

The Spirit of Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI 53042
(920)894-3332

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters of Bethlehem!

May the Grace of God and peace of Christ Jesus be with you as we begin a NEW year, 2023. I hope your holidays brought you great joy.

It's a "new year" at Bethlehem, too. I write this column on the eve of December 18, 2022. This morning we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas program presented to us by our Sunday School and confirmation students. Also this morning, YOU, the people of Bethlehem, voted for and called ME, to be your new settled pastor.

Even though I've been a spiritual leader at Bethlehem for 6 years, I want you to know, this is a responsibility I don't take lightly. It has been a goal of mine for some time, to enter the ministry upon retiring from teaching. Today, that dream came to fruition. I feel so much joy and gratitude that the community of Bethlehem has put its confidence and trust in me. I promise to work hard and be the best minister I can be on your behalf. It is my privilege to serve both the people of Bethlehem, and God, in this role.

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FEBRUARY SPIRIT DEADLINE:

Wednesday, January 18th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com



Pastor Randy's Ramblings (continued):

I'm surprised, but no one has asked me, "Why ¾ time? Why not FULL time?" When I proposed a ¾ time position to the consistory, it was intended to be mutually beneficial. Bethlehem will save a significant amount of money, by not calling a full-time leader. As for me, I will be guaranteed one weekend of "family time" each month. Yes, it's true, I WANT to enter the ministry! However, presently the rest of my family has a Monday through Friday work schedule. It's hard for me to say, "Sorry. I'm not available on weekends," especially while my girls are still fairly mobile and "available." The ¾ time arrangement assures me that I will have at least one weekend a month that I can commit to my family. And as many of you know, family has become even MORE important to me in the past year. Sometimes the events of our lives can change us for the better.

As Steven mentioned in the congregational meeting, I am working towards becoming ordained, rather than maintaining my "licensed" position. This doesn't really change anything for YOU, the people of Bethlehem; rather I'm doing it for myself, to increase my "standing" within the United Church of Christ and to become the best pastor I can be. The process will help me identify areas where my skills are secure, as well as those areas of needed growth in my ministry. There are 48 competencies that I will need to demonstrate and document during this process. Therefore, feel free to assist me in this endeavor. If you have kind, constructive criticism, please offer it. If there are areas of my ministry where you feel I excel, please share those as well. WRITTEN comments are preferred, as I can directly use them as documentation. Email is great!

Of course, know that I am here to serve YOU. Reach out to me if you ever have a pastoral need. I am SO excited about the future of Bethlehem! I hope you are too!

In Christ,

Pastor Randy





Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Follow Bethlehem UCC

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

or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

Our Spiritual Leadership:

Pastor Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com

- Gather in the sanctuary for worship Sunday mornings. Our service begins at 9:30am.
- Tune your car radio to 101.3FM to listen to the service in the church parking lot at 9:30am.
- View Sunday's service from the comfort of your home through Facebook live stream at 9:30am <http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>
- OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website at a time that is convenient for you and your family www.bethlehemkiel.org
- Sunday School begins at 8:00am. All children 4 years – 6th grade welcome!



2023 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family

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

If you are not able to join us in person Sunday mornings, please mail your giving envelope/check to:

Bethlehem UCC
c/o Ruthie Rumpff
11608 Lax Chapel Road,
Kiel, WI 53042



You can also give electronically! Please contact Ruthie Rumpff for details.

Bethlehem UCC has added a Donate Button on the Church Website

www.bethlehemkiel.org



Click on the Donate button to make a secure online contribution today!

Donate

Your giving will go directly to offset our day-to-day costs of maintaining the church. This option was added in addition to giving at church, mailing your giving to church or giving electronically.

The On-line giving is secure by using your PayPal account, credit or debit card. (The church is charged a 2.89% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add that to your donation.)

Thank you for all your support!

Lectionary Readings for JANUARY:

New Year's Day January 1, 2023	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Psalms 8	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2023	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Baptism of the Lord January 8, 2023 <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalms 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 15, 2023	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 22, 2023	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 29, 2023	Micah 6:1-8	Psalms 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

Bethlehem Special Congregational Meeting: 12/18/22

Time: 9:35 am

54 Members present

Meeting was called to order by President Steven Volland.

Subject: Vote to hire Pastor Randy Koppenhaver as a $\frac{3}{4}$ settled Pastor.

Steven reviewed the call agreement. No additional questioned asked.

Randy was voted in as our $\frac{3}{4}$ Pastor.

Adjourned 9:40am by Will Mathes and seconded by Tom Rabe.

