

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

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December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

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

My spirit rejoices :: in God, my Savior

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY MAGNIFICAT LITANY | Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalm 96

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light has shined on those who lived in the land of the shadow of death.

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name!

He has lifted the heavy burden and broken the sword of oppression. The weapons used for battle will be burned up as fuel for the fire.

Proclaim his salvation from day to day! Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

For a child is born to us. A son is given to us; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Lord made the heavens and the earth. Honor and majesty are before him. Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

His Kingdom of righteousness and peace will have no end. David's throne will be upheld in righteousness from this time on and forevermore.

Bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "God reigns." The Lord has come to judge the earth in righteousness and truth. O come, let us adore him.— (*The lighting of the advent candles*)

*HYMN #100 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (verses 1–3)

*OPENING PRAYER {b}
God of mystery and wonder,
Creator, Christ and Spirit,
Glory to you, O God

**On this holy night, the angels sing your praises with joy
and we join their chorus.
The shepherds welcome your saving love,
born in a manger and join them in adoration.
Mary and Joseph ponder your promise, cradled in their arms
and we join in their love for you.
And so we come to praise you,
singing with the angels,
amazed with the shepherds,
cradling the Christ Child in our hearts.
Glory to you, O God. Amen.**

HYMN #111 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

First Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

HYMN #138 "What Child is This"

Second Reading Luke 2:1–6

HYMN # 132 "Away in a Manger"

Third Reading Luke 2:8–14

HYMN # 121 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Fourth Reading Luke 2:15–16

HYMN #113 “O Holy Night”

Fifth Reading Luke 2:17–20

HYMN #110 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (Tune Doxolgy)

**To God, all glorious heav’nly Light
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous and loving God, your gift to us in Christ Jesus still draws us to manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to your love and the blessing we have found in the One born for us. Amen.

*HYMN “*Silent Night! Holy Night!*”

(During the HYMN we will light our candles. Candles will be lit from the center aisle. Please pass the light down the rows towards the wall, crossing the outer aisles.)

Silent Night Holy Night
All is calm All is bright
Round yon virgin Mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent Night Holy Night
Shepherds pray at the sight
Glory streams from heaven afar
Heavenly host sing hallelujah

Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar
Hoder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent Night Holy Night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams form Your holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth
Jesus Lord at thy birth

A READING FROM OUR DAY "It is Not Over" by Ann Weems

*DECLARATION John 1:1-4

*CAROL #107 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There will be no Sunday School on Sunday. Sunday school and Confirmation classes will reconvene on Sunday, Jan 5.
- Thank you to those who contributed to the Heifer International fund raiser. With your contributions plus a donation by the Merry Christians, we are able to send 3 Heifers, 3 Sheep, 3 Goats, 3 Pigs, 3 Bees and 4 Flocks of Chicks.
- Food Drive!! Please continue to bring in donations for the Reverse Advent Calendar through Dec. 29.
- If any individuals or groups are seeking a recipient for end-of-the-year financial donations, United Church Camps, Inc (Moon Beach, Daycholah, Cedar Valley) is holding a capital campaign called Roots & Wings to support our church camps. See Randy for more info.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- The Sheboygan County Warming Center is a mission of several churches in the city of Sheboygan, including St. John's UCC. This winter the shelter will be operated at St. Luke United Methodist Church. They are seeking donations of clothing, bedding, travel-sized toiletries, and shelf-stable snacks, along with bus passes and Kwik Trip gift cards. See flyer for more info. Bring your donations to Pastor Randy and he will get them to Sheboygan.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Mark Beitzel
Gary Steinhardt

Those struggling with health issues:

Gary Rabe	Heidi Konen
Will Mathes	Nancy Zimmermann
Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets	Julie and Addison
Brad Westphalen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Mary Beth Molitor
Marie Rietbrock	Dawson Horneck
Tom Lefeber	
Emily (Melissa's cousin)	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Nimmer Helen Henning

2024 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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Tuesday 12/24: 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 12/25: 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

Thursday 12/26:

Friday 12/27: *Happy Birthday Ryan Jeanty!*

Saturday 12/28:

Sunday 12/29: 9:30am Worship w/ Hymn sing

**December Pantry Items:
Box of Cereal**