



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, January 1, 2023

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*

This morning's service is a Hymn-Sing. Members of the congregation will be asked to suggest their favorite hymns and we will sing the first two verses. Please browse through your hymnal as you prepare for worship and select your favorite hymns.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #107 (first verse) "Joy to the World"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: This is the place,

All: The place where God is joyfully worshipped.

One: This is the time,

All: The time we know that God is with us in the coming year.

One: These are the friends,

All: The friends who celebrate with us and stay with us when the testing comes.

One: This is the faith,

All: The faith in Jesus Christ, which challenges us and shapes our future.

*OPENING PRAYER:

God of glory, angels called to shepherds with songs of your good news. Mary pondered the mystery of your goodness in the tumult of new birth. Your splendor shines from a manger where the Light of the world was born to pierce the darkness. In the fragility of flesh you are revealed to us face to face. And so we gather in worship and praise of you who is Creator, Redeemer, and Guide; our Father, Brother, and Friend; perfect and eternal, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #306 "The Church in the Wildwood"

Chorus: Come to the church in the country
Oh, come to the church on the hill
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little white church on the hill

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We celebrate our joys and achievements in the past year, O God.

All: We reflect on the hardship, the unexpected change, the setbacks – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate our friendships and family ties, O God.

All: We reflect on the times of uncaring, poor communication, and of relationships strained – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the fulfillment we have found within the faith community.

All: We reflect on missed opportunities for worship and service, and on our blindness to the work of the wider church – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the discipleship of Jesus Christ which is ours.

All: We reflect on our struggle to hear the call of Jesus, to follow Jesus carefully, and to take his Word to heart – all the situations from which we may learn and grow, in faith and action.

(Time for silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: A new year, a new set of resolutions, O God!

All: Resolved to give thanks regularly, resolved to reflect diligently, resolved to make changes appropriately, resolved to act faithfully.

One: Pardon and peace are yours.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 121 (refrain) "Gloria"

Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis Deo, Glor - - -ri-a in excelsis De - o.

*HYMNS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 148 (responsively)

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²Young men and women alike, old and young together!

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of

his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*HYMNS

REFLECTION AND SHARING OF HOPES/DREAMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

*HYMNS

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle change will go to the Mission Committee)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Doxology"

**To God, all glorious heav'nly Light
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of love, we give thanks for the many blessings you have given to us during our lives. We are grateful for opportunities to celebrate life and the birth of your greatest gift, our Savior Jesus. Bless our offerings. Bless us and use all things for your glory.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: "In gratitude, our hearts kneel before you, O God;"
Receive our humble prayers.

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.

*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

One: We leave this church,

**All: Resolved to face the situations which test and trouble us,
resolved to take courage from the stories of our faith,
resolved to be a willing partner in the faith community,
resolved to go forward confidently,
resolved to model our New Year's way on Jesus Christ.**

One: You have nothing to fear!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*Annual reports are due on January 8. Email to Traci Rabe @ trabefamily5@gmail.com

*The annual meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 29 following a brief worship.

*Bethlehem will be leading worship at Field of Dreams on Thursday, Jan. 12 @ 10:30am. We need singing voices! Please join us and let Randy know you will be coming!

WISE Initiative for Awareness of Mental Health Concerns

Pastor Randy is forming a study group to determine if Bethlehem might be interested in the WISE Initiative (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). This initiative aims to seek ways in which congregations can support and advocate for individuals affected by mental illness, brain injuries, etc. The group would meet on selected Sunday mornings before church in January and February. We will study the issue of mental health, perhaps through a book study or guest speakers. Next, we would determine if we are willing to commit to a WISE "designation" and develop a covenant explaining how we will support people with mental health concerns. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested in participating in this exploratory study group.

*Thank you to Mike Hartmann, owner of The Laundromat, LLC in New Holstein! He sent a \$50 kickback to Loads of Love for using his business!

The Endowment Fund Committee

The Bethlehem Endowment Fund Committee has met two times this year. While using only the interest, we have made donations this year to the following local communities and individuals.

- ❖ Kiel Food Pantry
- ❖ Salvation Army
- ❖ 2 families in need

When you are reviewing your financial plan, please consider giving toward The Bethlehem Endowment Fund. Anyone is welcome to join the committee. There is something wonderfully fulfilling about doing good that lasts. Something that really makes a difference. Your gifts to the Endowment Fund are rewarding and adds to a fund that will benefit others for decades.

If you have any suggestions of an organization or a family in need, see any committee member for more details. Kerry Henning, Kathy Bowe or Marie Mueller.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Saturday, Jan. 14 – Ordination of Nicole Herda- Grace UCC, Two Rivers – 11am

2022 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven 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

Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Those struggling with health issues:

Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Finn (a young boy with cancer)	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dana (friend of Melissa K)	Dawson Horneck
John Buchholz (Marie's brother)	Gary Steinhardt

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 1/1: 9:30am Worship with Hymn Sing! NO communion! ~Happy Birthday Kenzie Koppenhaver and Grant Taylor!

Monday 1/2: ~Happy Birthday Jayden Jeanty and Girlie Westphalen!

Tuesday 1/3: ~Happy Birthday Carol Wehrmann!

Wednesday 1/4: 6pm Confirmation Class

Thursday 1/5: ~Happy Birthday Garrett Schultz!!

Friday 1/6:

Saturday 1/7: ~Happy Birthday Ty Sheets!

Sunday 1/8: 8:00 Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

January Pantry Items: Can of Soup