Secretary – Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 12-13-2022

Present: Roy Rogers, Randy Koppenhaver, Steven Volland, Traci Rabe, Kathy Bowe, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Ruthie Rumpff

Call to order: 6:36 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy – Used the 3rd Advent thoughts. John 1:1-5 and Isaiah 35:1-10
Bread for the World and Looking for the positive

Monthly Reports

- **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

- Month income \$7,009.00 (1,032.94 below YTD collection) \$87,265.00
(1,196.31 below YTD requirement)

The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2nd by Ross)

- **Treasurer – Jane**

- Giving's received in November to date are \$7,169.84 bringing the checkbook balance to \$48,575.71.

The report is approved as presented (motion by Ruthie and 2nd by Traci)

- **Building & Grounds checking and Savings – \$16,389.62.**

- **Secretary – Kathy**

- Approved by Jane and 2nd by Ross

- **Building & Grounds Updates**

- We have not received a bill from Signature for any of the snow plowing 2021 and 2022
- Flies/Bugs were cleaned out of all the light fixtures – Thank you Rick Rabe and Louie Bowe
- Thank You Mark Riesterer for setting up the nativity scene
- Thank you to Rick Rabe for trimming down the outside plants
- Thank you to Steven for working on the stumps in front of the parsonage

Pastoral Reports –

- Pastor Randy

- Worship -
- Organized Thanksgiving Eve ecumenical service - (\$222 raised for Kiel Area Good Samaritan Fund.)
- Led worship 11/6, 11/27, 12/4
- Upcoming : Blue Christmas 12/15 and 12/18
- Confirmation
- Class on 11/2, 11/16, and 12/7 (Roy covered class on 12/7 so I could attend Kenzie's PT conf.)
- Showed movie on 11/16 and invited congregation.
- Arranged confirmands for advent candle lighting - 4 to participate in children's program
- 12/14 - service project at St. Vinnies, Kiel
- Looked into "Urban Immersion" trip, but those experiences are on hold at this time.
- Mission
- The collected goods and gifts cards were delivered to LOL client on 11/7 (She told me how much they really helped her "get through" a tough month)
- LOL on Monday, Nov. 7. \$26.75 expended on one client
- LOL on Monday, Dec. 5 \$54.50 expended on two clients
- Changing LOL in January to the 9th
- Reverse Advent Calendar in process
- Pastoral care
- Home visit on 11/10, 12/8 and 12/12 with Pastor Roy
- Field of Dreams 12/8
- Hospital visit on 11/12
- Phone call to ill member x4
- Phone message and card to ill member
- Counseling x1
- Wider Church
- -Nov. 2 - Participated in "Renewing the Soul: Expressing Gratitude" webinar of Supportive Ministries Team of the WI Conference.
- -11/10 - met with ministry committee in Fond du Lac
- -MID orientation meeting in DeForest today(12/13) 10a-2p
- -Attending a virtual meeting on 12/15 regarding WISE
- Other
- -Conversations with Manitowoc County's Aging and Disability Resource Center re: class site
- -Attended Bethlehem Ladies Christmas Party
- -I will begin leading worship at Field of Dreams on 1/12
- -Mueller (Sarah)/ Schisel wedding scheduled for 9/16/23
- -Weekly Blurbs
- Other
- -Weekly Blurbs

Pastoral Reports (continued)–

- Rev. Roy
- Preached/Presided x 3 (11-13, 11-20, participated in service on 11-23)
- Attended Bethlehem Ladies Christmas party
- Held Confirmation class on 12/7
- Meetings - Consistory
- 8 Calls and visits on ill members and those needing spiritual support
- "Extra curricular" chaplain breakfast, baptism of Max Volland, Life Group x2, concert at SSC
- **Member Outreach** – 2 Christmas Cards, Prayer Card and 3 Get Well Cards sent

OLD BUSINESS

- **Rural Church Fellowship Mtg – Fundraiser**
 - Bethlehem to host a sheepshead Tourney/Games (2/5/23)
 - Money raised to go to local food pantries
 - More details to follow
- **Ecumenical Service – 11/23/22** – Was well received
- **Pastoral Leadership**
 - Vote to be held on 12/18/22 during children's Christmas program
- **Blue Service** – Held 12/15/22 7:00pm

