



# **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, November 3, 2024**

**24th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Polly Jeanty**

*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

***Be with us, as you were with our ancestors :: never leave us or forsake us***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #557 v. 1 "I Just Came to Praise the Lord"

**I just came to praise the Lord, I just came to praise the Lo—rd**

**I just came to praise his Ho--ly Name, I just came to praise the Lord**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have come to affirm our historic faith.

**All: To worship the God of our mothers and fathers.**

One: We have come to remember God's benefits to us, the living.

**All: To respond in thanksgiving to the mighty works of God in our lives.**

One: We have come to affirm our trust in the God of all futures.

**All: To whose name be blessing and honor, glory and power forever and ever. Amen**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, as we gather in this place, we join with all your saints in every time and place to celebrate salvation. You heal the brokenness within and among us. You rescue us from the cruelty we impose on one another amid our doubts, fears, and attention seeking. Help us in these moments to know your Spirit surrounding us, to sense your love embracing us, to realize your goodness empowering us for joyous service. In your Holy name, Amen.**

TOTEN FEST: ALL SAINTS DAY LITANY

We remember the great ancestors of our faith,  
from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:

**Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.**

We remember the prophets and priests,  
the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

**Teachers of the faith, we remember you.**

We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles,  
those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

**Family of our faith, we remember you.**

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren,  
brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents  
whose lives ended too soon:

**Those close in our heart, we remember you.**

We lift up to You, O God,  
the names of those we have lost in this past year from our lives,  
knowing that they are with Your heart forever.

As we read these names, we will pause after every name  
to remember, pray, and give thanks for their life.

*(At this time, the name of the one who passed during the past year will be read, followed by a chime. After the chime, the family may come forward and light a candle in her honor.*

*Following the reading of that name, a general invitation will be made for anyone to come forward to light a candle in memory of a loved one. Please do not crowd the table. Wait until the family before you has finished.)*

**Doris Mae Nimmer      9/3/2024**

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God,  
and lift up many more names in our hearts.

**Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you.  
We know you are with us in the spirit of worship,  
and you will not be forgotten.**

We give thanks, O God,  
for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life.  
We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ,  
and know that in our grief and celebration, O God,  
**You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone.  
In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray.  
Amen.** (Written by— Rev. Mindi, on her [Rev-o-lution](#) website.)

\*HYMN #500 vs. 1, 2, 4, 8

“For All The Saints”

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God Most High, we confess that we have not aspired to the best that we know. We have neither set our hope on Christ nor treated others with the love and respect we crave for ourselves. We seek to avoid entering into the depths of another’s pain, or risking our wealth out of compassion for all your saints. We do not want to embrace those we perceive as enemies or do good to those who hate us. We are afraid to trust the working of Christ’s power among us. Oh God, help us to accept the demands of faith that we may experience its joy. Amen.** (silent reflection)(-written by Lavon Baylor)

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God executes judgement among us. Forgiveness is not cheap grace, for God continues to expect faithfulness in all things. Yet when we come in humble penitence and sincere desire to change our ways, God gives us the victory.

**We are inheritors of salvation. We are accepted in the family of God. Our way is enlightened, and we are filled with hope. Our values are put right. Praise God!!** (-written by Lavon Baylor)

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #358

“Only Believe”

**Only believe, only believe;  
All things are possible, only believe;  
Only believe, only believe;  
All things are possible, only believe.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Isaiah 25:6-9**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**Psalm 24** – (p. 605 in hymnal) - Leader reads odd verses, people read even.

### **Revelation 21:1-6a;**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

### **John 11:32-44**

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## SERMON

\*HYMN #470 vs. 1,3,4

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

## HOLY COMMUNION

(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.)

God be with you.  
Lift up your hearts  
Give thanks to God.

**And also with you  
We lift them up to God.  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## COMMUNION PRAYER

### PREFACE

We remember all who have gone before us ...

...We join them and all the angels and saints of heaven in the hymn of unending praise.

**Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!**

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION/REMEMBRANCE

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### BREAKING AND POURING

### THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

### THE DISTRIBUTION

### THE BLESSING

One: May the presence of Christ, Body and Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us pray.

