



**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, April 30, 2023**

**Worship Leader: Pastor Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

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

**\*= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549

"As We Gather"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

God, our Shepherd, offers us abundant life.

**God, you are with us!**

God, our Shepherd, leads us by still waters.

**God, restore our souls!**

God, our Shepherd, walks with us through every dark valley.

**God, we will not be afraid! God, our Shepherd, we praise you for your goodness and mercy with us every day.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of love, we come trusting that your love has the power to defeat evil in the world. Jesus shows us that your love defeats even the power of death. You are with us through the darkest valleys so that we are not afraid. We worship you with glad hearts, praising you in the name of our Risen Lord, praying with the breath of your Spirit in us. Renew our strength and courage to face whatever each day holds, so our lives will bring you honour and glory now and always. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #550 (vs. 1,3,5) "All are Welcome"

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love, we confess that too often we let the events around us shatter our trust in your love. When terror strikes and innocents fall, we wonder if love can defeat violence. When truth gets lost among misleading claims, we wonder if love can prevail over lies. Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in the power of your love so soon after it raised Jesus from death's grip. (time of silence)**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Apostle Paul asked: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? **No! he declared.** Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. **Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, God's gracious and forgiving love will never let us go. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 "Halle, Halle Hallelujah!"

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

##### **Acts 2:42-47**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Psalm 23** - p. 604 in hymnal - Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

##### **John 10:1-10**

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the

sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

## SERMON

\*HYMN #431 all "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

### 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 CONFIRMATION** (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.**

ANTHEM

"Walk With Them, Lord"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

THE STORY

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

\*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**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle change for goes towards One Great Hour of Sharing – Jingle Change for the month of May supports the Guest House of Milwaukee Men’s shelter)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology” Text: John H. Danner (2016)

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God with a tender heart, we thank you for the care you offer to us as our Shepherd. Bless the gifts we offer so they will spread your abundant love to lives in need of caring. Bless our lives so that we may care for the world as we follow Jesus day by day. Amen.**

\*CLOSING SONG “Go Now in Peace”

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.  
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.  
Know he will guide you, in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.***

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*\*Liturgies and prayers used with permission from: <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Please let Pastor Randy know of any members who are graduating (High school or higher education). We like to honor them in early June.
- Been attending awhile, but not a member? Bethlehem will be holding a “New-Member Sunday on May 21. From 8-9a we will have a brief “class” and discussion about Bethlehem. New members will be “installed” during the 9:30 worship service. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are interested in joining.

Thanks to our Bethlehem family for your prayers, concerns, cards, letters, visits, thoughtfulness, and treats. Everything you have done means a great deal to me. Special thanks to Pastor Randy for visits, communion, and helping to bring me peace understanding, and coping. Randy is a very genuine person and uplifting to talk to. – Bob Radder 4/14/3023

## **It's Time for the Undy 500 –**

***Donations go to the Guest House of Milwaukee (Homeless Shelter)***

***All items must be NEW and extra-large sizes are highly needed (2XL, 3XL, 4XL, etc.)***

- **Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY**

*No briefs (“tighty whiteys”) can be accepted*

- **Men's Undershirts**
- **Women's Underwear**
- **Sports Bras**
- **All items size 2XL or larger will receive one bonus point per item!**



### **2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

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

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 4/30:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Confirmation and Communion

**Monday 5/1:** ~Happy Anniversary Rick & Linda Rabe, and Kerry & Sharon Rumpff!

**Tuesday 5/2:** ~Happy Birthday Elizabeth Deignan and Barb Henning!

**Wednesday 5/3:** ~Happy Birthday Sara Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Garrett & Ginny Schultz, and Kevin & Mandy Voland!

**Thursday 5/4:** National Day of Prayer – 6:30p Ecumenical Service at Kiel City Park

**Friday 5/5:** ~Happy Anniversary Grant & Christa Taylor!!

**Saturday 5/6:**

**Sunday 5/7:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; 2:00pm Pastor Randy's Installation; ~Happy Birthday Dayna Schultz and Jenna Rumpff!!

**May Pantry Items:  
Laundry Detergent or Fabric Softener**



***Those in our thoughts and prayers:***

**Joys:** The baptism of Piercy Edward Hoepfer Heugel on 4/23/23. He is the grandson of Jane & Scott Umland.

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Shirley Henschel	Scott Umland
Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Darlean Rumpff	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
John Buchholz	

**Those unable to worship with us:** Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

- Other Concerns:**
- Victims of violence
  - Victims of recent natural disasters, especially victims of recent tornados in the US
  - People affected by war and/or oppression (Esp. Ukraine)

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- All you can Eat Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Dinner on Sunday April 30, 2023 from 3-6pm. Also Serving: Brats, Hamburgers, Zion Lutheran Church,
- Brat Fry – Wed, May 10 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley
- May 11 (8am to 5pm) and May (8am to 3pm) Rummage Sale at Zion Lutheran Church in New Holstein
- May 12 Community UCC Drive-thru Fish Fry at Anchor Lanes in Elkhart Lake 4-7pm

*Pastor Randy's installation service will be celebrated:*

***Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2:00pm***

*A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service*



## **Meet our Confirmation Students!!**

Lillie Brockway is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Kiel Middle School. She lives in Kiel with her parents, Jason and Jennifer, and her two younger sisters, Kylie and Hallie. Lillie is very active with sports. She plays volleyball, basketball, softball and soccer. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her free time. She loves traveling and seeing new places.

Ryan Holz is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Kiel Middle School. He lives in Kiel with his parents, Jeff and Jennifer, and his younger brother and sister, Blake and Ellie. Ryan is a down to earth kid. He loves his sports like football, basketball, track, and baseball along with playing his video games. He enjoys camping trips with his family every summer. He is always willing to help anyone in need. He is a great big brother to his brother and sister.

Cooper Tesch is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Kiel Middle School. He lives in Kiel with his parents Tony and Sandra, and his older brother Logan. Cooper enjoys drawing & art, playing video games, and spending time with family and friends.

Logan Tesch is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Kiel High School. He lives in Kiel with his parents Tony and Sandra, and his younger brother Cooper. Logan is an active member of FFA, the Math Club, and Student Council. He also enjoys playing video games and spending time with family and friends.

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### **FREE TO A GOOD HOME!!!**



There is a large monstera plant in the pastor's office that's becoming too big for the space. The plant came from Ronnie Schrieber's home following his passing, so I'd like it to go to someone who will take good care of it. Please see Pastor Randy if you're interested in adopting the plant.