



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

Liturgist: Ginny Schultz

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio 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 give thanks to the Lord :: for great are His works

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #148 Refrain

**O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Kathy Bowe & Jane Umland

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: People of faith come and worship!

All: We rejoice in this opportunity to worship together.

One: People of faith, come and praise!

All: We rejoice in this opportunity to sing with heart and voice.

One: People of faith, come and pray!

All: We rejoice in this opportunity to open ourselves to God's leading.

One: People of faith, come and listen!

All: We rejoice in this opportunity to hear the scriptures and to respond with faithful service.

*OPENING PRAYER:

One: You give us people for the times, O God.

All: In the earliest days, you gave great leaders to Israel: Abraham, Jacob, and Moses.

One: You give us people for the times, O God.

All: And when a word of correction or justice was needed, you sent the prophets: Jeremiah, Amos, and Isaiah.

One: You give us people for the times, O God.

All: To a world crying out for salvation, your Chosen One, Jesus, came to teach, to die, and to rise again.

One: You give us people for the times, O God.

All: And still you send your messengers, your challengers, the agents of your love: Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, and unsung saints we know. We thank you, O God. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #7

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 111

¹ Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ **They are established for ever and ever,**

to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

MESSAGE

WISE Words

OFFERTORY (Jingle change will go to the Mission Fund which supports Loads of Love, Mission Fest, and other outreach opportunities)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Old Hundredth"

**Oh God, may we who bear your name,
By gentle love your grace proclaim.
Christ's gift of peace on earth declare,
And your anointing Spirit share. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: These gifts enable your faith community to sharpen its senses, God.

All: **We will be enabled to see those who struggle;
we will be ready to minister to those who have suffered loss;
we will hear those who cry out because they are depressed;
we will be inspired to help those who don't have enough food or who
live in squalor;**

we will gather the downtrodden together to work for the common good.
One: You bless us and you bless our gifts, as our awareness grows.
All: **We are a grace-filled people. Amen.**

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.

SUNG RESPONSE #403 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

BENEDICTION

BUSINESS MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chili worker opportunities:
Sunday February 4 - prep work 10:30 to noon
Tuesday Feb 6 - noodle cooking 8 am to noon
Wednesday Feb 7 - Chili day starting at 6 am to 7 pm.
Any help appreciated.
- Bethlehem UCC is hosting a free presentation on Advanced Directives on Tuesday, Feb 27th at 6:30pm. Representatives from Froedtert Medical will be explaining the importance of living wills and medical powers of attorney. If you were suddenly unable to make your own medical decisions and didn't have advanced directives legally in place, your medical decisions would be made by the courts. Other important "end of life" decisions should be put in place as well. The legal paperwork from the state of Wisconsin will be available. All are encouraged to attend.
- Packets of 10 tickets for the 2024 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out for packets which you can sell. Payment is due by February 7, 2024.
- The Second Annual *Rural Church Fellowship Sheephead Tournament* will be held on Sunday, Feb 18 at 1pm @ Bethlehem. Admission is a non-perishable food item. All proceeds benefit area food pantries.

Merry Christian's Heifer Auction a Success!

The Bethlehem Merry Christians of Bethlehem U.C.C. in rural Kiel held their annual fund-raising program for Heifer International during December. Individuals from the church and the wider community gave generously to raise \$3100 to send live animals and other agricultural items to individuals in countries around the world.

These gifts are given to help individuals become self-sufficient in poor countries everywhere. Those who receive the gift animals also give others like themselves the first born of their own gift to widen the donation.

That \$3100 gift to Heifer International provided the following gifts to individuals in countries like Nepal, Zambia, and Mexico. Bethlehem's donation will be 2 heifers, 3 sheep, 3 goats, 2 Alpacas, 2 pigs, 3 hives of honeybees, 10 flocks of chickens, 1 clean water well and 5 complete sets of garden seeds.

Heifer International hears from people world-wide whose lives have been changed through these gifts. The Merry Christians are grateful for the generosity of the church and the community in supporting this cause.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Drive-Thru Chili Supper – Wed. Jan. 31 – 4pm-7pm – Immanuel UCC
- Men's Retreat – Sat. Feb 3 @ Kiel Alliance Church – details on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.
- Grace Lutheran is hosting a Kiel Fire Victim Chili and Hot Dog Dinner and Bake Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, February 10th from 11am-2pm. in the church fellowship hall at 210 N. Lincoln St. [Hwy 67] in Elkhart Lake. It's all you can eat! Carry-out is available.
- InCourage Domestic Abuse Shelter of Manitowoc is hosting a charity event on Sat. Feb 24 – info on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- Sunday, Feb. 25 - Soup Cook-Off – Supporting the youth mission trip of area UCC churches – enter a soup – be a “taster” – details on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

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



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Mike Stutte

Those struggling with health issues:

Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Sarah Arnold	Tom Brickbauer
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Daisy Sippel
Darlene Horneck	Gene Radder
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Crystal
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Elizabeth Quackenboss (Nicole Watson's Gmother)	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those displaced by the recent apartment fire in Kiel.

Those affected by wars in Israel and Ukraine, and others globally.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 1/28: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ANNUAL MEETING; ~Happy Birthday Lora Mathes and Gary Rabe

Monday 1/29:

Tuesday 1/30:

Wednesday 1/31:

Thursday 2/1: ~Happy Birthday Rhonda Otto!

Friday 2/2: ~Happy Birthday Sarah Schisel and Jennifer Holz!

Saturday 2/3:

Sunday 2/4: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; Chili Supper prep following

February Pantry Items:

Box of Sandwich Bags, Garbage Bags, Plastic Wrap or Foil