

# The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

## Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

*Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing to him a psalm of praise. - Psalm 47:6-7*

Greetings, Good People of Bethlehem!

I recently came across these verses during my personal bible study. At the time, I was feeling a particular awe as I watched all the colorful birds at my bird feeders. Springtime has brought back the hummingbirds, orioles, grosbeaks, and indigo buntings. On one occasion, I even saw a rare and elusive scarlet tanager! I've only seen them on my property one or two times before, but this was the ONLY time one perched at my feeder for some seeds! (Yes, I am a "bird nerd," as my family calls me.)

As I was marveling at all the beautiful birds, I found myself reflecting on what a wondrous gift from God nature (creation) actually is! With birds, it's not just the visual beauty, but also the beauty of the "call." The wood thrush is not particularly brilliant in its appearance, but it has a beautiful flute-like song that delights me as it echoes in the forest behind our home. The only thing more exciting to me is the haunting "hoot" of an owl, which we rarely hear.



## JUNE 2026

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### **JULY DEADLINE:**

**Wednesday, June 17th**

**@ 5pm**

**Send to Traci at**

**trabefamily5@gmail.com**



*Continued on page 2*

## Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

*Sing praises to God, sing praises;* Praising God is the expression of love, admiration, and gratitude for who God is and what God has done. What are the ways in which we praise God? There are obvious ones, of course! With our voice! Psalm 47 is titled "For the Director of Music." Singing is a method of praise that we regularly employ. We also can praise with shouts to the Lord like, "Hallelujah!" "Praise God!" or "Amen!" Worshipers regularly do this in some churches as an acknowledgment of what was said, but that's not typical of our more STOIC tradition. We also use our voices to praise God through prayer.

But I got to thinking, praise doesn't have to be done aloud, with our voices. Praise can also be done in our hearts. When I sit on my porch and revel in the sights and sounds of the birds, I'm offering God praise for the gift of creation. In a few short days, Melissa and I will be on vacation in Alaska. Having never been there, I have no doubt, that we will be awed by the beauty that God offers in the Alaskan landscape and seascape. Slowing down to be intentional about admiring and enjoying the wonder of creation, is, in itself, a form of praise.

We also praise God with our actions. Christ taught about God's wish for his kingdom on earth. A kingdom dominated not by power and greed, but a kingdom overflowing with love, compassion, justice, and peace. When we act on these things, whether it's working at a food pantry, serving at a shelter for the unhoused, or just making donations to support the marginalized, we are praising God and showing our devotion to God's desires for his children.

As we launch into summer "mode," my hope and prayer for you is that you make time for praising God this summer. May God's blessings be with you!

In Christ,

Pastor Randy



**Pastor Randy and Melissa will be on vacation June 6-14.**

**If you have an emergency pastoral need, please call**

**Rev. David Kohls of St. John's UCC, New Holstein.**

**(920-522-2565)**



**Do you know a member of Bethlehem that is graduating this year from high school or place of higher learning? If so, please provide Pastor Randy with the name, school, and type of degree. We like to honor them in June!**

# 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)



Worship  
Schedule  
for the  
Summer

- **Sunday School every Sunday September – May at 8am.**
- **Gather in the sanctuary for worship Sunday mornings 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)

## 2026 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 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!*



**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 JUNE:**

*Sunday, June 7* ~ Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 33:1-2  
Hosea 5:15-6:6, Psalm 50:7-15  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

*Sunday, June 14* ~ Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7), Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8-23

*Sunday, June 21* ~ Genesis 21:8-21, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-18  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

*Sunday, June 28* ~ Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 13  
Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42



**I will sing of  
the Lord's great  
love forever.**

PSALM 89:1

## **Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 5-12-2026**

Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Lee Watson, Ruthie Rumpff, and Traci Rabe. Also, visitor Kaye Radder

Call to order: 6:40 PM

Opening by Jane: Jane read "The Good Enough Blessing" by Kate Bowler

### **Monthly Reports**

#### **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

Month income \$8,284.00 (\$569.00 below YTD collection) 29,732.00 (\$5,680.00 below YTD requirement) The report is approved as presented (motion by Ross and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lee)

Jingle Change – month of Apr – OGHS \$410.22

#### **Treasurer – Jane**

Giving's received in Apr to date are \$9,077.22 bringing the checkbook balance to \$30,045.39  
The report is approved as presented (motion by Traci and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lee)

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

- Checking = \$3,010.49
- Saving = \$8,681.95

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

**Invested \$20,000 in four separate 7-month & 11-month CDs of \$5,000 each. The maturity dates are staggered throughout the year, with the principal reinvested and interest designated for a special cause.**

CD #6473 invested May (\$5000.00)

CD #9661 invested Nov (\$5000.00)

CD #3541 invested Jan (\$5000.00)

CD #7648 invested Mar 9\$5000.00

Interest from the April CD (dated 4/15) was donated to Good Samaritan Fund

Interest from the May CD (closed on 5/15) will be donated to Undy 500

#### **Secretary – Kathy**

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

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

Meeting held with several projects to complete

Parsonage deck

Cutting down tree on south side of parsonage

Landscaping around church – Merry Christians will continue

Spraying weeds in gravel parking lot and around church

Down spout near Pastor's window

Inside/Outside faucet at parsonage

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## **Pastoral Report**

### Worship

4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10

Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: May 17, June 7, June 14, July 5

### Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

Confirmation: 4 confirmed and one baptized on 4/26

One student in the fall. Discussed options with the parent. Parents are considering.

