The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings, dear people of Bethlehem!

It hardly seems possible! I just preached about Epiphany, and here I am writing my annual newsletter article for Lent! Maybe that's because time seems to go faster for me these days, but in truth Easter is early this year, which means Ash Wednesday (and Lent) is early, too. Ash Wednesday is exactly 46 days before Easter. The date of Easter is determined by the first full moon AFTER the spring equinox (first day of spring). Easter is the first Sunday after that full moon. I hope you enjoyed my little lesson about the moon and the church calendar!

Anyway, Lent is upon us. And as usual, I like to encourage everyone to use the season to draw nearer to God.

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. – Psalm 25:4-5

Lent is a time of sacrifice... of given something up as a symbolic representation of Christ's sacrifice for us. However, Lent should also be a time of adding something in. A time of getting to know yourself better and getting to know God better. Create a time of reflection and devotion where God can show you God's "ways" and teach you God's "paths." Through a Lenten practice of reflection, scripture, prayer, and/or journaling we open ourselves to God's guidance and teachings in truth and hope. Personally, I will be using devotions from one of my favorite writers, Kate Bowler (katecbowler.com.) You can subscribe for free at her website. If Kate Bowler isn't your thing, there's a multitude of other Lenten resources available. *Continued on page 2*



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MARCH SPIRIT DEADLINE:

Sun. Feb. 18th @ 5pm Send to Traci at trabefamily5@gmail.com

Pastor Randy's Ramblings (continued):

If you'd like help finding something, let me know. I'd be glad to offer some suggestions. (Try Habitat for Humanity's: https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/group-opportunities/faith-partners/devotions)

At Bethlehem, we are also going to try and provide an opportunity for Lenten growth as a congregation. At a recent worship service, we took a poll to see whether members would prefer Wednesday worship services, open prayer stations (like last year), or neither. Wouldn't you know it, it was pretty much a three-way tie! So rather than an either/or approach, we are converting to a BOTH/AND approach. On alternating weeks there will be prayer stations and worship services. Woven into that will be a couple service projects to appeal to those who like to DO things. We believe this approach will interest a wider number of members/attendees. We hope you'll take advantage of these opportunities to explore and grow in your faith.

In this Lenten season, may you draw closer to your Creator and Redeemer, trusting in the good news of the resurrection which is to come.

Peace be with you always!

Pastor Randy



Wednesday, February 14th – 5:30pm Soup & Sandwich Supper provided by the Consistory Wednesday, February 14th - 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship with communion Wednesday, February 21st - 6:30pm Lenten Worship Wednesday, February 28th - 9am to 6pm Prayer Stations



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042 Phone: 920.894.3332 Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/</u> or Bethlehem's website at <u>www.bethlehemkiel.org</u>

Our Spiritual Leader: Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com



- Sunday School begins at 8:00am. All children 4 years 6th grade welcome!
- 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 <u>http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/</u> OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website anytime that is convenient for you and your family <u>www.bethlehemkiel.org</u>

Pastoral Care:

If you have any pastoral/spiritual care needs please contact Pastor Randy.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or <u>trabefamily5@gmail.com</u> Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or <u>lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us</u> Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 <u>rossw@forhealthycows.com</u> Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 or <u>LandKBowe@outlook.com</u> Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or <u>srumpff@tm.net</u> Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or 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!

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 1.99% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add this charge to your donation.

Thank you for all your support!



Lectionary Readings for FEBRUARY:

Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2024	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7-10	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 4, 2024	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Transfiguration Sunday February 11, 2024 (Last Sunday before Lent)	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b- 6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent February 18, 2024	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 1-10-2024

Genesis 17:1-7,

15-16

Present: Steven Voland, Jane Umland, Ruthie Rumpff, Traci Rabe, Ross Westphalen, Lee Watson, Kathy Bowe, Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Psalm 22:23-31

Call to order: 6:33 PM Opening Prayer by Randy

Monthly Reports

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

- Financial Secretary Ruthie
 - Month income \$18,048.38 (\$10,302.380 above YTD collection) \$93,593.38 (\$641.38 above YTD requirement)

