The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings people of God! May God's blessings be upon you as we usher in the start of summer. It seems like it was just Easter!

Depending on when you've attended church recently, you may be thinking, "We haven't seen much of Pastor Randy lately!" You would be right. I don't like missing consecutive Sunday's because it makes me feel disconnected from Bethlehem. However, both Brenna and Peyton graduated from their collegiate studies this spring, so we have had lots of travel! The good thing is that it also offered us great opportunities to be together as a family! I ask for your grace and understanding during these off weeks. I promise I am fulfilling the requirement of my covenant with you! ©

The WISE Team hopes that you feel informed and inspired following our month of mental health "mini-messages." Each week in May we tried to remind you of the need to focus on positive mental health and provided you with a "trinket" to reinforce the message. But we're not done! OUR mental health Sunday will be June 8, where most components for the worship will be related to mental health. We will also have a special speaker that day from Grace UCC in Two Rivers. The WISE Team is also looking at future events that reinforce positive outlooks towards mental health concerns.



JUNE 2025

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JULY SPIRIT DEADLIN	<u>IE:</u>

Wednesday, June 18th @ 5pm Send to Traci at trabefamily5@gmail.com

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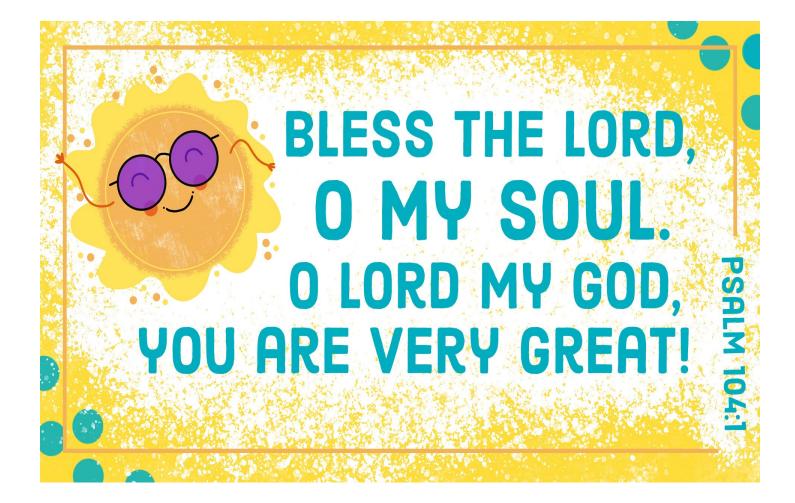
Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

I pray you have a rewarding and relaxing summer. However, please remember to stay connected to Bethlehem! We recognize that people travel, camp, and do other recreational activities that might keep them away on a Sunday. Don't forget, you can STILL watch the worship service on the church Facebook page! If not live, you can review the recording later. Exciting things will still be happening at your church!

Peace be with you all!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Randy



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042 Phone: 920.894.3332 Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/</u> or Bethlehem's website at <u>www.bethlehemkiel.org</u>

Our Spiritual Leader: Reverend Randall Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com

Summer

Worship

Schedule



- 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 <u>http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/</u> <u>OR</u> watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website anytime that is convenient for you and your family <u>www.bethlehemkiel.org</u>
- Sunday School September May beginning at 8am

2025 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Reverend Randall 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 <u>trabefamily5@gmail.com</u> Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or <u>lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us</u> Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 <u>rossw@forhealthycows.com</u> Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 or <u>LandKBowe@outlook.com</u> Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or <u>srumpff@tm.net</u> Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or <u>jm59umland@gmail.com</u>

IFyou 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



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

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 JUNE:

June 1 Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-21 John 17:20-26

June 8 Acts 2:1-21/Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-35 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-27 Day of Pentecost

June 15 Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15 *Trinity Sunday*

June 22 1Kings 19:1-15 Psalm 42 & 43 Isaiah 65:1-9 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-29

June 29 2Kings 2:1-14 1Kings 19:15-21 Psalm16 Galatians 5:1-25 Luke 9:51-62

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people" Joel 2:28, NIV

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 5-8-2025

Present: Steven Voland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Traci Rabe and Reverend Randy Koppenhaver

Call to order: 6:39 PM Opening by Randy: Opening thoughts of life

MONTHLY REPORTS

<u>Financial Secretary – Ruthie</u> o Month income \$7,211.00 (\$1,480.00 below YTD collection) \$27,707.00 (\$7,057.00 below YTD requirement) The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2nd by Ross)

Jingle Change - month of April - OGHS- \$416.89

<u>Treasurer – Jane</u> o Giving's received in Apr to date are \$7,835.89 bringing the checkbook balance to \$48,500.41 The report is approved as presented (motion by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross)