VBS with St. Marks/James will be August 18,19,20 in the mornings again. Planning in progress.

### Mission

Loads of Love - 5/4 1 client, \$21.75 expended - \$ 42 collected in April

WISE - mini retreat April 25th - 26 participants

Mission Trip presentation 5/10

Flood victim Flash drive - over 1200 items delivered to Shiocton flood victims on April 4/23

Undy 500 - need to deliver goods by June 5

### Pastoral care

Phone calls and left messages 4x

Other electronic communication 3x

Cards 2x

Visits 1x (I have three lined up for later this week)

Care Center/Hospital visits 0x

### Professional Development

WI Conference book study (Nice Racism by Robin Diangelo) May 5, 12, and 19 via Zoom

Grief coach certification #2 in process

### Conference/Wider Church

Community of Practice at Peace UCC, FDL on April 15 - Final for the year is May 13

### Other

Dayna Schultz wedding 5/31/2026 (off site)

Watson/Meyer Wedding scheduled for 10/3/2026 (off site)

Conducting off-site non-member wedding on 10/17/26

Communion on June 7-arrangements being made with Cary Knier/Johannes

**Member Outreach** – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem – 1 prayer. 1 Thank you

## **OLD BUSINESS**

With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation.

- Small TV with VHS capability
- DVD player
- VHS tapes
- Large TV stand
- Old projection screen and equipment
- Also available is a couch and rocking chair

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Flags – tabled until next meeting – flags need to be replaced

Fund raising ideas-Looking for volunteers, for any and all fund raising-ideas are welcome

- Eggroll sale in fall
- Kringle sale in fall
- Camp/home firewood stand – Bethlehem Bundles/Light a fire for Christ
  - Ask members to place a stand in their yard and collect the money from a locked box

Sabbatical

- Getting more information/guidelines

Financial Audit – Kaye presented audit discussion from audits at the beginning of the year. Each consistory member will get copies to review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

-Historian Grant – Kaye received a \$500 grant from the Heritage Fund to be used for church history purpose. She presented ideas to the consistory for convert tapes, scan items, supplies and getting copies to various Kiel & Manitowoc Societies. She also presented some ideas for future items.

-Volleyball Tournament 2026 – Bethlehem will be hosting. Date is set as Sunday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>. Will be looking for help with frying, selling and more.

-UCC Men and Women’s Scholarship Banquet – Bethlehem was asked to host in Oct of 2028. A committee should be formed to oversee music entertainment, a meal, a keynote speaker. A motion was made (Jane) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Lee) to host the banquet. Motion passed.

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

*Watch for volleyball dates*

Motion to adjourn by Lee & Ruthie  
Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Next meeting – June 9th 2026 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord’s Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe



“Church camp” can be a very meaningful and fun summertime activity. UCCI has great facilities at both Daycholah (Green Lake) and Moon Beach (St. Germaine) with programs for youth of all ages, including family camps! Scholarships are available too! An offering of Daycholah programs and schedule can be found in the fellowship hall or visit [ucci.org](http://ucci.org) for complete details.

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## 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. I carry Menards and Fleet Farm gift cards, plus several different gas cards.

Thank you for your continued support!

-Linda Rabe

<u>Scrip stats:</u>	<u>Purchased</u>	<u>Profit</u>
5/03/26	\$ 4,140.00	\$131.15
5/17/26	\$ 1,645.00	\$ 56.20



## 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!**

*Make yourself at home! Enjoy fellowship and a cup of coffee in our cozy seating areas before or after worship. The "lounge" also offers comfortable seating as well as games, books and wellness resources.*



## 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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## **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 all season long.

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

This year the Sunday School was able to "pay it forward". The Sunday School sent monies to Meals on Wheels, Kiel Food Pantry, Immanuel Food Pantry, the Good Samaritan Fund and a family in need. This is possible with the fund raising we do. (Keep saving those cans!)

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.

It is not too late to sign up for a camp – contact Rev. Randy.

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

Happy Father's Day !!!

Have a safe and happy summer.

See you in church!

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## **Vacation Bible School!**

Top o' the mornin'! Get ready to explore the Emerald Isle and the powerful words of Psalm 23! In a confusing world, kids need to know there's a God who cares for them. As they journey through lush landscapes, they'll discover the shepherd - King David and learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, fear to faith, and uncertainty to trust in God's Word.



