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Sunday, October 24, 2021

Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers

Organist: Kathy Bowe

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
- The congregation will refrain from singing (Humming is permitted)
- 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 (from Isaiah 55:1–3, 6–7)

Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;

**and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!**

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

**Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?**

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

**Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.**

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David. . . .

**Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.**

Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

**Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord Jesus, evil is such a harsh word, and yet Your Word uses it frequently to describe the opposite of good. While we are all capable of sin, I ask Your protection against those who call good evil, and evil good. Guard us from those who scheme against righteousness and from those who twist truth into lies to accomplish their evil intents. May Your angels hover ever near to eradicate fear and fight against dark, spiritual forces we cannot see. Help us cast down every imagination and thought that our enemy tries to use to exalt itself against You. You dealt our spiritual enemy a fateful blow on Calvary when you died on the cross for us and were resurrected on the third day. While evil still roams, the power of Your name and Your blood rises up to defeat and bring us victory against every evil planned against us. While malicious actions may disturb us, we use the armor of God You have given us to stand firm. You will bring justice in due time for all the harm and needless violence aimed at Your children. Until then, we remain in Your presence, aligned with Your purposes, and we look to You as our Supreme Commander and Protector. Help us to avoid temptation, and deliver us from evil, Lord. You are the Mighty One, the One Who will ultimately bring all evil to light. With You, Jesus, we are safe.

Amen

SONG #377

“Lord, Speak to Me”

(no singing, please)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Almighty God,

who has promised forgiveness of sins to all who turn to him in faith:

pardon you and set you free from all your sins,

strengthen you to do his will,

and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

An Australian Prayer Book

*RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 8:31-47

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, “You will be made free”?’

Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.’

They answered him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does.’ They said to him, ‘We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. Why do you not

understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God.'

SERMON "Screwtape Letters"

SONG #263 "This is my Father's World" (no singing, please)

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Our ancestors in faith and church-building show us the way to share the gifts God has given us with the whole community. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God with heartfelt gratitude, commitment and praise.

SONG "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and gracious God, we bring our offering in gratitude for all that makes our lives good, even in uncertain times. Bless these gifts with your Spirit and use them through the ministry and mission of our church to touch lives in need of your goodness, in Jesus' name. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER... LORD'S PRAYER

Each petition ends with: "Father, the one who hears us,"

Congregation responds: **Hear our 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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please wait to be dismissed by the ushers. Thank you.)*

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Barbara Pahr -Daughter of Rev Carl and Helen Fried (former pastor Bethlehem and Bethel)

Jill Freeman – Randy’s aunt

Bruce Schaar

Mike Mathes

Those struggling with health issues:

Everett Henning

Helen Henning

Dale and Darlene Horneck

Hattie Lucille

Mary Vogel

Marilyn Hanke

Warren Fidlin

Raeline (friend of Umlands)

Mother of Dawn Wirtz

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)

Tom Brickbauer

Macullen Schnell

Olivia Marie

Jessica Horneck

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

2021 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

OCTOBER'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS NEIGHBORS IN NEED. In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving the homeless. **YOU MAY ALSO MAKE A SPECIFIC OFFERING TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED USING ONE OF THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES LOCATED NEAR THE BULLETINS.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Plan a visit to our homebound members! Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer are at Field of Dreams in Kiel (286-6189) Call to arrange a visit.

- Do you have a son or daughter in college or in the military? The Bethlehem Ladies would love to let them know we are thinking about them by giving them a little Christmas gift. We need the congregation to help us out with this so we don't miss anyone! So, if you have a son or daughter in college or the military, please email me at pollyjeanty@gmail.com or let any one of the Bethlehem Ladies know. Thank you!
- The Bethlehem Ladies are taking orders for Poinsettias. They are \$9 each and the colors available are red, white and pink. The last Sunday to order Poinsettias is December 5th. The Poinsettias can be taken home on Christmas Day after worship service. The sign up is on the table in the fellowship hall. Cash or checks to "Bethlehem Ladies" can be given to Jeanette Wriedt. Thank you!!!
- The ordination of Emma Landowski will be Sunday November 13 at Immanuel U.C.C. in West Bend from 1pm to 4pm.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 10/24: 8:00a Sunday School; 9:30a Worship; *Happy Anniversary Randy & Melissa Koppenhaver!*

Monday 10/25: *Happy Anniversary Bob & Kaye Radder!*

Tuesday 10/26:

Wednesday 10/27: *Happy Birthday Ailyah Arnold, Tyson Arnold, and Steve Deignan!*

Thursday 10/28: *Happy Anniversary Dale & Darlene Horneck!*

Friday 10/29: *Happy Birthday Ken Behnke and Hudson Hoban! Happy Anniversary Tony & Sandy Tesch!*

Saturday 10/30:

Sunday 10/31: 8:00a Sunday School; 9:30a Worship; *Happy Birthday Laura Mueller!*

Pantry item: Cleaning Supplies