Building & Grounds Checking and Savings

- Checking = \$6,768.60 - Saving = \$8673.27 <u>CD update (Bank First) (\$5000.00 ea.)</u> CD-#3077 invested (8/12) (\$5000.00) CD #2548 invested (11/15) (\$5000.00) CD #5815 invested (2/14) (\$5000.00)



Secretary - Kathy

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

Building & Grounds Updates

- NEED YOUR HELP--The entire parking lot will need to sealed and striping 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

Consistory meeting minutes continued on next page

Pastoral Report

- Led Worship 4/13, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4 and at Field of Dreams 5/8
- Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: May 11, May 18, June 1, June 29
- Summer sermon series on the lesser prophets
- Summer Worship in the Park August 10

Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

- Confirmation: over
- Communion Class May 4 5 attended
- Youth Volleyball
- VBS invitation to join St. James/St. Marks

Mission

- Loads of Love - 5/5 - 2 clients - \$53.00 expended (\$32.50 collected in April)

WISE

- Approval of our WISE covenant is still pending
- Randy and Jane met with Sue Shaw of NAMI-Manitowoc County
- Mental Health Awareness month in process
- Working on a guest speaker for a Sunday in June.
- Possible Speaker \$500 fee https://stopthethreatstopthestigma.org/ invite community

Food Pantry - Immanuel date is 5/22 - Please support the postal workers food drive this Saturday.

Undy 500 - ongoing month of May

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 4x
- Cards 3x
- Visits 1x
- Care Center/Hospital visits 2x

Wider Church

- Community of Practice on 4/29
- Melissa and I are registered for WIUCC Conference annual meeting for June 6-7.
- Heritage Breakfast/traveling timeline

Consistory meeting minutes continued on next page



Communication and Other

- Attended United Church Men and Women mtg 4/22
- Officiating the wedding of Rev. David Kohls at St. Johns UCC on August 9.

Pay-discussion in new business

Member Outreach - cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem - 2 get well

OLD BUSINESS

- Holy Week/Lenten Recap - Went well

- 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
- Membership update/Yearbook information
- o Reviewed membership list to update church yearbook for the conference
- CD due in June Will decide at next meeting to renew or not
- Projector/Large TV for services
- o Will ask memorial committee for monies to purchase Promethean Broad and stand
- o Letter will be sent to members for help with Bethlehem's technology
- Motion made by Traci and 2nd by Ross to proceed

Landscape project by Merry Christians will proceed as soon as weather permits

Parking lot project will proceed as soon as landscape project is complete

- Motion made to proceed with project by Ross and 2nd by Jane
- Company to do the project Family Seal

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Service Sunday/Game Day o Date for Summer picnic 7/13/25 o More details to follow



Pastor's pay

o Pastor asked to move a portion of pay from his salary to his housing allowance for tax purposes o This will not change any gross income

Consistory meeting minutes continued on next page

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 7/13 Summer Outdoor Service/Picnic
- 8/10 Church Service at the Kiel park 9:00 am

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM Next meeting – June 10 2025, 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe



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:



A big "THANK YOU" to the parents for bringing your children to Sunday School. It is amazing to see the little ones come running in with smiles on their faces. The SCHOOL last day of Sunday School was May 18th .

Also, a "thank you" to our helpers this Sunday School season. And it won't be possible without our teachers Steven, Sarah and Jennifer.

If you think you are interested in teaching next fall, you can sit in on a class or be a helper. Sunday School begins the week after Labor Day. We will keep you posted.

Watch for information on VBS this summer at St. Marks. If you are interested, and contact Pastor Randy or any teacher.

Happy Fathers Day!!!

Have a safe and happy summer.

See you in church!

Keep saving those cans!

Bethlehem Ladies:

On Tuesday, May 20 th , the Bethlehem Ladies met at Riverview at 5:00 pm for dinner and a short meeting. Six members were present. While waiting for our food, Shirley entertained us by reading some brain teaser/riddles.



A thank you card from Diane Fidlin was read. Treasurer's report was read and approved. \$300.00 was given to both the blacktop fund and the sound system fund. The United Church Men and Women will receive our annual \$100 scholarship.

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No meetings in June and July.

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

SAVE THE DATE! Our Annual Guest Night will be Tuesday, September 21 st . Guest Speaker will be Randy Olm who is a coordinator of the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry. More details to follow.

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

Polly Jeanty Secretary

Just a reminder of the upcoming church rummage sale in August.

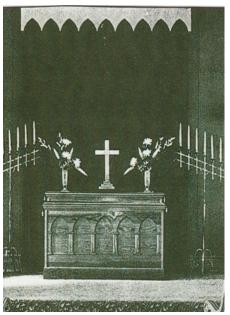


Your trash may be someone else's treasure.

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. We do the pricing, so you don't have to. If you

don't have room to store until summer, please contact Merry Christians members who can arrange storage. If you need boxes or bags to gather items, just ask.

