



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent
Worship Leader: Steven Voland
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

The Lord is my light and my salvation :: Whom shall I fear?

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #556

“Surely the Presence...”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord is our light and our salvation:

Of whom shall we be afraid?

The Lord is the stronghold of our life:

We will wait for the Lord in faithfulness.

Let us seek the Lord's face in this time of worship:

We will honour God's presence in our prayers and our praises!

*OPENING PRAYER

**God, ever creating, ever loving, ever leading:
when things around us feel chaotic, you are peace.
When so much we hear is not reliable, your word is truth.
When we are paralyzed by fear and anxiety, your presence is freedom.
When we feel bereft and helpless, your love gives us hope.
We bring you our prayers and our praise this day,
for you reveal yourself to us in the goodness of creation,
in the love and mercy of Christ, your beloved,
and through the energy and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
We worship you, Creator, Christ and Spirit,
ever Three and ever One, Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN #24 “The God of Abraham Praise” (new-Polly will play first)

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**God of compassion,
We are creatures who seek our own comfort.
We confess that we prefer our own plans to your purposes.
We shrink from costly discipleship and put our own interests first.
Forgive our fleeting commitment
and the times we have indulged our own complaints.
Have mercy on us.
Inspire us with the energy to do your will
and serve our neighbors in the example of Christ, your Son and our Lord.
(Time of reflection)**

WORDS OF GRACE

Friends in Christ, while it is true that we have all sinned,
**it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God’s love poured out in
Jesus Christ.**
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven.
We are at peace with God, with ourselves, and with one another.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #564 refrain “All Will be Well”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 - God’s Covenant with Abram

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my

house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Psalm 27 – p. 608 of hymnal - Leader reads odd verse, people even

Luke 13:31-35 - The Lament over Jerusalem

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” ’

CHILDREN’S TIME

MESSAGE

*HYMN #330

“Rock of Ages”

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER: #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

CALL TO THE OFFERING – Jingle Change for March helps offset Bethlehem’s pledge to OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission)

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v1 “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Living God, we offer our gifts today in hopeful gratitude. Bless these gifts and use them to increase the goodness enjoyed by those in need. Bless our lives that, through our relationships, others will be touched by the hope we know in Christ Jesus and find their lives blessed by his love and mercy. 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/COMMISSIONING

Go in peace; be of good courage,
hold fast to what is good, render no one evil for evil;
**we will strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak,
help the afflicted, and honor all people,**
lastly, love and serve God, and may the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Christ and Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever.
Thanks be to our God. We go in peace. Amen

POSTLUDE

**This morning's prayers and liturgies are used with permission from:
<https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy will be on the mission trip starting today through Saturday, March 22. Please contact Pastor Nicole Herda with any pastoral care needs. (920-242-8308)
- We will be collecting donations for a Daycholah Center project that involves removing a window, installing a patio door, and building a deck on one of the cabins. The Rural Church Fellowship will match up to \$500, all donations collected from its member churches. There will be a basket for this free will offering on March 16, 23, and 30. Daycholah is also looking for volunteers for a work and clean-up day. See Steven Voland for details.
- On Sunday, May 4, Pastor Randy will be holding a "Communion class" during Sunday School. The start time for this class will be based on when it's convenient for the SS teachers. It shouldn't be more than 30 min, depending on student questions. Then they can return to their regular class. If you are interested in your child learning about the meaning behind the Lord's Supper, please sign your child up in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Bethlehem Ladies – Easter Flowers!** We will be purchasing our flowers from Millhome Nursery. All orders are due Sunday, March 23rd. Flowers will be delivered to church on April 11th.

Easter Lily and Mums - \$13.00
Hydrangea (colors vary) \$34.00
Azalea (colors vary) \$25.00
Reiger Begonia (colors vary) \$19.00

Please place your orders on the signup sheet by Sunday, March 23rd. Make your check out to Bethlehem Ladies and place in Ginny Schultz's mailbox.

- Summer is coming and some of my favorite memories are the times I spent at church camp, both as a camper and camp counselor. Daycholah Center is a UCC camp on Green Lake that offers many fun activities for people of all ages. There are outdoor adventure camps, Sailing Camp, MADD (Music, Art, Dance, Drama), “Con” Camp (Think Harry Potter, Comics, Star Wars, etc), and “Night Owl” Camp, (designed for teens who like to stay up late and sleep in!) I urge you to check out ucci.com for more information. Scholarships and financial assistance are available. It’s a lot of fun! – Pastor Randy
- Thank you for supporting our Loads of Love ministry. In March we served 1 client and expended \$26.25. Our donations for February were \$85.
- Stay informed!!! Did you know that Bethlehem sends out a weekly email update called The Bethlehem Blurb? If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please send a message to randynme15@gmail.com or BethUCCKiel@outlook.com.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- First Lutheran Church, located at 521 N. Eighth St. in Manitowoc, will once again host the Annual Spring Chili Warm-up & Bake Sale on Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Manitowoc County Habitat for Humanity. Please see the flyer for more information.
- 15th Annual Divine Savior School Fundraising Auction
Saturday, March 29th. 5:00 PM @Millhome Supper Club - Admission is \$10
*There will be a 'Live' Auction, 'Silent' Auction, 'Virtual' Auction, Raffles, games, delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and an evening of socializing and fun.



**Daycholah
Work Camp**

Get details from Steven!



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Wayne Stauss
Don Mogenson
Elaine Waack

Those struggling with health issues:

Diane Fidlin	Tony Bowe
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefeber
Marie Rietbrock	Molly
Dana	Mary Beth Molitor
Hubert	Jason

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Nimmer Helen Henning

2025 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 - Rev. Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sunday 3/16: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30a Beth Ladies; 9:30am Worship **Spirit Articles due**

Monday 3/17:

Tuesday 3/18: *Happy Birthday Tina Salm!*

Wednesday 3/19: *Happy Birthday Hallie Brockway and Brianna Pennel!*

Thursday 3/20: *Happy Birthday Ross Westphalen and Jeremy Aschenbach!*

Friday 3/21: *Happy Birthday Kathy Bowe and Tom Mueller!*

Saturday 3/22: *Happy Birthday Riley Radder!*

Sunday 3/23: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; *Happy Birthday Pastor Randy!*

March Pantry Items:

Box of Pasta, Noodles, Rice or Crackers