

THE SPIRIT OF BETHLEHEM



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
11608 LAX CHAPEL RD. KIEL, WI 53042
(920) 894-3332

Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem UCC:

By the time you get this the holidays will be behind us and we will be making New Year's resolutions that will last at least a week. Some of you may have already taken down your trees and decorations (even though Christmas isn't officially over until January 6, Epiphany). So what's next? What will this new year bring? What resolutions do we want to make as a congregation and what will we do to continue the Spirit of Christmas well beyond Epiphany?

Epiphany marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. The first Sunday after Epiphany we celebrate Jesus' baptism and then we begin to hear the stories of Jesus and his Disciples making their way through the countryside and preaching and teaching the gospel. How do we preach and teach the gospel in our lives and times? How do we reach out to those who are afflicted, torn and battered by life, in need of love and hope? What is our ministry and how do we live it out?

2017 brought some exciting changes to Bethlehem. For the first time in your history you called 2 people to fulfill your full time position. This came with some financial commitments that some of you are concerned about, but these commitments are not astronomical. If you had called one full-time pastor, but salary package would not be any different than what we have for the two part-time positions. With the current staff you are not paying the full amount for health insurance and with me taking a part-time salary, the pension is also reduced. So the question remains, what is our ministry and how do we live it out? What is your commitment to the ministry and mission of Bethlehem United Church of Christ? What role are you planning to play in this ministry and mission in the coming year?

2018 is full of possibilities, but only if we work together and use our energy and resources to take Bethlehem UCC to the next level of mission and ministry. Pastor Randy and I have made a commitment to serve you faithfully into the future. Please join us by making your commitment to the church and the ministries we provide. We look forward to a year filled with blessings, possibilities and transformation.

In Faithful Service,

Rev. Becky



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Articles for the Feb 2018 edition of the Spirit are due on Wed, Jan 17th.

Articles can be emailed directly to me at bryanjeanty@gmail.com or leave articles in the mailbox in the church office.

Thank You
~Bryan

LET'S SAVE PAPER!

In order to help the church reduce the amount of paper we go through – please sign up to receive the Spirit electronically. You can do it by signing up in the fellowship hall or emailing Bryan Jeanty at bryanjeanty@gmail.com. This is **purely voluntary** – if you don't sign up you will still keep getting the printed copy of Spirit. Do you have someone in college or the military or away from home who would like to hear about the events of Bethlehem – sign them up so they can receive the spirit electronically.

If you are not able to worship with us on Sunday, you can send your giving envelope/check to the following address:

**Bethlehem UCC
c/o Ginny Schultz
11608 Lax Chapel Rd.
Kiel, WI 53042**

2017 Consistory:

Elder /President: Gene Radder

Elder : Bob Radder

Elder: Traci Rabe

Deacon: Ross Westphalen

Deacon/Secretary: Natasha Verhultz

Financial Secretary: Ginny Schultz

Treasurer : Rick Rabe

Mission Statement

As Disciples of Christ, we are a loving, caring community of faith, called to witness to God's grace and glory.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit to love, nurture, respect, encourage and challenge each other. Rooted in the tradition of our Christian ancestors, we live our faith through worship, fellowship, teaching and service to others.

Bethlehem UCC's Website is LIVE!!!
The website is www.bethlehemkiel.org.

Check it out!!!!

Please use the email address below to submit
information, photos, etc. for the church website:

bethlehemucckiel@gmail.com

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
11608 Lax Chapel Rd – Kiel WI 53042
Phone: 920-894-3332

Worship Times:
Sunday School begins at 8:00 a.m.
Worship time is 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston, Pastor
(920-918-3654 - revbecky1124@gmail.com)

Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister
(920-286-2531 - randynmel5@gmail.com)



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Current church contacts:

Primary Contact: Gene Radder [920-901-1677](tel:920-901-1677)

Secondary Contact: Bob Radder [920-894-7229](tel:920-894-7229)



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

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Bethlehem Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28th
After worship service
Please plan to attend
Annual meeting reports to Polly
(pollyjeanty@gmail.com) by
January 10th, 5:00pm



Consistory

Consistory Minutes
Bethlehem United Church Of Christ

December 12, 2017 6:30pm

Rebecca Johnston	Randy Koppenhaver
Gene Radder	Bob Radder
Ross Westphalen	Natasha Verhulst
Traci Rabe	Rick Rabe
Ginny Schultz	

