

# The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

## Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

*Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 3:13-14*

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The verses above are about anticipation and new beginnings. I know we say it every year at this time, but "I can't believe summer is winding down and September is here!" However, this doesn't have to be a source of consternation for us. It can also be a celebration! Every year at this time, we look to new beginnings: Sunday School, Confirmation, Mission and Service Sunday, and other church activities. If we've allowed ourselves to become disengaged from the church (and God!) over the summer, now is the time to re-engage, and re-energize your relationship with God and your church.

We'd love to be the church that DOES things, but we need your involvement. It would be great to serve more meals at the shelter and participate in other "mission" events, but we need your commitment and presence. Research has shown the younger generations would rather ACT on behalf of their faith as opposed to attending worship. That's great! Let's connect and get something going!

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## **SEPTEMBER 2025**

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## **OCTOBER DEADLINE:**

**WEDNESDAY, September 17th**

**@ 5pm**

**Send to Traci at**

**trabefamily5@gmail.com**



## Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

The WISE Committee is very excited for our first "community event." On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we welcome officer Adam Meyers of [stopthestigmastopthethreat.org](http://stopthestigmastopthethreat.org). Officer Meyers will be speaking from 6-8pm at the Kiel Community Center. He will tell the story of how his involvement in an officer-involved shooting had a dramatic effect on his mental health following the incident. His experience led him to become an advocate for breaking the silence around mental health issues. The event is free. We hope you will join us!

And so together, we continue "straining forward to what lies ahead." May we all do it in joyful service to God.

In Christ, Pastor Randy



# 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 September 7– May beginning at 8am**
- *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 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 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.



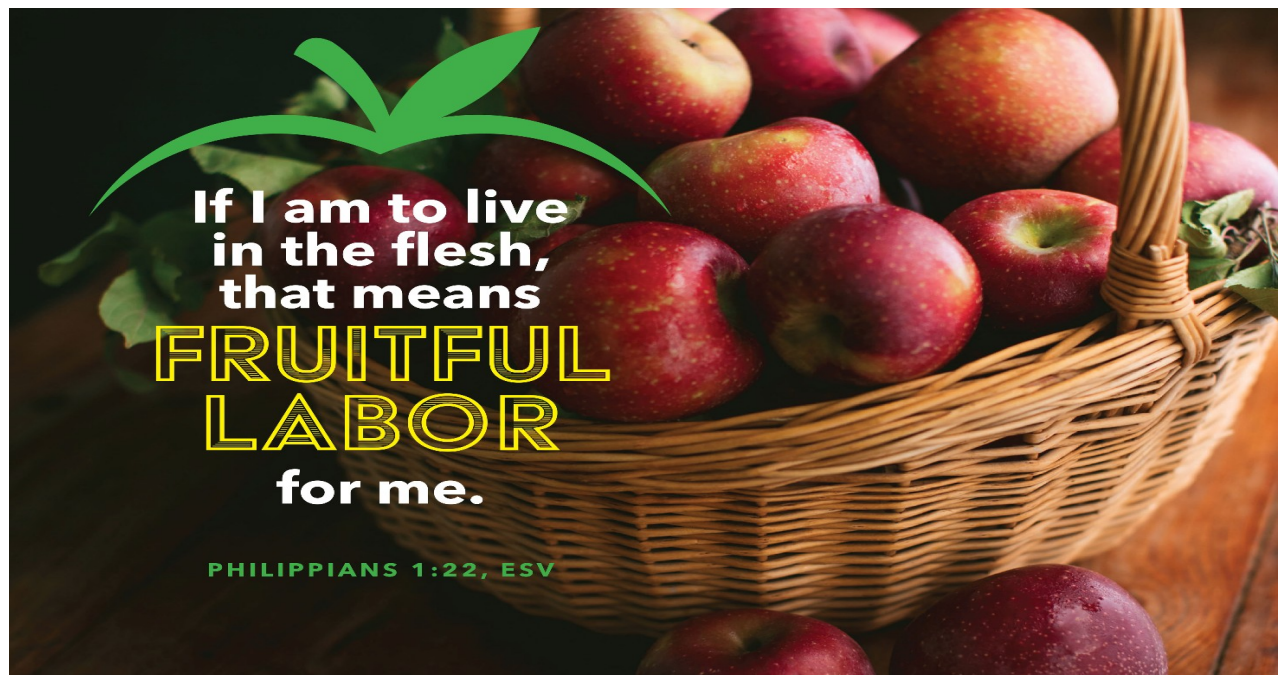
## Lectionary Readings for SEPTEMBER:

