

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Sunday, December 9, 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.

Second 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

(Rhonda Otto and Dayna Schultz)

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The dawn will break upon us and give us light.

People: The prophet calls us to change our lives!

Leader: Day will dawn. The light will guide our feet into the way of peace.

People: A just and peaceful path!

Leader: We are ready! Let the dawn shine upon us as we worship God.

People: Get ready!

Leader: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (UNISON)

God of power, you sent messengers to help us prepare for Jesus’ coming. Make us ready to hear your good news today. Come into our presence with your gentleness and strength. By the power of your Spirit, touch us so that we may touch others with your love. Amen.

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: In this holy place, O God, we seek to prepare a path through the wilderness of our lives.

People: Quiet our souls that we may hear your voice.

Leader: Keep us mindful of the work yet to be done in your Kingdom.

People: Remind us to see that work through the lens of possibility.

Leader: Help us remember the covenant of hope you forged with our ancestors, even as we yearn for your presence in our world today.

People: Illuminate our path, that our feet may be guided toward the way of peace.

One: Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of Peace.

People: May the Peace of the coming Christ child live within us all.

*OPENING HYMN: #92 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

CHORAL ANTHEM “Emmanuel is Coming”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

*HYMN see insert “All Earth Is Waiting”

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...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.

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 Sunday School for the Adopt-a-Family)

*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

**Take these gifts, O God, and use them to straighten pathways, fill valleys, and bring
down hills, that the world might be a level playing field for all people. Amen.**

*HYMN #86

“like a child”

BENEDICTION...POSTLUDE

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

- Don't forget the United Community Choir concert TODAY at 4pm at St. Peter's UCC in Kiel. Several area church choirs have combined, including Bethlehem, for this concert. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will support the UCC Hurricane Fund.
- 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.
- **Today is the last to purchase grocery gift cards for refugees.** Last year the “Refugee Support Community of Sheboygan” visited Bethlehem and explained their mission and purpose. They along with several churches in Sheboygan, support efforts to acclimate refugee families from Somalia and Syria by supplying both goods and services. They recently sent a plea for grocery cards for these families. Please see Linda at the scrip table to purchase Walmart or other 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.

Bethlehem Merry Christians Pizza Sale

- **Order Forms are due by December 9.** The forms can be dropped off in the box provided in the fellowship hall of the church.
- Delivery of Pizza will be December 15th, between 10:00 am and 11:00 am . Other arrangements can be made if that time doesn't work.
- Numerous varieties of Animal's Frozen Pizza are available

Any questions, please call Bob Radder 894-7229. Thanks for your support.

- 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)

- 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.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 12/9: 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship; 4pm United Community Choir Concert at St. Peters UCC, Kiel
Monday 12/10:
Tuesday 12/11: 6:30pm Consistory ;
Wednesday 12/12: 6pm Confirmation class;
Happy Birthday Jennifer Brickbauer!
Thursday 12/13: *Happy Birthday Darlene Horneck and Christa Taylor!*
Friday 12/14: *Happy Birthday Natasha Verhulst, Steve Sheets and Ivan Salm!*
Saturday 12/15: *Happy Birthday Caitlin Vogel!*
Sunday 12/16: 8am Sunday School; 8:15a Adult Study; 9:30am Worship w/ Children's Program

Pantry item: Box of Cereal