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

- Treasurer Jane
 - Giving's received in Dec. to date are \$18,707.33 bringing the checkbook balance to \$56,843.63

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



Mark 8:31-38

Mark 9:2-9

or

Romans 4:13-25

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Building & Grounds checking and Savings

Checking = \$2,236.71 Saving = \$6,661.13

- Secretary Kathy
- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the Dec Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Approved by Ross and 2nd by Jane

• Building & Grounds Updates

- Tiles in choir need to be replaced pending
- Snow plowing contract was read. Motion was made by Ruthie to except and 2nd by Ross

• Pastoral Report

<u>Worship -</u>

12/17, 12/24, 12/25, 1/7 Field of Dreams on 1/11 Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: Jan 14, April 28, June 23?, August 25, Sept. 15 Ash-Wednesday? - Mid-week Lenten worship?

Confirmation/Youth

- Classes held 1/17 and 1/31
- Confirmation Retreat w/ St. Peters Jan. 19-20 all costs have been paid One Bethlehem parent attending as chaperone Randy met with leaders today to finalize plans.

Mission_

- Loads of Love on Jan. 8
- WISE
 - Book Study, Monthly displays ongoing
 - Meeting 12/17 group wants to continue
- Mission trip : Marie Mueller and Sarah Schisel attending St. Peter's adult mission trip April 14-20. \$90 each for lodging, plus food, gas, etc. Mission committee is helping with lodging. As a church, Bethlehem has been asked to provide a "meal" for the group (around a dozen) Suggestion was made to freeze some chili and send cookies, chips, crackers, etc.
- Immanuel Food Pantry Volunteers

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 1x
- Other electronic communication 4x
- Cards 3x (visitors)
- Visits 0x
- Hospital visits 0x

Wider Church/MID process

-COP (communities of practice) on Jan 11

-MID work towards ordination:

-Continued work on my Learning Covenant and Matrix

-Bowen Family Systems for Clergy class in Jan and Feb.

Continued on pg. 7

Communication and Other

-2024 Yearbook forms – Jane will handle

-Kiel Ecumenical clergy meeting 1/17 @ BUCC

-Rural Church Fellowship meeting @ Bethlehem - Sunday, Jan 7

- Sheepshead Tournament set for Sunday, Feb. 18 @ 1pm at Bethlehem. (same basic plan as last year.-supports area food pantries)
- -Need to add Families in Need committee member to Annual meeting agenda

-POA presentation Feb. 27 at 6:30pm

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem = 2 get well, 1 thinking of you, 2 thank you

OLD BUSINESS

- Sound Room/Audio Visual/Website
 - Steven is in contact with Tom (from TFG) for maintenance on the sound system First step will include new speakers, amp, carillon-up-date. Also looking into steeple speakers and microphones. Estimate is in the range of \$16,000.00. Further discussion will be held at the annual meeting.
 - New website contact Laura Webs by Wagner website transition will take place in January-Laura will then train Bethlehem people on any changes
- Christmas Services all went well
- Annual Meeting Preparation
 - Budget finalized
 - Annual meeting date 1/28/24
- Confirmation Retreat
 - Jan 19-20
 - All monies have been paid
 - Randy & Nicole finalized plans
- Power of Attorney Meeting
 - There will be an informational Power of Attorney meeting at Bethlehem on Tues. 2/27/24 at 6:30 PM Watch for a sign up sheet
- RCF Sheepshead Tournament
 - Sunday February 18 at 1:00 PM.. Bethlehem will again host the afternoon of sheepshead. If you are not a sheepshead player, bring your game of choice. Refreshments will be served. Monetary and canned goods donations will support area food pantries

NEW BUSINESS

- Coffee Hour/Game Day
 - March 3rd after 9:30 service
 - Bring your favorite games
 - Refreshments available
 - Watch for more details
- Membership List
 - Reviewed by the consistory
- Jingle change for January (Mission Fund)
 - Monies will be used to support the April mission trip (gas)
- Ash Wednesday
 - February 14th service at 6:30 PM
 - Lenten Services or prayer stations will be discussed at annual meeting Continued on pg. 8

Motion to adjourn by Traci & 2nd by Lee Meeting adjourned at 8:32PM

Next meeting – Feb 13, 2024 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Sunday School:

February is Leprosy/Birthday month.

