

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Sunday, December 30, 2018

Worship Leader:

Randy Koppenhaver

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

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 United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920-894-3332

www.bethlehemkiel.org

Sunday School begins at 8:00 a.m.

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 after Christmas

*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.

This morning's service is a Hymn-Sing. Members of the congregation will be asked to suggest their favorite hymns and we will sing the first two verses. Please browse through your hymnal as you prepare for worship and select your favorite hymns. There will also be several opportunities during the service to offer your hopes and dreams for the coming year. Please share if you are able!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #107 (first verse) "Joy to the World"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: This is the place,

All: The place where God is joyfully worshipped.

One: This is the time,

All: The time we know that God is with us in the coming year.

One: These are the friends,

All: The friends who celebrate with us and stay with us when the testing comes.

One: This is the faith,

All: The faith in Jesus Christ, which challenges us and shapes our future.

*RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER:

One: This is the time for new beginnings.

All: This is the time for reflection.

One: This is the time for taking stock.

All: This is the time for setting faithful New Year goals.

One: This is the time for putting old grudges and resentments to rest.

All: This is the time for seeking new friends and fresh avenues of Christian service.

One: This is the time for renewing our faith in Jesus Christ.

All: This is the time to rejoice in Christ's presence amongst us. Amen.

SHARING OF HOPES/DREAMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

OPENING HYMNS

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We celebrate our joys and achievements in the past year, O God.

All: We reflect on the hardship, the unexpected change, the setbacks – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate our friendships and family ties, O God.

All: We reflect on the times of uncaring, poor communication, and of relationships strained – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the fulfillment we have found within the faith community.

All: We reflect on missed opportunities for worship and service, and on our blindness to the work of the wider church – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the discipleship of Jesus Christ which is ours.

All: We reflect on our struggle to hear the call of Jesus, to follow Jesus carefully, and to take his Word to heart – all the situations from which we may learn and grow, in faith and action.

(Time for silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: A new year, a new set of resolutions, O God!

**All: Resolved to give thanks regularly,
resolved to reflect diligently,
resolved to make changes appropriately,
resolved to act faithfully.**

One: Pardon and peace are yours.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 121 (refrain) "Gloria"

Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis Deo, Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis De - o.

SHARING OF HOPES/DREAMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

*HYMNS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;

teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:41-52.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

*HYMNS

REFLECTION:

*HYMNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, SILENT PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY (Jingle change will go to the Families in Need Fund)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

**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 DEDICATION**

God of love, we give thanks for the many blessings you have given to us during our lives. We are grateful for opportunities to celebrate life and the birth of your greatest gift, our Savior Jesus. Bless our offerings. Bless us and use all things for your glory.

Amen

SHARING OF HOPES/DREAMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

***HYMNS**

COMMISSIONING

One: We leave this church,

All: Resolved to face the situations which test and trouble us, resolved to take courage from the stories of our faith, resolved to be a willing partner in the faith community, resolved to go forward confidently, resolved to model our New Year's way on Jesus Christ.

One: You have nothing to fear!

POSTLUDE

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

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 at this time

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 12/30: NO Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

Monday 12/31:

Tuesday 1/1: *Happy Birthday Kenzie Koppenhaver and Grant Taylor!*

Wednesday 1/2: *Happy Birthday Kami Johaneck and Girlie Westphalen!*

Thursday 1/3: *Happy Birthday Carol Wehrmann!*

Friday 1/4:

Saturday 1/5: *Happy Birthday Tyler Hoeffner and Garrett Schultz!*

Sunday 1/6: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Ty Sheets!*

Pantry item: Can of Soup