Call to order

Discussion on *Creating a Healthier Church* Chapter 7

Monthly Reports

- Financial Secretary- Ginny
 - Bob moves that report is approved as given
 - Rick 2nd
 - Approved as given
- Treasurer- Rick
 - Ginny moves that report is approved as given
 - Bob 2nd
 - Approved as given
- Secretary Report- Natasha
 - Traci moves that report is approved as given
 - Bob 2nd
 - Approved as given
- Randy Koppenhaver
 - Calendar events
 - May 19th, Jeanty Wedding
 - June 2nd, Non Member Wedding
 - Confirmation
 - Needing commitment for the mission trip
 - Trying to focus more on mission work
- Pastor Rebecca Johnston
 - Discussion about confirmation as a two year program
 - Awareness of scams
 - Attendance packets

Old Business

- Nominating Committee
 - David Friend, Marie Mueller, Mark Riesterer Jr.
- Finalize Budget
 - Bob moves that we finalize the budget proposed by Rick
 - Ginny 2nd
 - Motion carries
- Special Services

- Sunday School Program (3rd Sunday in Advent)
- Christmas Eve Service (7:00 pm)
- Christmas Day Service (9:30 am)
- New Members
 - Class will be announced in January
- Audio Visual
 - Get committee together at the annual meeting

New Business

- Pastor's Travel Expense Discussion
 - Mileage is high due to lack of volunteers for transportation for youth group and confirmation activities and field trips
- Set Annual Meeting Date (January 28th, Sunday 2018)
 - Need to get annual meeting reports to Polly by January 10th at 5:00pm
 - Discussed annual meeting agenda
- Installation Date
 - Bob will discuss February dates with Franz

The Lord's Prayer
Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Natasha Verhulst
Deacon/Secretary



Weekly Giving Guide			4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME						
18,000	1,500	346	14.00	21.00	28.00	35.00	42.00	52.00
25,000	2,083	481	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	58.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	69.00	87.00
40,000	3,333	769	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	92.00	115.00
45,000	3,750	865	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	104.00	130.00
50,000	4,167	962	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	115.00	144.00
60,000	5,000	1,154	46.00	69.00	92.00	115.00	138.00	173.00
75,000	6,250	1,442	58.00	87.00	115.00	144.00	173.00	216.00
100,000	8,333	1,923	77.00	115.00	154.00	192.00	231.00	288.00
125,000	10,417	2,404	96.00	144.00	192.00	240.00	288.00	361.00
150,000	12,500	2,885	115.00	173.00	231.00	289.00	346.00	433.00
175,000	14,583	3,365	135.00	202.00	269.00	337.00	404.00	505.00
200,000	16,667	3,846	154.00	231.00	308.00	385.00	462.00	577.00
225,000	18,750	4,327	173.00	260.00	346.00	433.00	519.00	649.00

Use this chart to guide you
In determining
Your level of generosity
As a percentage of income

*Fear closes the hand and hoards – Faith opens the hand and shares.
--Bruce A. Barkhauer*

Sunday School

Happy New Year from the Sunday School!

Thank you to the Sunday School children and their parents for helping to make the annual Sunday School Christmas program a success. It is wonderful to see that the children in our church make the time to share the true meaning of Christmas. We are so blessed to have such wonderful families!

The Jingle Change for the month of December was donated to the Hobbs Family Fire Relief Fund.

We look forward to the 4K-2nd grade classes singing in church during the 9:30 service on January 21, 2018.

Choir

Our annual Chili Supper is set for February 7th and it is coming fast! The Choir and the Youth will be asking for help to make our event a success. Please watch for sign-up sheets and listen for announcements in the weeks that follow.

The Choir will be singing in church on Sunday, January 14th. We will rehearse that morning at 9:00 am. Please feel free to sing along with us!

Ross Westphalen, President



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Chili Supper Planning is Under Way

Mark Your Calendar – **Wednesday, February 7, 2018** – annual **Chili Supper** hosted by Choir and Youth Group.

Sign up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall. We need additional workers and tortes.

The past success of this annual event has been due to the great cooperative spirit as we welcome the community into our building for some hot soup, delicious tortes and a time of fellowship.

The Youth group 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.

Several members will get together on Tuesday morning, February 6th to cook noodles. Here too extra hands are welcome.

Because we have become known for our home made tortes, we will need quite a number to serve our guests.