NEW BUSINESS

- Annual Budget – Final review of the 2023 budget will be discussed on 1/10/23
- Annual Meeting will be held 1/29/23 after shortened 9:30 worship meeting
- Chili Supper meat frying will be held after annual meeting on 1/29/23
- Rev Roy will be preaching on 1/22/23 with a **“Thank you Rev Roy”** fellowship hour to follow
- Manitowoc County Aging & Disabilities Resource Center Inquiry
 - MC asked to utilize our building for health classes
 - MC is looking for a satellite facility to host classes closer to clients
 - First classes would be on preventing falls with different speakers each week
 - There would be 7 – 2-hour classes held in spring (March) on Tues or Thursday
 - There would be a follow-up class in fall (Sept)
 - Bethlehem members are welcome to sign-up and join the class
 - A Bethlehem representative will be on site during these classes
 - Consistory has agreed this is a good way to get our name out in the community
 - A vote of yes was approved by Ross and 2nd by Traci



Motion to adjourn 8:45 PM by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross

Next meeting - Jan 10, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Consistory Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Ladies:

The Bethlehem Ladies met after worship on Sunday, December 4th. Seven members were present.

We had election of officers. Heidi Konen is our new President. Thank you to Barb Henning for her many years as President. Jeanette Wriedt has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. Also, thank you to Jeanette for her many years of being our Treasurer.

The Ladies will be making baptismal handkerchiefs and provide to the families at the time of baptism. Polly will purchase the handkerchiefs.

The 2022 Poinsettia recipient is Ruthie Rumpff.

We received a thank you letter from Harbor House for our recent donation. We thought Harbor House would be a possible future guest night speaker.

On to wash communion glasses on January 8th are Heidi and Shirley.

We exchanged Secret Pal names for 2023.

After our meeting we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for our Christmas Party. The members and spouses were joined by guest Rev. Roy Rogers and his wife Lori, and Pastor Randy Koppenhaver and his wife Melissa. After lunch we were entertained by Rev. Roy as he played his guitar and led us in a medley of Christmas Carols. It was lovely. Thank you Rev. Roy! We concluded the party with a gift exchange.

There will be no meeting in January! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Polly Jeanty
Secretary





One of the Bethlehem Ladies' mission projects is recycling greeting cards. You can help them out by saving all your old greeting cards throughout the year and placing them in one of the Ladies mailboxes at church or giving them to a Consistory member Sunday morning. The cards are given to Project Angel Hugs (children with cancer) and to four assisted living homes in Kiel and New Holstein.

Thank you for your help!

Bethlehem Sunday School:



A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated to our Sunday School family collection. We collected 61 items for the family. Much more than we asked for!!

We also want to thank you for your donation to the jingle change, which allowed us to purchase the bigger items for the family.

What a wonderful program the kids put on during the service on the 18th. It won't be possible without you bringing them to Sunday School each week. Thanks for inviting your friends and family to the program. The kids (and the teachers) sure appreciate it.

We would also like to thank everyone who brings their aluminum cans. We raised \$169.80 with your support.

Cans can still be placed in the old garage anytime. This money goes toward our mission of Leprosy.

Coming up in February will be the jingle change collection for Leprosy. More info to follow.

See the kids back on January 8th at 8:00. Have a Happy New year!

Merry Christians:

The Merry Christians wish to thank those who contributed to the Heifer International Project. Final totals will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Kaye Radder

Bethlehem Scrip:

Thank you to everyone who used the scrip program for Christmas shopping and giving! Happy 2023! Please consider scrip in the new year! We have cash and carry cards which are available every week. Stop at the scrip table and check it out!

Linda Rabe

Monthly Scrip Stats:

11/27/2022	\$1,015.00	\$ 35.65
12/04/2022	\$5,190.00	\$221.24
12/11/2022	\$1,475.00	\$ 50.76
12/18/2022	\$ 980.00	\$ 36.06



PLEASE ALSO NOTE: I will still be collecting caps (example: milk chug caps, water and soda bottles, etc.) Please look under mailboxes for container to place them in!

The Endowment Fund Committee

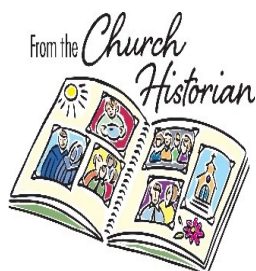
The Bethlehem Endowment Fund Committee has met two times this year. While using only the interest, we have made donations this year to the following local communities and individuals.

- Kiel Food Pantry
- Salvation Army
- 2 families in need

When you are reviewing your financial plan, please consider giving toward The Bethlehem Endowment Fund. Anyone is welcome to join the committee. There is something wonderfully fulfilling about doing good that lasts. Something that really makes a difference. Your gifts to the Endowment Fund are rewarding and adds to a fund that will benefit others for decades.

If you have any suggestions of an organization or a family in need, see any committee member for more details. Kerry Henning, Kathy Bowe or Marie Mueller.