**Sunday, September 7 ~ Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**  
**Deteronomy 30:15-20 and Psalm 1**  
**Philemon 1:1-12**  
**Luke 14:25-33**

**Sunday, September 14 ~ Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 and Psalm 14**  
**Exodus 32:7-14 and Psalm 51:1-10**  
**1Timothy 1:12-17**  
**Luke 15:1-10**

**Sunday, September 21 ~ Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and Psalm 79:1-9**  
**Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113**  
**1Timothy 2:1-7**  
**Luke 16:1-13**

**Sunday, September 28 ~ Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 and Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16**  
**Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146**  
**1Timothy 6:6-19**  
**Luke 16:19-31**



## **Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting:** 8-12-2025

Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Traci Rabe, Rev. Randy Koppenhaver, and Ruthie Rumpff

Call to order: 6:40 PM

Opening Prayer by Rev. Randy

### **Monthly Reports**

**Secretary** – Kathy

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed with correction on CD update. CD-#3077 closed at \$5,129.27, and CD-#5409 was open for a 7-month special. \$129.27 was motioned at the previous meeting to be given to NAMI of Manitowoc County.

Approved by Ross and 2nd by Ruthie



**Treasurer** – Jane

- Giving's received in July to date are \$7,801.76, bringing the checkbook balance to \$45,739.01

The report is approved as presented (motion by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross) A motion was made for an additional 7-month special CD to be purchased on 8/15/25 for \$5000.00 by Jane and 2nd by Traci. All approved.

**Financial Secretary** – Ruthie

- Month income \$7,399.00 (\$1,292.00 below YTD collection) \$48,243.00 (\$12,594.00 below YTD requirement) The report is approved as presented (motion by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross)

Jingle Change – month of July – Bethlehem Ladies = \$145.26

### **Building & Grounds- Checking and Savings**

- Checking = \$902.16
- Saving = \$8,675.46

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

- #2548 CD invested (mat. 9/13/25)
- #5815 CD invested (mat. 10/13/25)
- #5409 CD invested (mat. 1/15/26)

### **Building & Grounds Updates**

- Parsonage- North side has been power-washed. Thank you to Bruce & Louie
- Landscaping (Phase 1) on the north side and northeast side has been completed

***Continued on next page***

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

### **Pastoral Report – Rev. Randy**

#### **Led Worship –**

- 7/1, 7/27, 8/3,8/10
- Upcoming “OFF” Sundays: Aug 31, Sept 7, Oct 5
- Field of Dreams – July 24

#### **Upcoming Worship-**

- Aug 24 – Rodriguez baptism
- Aug 31 – Guest speaker: Sue Beattie, founder and owner of Pathways
- Sept 14 – Schisel baptism
- Sept 14 – Blessing of the Backpacks

#### **Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School –**

- VBS w/St. Mark;s/James; 9a-12 – August 12,13,14- 4 committed, Polly leading music
- Confirmation: Letters have been sent to all year 2 and potential year 1 students
  - First class session on Sept 10 at 6pm
  - All mentors from last year have agreed to participate again
  - Tentative schedule set
  - Lakeland Confirmation event on 9/24 at 6:30pm
- Attended youth volleyball games on 7/13, 7/27 and 8/3

#### **Mission -**

- Loads of Love – 8/4 - 1 clients - \$25 expended, July collections= \$17.50
- WISE
  - × Approval of our WISE Covenant is still pending
  - × Looking at some partnerships with NAMI of Manitowoc County
  - × Officer Adam Meyers is scheduled to speak on Monday, October 20, 6-8pm at the Kiel Community Center. <https://stop.thethreatstopthestigma.org/>
- Food Pantry - Immanuel date is 8/28
- Mission and service Sunday – Sept 21: Hygiene kit drives in process
- Crop Walk on Oct 12 – Details forthcoming

