

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Sunday, February 6, 2022



Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers
Organist: Kathy Bowe

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

Leader: It is by God's grace that we gather for worship.

People: **And it is by God's grace that our lives are changed.**

Leader: We are counting on the active and amazing grace of God today.

People: **By your Holy Spirit, enliven our worship.**

Leader: Help us by our actions to be faithful followers of Jesus.

People: **For this, we give you thanks and praise**

* OPENING PRAYER

O God our Father,

**we thank you that today you have called us
to worship you and learn of you.**

You alone know our needs.

Satisfy them with your unchanging love.

**In your presence may we find comfort in sorrow,
guidance in perplexity,**

strength to meet temptation,

grace to overcome the fascination of disobedience,

and courage to face up to the hostility of this rebellious world.

**Above all, may we meet Jesus
and go out from our worship indwelt by his spirit.
This prayer we ask to your glory and in his name.
Amen.**

~ written by Michael Saward. Posted on **The Jubilate Group** website. <http://www.jubilate.co.uk/liturgy/>

***OPENING HYMN** *“Amazing Grace” #334 verses 1-2*

READING OF SCRIPTURE - Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

SERMON - *“The Power of Positive Reinforcement”*

HYMN *“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands” #51 verses 1-2*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Compassionate Father, thank you that you are our strength and our song, you fill our hearts with joy. May we give our offerings to you with gladness and joy. Everything we have belongs to you and we rejoice to give some of your abundant gifts back to you. Bless the tithes and offerings we give today. Let the majesty of the Father be the light that guides us, the compassion of the Son be the love that inspires us and the presence of the Spirit be the power that empowers us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

***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**

Generous Father, thank you that all things were created through you and for you, you are before all things, and in you, all things exist. The Bible says that we should bring our tithes and offerings into your storehouse and that you will

respond by opening the windows of heaven and sending down blessing upon blessing. Accept the gifts we place before you now. May the peace of God reign in our lives, the love of God surround us, the Spirit of God empower us and the joy of God uphold us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER (w/ gluten-free bread and juice)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Each Sunday Christians throughout the world assemble in various locations to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. They gather around bread and wine in a meeting that the early Christians called the "Lord's Supper" (Corinthians 11:20) or the "Breaking of Bread" (Acts 2:42). This has been the practice of God's people since the time that the Lord Jesus Himself requested it:

And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." – Luke 22:19-20

In obedience to this command of the Lord, we gather each week to observe the Lord's Supper. In determining the manner in which to express our worship, we have sought guidance from the principles and pattern found in the New Testament. Let us receive communion together.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

I pray that this holy Communion, far from condemning me to punishment, will plead effectively for my pardon. Let it be the armor of my faith and the shield of my good will. Let it purify me from my bad habits and put an end to my evil desires. Let it increase my charity and patience, humility and obedience, and all the virtues. Let it defend me against the traps of all my enemies, visible and invisible. Let it calm the passions of my body and spirit. Let it join me firmly to you, the one true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with you.

And I pray that you will lead me, sinful as I am, to the banquet where you, with your Son and Holy Spirit, are to your saints true light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, complete gladness, and perfect happiness.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Almighty God,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend,
You who sit enthroned over the flood—
We are staggering in the surf of breakers
bringing bad news, and worse news,
while an invisible menace laps at our doorstep.
Father of all mercies, by your grace, **give us your grace.**

We are anxious, exhausted, angry, and sad.
We need your peace that surpasses understanding
to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
Be our refuge and strength;
be our very present help in this time of trouble.
Lord by your grace, **give us your grace.**

Even in this trouble we thank you:
for a white winter when the ground lies fallow from activity;
for technology that unites exiles and draws the solitary near;
for your church that prevails in catacombs and quarantine;
for your own Holy Spirit who is socially present with us, always.
Lord by your grace, **give us your grace.**

But Oh, forgive us, Holy Lord:
for hating our unwashed neighbors in our heart;
for opening our hearts to unfettered fear;
for closing our hearts, and our pockets, to any in need;
for loosening our grip on your precious and very great promises.
Lord by your grace, **give us your grace.**

Assure us, our Gracious Redeemer:
that our sins are nailed to the cross of Jesus;
that we are clothed in the righteous white robes of Christ;
that you will never leave us nor forsake us;
that nothing – nothing – can separate us from your love.
Lord by your grace, **give us your grace.**