From Our Church Historian:



Happy Anniversary Bethlehem UCC

December 26, 2022 marked the 157th anniversary of the founding of Bethlehem. Let us remember those dedicated students and professors of Mission House Seminary which traveled to lead Sunday School and worship services in the nearby schoolhouse. We look forward to another year of challenges and growth for the history of Bethlehem.

Historian

Kaye E. Radder

Merlin and Doris Mae thank everyone for Christmas cards and the Kindergarten class for the nice cards that they made for them.

*Thanks again,
Merlin and Doris Mae*



WISE Initiative for Awareness of Mental Health Concerns:

Pastor Randy is forming a study group to determine if Bethlehem might be interested in the WISE Initiative (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). This initiative aims to seek ways in which congregations can support and advocate for individuals affected by mental illness, brain injuries, etc. The group would meet on selected Sunday mornings before church in January and February. We will study the issue of mental health, perhaps through a book study or guest speakers. Next, we would determine if we are willing to commit to a WISE "designation" and develop a covenant explaining how we will support people with mental health concerns. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested in participating in this exploratory study group.

Loads of Love:



Once a month, recipients meet Bethlehem's Loads of Love team at the laundry mat and are supplied detergent and dryer sheets to wash and dry their clothing, towels, and bedding. Loads of Love also generously provides the quarters for the washers and dryers.

With your help Bethlehem will continue to do God's work through this important mission. Your donations can be placed in the "Laundry Detergent" container located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Thank you for sharing God's love through your generosity!

****Thank you to Mike Hartmann, owner of The Laundromat, LLC in New Holstein! He sent a \$50 kickback to Loads of Love for using his business!***

Save your Aluminum Cans:



Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans.
Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.

Snow Shoveling Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers are needed to shovel the sidewalk and entryway at church. Your Commitment is only a few weeks to a month. Please sign up on the sheet located in the fellowship hall.



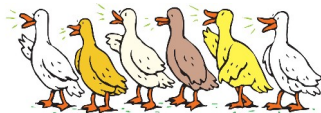
Save the Dates:

***Sunday, January 8th** All Church Group Annual Reports are due to Traci Rabe by 5pm. Please send your report as a Word document to Traci at trabefamily5@gmail.com

***Thursday, January 12th** – Bethlehem will be leading worship at Field of Dreams at 10:30am. We need singing voices! Please join us and let Pastor Randy know if you will be coming.

***Saturday, January 14th** – Ordination of Nicole Herda at Grace UCC, Two Rivers at 11am.

***Sunday, January 22nd** – Please join the Bethlehem Family for fellowship following the morning worship to thank Rev. Roy for his service at Bethlehem and to wish him well in his retirement. Snacks, sweets and refreshments will be served.



ANNUAL MEETING

***Sunday, January 29th** – Bethlehem's Annual Meeting will be held following as shortened worship service. Confirmation students, parents, and other volunteers will also be frying meat for the Chili Supper following our meeting.

Rural Church Fellowship:

Rural Church Fellowship is planning a **Sheepshead Event** here at Bethlehem. The event is scheduled for Sunday, February 5th with a snow date of Sunday, February 19th. The time is still being determined but will be in the afternoon with approximate time of 1-3pm. This special event is intended to be a fun social event to help raise funds for four local food pantries (Immanuel UCC, Sheboygan Falls Pantry, St. Peter's UCC in Kiel and United Ministries. Participants are asked to bring nonperishable food items or a monetary donation. The **Sheepshead Event** is meant to be a day for fellowship and just having fun playing cards. You are invited to come with a group or by yourself. Based on people's wishes there will be tables of 3, 4 or 5 handed **Sheepshead**. There will be some movement to different tables based on points for those who already know how to play. There will also be opportunity for those who would like to learn how to play **Sheepshead**. Light snacks and drinks will also be available.



Save the Date(s)

February 1, 2023 – Bethlehem Chili Supper

Your help will be needed.

Sunday, January 29, 2023

10:30 – 12 noon

Prep day: Set up work areas, cook meat etc.



Tuesday, January 31, 2023

8:00 – 12 noon

Cook Noodles

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Bring Tortes

8:00 – 12 noon

Cook Chili, serve noon lunches

3:00 – 6:30 pm

Serve Chili, Dishes, Clean up

Help Wanted: Chili Workforce

No Experience Needed

Will train on the spot

Any time you can spare is greatly appreciated.

Any skill you have can be utilized.