Once again, we are partnering with St. Marks/ St. James for Vacation Bible School! All are welcome, and needn't be members of any of the involved congregations. Invite a friend! Bonus: It's free!! There is no cost to families! If possible, we will attempt to work out some sort of transportation from Bethlehem to St. Marks. Additionally, we would always accept volunteers to help with activities, even if just for ONE hour!

Enrollment forms were mailed to Sunday School families, but if you need one, please ask Pastor Randy. Please return your enrollment by June 30 so we can begin preparing for classes.

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## **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.

*Special: This year our rummage sale will also include estate items from Jeanette Wriedt.*

There will be lots of opportunities to volunteer for set up and sales starting August 3 through August 8. Mark your calendar now. A signup sheet will be available in July.



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



As we continue the celebration of 160 years at Bethlehem, here is a look at Weddings at Bethlehem

June was traditionally the most popular month to marry, and still very common. There have been thirty seven Bethlehem weddings during the month of June. The earliest June wedding was June 3, 1916 uniting Richard Draheim and Elfrieda Gierke. And the most recent was on June 15, 2025, the renewal of vows by Will and Lora Mathes.

The earliest wedding at Bethlehem was March 27, 1866 uniting Frederick Strade and Augusta Fischer.

During the month of June, please see the display of Bethlehem Weddings in the Fellowship Hall. A complete list is on display. The collection of wedding pictures is incomplete. However, the oldest picture is from 1883. And the most recent from 2025. You will also find a Marriage Certificate from 1920 and newspaper clippings of the wedding events.

Kaye Radder, Historian



IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*



**For those grieving:** Family of Joe Joas (neighbor of Bethlehem)

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

Elaine Brill	Janet
Dayton Horneck	Dawson Horneck
Judy Brockway	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)
Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Jackie Voland
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Margaret
Tyler Meyer	

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

*Merlin Ninmer  
Helen Henning*

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**Community Announcements:**

Memorial Day Dinner at the American Legion clubhouse in New Holstein on Monday, May 25th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Sponsored by the New Holstein American Auxiliary. Dinner is a choice of barbecued beef or pulled pork sandwich, sauerkraut, German potato salad, baked beans, dessert and beverage for \$12.00. Single BBQ beef or pulled pork sandwich \$6. Proceeds will go to Veterans' Programs.

Sat. May 30 – Treasures in the Trunk Sale – 9am-2pm @ Salem UCC, Plymouth – Vendor spots still available too!

**OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH SOCIAL – AT JOHNSBURG!**

Saturday, June 6th, 2026. Outdoor Polka Mass @ 4PM. 5PM-8PM 2/5's Party Band. Brats, hamburgers, and refreshments available in the beer stand following mass. Raffle drawing held at 8:00PM. Putting Contest, Meat Raffle, Kid's Games, and Pot of Gold Raffle during event. Hope to see you there! St. John the Baptist Church [N9288 County Road W, Malone].

***More details about these events can be viewed in the Fellowship Hall on the Community Events Board***

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**YOUTH VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE:**



***Rural Church UCC Summer Volleyball Schedule  
All games begin at 6:30pm***

Sunday, June 14

Bethlehem/St. Peters 2 at Bethlehem/St. Peters 1

Sunday, June 21

Bethlehem/St. Peters 1 at St. James/St. Mark's  
Saron at Bethlehem/St. Peters 2

Sunday, June 28

St. James/St. Mark's at Bethlehem/St. Peters 2  
Bethlehem/St. Peters 1 – Bye

**JULY 5 - Bye Week For All Teams**

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Immanuel/Bethel at Bethlehem/St. Peters 1  
Bethlehem/St. Peters 2 - Bye

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Bethlehem/St. Peters 2 at Immanuel/Bethel  
Bethlehem/St. Peters 1 at Saron

***July 26 – Tournament at Bethlehem***

***Coaches/Captains Meeting at 11:45 am Tournament Begins at Noon***

**Playing Locations:**

Immanuel/Bethel: Immanuel UCC W3694 County Road FF Plymouth, WI 53073

Bethlehem/St. Peters: Bethlehem UCC 11608 Lax Chapel Road Kiel, WI 53042

St. James/St. Mark's: St. James UCC 13312 Pioneer Road Newton, WI 53063

Saron: Saron UCC W3830 County Road J Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085





## May/June Kiel Community Food Pantry Items Needed: Cereal



Your JUNE Jingle Change supports ~ Strengthen the Church

### JUNE BETHLEHEM EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Loads of Love 4pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship w/Communion Cary Johannes leading worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30PM Consistory mtg.	<b>17</b> 5PM July Spirit articles due to Traci	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  Happy Father's Day 9:30am Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9am Bethlehem @ Immanuel Food Pantry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

Pastor Randy and Melissa will be on vacation June 6-14. If you have an emergency  
pastoral need, please call

Rev. David Kohls of St. John's UCC, New Holstein.

(920-522-2565)



# JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



