celebrate 20 years in the "New" church building, we remember the dedication of family and friends of Bethlehem UCC which allowed the loan to be paid off by 2018. While the building will always require updates and maintenance, Bethlehem can focus on its mission to be a caring community of Christians living our faith through worship, fellowship, study and service to others.

Kaye Radder, Historian





## Bethlehem Scrip:

Spring is here! Remember to purchase scrip cards when planning your spring needs. I carry Fleet Farm, Menards, Lowes and Walmart.

Remember Mom on Mother's Day, scrip gift cards are a wonderful gift!

Thank you for your support!

Linda Rabe

<u>MONTHLY SCRIP:</u>		<u>PROFIT</u>
3/31/25	\$ 2,115.00	\$73.00
4/09/25	\$ 1,615.00	\$46.25



## CAPS AND EGG CARTONS:

Thank you to all who save egg cartons and caps. The egg cartons are used in a food bank, as eggs are re-packaged. The caps are recycled and used to make plastic park benches.

*Please make sure that your caps are washed and free of any food or milk, otherwise they tend to mold and they are not passed along. Thank you!*

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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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## Snow Shoveling Volunteers:

**Hats off to ALL who took the time to shovel the sidewalks at church this past winter! Thank you so much for keeping the walkways clear and safe for your Bethlehem family and friends!!**





## MERRY CHRISTIANS BRAT FRY:



The Merry Christians will have a brat fry on Saturday, May 17th at Piggly Wiggly in Kiel from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Featuring hamburgers, Johnsonville brats and steak sandwiches. Please join us!

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## Spring House Cleaning ? think trash to treasures

Remember if you are doing some spring housecleaning or downsizing; your trash may be someone else's treasure.

There are plans underway for a church rummage sale in August. If you have items that other households might find useful, please save them for the sale. If you don't have room to store until summer, please contact Merry Christians members who can arrange storage.



## Undy 500:



It's time for the Undy 500!!! During the month of May, we will again be collecting items for the Milwaukee Guest House. Along with your jingle change please prayerfully consider donating NEW men's underwear.



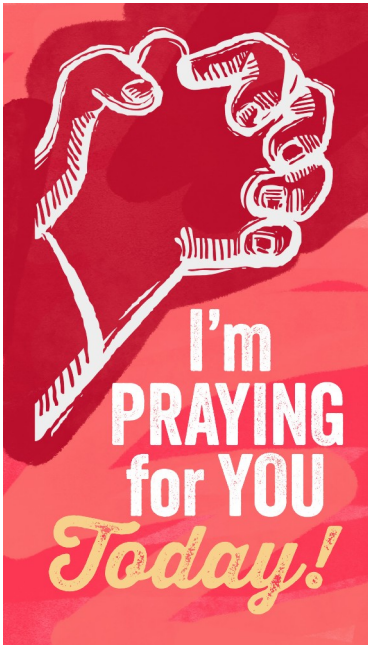
# Those in our Thoughts and Prayers

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

*Robin Huegel (MIL of Emily Huegel-Jane's Daughter)*

*Nell Partin*

*Family of Luka Tipton*



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

*Jill Sheets*

*Will Mathes*

*Brad Westphalen*

*Heidi Konen*

*Darlene Horneck*

*Dawson Horneck*

*Jessica Horneck*

*Mary Beth Molitor*

*Tom Lefeber*

*Dana*

*Marie Rietbrock*

*Donna Firman*

*Hubert*

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

*Merlin Ninmer*

*Helen Henning*





## Other BETHLEHEM IMPORTANT Announcements:

On Sunday, May 4, Pastor Randy will be holding a “Communion class” during Sunday School. The start time for this class will be based on when it’s convenient for the SS teachers. It shouldn’t be more than 30 min, depending on student questions. Then they can return to their regular class. If you are interested in your child learning about the meaning behind the Lord’s Supper, please sign your child up in the Fellowship Hall.



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## Help Us with Church Tech! - Volunteers Needed – All Ages Welcome!

Bethlehem UCC is looking for volunteers—including youth—to help with our growing **technology ministry**. Whether you're tech-savvy or just willing to learn, we would love your help!



### **Areas Where We Need Support:**

- **Sound Room** – Operate audio equipment during worship and events.
- **Live Streaming** – Run our laptop and camera to stream services online.
- **Promethean Board** – Form a committee to discuss a promethean board that functions as a whiteboard, connects to desktop devices and touch-sensitive displays. This can be used to share announcements, scriptures, and engaging visual content during services and other organization functions.

**Youth volunteers** can count this as **community service** or simply as a gift of your time and talents to your church.

**No experience necessary—training will be provided!**

**Interested or have questions?**

Please speak to Rev. Randy or any of the members of the Consistory

*Thank you for supporting the ministry of Bethlehem UCC with your time and heart!*



**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 a Thursday once a month. Times are approximately 8:30 – 11am. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall for Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> .**

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Check church bulletin board for flyers**

- Pancake Supper – April 27 – 3pm-6pm – Zion Lutheran – New Holstein
- Drive thru Pork Chop Dinner- Thurs, May 1 – 3:30pm-6pm – Saron UCC (reservations required).
- Fish Fry - Fri. May 9 – Community UCC, Elkhart Lake – 4p-7p- Dine in or carry out
- Brat Fry – Wed. May 14 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley
- May 3,4,9,10 – Dinner Theater @ Gloria Dei Lutheran in New Holstein – “Murder Me, Murder me Not” \$25/person see flyer







## MAY Vinnie's Pantry items: Laundry Soap or Fabric Softener



MAY Jingle Change supports Undy 500



## MAY BETHLEHEM Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>  <b>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8am SSchool 9:30am Communion Service w/Rev. Randy	<b>5</b> Loads of Love 4pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Consistory mtg (date change)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8am SSchool 9:30am Worship 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Merry Christians Brat Fry at Tietz's Piggly Wiggly 10-3pm
<b>18</b> 8am SSchool 9:30am Worship 5pm MAY Spirit articles due to Traci	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9am Bethlehem @ Immanuel Food Pantry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>





# MAY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <i>Rick &amp; Linda Rabe</i> <i>Kerry &amp; Sharon Rumpff</i>	<b>2</b> Barb Henning	<b>3</b> Sara Jeanty <i>Garrett &amp; Ginny Schultz</i> <i>Kevin &amp; Mandy Voland</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Grant &amp; Christa Taylor</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Dayna Schultz Jenna Rumpff	<b>8</b> Nick Hanson Merri Wempner	<b>9</b> Jennifer Brockway Tim Mueller	<b>10</b> Bryan Jeanty
<b>11</b> Pam Bowe	<b>12</b> Jennifer Stroshine	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Sarah Arnold Brenda Riesterer	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Melanie Voland <i>Ben &amp; Cassie Jeanty</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Allyson Wirtz	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Bill &amp; Kelly Biwan</i>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Amber Hoeffner Noah Watson	<b>28</b> Davin Horneck	<b>29</b> Armond Wempner	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Lloyd Rumpff









# MEMORIAL DAY

**PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD  
IS THE DEATH OF HIS FAITHFUL ONES.**

PSALM 116:15, NRSV





