

The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are roughly a third of the way through Lent. Last month I invited/encouraged you to take on some sort of spiritual practice to deepen your relationship with God during these forty days. Have you started one? Does anyone really read these things, anyway? 😊

I, myself, couldn't choose just one, so I actually engage in two daily devotionals. The first was written by Kate Bowler, the author whom I've shared with you on multiple occasions, and the second is on the abidingway.life website which I shared on the church Facebook page on Ash Wednesday. What I like about the second one, is that in addition to a reflection, it connects to a Christian song and its lyrics. More on that, later.

- ¹⁰ *Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*
¹¹ *Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.*
¹² *Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit. – Psalm 51*

These words from Psalm 51 talk about the essence of an important Lenten theme: Repentance. This is a topic we discuss a LOT during Lent, but what does *repentance* entail?

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MARCH 2024

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APRIL SPIRIT DEADLINE:

Sun. MARCH 17th
@ 5pm

Send to Traci at
trabefamily5@gmail.com

Pastor Randy's Ramblings (continued):

Unfortunately, the concept of repentance has been co-opted and misrepresented by many Christian groups. Perhaps, we have even been led to understand repentance as the command to some sort of moral reform and behavior modification. This idea hinges on the belief that almost everything we do is wrong in God's eyes and if we'd just stop screwing up and do all the right things, THEN God will love us. This version of a God who's always angry and looking for reasons to punish us, leads to nothing but shame and disillusionment.

A recent devotion on abidingway.life explains that the above understanding of repentance is not *biblical* repentance. Their writer explains that repentance in the bible is rooted in the "love and mercy of God." The focus isn't so much on our ability to change ourselves, but rather on how GOD effects change in us through the Holy Spirit. We surrender ourselves to God and approach God with an attitude of humility and a willingness to be transformed into the person God wishes us to be. God invites us to repent out of God's kindness, not God's judgement. Paul writes in Romans 2:4, "Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" Titus 3: 4-7 puts it like this:

⁴But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

In other words, repentance isn't about us doing the right things, it's about a willingness within us, to allow the Holy Spirit to CHANGE us. God doesn't love us because we repent, rather we repent because God loves us. The biblical understanding of repentance comes from the Hebrew word *shub* (to turn) and the Greek *metanoein* (to think anew). Rather than be ashamed of the ways we feel unworthy of God's love, during this Lenten season, how can we allow God's spirit to enter our hearts, to turn us and make us think anew?

In 1985, singer Leslie Phillips released a song called, "Your Kindness." The chorus of the song explains the essence of biblical repentance:

*It's Your kindness
That leads us to repentance O Lord
Knowing that You love us
No matter what we do
Makes us want to love You, too*

May God's Spirit be at work within you in these forty days of Lent!

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 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 <http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/> OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website anytime that is convenient for you and your family www.bethlehemkiel.org

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 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 or LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or srumpff@tm.net

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!

Bethlehem Ladies will be taking Easter Flower orders. Orders must be placed by Sunday February 25th. Flowers will be placed in Church for the Easter celebration services. Flowers can be taken home on Sunday March 31st. A sign up is in located in the fellowship hall. Checks (payable to Bethlehem Ladies) or cash are accepted. Please contact Ginny Schultz for any questions. You may place your checks in my church mailbox. Thank you for your support.

Flower selection and prices:

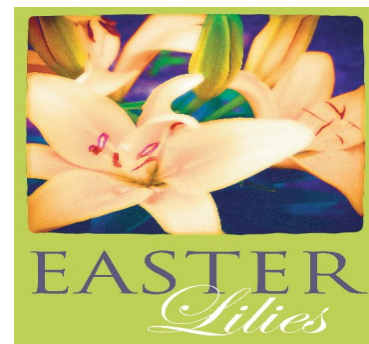
Easter Lily \$11.00

Mums \$11.00

Hydrangea \$33.00

Azaela \$24.00

Reiger Begonia \$19.00



Lectionary Readings for MARCH:

Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 2024	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12 <i>Psalm 119:9-16</i>	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Liturgy of the Palms March 24, 2024 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Mark 11:1-11 or <i>John 12:12-16</i>
Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2024	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 <i>Psalm 40:5-10</i>	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38

Monday of Holy Week March 25, 2024	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday of Holy Week March 26, 2024	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week March 27, 2024	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday March 29, 2024	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 <i>Hebrews 4:14-16;</i> <i>5:7-9</i>	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday March 30, 2024	Job 14:1-14 <i>Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24</i>	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or <i>John 19:38-42</i>

Resurrection of the Lord March 31, 2024 <i>Easter Day</i>	*Acts 10:34-43 or <i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	John 20:1-18 or <i>Mark 16:1-8</i>
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Bethlehem UCC Annual Meeting: January 28, 2024

Call to Order – President Steven Volland at 10:15

Members present – 30

Opening prayer by Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved by Donna Truttmann-Retlich and 2nd by Scott Umland.

