



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

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Sunday, May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

Worship Leader: Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

I will call upon Thee, Lord :: Give ear to my voice

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

“Holy Ground”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: The Creator has planted seeds in all of us.

People: May we nurture good deeds and loving-kindness.

Leader: Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit.

People: May we bless and build up others for the reign of God.

Leader: The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to grow.

People: May we be nurtured, may we be blessed, and may we grow in this time of worship

*OPENING PRAYER:

Gracious God, open our eyes that we may see the abundance of your creative love in all that surrounds and sustains us. Enable us to become people of hope and life, who plant the seeds of your earthly garden for the benefit of all. Help us to be gardeners and caregivers that tenderly care for all living beings. Fill us with your gentle love that we may live gracefully with others, offering nurture and support to those who need our care. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #259 vs. 1-4 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT “Planting the Seed”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, We often find it difficult to love others as you command. Sometimes we judge others with little thought to what their struggles might be. We seek our own comfort before the wellbeing of others. We fulfill our own desires rather than act for the common good. Forgive us. Open our minds to the struggles to our neighbor. Redirect our priorities, and renew our commitment to live out your love, even when that demands more of us than we expect.

Time of silent reflection...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: Jesus no longer calls us servants, but friends. Each relationship is a new opportunity to abide in Christ’s love, and a reminder that we can start again.

People: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from

my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

MESSAGE

*HYMN #289 (all) "Help us Accept each Other"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to The Guest House of Milwaukee/Undy 500)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Old Hundredth"

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
And given life eternal breath.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION RESPONSE #525 Refrain only

“One Bread, One Body”

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.

Know he will guide you, in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.

BENEDICTION...POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Merry Christians will be hosting a brat fry at Rick's Piggly Wiggly in Kiel on Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 until 3:00. Quarter pound burgers, Johnsonville brats, and firehouse steaks are on the menu. Come to enjoy the food and fellowship. Any volunteer helpers are welcome.

The Undy 500 is here!!

During the month of May, Bethlehem will be collecting undergarments for The Guest House of Milwaukee, a men's shelter.

Men's S, M, L, XL, 2XL, and 3XL Undershirts

Men's S, M, L, and XL Underwear - Boxers and Boxer Briefs only! (no "tighty whitey's")

The basket for donations will be near the church entrance. Jingle Change for the month of May will also support The Guest House.

Parsonage Roof

We need your help! Our parsonage roof is in need of replacement.

You should have received a letter with more details. Our balance in the Maintenance Fund will cover the cost, but will leave us depleted for any other projects this year.

Please consider a donation to the Maintenance Fund toward the parsonage roof.

Thank you!

****There will be a retirement celebration for Rev. Melinda Feller on Sunday, June 2. Please see the notice on the “community events bulletin board for details.**

Do you know what items Bethlehem saves?

Several Bethlehem organizations save items to enhance their fund raising efforts. These organizations raise money through-out the year to fund their charity giving. There is a poster board set up in the fellowship hall of the things Bethlehem saves. It also tells you where you can place these items. Please consider saving and bringing these items along to church. Thank you!!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- Wednesday, May 8 – Brat Fry – 4p-7p St. James UCC- Spring Valley
- Thurs/Friday, May 9 and 10 - Rummage Sale @ Zion Lutheran, New Holstein
- Friday, May 10 – Drive Thru Fish Fry – 4p-7p – Held at Anchor Lanes – Sponsored by Community UCC, Elkhart Lake
- Friday, May 17- St. John’s UCC Brat Fry and Bake Sale – 10a-4pm – Held at Blattner’s Piggly Wiggly, New Holstein
- Wednesday, May 22 @ 6:30pm – “Little Black Dress Party” supporting NAMI Manitowoc County – see info of bulletin board

OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH SOCIAL – AT JOHNSBURG!

Saturday, June 1st, 2024. Outdoor Polka Mass @ 4PM. 5PM-7PM 2/5’s Party Band. 7:30PM-11PM RINGS. 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].

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor – Randy Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Kelly Suttner

Those struggling with health issues:

Art Matzdorf

Wanda Matzdorf

Nancy Zimmermann

Chad Jeanty

Nancy Henschel

Gary Steinhardt

Mason Kannell

Jaxxen Kane

Heidi Konen

Marie Rietbrock

Brenda Voland

Crystal

Darlene Horneck

Renee

Helen Henning

Dana

Tom Lefeber

Mary Beth Molitor

Jessica Horneck

Dawson Horneck

Jim Markelz

Brad Westphalen

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Victims of war, conflict or unrest: Haiti, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan
Earthquake victims in Taiwan.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 5/5: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; ~Happy Anniversary Grant & Christa Taylor!

Monday 5/6:

Tuesday 5/7: ~Happy Birthday Jenna Rumpff and Dayna Schultz!!

Wednesday 5/8: ~Happy Birthday Nick Hanson and Merri Wempner!

Thursday 5/9: 10:30am Worship at Field of Dreams~Happy Birthday Jennifer Brockway and Time Mueller!

Friday 5/10: ~Happy Birthday Bryan Jeanty!

Saturday 5/11: ~Happy Birthday Pam Bowe!

Sunday 5/12: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Jennifer Stroschine!

**May Pantry Items:
Laundry Soap or Fabric Softener**