#### **Pastoral care**

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 6x
- Cards 1x
- Visits 3x
- Care Center/Hospital visits 3x

***Continued on next page***

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

### **Conference/Wider Church**

- Met with Pastor Nicole on July 17 to discuss summer community worship, confirmation, etc.
- Officiated the wedding of Rev. David Kohls on August 9
- Aug 26-Holding discussions with other area UCC pastors re: confirmation and youth activities

### **Member Outreach –**

Cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem – 2 Sympathy, 3 Thinking of you, 2 Baby cards, 1 Thank you

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Summer Service Sunday-Game Day went well on July 13 – 38 joined for meal

August Park Service – 17 Bethlehem members attended

Mission Sunday – Sept 21

- Hot Tamale Meal – sides/desserts/beverages- Add cookies
- Sign-up Sheet for activities – Kathy will set up
- Collections/Funds

Future Financial Ideas – discuss and table to discuss later

- Reminder is why we are here
- Focus on our mission, involvement, participation
- Keeping ideas going, making fun
- Another food fundraiser / maybe hold on a weekend

Promethean Board was purchased, and a Stand on wheels will be purchased – funds from the Memorial Fund were designated for these items.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A very new wheelchair was received at the church rummage sale and donated to our church. It will be available and stored in the fellowship for use in church and other functions.

Patio Furniture was donated to the church rummage sale 15 years ago and has been stored in the garage. The committee is looking at offering it to our members. Donation money will be appreciated and will be used wherever needed.

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie & 2nd by Ross

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Next meeting – September 9, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes submitted by Jane Umland



## **Bethlehem Ladies:**

The Bethlehem Ladies met on Sunday, August 17th at 8:30am. Four members were present. We received a check of \$145.26 for the jingle change that was collected in the month of July. Thank you for your generous donations!

A \$50 donation will be sent to Harbor House.

Our Annual Guest Night will be Tuesday, September 16th. Our Guest Speaker will be Randy Olm who is one of the coordinators for the Kiel Area Community Pantry. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a complimentary 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 sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



During the month of August, the Bethlehem Ladies will be accepting donations of items for the Kiel Area Community Center and will be presented to the pantry at our Guest Night. These items can be brought to church and placed in the basket at the entrance.

Here is a list of their current needs. Thank you for your generosity!!!

Kiel Area Community Food Pantry, Inc.

July 2025

### **Most Needed Items:**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Boxed Cereal (Adult or Children)</b> | <b>7. Canned Beef Stew/Chili/Hash</b> |
| <b>2. Pasta Sauce</b>                      | <b>8. Hamburger Helper</b>            |
| <b>3. Large &amp; Small Cans of Soup</b>   | <b>9. Pork &amp; Beans</b>            |
| <b>4. Canned Fruit</b>                     | <b>10. Salad Dressing/Mayo</b>        |
| <b>5. Jam/Jelly</b>                        |                                       |
| <b>6. Mac &amp; Cheese</b>                 |                                       |

### ***Other Items Needed:***

***Laundry Soap***

***Dish Soap***

On to wash Communion glasses for September are:  
Sunday, Sept 7th: Barb Henning

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Polly Jeanty  
Secretary

## Bethlehem Sunday School:

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS – SEPT 7<sup>TH</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>.

Keep collecting those cans!

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## Bethlehem Scrip:

Fall is fast approaching! Consider buying scrip cards for your fall projects. I carry Fleet Farm, Menards, 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.

We set aside 10% for the families in need program. Your support is appreciated.  
Available the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

-Linda Rabe

<u>Scrip Stats:</u>	<u>\$\$ Sold</u>	<u>\$\$ Profit</u>
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8/4/25	\$3,135.00	\$92.07
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## 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!

## Bethlehem's Annual Rummage Sale:



Thanks to all who helped make the Annual Church Rummage Sale a huge success. Almost \$1,000 was raised through the sale of household goods, sporting goods, toys, books, decorative items, and clothes. Special thanks to the donors who are friends of the Bethlehem congregation.