Building Maintenance Fund was reported by Jane Umland. (No approval needed)

Building and Grounds – Completed Projects in 2023

- Leak in choir room
- Carpet cleaning
- Replace parsonage furnace
- Replace parsonage gutters
- Cement back and front of church – funded by Merry Christians

General/Yearly maintenance

- Light bulb changing in sanctuary
- Outlet changed in Sunday school room
- Men's Bathroom maintenance-toilet and urinal repairs
- Septics pumped
- Furnace cleaning
- Fire Extinguishers/Emergency lights check
- Parsonage oven – renter fixed with phone call
- Exterior bug spraying
- Parsonage furnace repair
- Snow blower check
- House style mailbox installed at entrance

Projects for 2024

- Seal parking lot black top – not needed yet
- Seal parsonage deck – Power wash – not needed yet
- Outside Lighting
- Parsonage Roof – get estimates
- Back church door locks

2024 Budget was approved by Will Mathes and 2nd by Kaye Radder.

Amendment to the Budget – An adjustment was needed to correct the Payroll Taxes. Motion was made by Ross and approved by Jane.

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Volunteer Positions – none of the open positions were filled.

- Volunteers still needed for Northeast Association Annual Mtg, Wisconsin Conference Annual Mtg.
- Scott Umland and Steve Deignan volunteered to join the “Family in Need” committee.
- Northeast Annual Meeting – 4/21/24 – Volunteers needed
- Northeast Wisconsin Conference – June – Volunteers needed



Consistory Positions – there are 4 open consistory positions – no volunteers – existing consistory will continue for now. Open positions are 2 Elders, Deacon and Secretary

Future Plans and Goals – Up grade Sound System

- Carillon, Speakers, microphones etc.– Steven is working with Tom for quotes.
- Up-dates will be in the range of \$15,000-\$16,000. There is money available from several organizations and the Memorial fund.

Other discussion from the floor

- Church Service Procedures – Continue to pass the offering plate
- Location of the annual meeting – Move to fellowship hall
- Lent Services – Yes, to have Wednesday evening services and/or service projects
- Talk with Pastor Randy with your ideas on doing activities that interest you.

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Meeting adjourned by Tom Rabe and 2nd by Scott Umland

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on January 26, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Bowe-Secretary

Special Consistory Meeting

January 28th 11:00am

Called to order by: Steven Volland

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

Purpose/Subject – Make a change to the housing allowance to 15,000.
Payroll Taxes adjustments.

Meeting adjourned by Traci and 2nd by Ross

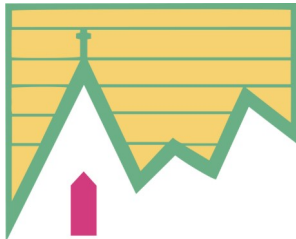
Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 2-13-2024

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

Call to order: 6:31 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy and reading from Romans 3:23

Monthly Reports



Financial Secretary – Ruthie

Month income \$5,827.00 (\$2,357.00 below YTD collection) \$5,827.38
(\$2,357.00 below YTD requirement)

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

Treasurer – Jane

Giving's received in Jan. to date are \$6,103.39 bringing the checkbook balance to \$55,969.16

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

Church FINANCES

Building & Grounds checking and Savings

- Checking = \$2,218.71
- Saving = \$6,661.13

Secretary – Kathy

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

Building & Grounds Updates

- Damaged tiles in choir room have been replaced – thank you Rick and Louie
- One quote has been received for parsonage roof
- Back kitchen door lock has been fixed – thank you Steve D
- All furnaces have been serviced for the season

Pastoral Report

1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11

Ash Wednesday - Communion will be pew communion, as normal

Lenten Worship will be on 2/21, 3/6, and 3/20 (brief liturgies with monologues)

