



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, January 22, 2023

Guest Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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: #107 (first verse) "Joy to the World"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way...

Many: The manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

One: We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old.

Many: Yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.

One: And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh...

Many: we offer ourselves and what we have.

One: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad!

(written by Glen E. Rainsley)

*OPENING PRAYER: (based on Isaiah 60)

Radiant God, all nations are drawn to your light; all people proclaim your praise. You befriend the forsaken and the hated; you are the help of the oppressed; for you have come to us in Jesus Christ. We rejoice in your great love for the world, and rise to praise you, together with people of all nations. Glory be to you, O God! Amen. (written by Ruth C. Duck)

*OPENING HYMN #148 all "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of perfect light, Lead us as we proceed though life. Forgive us when, like Herod, selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt others. Forgive us when, unlike the magi, we refuse to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives though the light of your Christ in whose name we pray, Amen. (written by Ruth C. Duck)

(Time for silent reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE:

This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God loves us more than we love ourselves. God forgives us, encourages us, and frees us to love others.
Thanks Be to God! Amen. (written by Ruth C. Duck)

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 121 (refrain) "Gloria"

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay

him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

*HYMN #154 all

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle change will go to the Mission Committee. Funds support our activities at Mission Fest, such as sandwich making. Donations are also made to food pantries and organizations like Feed My Starving Children.)

*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

Loving and receptive God, who acted in the Bethlehem birth and who sustains the whole human family, we come to you seeking to be wise men and women. May our gifts be a sign, as were the gifts for those travelers of old, that wisdom is marked by an offering of self and substance to the Christ in whose name we pray. Amen. (written by Glen E. Rainsley)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...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.

*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

Leader: Go forth in the light of God's star. Go forth committed to a journey of faith and courage. Go forth to give the precious gift of your life to Christ.

**All: We will go forth and let the star guide us.
We will share with others the journey of life.
We will praise God, for the gift we have received is beyond
measure – Jesus Christ. (written by Maren C. Tirabassi)**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

February 1, 2023 – Bethlehem Chili Supper

This will be an all-church event with proceeds divided between the organizations allowing each to decide how to use for their projects. The supper will be: Drive thru/pick up only

Your help will be needed. Please confirm your availability by email to kayerad@hotmail.com or use the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, January 29, 2023 - 10:30 – 12 noon Prep day: Set up work areas, cook meat etc.

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 - 8:00 – 12:00 cook noodles

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 - Bring Tortes 8:00 – 12 noon Cook Chili, serve noon lunches 3:00 – 6:30 pm Serve Chili, Dishes, Clean up

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

Merry Christian's Heifer Auction a Success!

The Bethlehem Merry Christians of Bethlehem U.C.C. in rural Kiel held their annual fund raising program for Heifer International during December. Forty couples and individuals from the church and the wider community gave generously to raise \$2500

to send live animals and other things to individuals in poor countries around the world.

These gifts are given to help individuals become self sufficient in poor countries everywhere. Those who receive the gift animals also give others like themselves the first born of their own gift to widen the donation.

That \$2500 gift to Heifer International provided the following gifts to individuals in countries like Nepal, Uganda, Zambia, and Mexico. Bethlehem's donation will be 1 heifer, 3 sheep, 3 goats, 2 Alpacas, 2 pigs, 3 hives of honey bees, 10 flocks of chickens, 1 clean water well and 5 complete sets of garden seeds.

Heifer International hears from people world-wide whose lives have been changed through these gifts.

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.

2023 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:

Dale Spindler (Father of Dawn Wirtz; Brother of Darlean Rumpff)

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There is a flyer on the bulletin board regarding a grief support group at Holy Family in Manitowoc.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 1/22: 8:00am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship followed by fellowship hour

Monday 1/23:

Tuesday 1/24:

Wednesday 1/25:

Thursday 1/26:

Friday 1/27:

Saturday 1/28: ~Happy Birthday Lora Mathes and Gary Rabe!!

Sunday 1/29: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship Annual Mtg... Followed by Chili Supper prep

January Pantry Items: Can of Soup