From the Church Historian:



The Chancel 1953



The Chancel 1981



The Fellowship Hall 2005

Twenty years ago, many items were brought from the old church to the new church.

One of these was the huge cross currently in the Fellowship Hall. This cross began as a gold cross on a triad base to adorn the newly remodeled altar. In the center of the cross are the letters IHS in an ancient monogram form of the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus. The Young People's Society (as the Youth Group) was known in those days, purchased and donated the beautiful cross.

In 1981, the sanctuary was redecorated. The gold cross was given new life by being removed from the base and attached to a wooden cross. A representation of a Crown of Thorns was added. This was hung above the newly updated altar area.

Then in 2005, this same cross was moved into the Fellowship Hall of the new church.

Kaye Radder, Historian

Feel free to look at the collection of pictures recording the construction of the "New" Bethlehem church, 20 years ago. These pictures were taken by Delores Rabe, who came to the building site almost everyday to capture the building progress.

Bethlehem Scrip:

Graduation and Father's Day is fast approaching! Please keep in mind that gift cards make a great gift for dads and grads.

Stop at the scrip table and check it out. Scrip is sold the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Thank you for your continued support!

~Linda Rabe

Scrip Stats:	Purchased Profit		
4/22/25	\$1,985.00	\$ 68.01	
5/06/25	\$3,900.00	\$120.70	
5/18/25	\$2,775.00	\$ 85.36	



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!

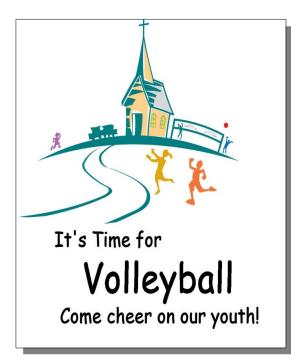


Get Comfortable!

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.

Benefit for Ross Sippel: Saturday, June 7th from 3:00 to? at Fat Boys Bar & Grill in St. Cloud.

Ross was diagnosed with cancer in January and went through six weeks of aggressive treatments. He was able to work a few weeks during treatment but eventually too tired to continue. He's gradually working his way back into full time. All money raised will go to Ross and his family to help with household expenses. Ross is the son-in-law of Darlene Horneck. He and his family are former members of Bethlehem UCC.



Rural Church Summer Volleyball Schedule <u>ALL</u> games begin at 6:30pm

- June 15 Bethlehem/St. Peters @ Saron
- June 22 St. Marks/St. James @ Bethlehem/St. Peters
- June 29 Bethlehem/St. Peters @ Immanuel/Bethel

July 2 Bye Week for all Teams

- July 13 Saron @ Bethlehem/St. Peters
- July 20 Bethlehem/St. Peters @ St. Marks/St. James
- July 27 Immanuel/Bethel @ Bethlehem/St. Peters

Tournament Date = August 3 at St. Marks/St. James at Noon

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!

WISE PAGE

The WISE Team met on April 27, 2025

On April 17, 2025 members of the WISE Team met with Sue Shaw, Interim President NAMI of Manitowoc. Purpose of this meeting was to discuss how we can collaborate to bring NAMI's educational programs and presentations to our community.

- May 21 Wednesday Evening, Grace UCC is hosting a panel on Youth Mental Health in the community. Experts discussing "what are the issues impacting youth, signs of mental distress and what are solutions and supports"
- 4th Monday of each month NAMI of Manitowoc meets at Manitowoc Library for in person Peer to Peer support group
- Sue attended the NAMI Conference in April, and will share materials she collected from vendors.
- NAMI Organizations throughout Wisconsin are able to collaborate with our local area

The month of May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Each Sunday during worship, the WISE Team will be taking a moment to focus on some practices for maintaining good mental health.

- Sunday, May 3, presented by Melissa Koppenhaver, by handing out blank cards with many different designs on the front. Focusing on three things; Practice gratitude, focus on positivity, stay connected. Use these cards to reach out to someone, sending encouraging message.
- Sunday, May 11, presented by Jane Umland, by handing out positive affirmation cards, with thought-provoking questions for self-reflection.
- Sunday, May 18, presented by Nancy Zimmerman, by handing out tactile strips with selfaffirming messages – "You are Enough". Help people to feel less alone.
- Sunday, May 25, will be another message on self-care

The WISE Team will meet on May 25 to discuss June 8 as "Mental Health Sunday". Worship will be led by the WISE Team, along with a special guest speaker, Amy Potthoff, sharing her journey story and experiences with NAMI.