Field of Dreams was on 1/11- Next on 3/14

Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: Feb. 18, March 17, April 28, June 23?, August 18, August 25, Sept. 15

Confirmation/Youth

- Classes held 1/31, 2/28
- Confirmation Retreat w/ St. Peters Jan. 19-20 - Students wrote reactions for the bulletin.
- Students will keep a Lenten reflection journal

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Mission

- Loads of Love on Feb. 5 (three clients - \$85 expended - Thanks, Jane for covering) I took \$50 from Loads of Love to help a client pay for medication. This is a person the Kiel Area Clergy group has been assisting.
- WISE
 - Book Study, Monthly displays ongoing
 - "WISE Words" message on 1/28
 - Sue Kaiser from Ebenezer visited with the team on 2/11
- 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 paid for lodging. Bethlehem providing chili?
- Immanuel Food Pantry Volunteers on Jan 25th. Three volunteers, plus myself, completed the work in less than one hour. We will attempt to send volunteers monthly on the 4th Thursday.

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 6x
- Other electronic communication 1x
- Cards 3x (families in need and visitors)
- Visits 2x
- Hospital visits 0x

Wider Church/MID process

- Zoom retreat for Licensed Ministers on Feb 3. 9:30a-12p (Kid Lit)
- COP (communities of practice) on Feb 15
- MID work towards ordination:
 - Continued work on my Learning Covenant and Matrix
 - Bowen Family Systems for Clergy class ends on Feb. 20
- NE association meeting on 4/20 at Daycholah - delegates? Melissa – need one more
- Attending racism classes beginning in May

Communication and Other

- Kiel Ecumenical clergy meeting 1/17 @ BUCC - Next on 2/21
- Rural Church Fellowship Sheepshead Tournament set for Sunday, Feb. 18 @ 1pm at Bethlehem. (same basic plan as last year.-supports area food pantries)meeting
- Advanced Directives presentation Feb. 27 at 6:30pm - Flyers emailed and dropped off to area churches and other organizations.
- Meeting w/ community leaders on 2/12 regarding Kiel Fire victims - short term housing is a need
- Speaker system-Pastor Randy will donate home speaker system if needed
- Chaplaincy-on call

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

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OLD BUSINESS



Lent Services

- There will be traditional lent services on 2/21, 3/6 and 3/20 beginning at 6:30
- There will be 2 project events on 2/28 and 3/13 beginning at 6:00. Projects will be available to participate in. If you have pinking shears, please bring them along.
- Prayer station room will be open all Wednesdays from 9:00 am– 6:00 pm. The room will be marked (2nd Sunday School room from the left)

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. On-going
- New website contact – Laura Webs by Wagner – website transition went well-reviewing for any up-dated changes.

Annual Meeting

- Comments were received on offering procedure
- Looking for delegates to annual meetings
- Meeting location will be addresses for the next meeting (fellowship hall)

Power of Attorney Meeting

- There will be an informational Power of Attorney meeting at Bethlehem on Tues. 2/27/24 at 6:30 PM – Sign up is available on back table. You do not need to sign up to attend.

Winter Game Day - March 3rd after 9:30 service

- Bring your favorite game to share
- Are you up for a ping-pong match?
- Refreshments will be served



Coffee hours – to be announced at a later date

NEW BUSINESS

- Holy Week
 - Palm Sunday – 3/24
 - Maundy Thursday at Bethlehem with Bethel -details to follow 3/28
 - Good Friday Service will be at St. Peters in Kiel – Pastor Randy and Pastor Nicole 3/29
 - Easter Sunday 3/31
- If you are interested in participating in any of these services, contact Randy (readings, special music, etc)
- Confirmation Sunday will be 4/21
- Consistory helped Jane with church survey

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie & 2nd by Lee
Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

Next meeting – March 12, 2024 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Free Advanced Directives Presentation – February 27th at Bethlehem

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.



Bethlehem Fun & Games for ALL!

Sunday, March 3rd following worship

Bring your favorite board, dice or card game

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided

Game play will wrap up around 11:30am



Wednesday, March 6 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Wednesday, March 13 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6-6:45pm Service Project;
6pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 20 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Thursday, March 28 – 6pm Maundy Thursday Seder meal worship (more details will be announced in the bulletin and blurb)

Friday, March 29 – 6pm Good Friday Worship @ St. Peters UCC-Kiel

Bethlehem Sunday School:



March is a very busy month in the church this year.