**All: Thank you most Holy God, for meeting us in this simple meal. May your presence within us ripple beyond us, ever expanding, until the day when you gather all your saints from the four winds to share in your eternal banquet. In all our words and actions may your name be praised now and forevermore. Amen.**

**\*COMMUNION RESPONSE #525 Refrain only "One Bread, One Body"**

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one  
Lord.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Petitions end with: **"God of guidance, Speak into our lives today."**

**SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE**

**Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears Lord  
And help us to listen,  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus.**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING** (Jingle Change for the month of November supports the  
Sunday School's Holiday Drive)

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**"Give Thanks"**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,  
His Son (2 times)**

**And now...  
let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done  
for us" (2 times)**

**Give thanks... (2 times)**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of all the generations, we offer our gifts in gratitude for the inheritance  
of faithfulness we have received as followers of Jesus. Bless these gifts so  
that today's ministries may flourish and provide an inheritance for those  
who come after us, as you guide us all into a future only you can see. 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

\*\*This morning’s prayers and liturgies are from: [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> unless noted otherwise.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- People Of Bethlehem: Thank you SO much for your outpouring of support for my ministry at Bethlehem during Pastor Appreciation Month. As I said, it is truly MY honor and privilege to serve both God and people of Bethlehem. I appreciate the cards and gifts of individual members and look forward to spending the Roepke’s gift card from the congregation. It’s our favorite! May God Bless you all! --- Pastor Randy
- **Bethlehem Ladies Annual Poinsettia Sale:**  
Place order on the signup sheet by Sunday, December 1st.  
Colors available Red and White  
Single are \$14.00  
Doubles are \$22.50  
Flowers can be taken home on Christmas Day.
- **Join us for Brunch!** The Bethlehem Confirmation Class will be hosting and serving brunch following worship on Sunday, Dec. 1. There will be a free-will donation. The proceeds will be used to reduce each family’s cost for the Confirmation retreat at Daycholah. (Current cost is \$105/person) To aid in planning, would you please “make a reservation” on the list in the fellowship hall?
- Our Thanksgiving Food Drive will continue through NEXT Sunday.
- Don’t miss worship on Sunday, Nov 17 when we will welcome back the barbershop group HHT for special music!



- There will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Gloria Dei Lutheran at 6pm. Pie and fellowship afterward. Due to out of state travel, Pastor Randy will not be participating. If YOU would like to participate (reading scripture, etc.), please let Pastor Randy know asap.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS** -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- **Drive-Thru Brat Fry** – Sunday, Nov. 3 – 11:30a-2:30pm at St. John’s UCC (Church St, New Holstein) Please pre-order by Oct 24 (920-313-0531) See Flyer
- **Fall Fare** – Sat, Nov. 9 – 9:00am-2:00pm. First Congregational in Plymouth – Craft Sale – Silent Auction – Soup to Go – Baked Goods
- **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Concert** – Grace UCC – Kohler – Sunday, November 10 at 1pm. Refreshments following. See Flyer.
- The Kiel Area Historical Society and the LumberYard Brewery present on Tuesday, Nov 12 at 6:30pm: **A History of 703 Fremont Street - The Hotel de Matthews, AA Laun and the LumberYard Brewery**. The presentation and tours are free. Beer can be purchased.
- **Manitowoc County Foster Care Info Session** – Nov. 14 – 12p-1p - see flyer
- **Spaghetti Drive Thru Fundraiser** – Nov. 16 from 11a-1pm – St. Peters UCC, Kiel Benefitting the Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip
- **Cookie Walk** – Sat. Dec 7 – 9a-11a – St. Peters UCC, Kiel

*I thank God for being with me in surgery. I am thankful for the visits from Pastor Randy and the spiritual support encouraging me to keep looking to tomorrow for new opportunities. I am thankful for all the prayers, flowers, cards and calls. I thank God that he sent me a mentor who has been through this surgery herself and was able to explain what the first six months would be like and helped me to prepare for the second surgery and the next six months to recover. – Nancy Zimmermann*



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Those Grieving:**

Family of Doris Mae Ninmer  
The Family of Butch Waack

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Darlean Rumpff	Gary Rabe
Will Mathes	Louie Bowe
Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets	Nancy Zimmermann
Brad Westphalen	Randy's cousin Kurt
Jessica Horneck	Jim Markelz
Gary Steinhardt	Marie Rietbrock
Shari	Tom Lefeber
Heidi Konen	Mary Beth Molitor
Dawson Horneck	Darlene Horneck

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

**2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

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Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 11/3:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:00 am Confirmation Class; 9:30am  
Worship. Toten Fest and Communion; *Happy Heavenly Birthday to Doris Mae Ninmer!*  
*Happy Birthday Beau Hemauer!*

**Monday 11/4:** *Happy Anniversary Steve & Jennifer Deignan!*

**Tuesday 11/5:**

**Wednesday 11/6:** 6:30pm Consistory Mtg.

**Thursday 11/7:**

**Friday 11/8:** *Happy Birthday Ryan Arnold!*

**Saturday 11/9:**

**Sunday 11/10:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:30a WISE; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion and  
Toten Fest;

**November Pantry Items:  
Box of Cake - Frosting**