



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com)

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

**Sunday, April 20, 2025**

**Easter Sunday**

**Worship Leader: Rev. 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

***Hallelujah! The Lord is Risen! :: He is risen, indeed!***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP #196 v.1

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Hallelujah! O Day of Resurrection, let us shine with joy!

**Christ has led us from death to life.**

O Day of Resurrection, let us live with hope!

**Christ has led us from earth to heaven.**

Christ has risen from the dead. Hallelujah!

**He has risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**Gracious, life-giving God, maker of all things visible and invisible, on the first day of the world, you spoke and out of chaos came creation, out of confusion, order and out of nothingness came all creation.**

**On the first day of the week, Christ was resurrected by your grace, and out of death came life. You come to us through the Holy Spirit, to shine light on our way forward, offering your gift of new life in Christ Jesus.**

**Praise and honour and blessing be to you, O God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, this day and every day, now and always. Amen**

**\*OPENING HYMN #196 v. 2-5**

**“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving and life-giving God,**

**you raised Jesus from the grave**

**and shattered the powers of sin and death.**

**But we confess that we remain captive to fear,  
resisting the hope that new life is possible for us.**

**We hide in tombs of indifference,**

**seeking comfort rather than justice in this world.**

**We cling to resentment and disappointment,  
refusing the freedom that comes with forgiveness.**

**Forgive us, O God, and restore us to joy and wholeness through your great mercy. (time of silence)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**This Easter Day, God has turned our mourning into dancing!**

**God has taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy!**

**We are God’s forgiven people.**

**Let us be at peace with God, with one another, and with ourselves,  
through the undying mercy of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571**

**“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

**<sup>17</sup> For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.**

**<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.**

**<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.**

**<sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.**

<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

**<sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.**

<sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well.

**<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.**

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

### **Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

### **Luke 24:1-12 - The Resurrection of Jesus**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the

Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## SERMON

\*HYMN #200

"Easter People Raise your Voices"

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: Resurrect, renew and revive \_\_\_\_\_. **Hear our 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.**

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for April supports One Great Hour of Sharing)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Doxology"

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, we come before you with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ Jesus. Bless these gifts so that they may spread the hope and joy we feel this day to those who have not yet tasted**

**your kindness. With our gifts, we offer ourselves to you in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen**

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

(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.)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE STORY OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

On this joyful Easter Day,...with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to raise the song of your unending greatness:

**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 the Lord.  
Hosanna in the Highest!**

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ...,  
and so we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us,...the love we share in your name.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD – POURING OF THE CUP

DISTRIBUTION

\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER (poem)

**Christ be with us; Christ within us;  
Christ behind us; Christ before us;  
Christ beside us; Christ to win us.  
Christ to comfort and restore us.**

**Christ beneath us, Christ above us,**

**Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love us,  
Christ in mouth of friend and  
stranger  
wherever we go in your name.  
Amen**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 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.

### **Help Us with Church Tech! - Volunteers Needed – All Ages Welcome!**

Bethlehem UCC is looking for volunteers—including youth—to help with our growing **technology ministry**. Whether you’re tech-savvy or just willing to learn, we would love your help!

#### **Areas Where We Need Support:**

- **Sound Room** – Operate audio equipment during worship and events.
- **Live Streaming** – Run our laptop and camera to stream services online.
- **Promethean Board** – Form a committee to discuss a promethean board that functions as a whiteboard, connects to desktop devices and touch-sensitive displays. This can be used to share announcements, scriptures, and engaging visual content during services and other organization functions.

**Youth volunteers** can count this as **community service** or simply as a gift of your time and talents to your church.

**No experience necessary—training will be provided!**

#### **Interested or have questions?**

Please speak to Rev. Randy or any of the members of the Consistory

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Bethlehem UCC with your time and heart!

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall**

- Pancake Supper – April 27 – 3pm-6pm – Zion Lutheran – New Holstein
- Drive thru Pork Chop Dinner- Thurs, May 1 – 3:30pm-6pm – Saron UCC (reservations required).
- Fish Fry - Fri. May 9 – Community UCC, Elkhart Lake – 4p-7p- Dine in or carry out
- Brat Fry – Wed. May 14 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley
- May 3,4,9,10 – Dinner Theater @ Gloria Dei Lutheran in New Holstein – “Murder Me, Murder me Not” \$25/person see flyer



### **Those Grieving:**

Robin Huegel (MIL of Emily Huegel-Jane's Daughter)  
Nell Partin  
Family of Luka Tipton

### **Those struggling with health issues:**

Diane Fidlin	Mary Beth Molitor
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefebber
Marie Rietbrock	Donna Firman
Dana	Hubert
Jill Sheets	

### **Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer      Helen Henning

**Stay Informed!** Sign up to receive Bethlehem's weekly email update, The Bethlehem Blurb. Send your email address to [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com) and you will be added!

## **2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

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

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

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

## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 4/20:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Easter Worship with Communion

**Monday 4/21:**

**Tuesday 4/22:** Happy Birthday Amy Wempner!

**Wednesday 4/23:** Happy Birthday Kaye Radder!

**Thursday 4/24:** 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry

**Friday 4/25:**

**Saturday 4/26:**

**Sunday 4/27:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Confirmation Sunday with Communion; Happy Birthday Ryan Rabe and Mia Watson!

## **April Pantry Items:**

**Bottle Of Hand Soap, Dish Soap or Shampoo**