There are no real good records kept in earlier years. The records we have date back to 1960.

The Bethlehem Sunday School has supported the Leprosy Mission for 60+ years. On your birthday, you would bring .01 per your age. You would deposit your money into a <u>special bank</u>. The classes would then sing "Happy Birthday" to you. At the end of the year, the money would be sent to Leprosy Missions to cure a child of Leprosy. In 1960 we collected \$9.50. It took appx \$65.00 to cure a child. As time went on the amount given was raised to .05. In 1999 the amount was raised from .05 to .10 per your age. In 2007 we started giving .25 per year. Today we are still asking for a child to bring .25 per your age. (Us teachers are glad we didn't raise it any higher)

In 1999 the Sunday School designated the month of February as Leprosy/Birthday month. The children would bring their birthday money regardless of when their birthday is. Singing "Happy Birthday still is done on the child's birthday.

Videos and stories are shared with the children to educate them on the disease of Leprosy. No matter what the amount of the collection, the Sunday School donates enough money to cure one child, using other fund raising monies. Today that amount to cure a person is now \$348.00.

The jingle change for the month of February is also used to reach our goal.

We also continue to collect aluminum cans that can be placed in the old garage. This helps us support Leprosy, plus other missions.

See you on Sunday at 8:00 am.



Confirmation:

Wednesday, February 28th - Confirmation Class 6pm



Bethlehem Scrip:

Thank you to everyone who continues to use the Scrip program. There are cash and carry gift cards available every Sunday. You can purchase them and use them for your purchases for the week. It is very easy to use and it benefits the church.

On Sunday, Jan 21st we had a gift card drive for the fire victims from Kiel. Thank you for your tremendous support! We raised \$650 in Walmart, Piggly Wiggly and Kwik Trip cards. Thank you!!

I will be selling Scrip the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Linda Rabe

Scrip Stats:

12/17/23	\$1,540.00	\$ 53.50
12/24/23	\$1,455.00	\$ 57.88
12/31/23	\$1,295.00	\$ 38.90
01/07/24	\$ 845.00	\$ 25.88
01/14/24	\$1,400.00	\$ 24.52
01/21/24	\$1,440.00	\$ 47.17



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!

LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!

Pastor Randy is looking for persons interested in leading worship services as liturgists. Lead the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Read a portion of the scriptures. A sign-up sheet is on the door to the pastor's office. Let Randy know if you have any questions.

Bethlehem Ladies:



The Bethlehem Ladies did not meet in January.

On to wash Communion glasses for February are:

Sunday, February 4th: Barb Henning Marie Mueller (Thanks for volunteering!) Ash Wednesday, February 14th: Polly Jeanty Traci Rabe (Thanks for volunteering!)

Thank you to Pastor Randy and Melissa for volunteering to help wash communion glass on Jan. 7th!

The Bethlehem Ladies are looking for help from the congregation with the washing of the communion glasses. We wash communion glasses the 1st Sunday of the month and also a couple extra throughout the year for Easter, Christmas, Lent and Confirmation. There will be one Bethlehem Ladies member scheduled for each washing and we are looking for 1 or 2 more from the congregation to help. A sign-up sheet with all the dates for the upcoming year is in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping us out. Thank you!!



Our next meeting is Sunday, February 18th at 8:30 AM.

Polly Jeanty, Secretary

Reminders: Just a reminder that the Ladies have a wonderful selection of greeting cards and napkins for sale. The display is located in the Fellowship Hall by the sound room. All cards are marked with a price. Take a look and if you find something you like, simply drop your money in the box found on the display.