Benefits:

**Form some new friendships and
leave with a warm feeling in your heart.**

To apply: Contact Kaye Radder

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Piercy Edward Hoeper Heugel was born 11/6/22 – Parents: Sage and Emily Heugel,
Proud Grandparents: Scott & Jane Umland

Families who have lost loved ones:

Lincoln Boris
Michael (Grandson of Shirley/ Nephew of Kathy and Kaye)
Doris Schuler (Mother of Linda Rabe)
Stanley McCabe (Father of Doris Rabe)
Steve Rumpff
DuWayne Ninmer
Jane Markelz



Those struggling with health issues:

Gary Steinhardt
Sandra Tesch
John Buchholz
Bob Radder
Daisy Sippel
Finn (a young boy with cancer)
Dana (friend of Melissa K)
Doreen Schmidt
Tom Lefeber
Helen Henning
Hattie Lucille
Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck

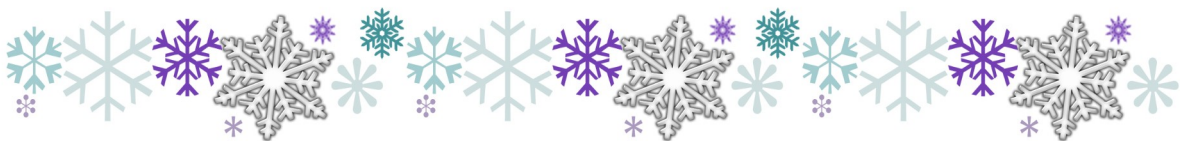


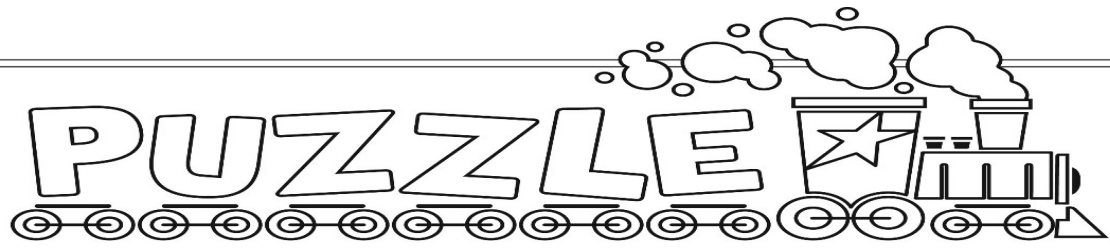
Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other concerns:

Those affected by the war in Ukraine.
Those affected by violence and oppression in other places of the world.
Those affected by wildfires or other natural disasters





Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

God made wild animals and livestock.

God said, "Let there be light."

God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.

God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."

God created plants and trees.

God separated the light from the darkness.

God made the water teem with living creatures.

God made the sun and moon.

God made birds fly above the earth.

God made stars.

God created mankind in his own image.

○	—	—	—	—	—
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—	○	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—

God aw all tha he ad ma e, an t was ve y g od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth; God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



Answer: C (See Genesis 12:4.)



JANUARY VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS - A Can of Soup

JANUARY JINGLE CHANGE - supports future mission trips



Bethlehem Events - JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy "Hymn Sing"			6pm Confirmation			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8am Sunday School 9:30am Communion Service w/Pastor Randy All Church Reports due to Traci by 5pm	Loads of Love	6:30pm Consistory mtg.		10:30am Worship @ Field of Dreams		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy			5pm Feb. Spirit news due 6pm Confirmation			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Rev. Roy ***Fellowship Hour honoring Rev. Roy following worship***						
29	30	31	February 1			
8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy – Annual Mtg to follow Chili Supper prep including frying meat		8am-noon Cook Noodles	Chili Supper			



JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Kenzie Koppenhaver Grant Taylor	2 Jayden Jeanty	3 Carol Wehrmann	4	5 Garrett Schultz	6	7 Ty Sheets
8 Pat Hoban Jane Umland Mary Beth Molitor	9	10 Harrison Zorn Rich Schmitt Arlyn Retlich	11	12 Kamlynn Rumpff	13	14 Shirley Henschel Mekenzie Biwan
15 Judy Mueller Bill Biwan	16	17	18	19 Hailey Wirtz	20	21 Katrina Rumpff
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Lora Mathes Gary Rabe
29	30	31				



Bethlehem Chili Supper



11608 Lax Chapel Rd – Kiel

Wednesday Feb 1, 2023

3:00 pm- 6:30 pm

Drive Thru/Pick Up Only

**Ready-to-Heat Chili,
Fresh Bread, Cheese, Crackers, & Homemade Tortes**

Meal deal - \$9.00

Gallon of Chili - \$18.00

**Directions: 67 N of Kiel - Right on Hwy X go 2 miles -
Left on Lax Chapel – the church is located ½ mile on Left**