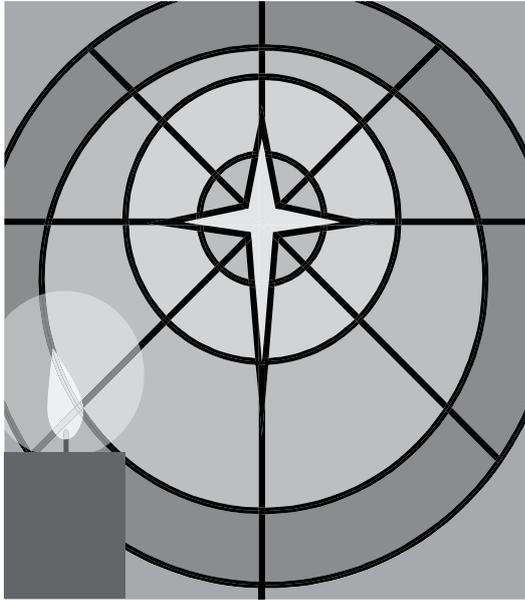


Bethlehem United Church of Christ



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Worship Leader:

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston

Ministers: All the People

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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!

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)

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.

First Sunday of Advent

*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.

RINGING OF THE BELLS/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Kenzie Koppenhaver and Zoe Watson)

CHORAL TO WORSHIP #92 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1 only

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Autumn Glow”

Martha Weir
Joseph Schuler, pianist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In Advent we watch and wait, and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship, and watch faithfully for signs of God’s light breaking into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

As we wait, dear One, we watch for signs of your action in the world, Actions of compassion and grace breaking in.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Holy God, we recognize that we do not know the day or the hour, but we know that the day is near.

Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in our world and in our lives.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (UNISON)

We enter into this season, loving God, with ambivalent feelings. For some of us it can seem that the rush of Christmas has been going on too long, and for some there is a sense of panic that it’s all coming too quickly. Clear us, Creator, of all that keeps us from entering the waiting, hope, and expectation, that are the Advent season. Open us to the wondrous miracles and surprises you have in store for us as we move closer to Christmas this year. Amen.

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

One: The light is surely coming!

Many: Its rays reaching out to illuminate injustice and oppression.

One With hope we watch for new growth to be coaxed from the earth.

Many: With anticipation we wait for the branch of mercy to shed its lifelessness and sprout new fruit.

One: We open our hands to be bearers of Christ's light in the world.

Many: We open our hearts to be transformed with the promise of possibility that is to come.

One: As we light this candle, the candle of Hope, we pray that it will brighten our path, that our steps inside this church might align with our steps outside in the world.

All: We await the son of God!

*OPENING HYMN: #92 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Luke 21:25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

MESSAGE

*HYMN see insert

“Like a Candle”

ADVENT COMMUNION LITURGY

We at Bethlehem UCC practice “Pew” communion. Please hold each of the elements until all are served. The bread is gluten-free to accommodate those with allergies. The inner ring of the wine tray contains grape juice for those who prefer it. All are welcome at the Lord’s Table!

As we come to this table,
we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ,
a banquet prepared for everyone.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained
in the journey of faith,
all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice,
are welcome here.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed are you, Breath of peace,

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,
“O come, Emmanuel.”

At this time, we also remember
all with whom you would have us share your feast...

Gracious God, Breath of peace,
Source of love,
we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one.

Make us, though broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer of Jesus:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ,
the Bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together
for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

RESPONSE

“Masithi”

**Amen, we praise your name O God. Amen, we praise your name, O God.
Amen, amen, amen, amen. Amen, we praise your name or God.**

OFFERTORY

(Jingle Change goes to the Families in Need Fund)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

**Hope in the God who reigns above,
Who holds us all in steadfast love;
Whose spirit blows across the earth,
Preparing us for second birth. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways
in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this
season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the
ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and
justice. May these gifts nurture your rule of peace. Amen.**

BENEDICTION...POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Info. for next Sunday’s bulletin is due to Randy/Melissa Koppenhaver by Tuesday night. randynmel5@gmail.com or 286-2531.)

- The Sunday School has adopted a family in need and is collecting items and gift cards. Just pick an ornament from the tree in the entrance and return the items/s by 12/16. If you choose an ornament with a Walmart card request, you can do your shopping at the scrip table any Sunday morning. There will also be another tree for grocery gift cards for refugees. The refugee grocery gift cards will be collected thru 12/9. The scrip program carries several different grocery cards. Stop and shop today.
- The December jingle change (weeks 2-4) will be used to purchase additional items for the adopted family
- There will be a cemetery meeting on Monday 12/10 at 6:00 PM in the library. New members are welcome.
- *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.
- Please consider purchasing SCRIP cards for your holiday gift giving or holiday purchases. There are many cards available, stop at the SCRIP table and check it out. They are for sale from 9:00-9:30 and following the church service. The profits from Scrip benefit the building and repair fund and the Families in Need program.
- The last Sunday to order Poinsettias is TODAY. The sign up is on the table in the fellowship hall. Cash or checks to “Bethlehem Ladies” can be given to Polly Jeanty or Jeanette Wriedt. Thank you!!!
- 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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 12/2: 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; Ladies Christmas Party; 6pm Back Bay Mission Dinner

Monday 12/3:

Tuesday 12/4: 6:30pm Merry Christians ; *Happy Birthday Kristin Schmitt and Kelly Biwan!*

Wednesday 12/5: 6pm Confirmation class; 6:30pm Choir @ St. Peters UCC; *Happy Birthday Sarah Ninmer and Declan Radder!*

Thursday 12/6: *Happy Birthday Gary Steinhardt and Marcia Ninmer!*

Friday 12/7: *Happy Birthday Jeff Holz!*

Saturday 12/8:

Sunday 12/9: 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship;

Pantry item: Box of Cereal

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)*

- Friday 12/7 and Saturday 12/8 –Living Nativity – Salem UCC, Plymouth -6:30-8:30pm
- Saturday 12/8 – Christmas Cookie/Candy Walk – Ebenezer UCC, Chilton – 9a-12pm
- Sunday 12/9 – Handbell Christmas Concert – Ebenezer UCC, Chilton – 4pm
- Heartland Hospice Services are looking for folks to visit some of their patients in our area. Training is provided. If you would like more information check the bulletin board.