• Bethlehem UCC is hosting a free presentation on Advanced Directives on Tuesday, Feb 27th at 6:30pm. Representatives from Froedtert Medical will be explaining the importance of living wills and medical powers of attorney. If you were suddenly unable to make your own medical decisions and didn't have advanced directives legally in place, your medical decisions would be made by the courts. Other important "end of life" decisions should be put in place as well. The legal paperwork from the state of Wisconsin will be available. All are encouraged to attend.

Heifer Project:



hank The Bethlehem Merry Christians of Bethlehem U.C.C. in rural Kiel held their annual fund raising program for Heifer International during December. Individuals from the church and wider community gave generously to raise \$3,100 to send live animals and other agricultural items to individuals in countries around the world.

These gifts are given to help individuals become self sufficient in poor countries everywhere. Those who receive the gift animals also give others like themselves the first born of their own gift to widen the donation.

That \$3,100 gift to Heifer International provided the following gifts to individuals in countries like Nepal, Zambia and Mexico.

Bethlehem's donation includes:

- 2 heifers
- 3 sheep
- 3 goats
- 2 alpacas
- 2 pigs
- 3 hives of honey bees
- 10 flocks of chickens
- 1 clean water well
- 5 complete sets of garden seeds



Heifer International hears from people world-wide whose lives have been changed through these gifts. The Merry Christians are grateful for the generosity the church and the community have donated to this cause.

Please Save Your Kiel Piggly Wiggly Receipts:

The Merry Christians have been collecting cash register receipts from the Kiel Piggly Wiggly store. No other area store receipts are of any use to us. We receive a monetary rebate for every dollar that is spent on groceries. Please help us help others by placing your used store receipts in the box under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Bethlehem Merry Christians

From the Church Historian:

Did you attend Sunday School as a youngster? Do you recall what your "lessons" looked like? Did you have a booklet, with a Bible story? Perhaps a memory verse? Pages to color? A quiz or other exercise to test the impact of the lesson? Below are a lesson "card" and "attendance" record from 1929 and 1930. Note they are in German. It looks like the cost of the lessons was 16 cents per year.



Kaye Radder, Historian

Chili Supper

Plan to attend – Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – annual Bethlehem Chili Supper

There is still time to volunteer as workers and torte makers. Dates to remember:

- .Sunday, February 4 The Youth group and Confirmation class along with their parents and the choir will be doing some prep work immediately following worship service on Sunday, February 4th. Extra hands are always welcome.
- .**Tuesday, February 6** Several members will get together on Tuesday morning, starting at 8 am finishing by noon to cook noodles. Here too extra hands are welcome.
- .**Wednesday, February 7** On Wednesday, February 7th, some of the cooking crew will begin at approximately 6:00 am. We anticipate a break (assuming the cooks stay on task) at about noon. Many additional volunteers are needed for this day long event.
- .Since we deliver noon lunch to several area businesses, we calculate that we need 500 slices of bread to be buttered and bagged plus 1000 pieces of cheese to be packaged by 10:00 am Wednesday morning. This is in addition to the 250 pieces of torte and 250 servings of chili to prepare.

This will be the fourth consecutive year that the Chili Supper will be Drive Thru/Pick Up, with no in-person dining.

• Packets of 10 tickets for the 2024 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out for packets which you can sell. Payment is due by February 7, 2024.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:



Those struggling with health issues:

Mike Stutte

Tom Brickbauer Sarah Arnold Gene Radder Heidi Konen Helen Henning Darlene Horneck Dawson Horneck Jessica Horneck Jaxxen Kane Mason Kannel Elizabeth Quackenboss (Nicole Watson's Grandma) Mary Beth Molitor Marie Rietbrock Brenda Voland Gary Steinhardt Tom Lefeber Crystal (Friend of Koppenhavers) Dana (sister of Melissa K)

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin & Doris Mae Ninmer

Other concerns:

Those displaced by the recent apartment fire in Kiel Those affected by wars in Israel and Ukraine, and others globally Prayers for anyone living with mental illness



Snow Removal Volunteers Needed:

We need your help shoveling the church sidewalk and entry. If you are able to lend a hand, please sign up in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Save your Christmas Lights:

Do you have Christmas lights that no longer work? DON'T THROW THEM OUT! Please bring them to church and place them in the basket under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall.



Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans.

Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

∼Can you help? Bethlehem will be assisting at the Immanuel UCC Food Pantry on the 4th Thursday of the month. Times are approximately 8:30 – 11am. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall for Thursday, February 22nd.

• Drive-Thru Chili Supper – Wed. Jan. 31 – 4pm-7pm – Immanuel UCC

• Men's Retreat – Sat. Feb 3 @ Kiel Alliance Church – details on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

• Grace Lutheran is hosting a Kiel Fire Victim Chili and Hot Dog Dinner and Bake Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, February 10th from 11am-2pm. in the church fellowship hall at 210 N. Lincoln St. [Hwy 67] in Elkhart Lake. It's all you can eat! Carry-out is available.

~The Second Annual Rural Church Fellowship Sheepshead Tournament will be held on Sunday, Feb 18 at 1pm @ Bethlehem. Admission is a non-perishable food item. All proceeds benefit area food pantries.

• InCourage Domestic Abuse Shelter of Manitowoc is hosting a charity event on Sat. Feb 24 – info on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

• Sunday, Feb. 25 - Soup Cook-Off – Supporting the youth mission trip of area UCC churches – enter a soup – be a "taster" – details on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

 Bethlehem UCC is hosting a free presentation on Advanced Directives on Tuesday, Feb 27th at 6:30pm. Representatives from Froedtert Medical will be explaining the importance of living wills and medical powers of attorney. If you were suddenly unable to make your own medical decisions and didn't have advanced directives legally in place, your medical decisions would be made by the courts. Other important "end of life" decisions should be put in place as well. The legal paperwork from the state of Wisconsin will be available. All are encouraged to attend.







FEBRUARY VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS -

Box of Sandwich Bags, Garbage Bags, Plastic Wrap or Foil **FEBRUARY Jingle Change supports:**

supports Leprosy treatment



FEBRUARY Bethlehem Events:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	Y THURSDAY FRIDA		SATURDAY
SUNDAT	WUNDAT	TUESDAT	WEDNESDAT	INUKSDAT	FRIDAY	SATURDAT
				1	2	3
4 8am Sunday School 9:30am Communion Service w/Pastor Randy FRY MEAT FOR CHILI SUPPER FOLLOWING WORSHIP	5 Loads of Love 5pm	6	7 Bethlehem Chili Supper Drive Thru 3-6:30pm	8	9	10
11 8am Sunday School 8:30am Book Study 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	12	13 6:30pm Consistory mtg.	14 5:30p Soup & Sand. Supper 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Communion	15	16	17
 18 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship Spirit News due to Traci by 5pm 1-3p RCF Sheepshead Tournament at Bethlehem 	19	20	21 6:30pm Lenten Worship	22 Bethlehem at Immanuel Food Pantry 8:30am	23	24
25 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy Mission Trip Soup Cook- Off 11a-2p - Laack's Hall	26	27 Advanced Directives presentation at BUCC - 6:30pm	28 <mark>9a-6p Lenten</mark> Prayer Stations 6pm Confirmation class	29		



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Sarah Schisel Jennifer	3
					Holz	
4	5	6 Brandon Hoban	7 Mike & Judy Brockway (1978)	8	9 Zander Jeanty	10
11 Aaron Suttner	12	13	14 Jerry & Carol Wehrmann (2014)	15	16 Diane Fidlin Ryan Holz	17
18 Ashley Radder	19 Emilee Wirtz Tony & Pam Bowe (1994)	20 Dawn Muehlbauer Jesse Rumpff	21	22 Trenton Rabe	23	24 Amelia Horneck
25 Julia Gabrielse	26	27	28 Alexis Horneck Karen Schlegel	29		