



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, May 7, 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 is our Rock and our Fortress.

**In God, we find refuge and strength.**

God's house has many dwelling places.

**We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.

**For us, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.**

So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Steadfast God, you are our refuge in times of trouble our shelter when we are afraid, and our dwelling place forever. In you alone we place our trust for you set the way before in Christ Jesus and your Spirit gives us courage to follow him. And so we offer you our worship and love as the Source of life for the world, as the Son who preached the truth of grace and mercy, and the Spirit who guides us this day and always. Amen**

\*OPENING HYMN #484 all

“The Church’s One Foundation”

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Steadfast God, we confess Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for us, yet we often fail to follow him, too often gone our own way, distorted the truth and led deadly lives. Forgive us for falling short of your purpose for our lives. Give us courage to follow Jesus, who continues to show us the way.** (time of silence)

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Know that, in Christ, you are forgiven. Accept God’s grace and forgiveness this day, and extend it to others for Jesus’ sake. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

“Halle, Halle Hallelujah!”

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

##### **Acts 7:55-60**

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

##### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to  
shame; in your righteousness  
deliver me.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.**

<sup>3</sup> You are indeed my rock and my  
fortress; for your name’s sake lead  
me and guide me,

<sup>4</sup> **take me out of the net that is**

**hidden for me, for you are my  
refuge.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD,  
faithful God.

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
**deliver me from the hand of my  
enemies and persecutors.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your  
servant;

**save me in your steadfast love.**

## John 14:1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

## SERMON

\*HYMN #359 all

"Blessed Assurance"

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

This morning we welcome Emma Marie Reis into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. Emma was born on July 5, 2022. Emma's parents are Benjamin and Abigail Reis. Emma's sponsors are Kelsey Beine and Justin Schwartzmiller.

## INVITATION

### WELCOME

Leader: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

**People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."**

Leader: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.<sup>4</sup>

#### ADDRESS

Leader: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible ...and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.<sup>9</sup>

**People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

#### QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please stand)

**People: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he/she explores life. We enfold this child in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with these parents in telling the gospel in our midst so that this child may live with us for Christ, showing forth Christ's love for all people.**

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God with the United Church of Christ's Statement 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 BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

\*HYMN #516                      “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

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

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

**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 into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.**

RESPONSE #525 Refrain only                      “One Bread, One Body”

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 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

**Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world you love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. 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:**

- We are in need of delegates to attend the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake from June 9-11. You can attend only part of the weekend if that works better. Please let Pastor Randy if you are interested in attending.
- 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

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 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

## **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 Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

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

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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)



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Joys:**

For Lillie Brockway, Ryan Holz, Cooper Tesch and Logan Tesch who affirmed their baptisms through the Rite of Confirmation on 4/30/23.

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 Nimmer

- 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)

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today 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!!

**Monday 5/8:** ~Happy Anniversary Rick & Linda Rabe, and Kerry & Sharon Rumpff!

**Tuesday 5/9:** ~Happy Birthday Elizabeth Deignan and Barb Henning!

**Wednesday 5/10:** 6:30pm Consistory; ~Happy Birthday Sara Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Garrett & Ginny Schultz, and Kevin & Mandy Voland!

**Thursday 5/11:**

**Friday 5/12:** ~Happy Anniversary Grant & Christa Taylor!!

**Saturday 5/13:**

**Sunday 5/14:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

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



## **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.