We continue to gather our Leprosy birthday money to finish the month of February.

As we move into March, we continue with biblical lessons. We will learn about Palm Sunday (3/24) Maundy Thursday (3/27) Good Friday (3/28) and Easter (3/31)

We continue to collect aluminum cans, that can be placed in the old garage next to the parsonage. Thank you for your support in this collection.

On March 3rd after the 9:30 church service, we will be having a game day. Does your child have a favorite game to bring along? Candyland, checkers???

Join us for all or some of the March events.

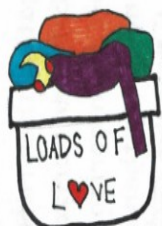
See you on Sunday at 8:00 am.

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.



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!

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

Bethlehem Ladies:



The Bethlehem Ladies met on Sunday, February 18th with 6 members present. Dues for the year were collected.

President Heidi Konen read the Bethlehem Ladies Guidelines. One change was made to which months we do not have meetings.

Thank you cards were read from the following: Pastor Randy and St. Vincent DePaul. A special greeting from Merlin and Doris Mae and Paul and John was also shared with the group.

We will contact Pastor Randy for some suggestions for our annual \$100 scholarship.

We will be playing Bingo with the residents at Field of Dreams on Saturday, June 22nd. Jeanette will contact them and get a time.

On to wash Communion glasses for March are:

Sunday, March 3rd: Heidi Konen

Donna Truttman Retlich (Thanks for volunteering!)

Maundy Thursday, March 28th: Ginny Schultz

Marie Mueller (Thanks for volunteering!)

Easter Sunday, March 31st Jeanette Wriedt

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

The Bethlehem Ladies would like to thank all that have volunteered to help wash the Communion Glasses. We are still looking for help on Easter Sunday and for the rest of the year. This is a very easy job and is a fun time of fellowship. 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 signup 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, March 17th 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.

+++++

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.

Bethlehem Scrip:

Thank you to everyone who continues to use the Scrip Program at Bethlehem. Spring is right around the corner, so please keep scrip in mind when you are planning your spring needs.

The Scrip program recently gave \$5,000.00 to the Bethlehem Repair Fund.

Scrip is sold the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Your support is greatly appreciated!

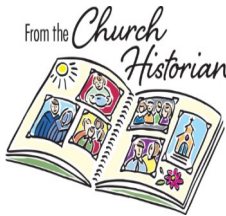
Linda Rabe

SCRIP STATS:

2/04/2024	\$2,915.00	\$ 112.65
2/18/2024	\$1,555.00	\$ 81.13



From the Church Historian, Kaye Radder:



While preparing for the February 7, 2024 chili supper, some discussion turned to reminiscing about previous chili suppers.

Note that one question was “how long have we been doing this?” Based on the recollection of some members it’s been about 75 years. More digging may turn up a date, but it’s certain that it’s been a long long time tradition at Bethlehem.

Here are some interesting notes from some recent chili suppers:

- 1997 – the chili supper was delayed one day due to bad weather. This was at the old church.
- 2001 – Noon deliveries began. Ron Schreiber mentioned that some of his co-workers at A.A. Laun could not make the evening meal. So lunchtime meals were delivered.
- 2007 ticket price \$5
- 2009 – Electrical power went out during the noon lunch preparations. Back up plans were being discussed. How and/or where can we get the chili cooked? Fortunately, power came back on within 15 minutes.
- 2011 – the chili supper was delayed one day due to bad weather. This was at the new church.
- 2015 – record year for number of people served. Total reported as 1,406 with 619 of those being noon lunches.
- 2019 ticket price \$8
- 2021 started selling Gallons of chili in addition to the meal. Ran out of chili by 5 pm

Chili Supper

Thank you to all who made the 2024 Bethlehem Chili Supper successful. Approximately 60 people contributed time, skills, and talent throughout the planning and operation of this event.

We cooked up and distributed about 1140 servings of Bethlehem chili. During the day, noon lunches were delivered to 237 people. The rest of the servings were done via our drive thru/pick up operation, 55 gallons and 410 individual meal deals. The good news: **we sold out**. We will cook more in 2025.

The greatest success of the day was seeing and hearing old friends reuniting with smiling faces and stories. Some new acquaintances were made. The people of Bethlehem truly know how to work together towards a common goal. The measurement of this success cannot be calculated.

