

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, April 24, 2022

**Worship led by: Randy Koppenhaver
Organist: Polly Jeanty**

If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "He Leadeth Me" Polly Jeanty and Kathy Bowe

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us see you this day, O God,

All: Come to us as light.

One: Let us hear you this day, O God,

All: Come to us as truth.

One: Let us sense your presence, O God,

All: Come to us as love.

*OPENING PRAYER

**O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands;
they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer,
and to prevail in the power of love.**

**We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together
into a deeper place of peace.**

**Our week has left worries, answerless questions, blatant injustices,
and unexpected disappointments. We are weary.**

**Come, O Risen Christ and receive our burdens
as we empty our cares into your loving hands.**

Extend to us your joy.

Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life!

Pour into us the freshness of your new life;

for you are our strength and our might.

How wonderful you are for your loving-kindness toward us. Amen! Alleluia!

*OPENING HYMN: #200

“Easter People, Raise Your Voices”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.’ But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

*HYMN #516

“I was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION and WELCOME
QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES

*Candidates: O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as
your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray 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.

ACT OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION (Both candidates will come to the kneeler at one time. However, they will be baptized/confirmed separately. Parents, sponsors, family members, etc. may also come forward to “lay hands upon” the confirmand.)

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMING QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

WELCOME

Let us, the members of Bethlehem United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Minister: Go in the peace of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, are all people. The inner rings contain grape juice and the outer rings contain wine. All of the bread is gluten free.

INVITATION

THE STORY

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS: Please hold until all are served.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out in the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571** "Halle, Halle Hallelujah"
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

CALL TO THE OFFERING

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE (Tune of Doxology)**
O thou in whom we move and live, Whose Spirit hovers like a dove; We worship you in Christ and give, Our praises for your steadfast love. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**From our hearts and from our hands,
we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you,
O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen! Alleluia!**

***HYMN #578** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

BENEDICTION (Ephesians 3:16-19)

POSTLUDE (Please wait to be dismissed by an usher. Thank you.)

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

Jingle Change Update

At the March consistory meeting, it was decided that collections in March would be given the UCC's Ukrainian Relief Fund rather than OCWM. We will continue this collection through April. We also encourage support of One Great Hour of Sharing, which will be done with envelopes rather than Jingle Change.

OGHS is non-denominational and supports disaster relief, refugee crises, hunger, etc.

Those in our thoughts and prayers:



Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Marilyn Hanke
Jody Nenahlo
Dale Horneck

Those struggling with health issues:

Nikki (Friend of Bonnie Z)	Steve Kornely
Tom Lefeber	Steve Rumpff
Glen Schad	Jessica Horneck
Signe Burkhart	Hailey Wirtz
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Darlene Horneck
Hattie Lucille	Vernon Henschel
Elizabeth Loose	Warren Fidlin
Jane Markelz	Olivia Marie
Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)	Everett Henning
Helen Henning	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer
Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Field of Dreams is NOW ACCEPTING visitors. Please arrange a visit with Merlin and Doris Mae and continue to keep them in your prayers.
- Leah Henning is stationed in Japan. Send cards and letters to: (standard US postage rates)
Sgt. Leah Henning
31st MEU CE S-3
Unit 35621
FPO, AP 96385-5621

Bethlehem's Spiritual Leadership:

Reverend Roy Rogers

Phone: 920.428.0183 or email:

rogersr671@gmail.com

**Randy Koppenhaver,
Licensed Lay Minister**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email:

randynmel5@gmail.com

Upcoming Community Events:

All you can Eat Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Dinner

on Sunday April 24, 2022 from 4-7pm

Also Serving: Brats, Hamburgers, Applesauce, Desserts, Milk, & Coffee

Cost: \$12.00 for Adults, \$8.00 for Children 6-10 years, Free for Children 5 & Under

Where: Zion Lutheran Church, 1702 Van Buren St. New Holstein, WI 53061

The proceeds will benefit the Zion LYF for the National Youth Gathering in Houston Texas this July

Kiel Community Center News: Questions please call Missy at 920-894-7861

Meals on Wheels is again serving in person dining at the Kiel Community center. If you are 60 yrs. and over and would like to join other for a delicious lunch and a few laughs please call Missy at 894-7861 by noon prior to the day you would like to eat here.

Guest speaker series: held at the community center upper level the first Monday of the month.

May 2nd: A representative from the Kiel VFW will speak

Strong Women/Strong Bodies: Spring/Summer Schedule: April 12th to June 30th. Class is held in the lower level of the Kiel Community Center, cost is \$25. Class times are 9 am, 10:30 am and 6 pm on Tuesday and Thursdays

Mahjong is played Tuesday's from 1:00 to 4 pm in the upper level of the Kiel Community Center. No experience necessary new members always welcomed.

Upcoming Events at the Kiel Performing Arts Center:

April 28 - Kiel Middle School Bands Spring Concert - 7:00 pm - free concert

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 4/24: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Confirmation

Monday 4/25:;

Tuesday 4/26:

Wednesday 4/27: ~Happy Birthday Ryan Rabe and Mia Watson!!

Thursday 4/28: ~Happy Birthday Bob Radder! Happy Anniversary to Rev. Roy & Lori Rogers!

Friday 4/29: ~Happy Birthday Louie Bowe!!

Saturday 4/30:

Sunday 5/1: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion;

May – Bottle of Laundry Soap or Fabric Softener