



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers
Organist: Polly Jeanty

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

Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- For those who wish to congregate, you are asked to do so outside
- Please stay home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well.
- Scrip will be available for purchase on the first and third Sundays. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great –

God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.

Let us worship God today, for God is good –

God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.

Let us worship God today –

Because we are God's people.

Let us worship God.

* OPENING PRAYER

Lord, You are the wind in my sails You guide me as I steer and find direction. You give me the strength to keep on going. You watch over me as I navigate stormy seas. You are the harbor where I stop for rest. You are my encourager when I lose hope. You are the lighthouse that keeps my path safe. You are with me always. Thank you. Amen.

(a short prayer of encouragement from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

*OPENING HYMN *“Wonderful, Merciful Saviour”* #331 verses 1-2

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 45:3-15

Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

SERMON “The Rest of the Story”

HYMN “His Eye is on the Sparrow” #386 vs 1-2

CALL TO THE OFFERING

“Lord we come before you today to present our tithe and offering to you in faith. We believe your word, and we honor it by putting our faith in action through giving. We thank you for your blessing, and we believe we will have what you promised.”

*RESPONSE “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be:

All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you. We recognize everything we have belongs to you. We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you. We

now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (congregation may be seated)

In the darkness before creation,
you made all that lives and breathes.

In the darkness of Mary's womb,
you formed Jesus, bringer of light.

In the darkness of our world your spirit sustains us.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Under the cover of darkness,
Magi followed the star to the Christ-child.

We come from the East and we come from the West,
following you on our different roads,
following the same star to the same place.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In the stillness of the dark,
we pray for all who need God's presence in a special way—
people who cannot find work,
who cannot pay their bills,
who have no place to live,
people who are discouraged and hopeless,
people who have become cynical and bitter.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

We live in this world in our bodies,
we rejoice in life and breath,
yet when sickness or pain cripples us,
we lose our bearings, we feel lost and bewildered.

We need your presence to keep us safe.

Be with those who are sick, especially _____.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Thank you for moments of inspiration,
for moments of clear vision
where we see who we are and who we are meant to be,
where we see where we are, and where you want us to go.
Give us courage to take the journey that you call us to,
and give us strength on the road.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Your presence sustains us,
help us to go from worship this morning,
having seen your face,
having done homage to your goodness,

**We are confident in the work you are doing
in us and through us,
for your kingdom come,
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

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.

BENEDICTION Based on Psalm 37

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

Dear People of Bethlehem,

There are not enough “thank you’s” in the world to express my gratitude for the prayers, care, love and support that you, the members of Bethlehem, have given to my family during our recent crisis. The power of God working through his people has never been more evident to me. Although we endured some scary and challenging moments, we knew that the Bethlehem community was there for us. We cannot thank you enough! May God Bless each and every one of you. I can’t wait to resume my roles at Bethlehem. In Christ,
Pastor Randy (and family)



February jingle change will help to supplement the Sunday School’s Leprosy Project.

- **In 2020, there were over 127,500 new cases of leprosy worldwide.**
- **The average cost to cure and care for one person with leprosy is \$348**

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@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

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

The Birth of Zander Robert Jeanty - 2/9/22 - Parents Ben & Cassie Jeanty-
Grandparents Bruce & Polly Jeanty



Families who have lost loved ones:

Rev. Mark Jaberg
Eugene (Gene) Birschbach – Sharon Rumpff's father
Macullen Schnell

Those struggling with health issues:

Signe Burkhart	Hailey Wirtz
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Dale and Darlene Horneck
Brenna Koppenhaver	Hattie Lucille
Elizabeth Loose	Warren Fidlin
Jane Markelz	Olivia Marie
Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)	Everett Henning
Steve Rumpff	Helen Henning
Jessica Horneck	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer
Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

UPDATE: Field of Dreams is not accepting visitors at this time. We pray for the residents and staff by sending wishes of good health and well being during this recent uptick in area Covid cases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Bethlehem Ladies will be taking orders for Easter Flowers. The flowers available are:

Easter Lily \$9.00
Mum \$9.75
Hydrangea \$26.00
Azalea \$22.50
Reiger Begonia \$18.00

The flowers will be in church on Palm Sunday and need to be taken home on Easter Sunday which is April 17th. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Last Sunday to sign up is **February 27th**. Please pay Jeanette Wriedt by cash or checks made to Bethlehem Ladies.

- Dear Bethlehem Congregation, Thank you for your generosity during Advent. Your donations to the food pantry at Immanuel UCC was greatly appreciated. The addition of toiletries and cleaning products allows us to provide for needs beyond food, and it is a blessing. Signed, Jennifer M. Pantry Volunteer
- Can you help shovel snow? Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for the month you can help keep the church sidewalks cleared.

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

Upcoming Community Events:

Saturday, March 5, 2022 – Zion Lutheran Church, New Holstein
“Believe Deeper – Be Loved Deeper” 9am – 2:30pm
For more information, please see the posting on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
Deadline to register is February 12th

Mission Opportunity!!

First United Lutheran Church in Sheboygan is hosting a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack on March 11-12, 2022.

A Feed My Starving Children facts sheet is posted in the fellowship hall. Here is the link to volunteer <https://give.fmcs.org/Sheboygan>. A packing session is a 2 hour commitment that goes by very quickly and is an enjoyable experience for a great cause.

Thursday, March 31 – 4p-7pm – Drive Thru Smoked Pork Chop Dinner @ Saron UCC-
Reservations required: call Joan (920-946-4652) or Judy (920-980-0748) Cost is \$12.00

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 2/20: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship
~Happy Birthday Dawn Muehlbauer and Jesse Rumpff!

Monday 2/21:;

Tuesday 2/22: ~Happy Birthday Trenton Rabe!

Wednesday 2/23: 6pm Confirmation Class

Thursday 2/24: ~Happy Birthday Ameila Horneck and Ken Zorn!

Friday 2/25: ~Happy Birthday Julia Gabrielse!

Saturday 2/26:

Sunday 2/27: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship
~Happy Birthday Jeff Westphalen!

February – Sandwich bags, Foil, Plastic Wrap, Garbage bags
February Jingle Change supports those suffering from Leprosy