One of the successes of the day which we can measure is monetary profit. For 2024 each of our church organizations will receive approximately \$800 to use for their various projects and missions.

We welcome any comments or suggestions on improvements to Bethlehem's annual chili event.

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Mark your Calendar, Save the Date:

February 5, 2025 – Bethlehem Chili Supper

Planning is already under way. We will need:

.Ice Cream Pails with covers

.Small cardboard boxes (Girl Scout Cookie cases are perfect)

If you know someone who works in food service such as a deli or restaurant, consider asking if they get product in covered plastic containers that might be thrown away. Ask if they could be donated to the church.

Please bring any of these to the church kitchen anytime throughout the year.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Those struggling with health issues:

Tom Brickbauer

Sarah Arnold

Gene Radder

Heidi Konen

Helen Henning

Darlene Horneck

Dawson Horneck

Jessica Horneck

Jaxxen Kane

Mason Kannel

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:

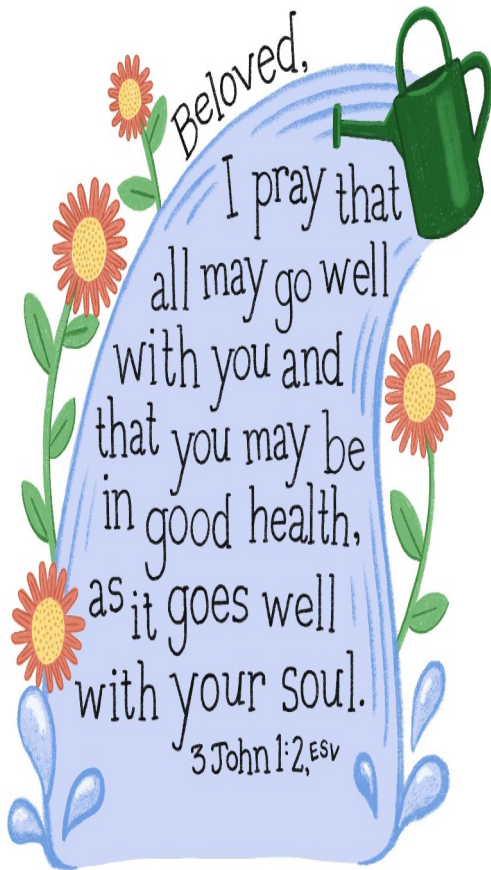
Merlin & Doris Mae Nimmer

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.

Save your Aluminum Cans:



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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **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.**

~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, March 28th.

Friday, March 8th 3 – 7:30pm 35th Annual St. Nazianz Emergency Medical Responders Fish Boil at the St. Nazianz Fire Station. This event is drive thru only. Tickets : Adults = 16, child ages 5 – 12 = \$7, child under 5 = FREE.





MARCH VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS -

Box of Pasta, Noodles, Rice or Crackers

MARCH Jingle Change supports:

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)



MARCH Bethlehem Events:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	2
3 8am Sunday School 9:30am Communion Service w/Pastor Randy	4 Loads of Love 5pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 8am Sunday School 8:30am Book Study 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	11	12 6:30pm Consistory mtg.	13	14	15	16
17 8am Sunday School 8:30 Bethlehem Ladies 9:30am Worship Spirit News due to Traci by 5pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy 	25	26	27	28 8:30am Immanuel Food Pantry 6pm Seder Supper/Worship @Bethlehem	29 6pm Good Friday Worship at St. Peter's UCC, Kiel	30
31 8am Sunday School 9:30am Easter Communion Service w/Pastor Randy 						



MARCH

Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Peyton Koppenhaver Greyson Hoban	2
3	4 Gary & Lynnette Steinhardt (1994)	5 Jeff & Jennifer Holz (2005)	6 Mason Wempner	7 Dylan Jeanty	8	9
10	11 Steven Voland Scott Umland	12	13	14 Jennifer Deignan	15	16
17	18 Tina Salm	19	20 Ross Westphalen	21 Kathy Bowe Tom Mueller	22 Riley Radder	23 Pastor Randy Koppenhaver
24	25	26 Doreen Schmidt	27	28	29	30 Joe & Doreen Schmidt
31						



“Then go quickly
and tell his disciples:
**‘He has risen
from the dead**
and is going ahead
of you into Galilee.
There you will see him.’”

MATTHEW 28:7, NIV