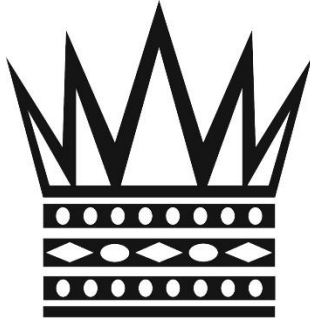


REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY



REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

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Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

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Sunday, November 26, 2023

26th Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

**= Please rise in body or spirit*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #555

“Sanctuary”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 100)

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Worship with gladness and singing!

Many: God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper, and Shepherd. Bless God's name.

One: Enjoy the presence of God! Give thanks and praise!

Many: God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God's name.

One: Know that God reigns! God's kingdom comes!

Many: God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer, and Friend. Bless God's name!

*OPENING PRAYER

God who cares. We flourish in your compassion. You search for us and find us. You, Holy One, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. Be present among us as we praise your name, bring our burdens, and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #38 all

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, transform us in your image. Your reign is just and righteous. We go our own way and live according to our own will. Make us ambassadors of your kingdom. Let us represent you through words and actions. May we release our need for anything that creates a barrier to loving you and our neighbor. May we know and bear witness that we are all neighbors. Amen.

of reflection...

Time

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, you are loved unconditionally by the Everlasting One. The kingdom is yours to embrace and enter with full citizenship. Know that every move toward God transforms you. Every confession of God’s sovereignty fortifies.

**Every moment in the presence of God restores us. Thanks be to God!
Amen**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekial 34: 11-16, 20-24

¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

²⁰ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, ²² I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³ I will place over them one shepherd,

my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Psalm 100 – p. 681 of hymnal – read in unison

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

SERMON

Jesus: “I never said that.”

*HYMN #58 all

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

PASTORAL PRAYER... LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: "Your kingdom come. **Your will be done."**

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of November supports the Sunday School.)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 282 "Give Thanks"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. 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.***

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sunday, Dec. 10 – 3:30pm – “Sing Joy” a concert by the United Christmas Choir – The 50+ member choir has members from four area UCC churches, including Bethlehem’s Kathy Bowe, Lora Mathes, Marie Mueller, Rick Rabe, and Pastor Randy. The concert will be held at St. Peter’s UCC in Kiel.
- For many years Bethlehem UCC has supported Heifer International through an auction hosted by the Bethlehem Merry Christians. In order to make a donation in 2023, the Merry Christians are asking you to make a monetary gift by Sunday, December 10. Checks can be made payable to: Bethlehem Merry Christians. And mailed to: Lora Mathes, 21607 CTH C, Kiel, WI 53042. Thanks in advance for your generosity to help those in need. ~Bethlehem Merry Christians



The Bethlehem Ladies are taking orders for Poinsettias. They are \$9 each and the colors available are red, white and pink. The last Sunday to order Poinsettias is December 3rd. The Poinsettias can be taken home on Christmas Day after worship service. The sign up is on the table in the fellowship hall. Cash or checks to “Bethlehem Ladies” can be given directly to Ginny Schultz or put in her mail box. Thank you!!!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Saturday, Dec. 2 - Cookie Walk - 9a-11a - St. Peter's UCC, Kiel

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@gmail.com

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

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

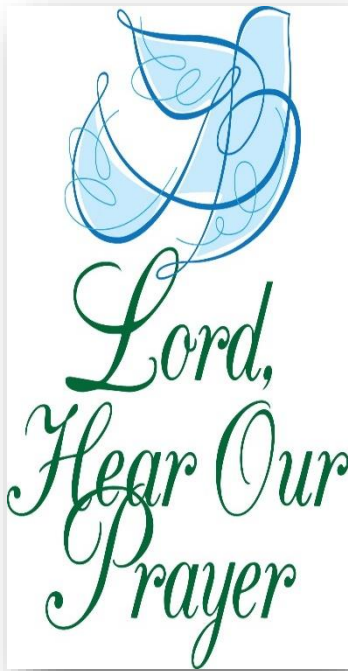
Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

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 Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Bob Radder

Those struggling with health issues:

Sarah Arnold

Heidi Konen

Brenda Voland

Darlean Rumpff

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Jessica Horneck

Dawson Horneck

Crystal

Elizabeth Quackenboss (Nicole Watson's Gmother)

Marie Rietbrock

Daisy Sippel

Darlene Horneck

Molly

Mary Beth Molitor

Sandra Tesch

Gary Steinhardt

Neal (Louie's Brother)

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by war in Israel.

Those affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 11/26: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Logan Shaver! Happy Anniversary Kerry & Barb Henning!

Monday 11/27:

Tuesday 11/28:

Wednesday 11/29: 6pm Confirmation Class; ~Happy Birthday Joe Schmidt and Mark Wirtz!

Thursday 11/30: ~Happy Birthday Leah Henning!

Friday 12/1: ~Happy Birthday Mavryk Suttner!!

Saturday 12/2:

Sunday 12/3: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

December Pantry Items:

Box of Cereal