On Wednesday, February 7th, some of the cooking crew will begin at approximately 6:30 am. We anticipate a break (assuming the cooks stay on task) at about noon. Then servers, wait staff and prep staff will ramp up about 3 pm to continue serving until 7:00 pm; when the major clean up begins. Many additional volunteers are needed for this day long event.

Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated. This event not only serves as a fund raiser for the Youth Group and the Choir, it also has become a social event for members of the greater Bethlehem community.

If you have any questions, please contact Kaye Radder at 894-7229

Youth Fellowship

The next youth event is Sunday, Jan. 14th. We are planning to go sledding. Details to come.

The Youth will be selling the fair trade products at church each Sunday. Please stop by and help support this mission of the group.

Youth Fellowship will meet the second Sunday of every month.

Mission Trip Update:



We will be making final plans for our mission trip this month. Please have your \$50 commitment fee into Rev. Becky or Pastor Randy by January 15. This is our final cut off date.

Bethlehem Ladies

The Bethlehem Ladies met on December 3rd following church services. Eight members and Pastor Becky were present. Barb Henning will remain President and Polly Jeanty will be our Secretary. We discussed having our next year's Christmas Party at a place other than a buffet. Thank you to the husbands who washed communion glasses. Later we enjoyed a meal at the Altona. We exchanged our secret pal gifts and also had a gift exchange for the men. Secret pal names for next year were exchanged. Our next meeting will be January 21st at 8:30 AM. Washing communion glasses on January 7th will be Heidi, Polly and Jeanette.

Secretary,
Shirley Henschel

Scrip

Thank you to everyone who used the scrip program for their Christmas shopping! With the continued support of our members we were able to contribute to the building fund again. THANK YOU!!

Happy 2018!! Please consider using scrip in the new year! It takes a bit to get in the habit of buying and using scrip, but once you do, if you don't have it, you miss it. We have scrip cards available for your weekly grocery shopping (have just added Festival cards), your gas needs and restaurant cards for that night you just don't feel like cooking! Stop at the scrip table and check it out!

Thanks for your continued support!

Linda Rabe

MONTHLY SCRIP STATS:

Order Date	Gross Sales	Profit Earned
11/19/17	\$2,275.00	\$122.02
11/26/17	\$2,045.00	\$ 95.51
12/03/17	\$2,130.00	\$104.48
12/10/17	\$2,930.00	\$133.13
12/17/17	\$2,725.00	\$144.48

Prayer Concerns

Those in our thoughts and prayers (Please check weekly Bethlehem Blurb for updated prayer concerns)

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Prayer Concerns:



Marilyn Brickbauer (and family) - Recovering from surgery

Henry Krueger and his family as he recuperates from surgery

Ken Behnke, treatment for leukemia

Evelyn Schnell - Shingles

Those with unknown health issues.

The people of Sutherland Springs, TX

The people of California affected by wild fires

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Thanks so much for the gas cards to help with our trips to Milwaukee for my doctor appointments. Also for all the cards, prayers, and well wishes. Everyone has been so thoughtful and caring. I still have a long road ahead of healing (months according to the doctor).
God bless, Marilyn

Lectionary

Baptism of the Lord January 7, 2018 <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i> ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 14, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 21, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 28, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Bethlehem News

- Beginning in January, can all members please wear their name tags? We've had some visitors so it helps them get to know us better.
- January 8-19 Rev. Becky is in Chicago for the last of her intensives for her doctorate. If there are any emergencies during that time please contact Pastor Randy.
- Rev. Becky's husband, Joel, is having surgery at the end of January. He will be in need of a knee scooter for several months. If you have one they can borrow, please let them know. Revbecky1124@gmail.com. Thank you.
- NEW MEMBERS CLASSES - We will be receiving New Members on Sunday, February 4. Everyone interested in joining the church are invited to join us for our new member's classes on January 7, 14 and 28 at 8:00 AM in the Conference Room. These are three different classes, so it is hoped that new members would attend all three classes
- The Consistory has set Sunday, March 4 at 3:30 PM as the date for our installation service. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on that day. Thank you.
- We need volunteers to drive Marilyn Brickbauer to St. Luke's in Milwaukee for her wound care. She has to go every week on Monday and Thursday. You will need to leave her home by 9AM and expect to return sometime after 4PM. You will need to drive the Brickbauer's car as she can get in and out of it easily. If you can help out it will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, call Rev. Becky or the Brickbauers.

You can sign up on line by going to this link.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=w.create1&listid=13329842&owner=45157971>

Or call Rev. Becky or the Brickbauers.

