

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Christmas
EVE

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920-894-3332

www.bethlehemkiel.org

Sunday School - 8:00 a.m. (Sept. – May)

Worship time is 9:30 a.m.

Office hours Tuesdays 9a-12p, Wednesdays 9a-3p

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston, Pastor

(920-918-3654 - revbecky1124@gmail.com)

Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister

(920-286-2531 - randynmel5@gmail.com)

Christmas Eve

Worship Leader:

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston

Ministers: All the People

Organist: Kathy Bowe

We hope that you find a warm welcome at Bethlehem United Church of Christ and will worship with us again soon.

Mission Statement

We are a caring community of Christians living our faith through worship, study and service to others!

2018 Consistory:

Elder /President: Bob Radder

Elder: Traci Rabe

Elder : Jennifer Friend

Deacon : Ross Westphalen

Deacon/Secretary : Natasha Verhulst

Financial Secretary : Ruthie Rumpff

Treasurer : Rick Rabe

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

bethlehemucckiel@gmail.com

Welcome to Bethlehem United Church of Christ! We trust that you will know God's presence here in worship. If you are visiting for the first time, please sign our guest registry outside the sanctuary doors.

A special note to families with young children:

We have a long tradition at Bethlehem of including children in worship, but we know sometimes their attention spans are not as long as ours. Children under about 6 years old are welcome to borrow a "Bethlehem Bag" from the main doors of the sanctuary, along with books or soft toys from the library, to help occupy them. If necessary, please feel free to accompany your child to the library during the service – you will be able to hear and observe the service from there.

Christmas Eve Worship

*PLEASE STAND if you are able, where noted by an asterisk.

Please sign and pass the pew pads during worship. This will help us recognize those who might be visiting. There is one for each row. No need to pass across the aisles.

Lessons and Carols A Traditional Candlelight Service Christmas Eve

Ringling of the Bell

*Processional Carol # 100 “O Come, All Ye Faithful “

*CHRISTMAS EVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; On those who lived in darkness and despair God’s new light is shining! For God has given us great joy, a harvest of good news! It is as if a great burden has been lifted from us.

People: A child has been born for us, God’s son has come to us. And he will be our ruler.

Leader: He shall be known as the Wonderful Counselor,

People: The Mighty God!

Leader: Everlasting Father!

People: The Prince of Peace!

Leader: He will rule with justice and righteousness. His realm is one of Peace! God has done this out of love for us and all people!

People: God’s promise has been fulfilled.

Leader: Christ is born! Come, let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O God of Christmas, and all our days, we gather as your people to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for his birth and for his life as one of us. May the beauty of this night fill us with joy and wonder, and may Christ be born again, in our hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Rejoice, for God is with us. We are not alone.

Many: We gather as the beloved community of God to hear the timeless story of Christ’s birth.

One: There is reason for our hope and joy.

Many: God’s holy light shines forth from the shadows of our world.

SONG: Child in the Manger (to the tune of Morning Has Broken):
**Child in the manger, infant of Mary,
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all.
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
All our demerits on him fall.**

One: God's son has come for all people.

Many: Emmanuel, God with us.

One: His message of peace flows among those God favors.

Many: We pray for courage to embrace the good news he brings.

SONG: Child in the Manger:
**Once the most holy, Child of salvation,
Gently and lowly, lived below.
Now as our glorious, Mighty Redeemer
See him victorious, o'er each foe.**

One: The authority of ages is his.

Many: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting One, Prince of Peace.

One Glory to God in the highest.

Many Surely the light has come.

SONG: Child in the Manger:
**Prophets foretold him, infant of wonder
Angels behold him, on his throne.
Worthy our Savior, of all our praises
Happy forever are his own.**

(The Christ candle is lit.)

A Reading From Our Day

"The Coming of God"

First Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The message of the angel

CAROL #121

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

A Reading From Our Day

"Toward the Light"

Second Lesson Luke 1:39-45

Good news for two women

Special Music

"Christmas Bells"

Natasha Verhulst, Joel Schuler,

Third Lesson Luke 1:46-55

Mary's hymn of praise

CAROL #128 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

A Reading From Our Day *"Against Our Better Judgment"*

Fourth Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph's Dream

Solo *"O Holy Night"* Natasha Verhulst

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus

CAROL #111 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:8-20 The Shepherds and the Angels

CAROL #108 *"The First Noel, The Angel Did Say"* (verses 1-4 only)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (Tune Old Hundredth)
**To God, all glorious heav'nly Light
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, we give you thanks for the greatest gift of all, Jesus our Savior, who came to live as one of us and showed that you are never far from us. Accept these gifts that we now offer to you, as a token of our thanks for all that you have done for us. Use us and our gifts to help spread the news that you love all people, and that you always keep your promises. Amen.

MESSAGE

*CAROL #137 *"Once in Royal David's City "*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

* CAROL *"Silent Night! Holy Night!"*
(During the Hymn we will light our candles)
Lyrics on p. 5 >>>>>>

Silent Night Holy Night
All is calm All is bright
Round yon virgin Mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent Night Holy Night
Shepherds pray at the sight
Glory streams from heaven afar
Heavenly host sing hallelujah
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar
Hoder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent Night Holy Night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams form Your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth
Jesus Lord at thy birth

A Reading From Our Day "Later"

*Declaration John 1:1-4

* CAROL #107
"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *(Info. for next Sunday's bulletin is due to Randy/Melissa)*

This Week at Bethlehem:

Monday 12/24: 7pm Christmas Eve worship;

Tuesday 12/25: 9:30am Worship w/
Communion; *Happy Birthday Mike Wilharms!*

Wednesday 12/26: NO Confirmation class;

Thursday 12/27: *Happy Birthday Ryan Jeanty!*

Friday 12/28:

Saturday 12/29: *Happy Birthday Dawn Wirtz!*

Sunday 12/30: NO Sunday School; 8:15a Adult
Study; 9:30am Worship

Pantry item: Box of Cereal

Koppenhaver by Tuesday night. randynmel5@gmail.com or 286-2531.)

- **MISSION TRIP 2019- Henderson, Kentucky. July 14-20, 2019**
\$50. Non-refundable reservation fee due January 15. Make check out to Bethlehem Missions and give to Rev. Becky.
- If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please make sure to contact Rev. Johnston or Randy.

The Bethlehem Blurb email comes out each Thursday. If you signed up and you are not receiving it, please check your "junk" mail or "spam" folder. If you'd like to receive it, you may sign up on our webpage:
www.bethlehemkiel.org

Community Announcements:

(Please check the bulletin board for more details.

Community events are published in our bulletin as space and time permits. For best results, email or call the bulletin secretary)

- None Submitted

Inclement Weather Notification

If church services or events are cancelled due to inclement weather, notice will be available:

- On the **Bethlehem United Church of Christ** Facebook page @bucckiel
- Emailed automatically to all recipients of the *Bethlehem Blurb* email
- On television channel/webpage WGBA - NBC 26

Please make at least one choice below about how you wish to receive notification:

___ I will use any of the above sources, and wish no additional contact.

___ I would like to receive an email. Address(es)* _____

___ I would like to receive a text message. Number(s)* _____

___ I would like to receive a phone call. Number(s)* _____

*** All collected information will be kept confidential and used for weather-related notification only**

Name(s) _____