

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*August 19, 2018  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



## ***First time guests, welcome!***

*We are so glad that you are worshiping with us this morning. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex and identify yourself to one of our ushers or Welcome Team members to receive a delicious gift.*

*We invite everyone to write their prayer requests on the Action Pads in the pews. They will be gathered and read aloud during our Prayers of the Church. Prayer requests may be edited for privacy concerns.*

*All are invited to stand for sections marked with a cross (✝); however, some may choose to remain seated.*

*Congregational responses are in **bold**.*

### **RADIO SPONSORSHIP and FLOWERS**

The Radio Broadcast Sponsorship and flowers this morning are in memory of our grandmother **Lorena Stein**, a life-long member of Bethlehem Church, with love from Chuck Raab and Mary Jean Raab.

### **CHURCH LIFE**

Birthday greetings to **Kathryn Rothfuss**, who will be 93 on August 25.

**Fred Moehrle** is in the hospital.

**Wil Leonard** has moved to University Senior Living on S. Main St.

**Ruth Keppler** and **Marie Slotten** are at the Redies Center in Saline.

### **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

8:30 = 22    10:00 = 58

### **Our Mission**

To worship God, to learn and live the Word of God,  
to engage in Christian fellowship and service,  
to invite others to join us on our faith journey in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

**Order of Worship**  
**August 19, 2018**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Chapel	8:30 a.m.
Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.

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RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE                                      Prelude and Fugue in E Major                                      J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND SHARING PARISH LIFE

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come into this house of worship that we might all listen to God's Word and discern the wisdom that comes from God.

**All: How can we discover such wisdom?**

One: God will give each of us a wise and discerning heart.

**All: May God fill us with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs!**  
**We come to lift up in praise the songs and music from our hearts.**

One: Jesus walks among us as living bread. We come to be nourished and strengthened for our walk on this pilgrim way. We come to connect with divine wisdom and with one another.

**All: Praise the Lord! Learn of God's compassion and mercy!**  
**Praise the Lord! What a fellowship! What a joy divine!**

✠ HYMN OF GATHERING #560 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of love and wisdom, we know you are here with us now, as always. Open our awareness so we know your presence with us, within us, and among us. Today, we come seeking oneness with you and your wisdom. In stillness, speak to us. In chaos, bring us peace.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Grace and Mercy, help us be wise to the ways we can do better.**

*(let us observe a few moments of silence to breathe and reflect)*

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

In God's wisdom and compassion,  
we receive grace that we might live anew  
God's lifts us up with unending grace and mercy.

## THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *(please say in the way most familiar to you)*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts [sins/trespasses],  
as we forgive our debtors [those who sin/trespass against us].**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;**

**for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## ✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Children of God, the Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

## ✠ SONG OF PRAISE #35

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

10:00 Nursery, preschool, and K-7 children will come up front for LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN or leave for their classes at this time.

## 10:00 ANTHEM

Steal Away

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

*Kurt Clare, baritone; Gail Jennings, piano*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14**

<sup>10</sup>Then David died and was buried with his ancestors in the City of David. <sup>11</sup>David had reigned over Israel for forty years, seven of them in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup>Solomon became king and sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

<sup>3</sup>Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. <sup>4</sup>The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. <sup>5</sup>That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, “What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!” <sup>6</sup>Solomon replied, “You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne. <sup>7</sup>“Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn’t know his way around. <sup>8</sup>And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! <sup>9</sup>Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who alone is able to govern this great people of yours?” <sup>10</sup>The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. <sup>11</sup>So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— <sup>12</sup>I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! <sup>13</sup>And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! <sup>14</sup>And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.”

### **Matthew 6:25-33**

<sup>25</sup>“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to God than they are? <sup>27</sup>Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? <sup>28</sup>“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup>yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup>And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, God will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little

faith? <sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and God will give you everything you need.

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Open Our Hearts”

Lily Tinker Fortel

8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✠ 10:00 HYMN #586

Open My Eyes, That I May See

*The Member Care Team will collect written prayer requests during this hymn.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

Open our hearts and let us prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.

Today, as we seek wisdom and beauty, we also seek to embody God’s love and care with all of our actions. Whatever we share—time, talent, treasure, or wisdom—let us do so with a spirit of joy.

10:00 OFFERTORY

Take Five (Brubeck Trio)

Paul Desmond

✠ 10:00 DOXOLOGY #46

**Praise God the source of life and breath;  
Praise Christ, now born to conquer death;  
Praise Holy Spirit’s mystery:  
One God, pure grace, who sets us free. Amen.**

✠ 10:00 UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, we share with a spirit of joy! May these gifts be used wisely as we seek to walk in your just and loving ways.**

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #595

Be Thou My Vision

✠ BENEDICTION

Go forth with courage and kindness. Trust your hearts, knowing that your wisdom matters and that your love makes a difference. May the grace, mercy, and wisdom of God be our support, guidance, and strength now and for ever more. Amen.

✠ POSTLUDE

Sonata in E Major

Domenico Scarlatti

***Now through Labor Day, the Coffee Connection  
is between services in the Schmale Lounge. Please join us!***



## **HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. John L. Kennedy

**Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development:**

Lily Tinker Fortel

**Director of Music:** Thomas Burton

**Organist:** Gail Jennings

**10:00 Bell Ringer** Matt Perros

**Liturgist** Judy Coucouvanis

### **Coffee Hour Servers**

Susan Irwin, John Irwin, Jackie Steinaway, Pam Rutledge

**Office Volunteer** Jacquie Katz

**10:00 Sound Technician** Edgar Vasquez

**10:00 Educational Building Greeters**

Pat O'Reilly, Laura Seyfried

### **Building Opener/Closer**

Kurt Schmerberg/Scott Lovelace

### **Ushers**

**8:30** Kurt Schmerberg, Mike Ehnis

**10:00** Scott Buday, Mark Katz, Jay Katz,  
Marty Seyfried, Tom Naylor, Hans Maier, Larry Katz