Those in our Thoughts and Prayers

Joys: The birth of Hudson Tommy Erdmann on May 14, 2025. Parents: Armond Wempner and Mckayla Erdmann. Very proud grandparents: Dan & Amy Wempner

Families who have lost loved ones:

Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets



Those struggling with health issues:



Ross Sippel Will Mathes Brad Westphalen Linda Smith Heidi Konen Darlene Horneck Dawson Horneck Jessica Horneck Mary Beth Molitor Tom Lefeber Dana Marie Rietbrock Donna Firman Hubert Emily (Melissa's cousin)

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

Other BETHLEHEM IMPORTANT Announcements:

Each year we like to recognize our graduates. Do you know a member of Bethlehem who is graduating from high school, college, graduate school, military academy, etc.? If so, please provide pastor Randy (in writing) with the student's name, school they are graduating from, and "next plans" if they wish to share. You can send him the info by email or leave a note in the office. We will honor the graduates on June 15 during worship for any that would like to attend.





Save your Aluminum Cans: Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans. <u>Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.</u>

~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, June 26th.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Check church bulletin board for flyers

OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH SOCIAL – AT JOHNSBURG!

Saturday, June 7th, 2025. Outdoor Polka Mass @ 4PM. 5PM-9PM 2/5's Party Band. Brats, hamburgers, and refreshments available in the beer stand following mass. Raffle drawing held at 9:00PM. Putting Contest, Bean Bag Tournament, and Pot of Gold Raffle during event. Hope to see you there! St. John the Baptist Church [N9288 County Road W, Malone].

JUNE Kiel Pantry items: Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Deodorant or Lotion





JUNE Jingle Change supports: *Strengthen the Church*

JUNE BETHLEHEM Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Communion Service	2	3	4	5	6 WI Conference Annual Mtg at Green Lake	7 WI Conference Annual Mtg at Green Lake Benefit for Ross Sippel 3:00 to ? at Fat Boys Bar & Grill in St. Cloud.
8 9:30am Worship = <i>Mental Health Sunday</i> <i>w/Guest Speaker Amy</i> <i>Potthoff</i>	9 Loads of Love 4pm	10 6:30pm Consistory mtg	11	12	13	14
15 9:30am Worship = <i>Blessing of the</i> <i>Graduates</i> <i>HAPPY FATHER'S</i>	16	17	18 5pm JULY Spirit articles due to Traci	19	20	21
DAY! 22 9:30am Worship	23	24	25	26 9am Bethlehem @ Immanuel Food Pantry	27	28
29 9:30am Worship	30					



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Tim & Judy Mueller	2	3 Brenna Koppenhaver Brian Radder Kylie Brockway	4 Brooke Kilgas	5	6 Gene Radder Keatyn Suttner Jesse & Jenna Rumpff	7
8 Ginny Schultz	9	10	11 Melissa Koppenhaver Evan Aschenbach Ethan Aschenbach	12	13 Julie Mueller	14 Will & Lora Mathes
15 Kevin Voland	16 Zoe Watson	17 Jason & Jennifer Brockway	18 Mike Brockway	19 Ryan & Sarah Arnold	20 Bonnie Zorn Maria Hoban Eric Muehlbauer	21
22 John Schisel	23 Lee & Nicole Watson	24	25 McKenna Rugowski Tyler Hanson	26 Jerry Wehrmann	27 Warren Fidlin Kayla Hanson Brad & Maria Hoban	28
29	30					

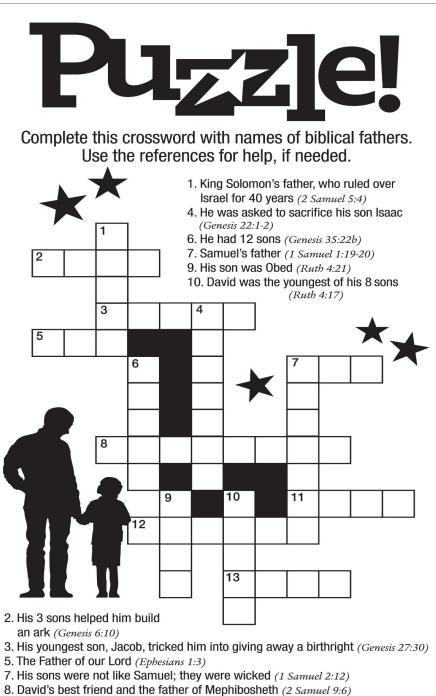
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- Marker
- 8.5" x 11" photo frame

What you do:

- 1. Cut photos into shapes (hearts, circles, etc.).
- 2. Arrange photos on the paper, leaving room for a message, and glue them down.
- Write: "I'm blessed as can be. My heavenly Father has given me the best _____ [dad, uncle, friend] in the world, and he belongs to me!"
- 4. Place your picture message in the frame.
- 5. Give your gift to show love and appreciation.



- 11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
- 12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
- 13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 9. Boaz. 10. Jesse; ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul

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