Some people were amazed to learn that all the items for sale were donated this year. We start fresh each year and pass on any leftover items. This year the leftovers were distributed by giving the stuffed toy animals to a family that recently experienced a personal tragedy. Men's clothes are being sent to the Guest House of Milwaukee. Blankets, bedding, and linens are going to the Humane Society. Other items will go to St Vincent de Paul of Kiel and St Nazianz Christian Center Thrift Store.

***Remember: One man's trash is another man's treasure.***

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***Mission and Service Sunday will be September 21st!***

***Lunch will be provided !!***



*We will be making sandwiches for the Guest House,  
Cleaning up Hwy X,  
and making hygiene kits for Church World Service.*

Please check the display board in the fellowship hall near the entrance. It lists items needed for completing disaster-relief hygiene kits. Take a post-it note and purchase the items. Please bring purchased items by September 14<sup>th</sup>. You can also donate cash or gift cards and needed items will be purchased by the Mission team.

*Thank you for your assistance to help those in need !!*



### **From the Church Historian:**

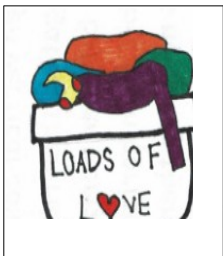
Continuing the celebration of 20 years for the New church building: A look at the steeple. The steeple on the new church is the very same one that was on the old church. Here is its history:

- .September 1970 lightning struck the church steeple, fire destroyed it beyond repair
- .April 1971 a new steeple was purchased from a company in Kentucky at a cost of \$6,300
- .October 21, 2005 a crane was used to lift the steeple off the old church. It was trucked to the grounds of the new church and set on the ground. During the next weeks the steeple was cleaned and repainted.
- .November 1, 2005 a crane lifted the old steeple unto the new church building.

Historian

Kaye E. Radder

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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!***

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### **Get Comfortable!**



*Bethlehem has a new "lounge" located in the middle Sunday School room.  
Comfortable seating! Coffee! Books and Games!  
We also have many resources on wellness if you're interested.  
Feel free to relax or meet for conversation.*



## IMPORTANT Bethlehem Announcements:



Pastor Randy will be on vacation Aug 30-Sept. 7.  
In the event pastoral care is needed, call Pastor Nicole Herda 920-242-830

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**Blessing of the Backpacks will be on  
Sunday, Sept 14. Everyone is invited to bring  
their backpacks, bookbags, workbags, etc!**



For Sale: (2) Patio Sets -  
Includes table (3' 2" X 3' 2") with 4 chairs (cushions included)  
\$50.00 - displayed in new garage

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The Bethlehem Ladies are collecting items for the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry and will be presented to the pantry at our Guest Night on Tuesday, September 16th. These items can be brought to church and placed in the basket at the entrance. Thank you for your generosity!!



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

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**~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, September 25th.**

# Those in our Thoughts and Prayers

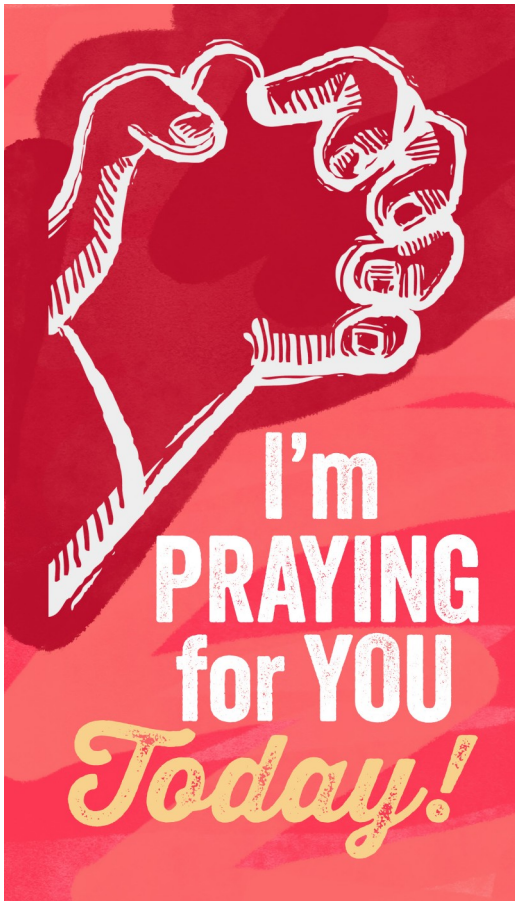
## **Families who have lost loved ones:**