Great Physician, we pray for those most vulnerable to this virus:
for the elderly, the weak, and those with chronic conditions; and one we specifically mentioned...
for the poor, the hungry, and the isolated;
for those already infected.
Deliver them from this evil,
and prevent the rest of us from carrying it to them.
Lord by your grace, **give us your grace.**

God of Hosts, we pray for the caregivers on the front lines:
for doctors and nurses and healthcare workers;
for police and firefighters and government officials;
for parents in the home and under-shepherds in the church:
Guard and guide them; shield and sustain them.
Rock of Ages, we pray for the newly unstable:
for those who have lost jobs, lost businesses, lost savings, lost homes;
for those facing the likelihood of losing even more—
Hide them in the cool shadow of your wings;
provide every good thing for them
that you, as a good Father, know they need.

Lord by your grace, **give us your grace.**

Indwelling Spirit, empower your people to serve:
to get wisdom, and live by it, and share it freely;

to embody peace amid the strife of tongues;

to present our bodies as living sacrifices;

to suffer with Christ in patient endurance.

Give us all fresh confidence that there is:

no future where you are not present,

no sorrow where you are not near,

no tears not kept in your bottle,

no locust-eaten years you will not restore.

And so we trust you, our generous Provider:

if the curve does not flatten,

if the market does not pull up,

if the shelves go empty,

and if all our accounts drain to pennies—

Even still, let us rejoice in the Lord, our strength;

let us take joy in the God of our salvation.

In the name of Jesus we ask, **Amen.**

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth.

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, our Savior and Redeemer,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ, do not remember our offenses; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare your people, whom you have redeemed by your precious blood, and in your mercy preserve us.

Forgive us and spare us, good Lord.

From temptations arising from the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your power, mercy, and providence, from this pandemic engulfing the world,

Good Lord, deliver us.

For all people who are suffering from this pandemic in body, mind, or spirit,

Good Lord, have mercy.

For all people who are suffering poverty, isolation, or pain,

Good Lord, have mercy.

For those who have lost homes, jobs, or financial resources because of this pandemic,

Lord, in your merciful providence, provide for them.

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones from this virulent disease,

Comfort and encourage them, O Lord.

For those who transport life's necessities, provide essential services, or protect us,

O Lord, strengthen and bless them,

For our government, military, and business leaders who serve us in this pandemic,

Give wisdom, kindness, and strength, O Lord.

For medical doctors, nurses, technicians, and researchers who serve the sick,

Give persistence, compassion, and insight, O Lord.

For effective therapies, a cure, and a preventive vaccine,

Lord, in your merciful providence, provide them.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come, life everlasting.

Amen (A Prayer of John Chrysostom)

BENEDICTION

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 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

Those in our thoughts and prayers:



Families who have lost loved ones:

Eugene (Gene) Birschbach – Sharon Rumpff's father
Skylar Rose Beattie
Macullen Schnell

Those struggling with health issues:

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

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:

• Can you help shovel snow? Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for the month you can help keep the church sidewalks cleared.

Leah Henning has been deployed to 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:

The 21st Annual Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry is Friday, February 18, 2022 at 11928 Marken Road in School Hill. Dine-In Serving 3:30-7pm. Carry-outs available 11am–1pm and 3:30–7pm by calling 773-2380. Grilled cheese plates, homemade tortes, raffle tickets and the HT Lounge also available. Please see more information posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

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.fmsc.org/Sheboygan>. A packing session is a 2 hour commitment that goes by very quickly and is an enjoyable experience for a great cause.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 2/6: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Communion Service w/ Rev. Roy
~Happy Birthday Brandon Hoban!

Monday 2/7: *~Happy Birthday Betty Vogel; Happy Anniversary Mike & Judy Brockway!*

Tuesday 2/8: 6:30pm Consistory

Wednesday 2/9: 6pm Confirmation Class; *~Happy Birthday Jennifer Nimmer!*

Thursday 2/10:

Friday 2/11: *~Happy Birthday Aaron Suttner!*

Saturday 2/12: *~Happy Anniversary Jeff & Girlie Westphalen!*

Sunday 2/13: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Rev. Roy
~Happy Birthday Henry Krueger!

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