- Rev. Becky's office hours will be Tuesdays 9am –Noon and Wednesdays 9 am -3 pm. If you need to contact her outside of those hours feel free to use her cell phone 920-918-3654. Randy is going to continue with us at his current status preaching once per month and co-leading in some of the programming.
- Aluminum Cans – please place **ONLY aluminum cans** into your bags – keep aluminum pans and other items separate. Please continue to save your aluminum cans and place them in the old garage next to the parsonage. If you remove the can tabs and place in a separate bag - these can go help support The Ronald McDonald House.
- **Building Fund** Bethlehem has been blessed with this new building – we are in our 12th year in building and our debt is continuing to go down. We ask that you prayerfully consider monthly donations to the building fund to help us retire this debt. The building fund loan balance is **\$10,441.92** and would like to retire the fund as soon as possible. Mark on the outside on your envelope Building Fund. Thanks for your continued support to the building fund.
- Take time to introduce yourself to someone you don't know – help them to get to know you and other people in the church.
- Please wear your name tags at church to help one another get to know you better.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service

Keeping the Dream Alive

Monday, January 15, 2018

6:30p.m.

Immanuel United Church of Christ

W3694 County Road FF

Plymouth, WI 53073

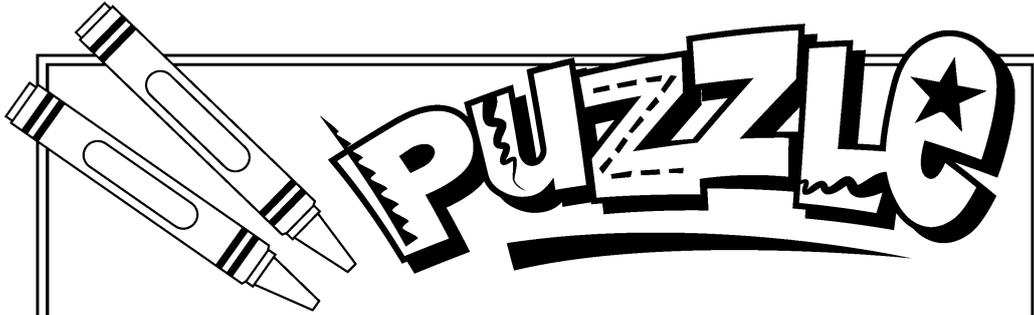


*“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” ~MLK*

We welcome all to join us for a service honoring
the Rev. Dr. King’s legacy and dream.
The service will include excerpts from the Rev. Dr.
King’s speeches and the singing of freedom songs.

Refreshments and fellowship time to follow
in the Immanuel UCC Fellowship Hall

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” ~MLK



A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
 SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
 QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR
 MEGTHWEOFLEXHASSGZONL
 ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

_____ :

_____ , _____

_____ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

January Calendars

PANTRY ITEM: A Can of Soup

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00 Confirmation	4	5	6
7 8:00 Sunday School 8:00 New Member Classes 9:30 Worship w/ Communion	8	9 6:30 Consistory	10 **Annual Reports Due** 6:00 Confirmation	11	12	13
14 8:00 Sunday School 8:00 New Member Classes 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Worship	15 MLK service at Immanuel	16	17 **Spirit News Due** NO Confirmation	18	19	20
21 8:00 Sunday School 8:30 Bethlehem Ladies 9:30 Worship	22	23	24 6:00 Confirmation	25	26	27
28 8:00 Sunday School 8:00 New Member Classes 9:30 Worship Annual Meeting after worship	29	30	31 6:00 Confirmation			

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Grant Taylor Kenzie Koppenhaver	2 Kami Johaneck Girle Westphalen	3 Carol Wehrmann	4	5 Tyler Hoeffner Garrett Schultz	6 Cory Henschel
7 Ty Sheets	8 Tammy Westphalen	9 Pat Hoban Heather Krebsbach	10 Steve Rumpff Rich Schmitt Kendra Brunette Harrison Zorn Arlyn Retlich	11	12 Kamlynn Rumpff	13 Ryan Westphalen
14 Shirley Henschel Mekenzie Biwan	15 Judy Mueller Hailey Wirtz Bill Biwan	16 Lisa Rabe	17	18	19	20
21 Katrina Jacobs	22	23 Everett Rabe Jodi Moioffer	24	25 David Friend	26	27 Anne Sneed
28 Lora Mathes Gary Rabe	29	30 Jane Markelz	31			