*Kaitlin Johnson (Molly Rabe's sister)*

*The Family of Malachi Plocher (Lexi Horneck's fiancé)*



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



*Sarah Schisel*  
*Louie Bowe*  
*Ross Sippel*  
*Will Mathes*  
*Brad Westphalen*  
*Heidi Konen*  
*Darlene Horneck*  
*Dawson Horneck*  
*Jessica Horneck*  
*Mary Beth Molitor*  
*Tom Lefeber*  
*Dana*  
*Marie Rietbrock*  
*Donna Firman*  
*Hubert*  
*John Schmitt*  
*Scott Vogel*  
*John (Friend of Schlegel's)*

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

*Merlin Ninmer*  
*Helen Henning*

**SEPTEMBER Kiel Area Community Food Pantry items:  
Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling**



**SEPTEMBER Jingle Change supports: CROP Hunger Walk**

## SEPTEMBER BETHLEHEM Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship	<b>8</b> Loads of Love 4pm	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Consistory mtg	<b>10</b> Confirmation parent/mentor meeting 6pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8am Sunday School WISE Mtg. 8:15am 9:30am Worship w/Communion & Blessing of the Backpacks	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:30pm Bethlehem Ladies' Guest Night w/Randy Olm from Kiel Area Community Food Pantry	<b>17</b> 5PM October Spirit articles due to Traci	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship Mission & Service Sunday w/lunch following worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Confirmation Event at Lakeland University 6:30pm	<b>25</b> 9am Bethlehem @ Immanuel Food Pantry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# September Birthdays & 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	12 Molly Rabe	13
14 Ben Jeanty	15 Louie & Kathy Bowe	16 John & Sarah Schisel	17 Courtney Riesterer	18	19	20 Bonnie Hoban
21	22	23	24 Ross & Lisa Westphalen	25 Robert Schnell	26	27
28	29	30 Chad Jeanty Dan & Amy Wempner				



# Special Presentation



We welcome law enforcement Officer Adam Meyers, founder of [stopthethreatstopthestigma.org](http://stopthethreatstopthestigma.org). Officer Myers will discuss how a critical incident affected his mental health and will describe the work he has done to NORMALIZE conversations about mental health, particularly for those in law enforcement and emergency response.

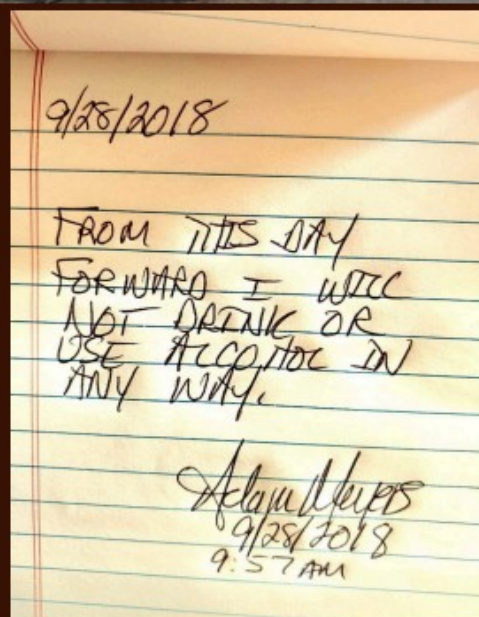


**Presentation is FREE and open to all who are concerned about de-stigmatizing mental health issues.**


**Monday, October 20th  
6pm-8pm**

Kiel Community Center  
510 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Kiel, WI

\*Event sponsored by the WISE team at Bethlehem United Church of Christ in the Kiel community as a community service and is NOT intended to promote our church or religion in any way.





A close-up photograph of a hand holding a single, vibrant yellow maple leaf. The hand has red-painted fingernails and a gold ring on the ring finger. The background is a soft-focus autumn scene with trees and fallen leaves in shades of green, yellow, and brown. Overlaid on the upper half of the image is a quote in a yellow, handwritten-style font.

*"I will gather  
still others to them  
besides those  
already gathered."*

**ISAIAH 56:8, NIV**

