



**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com)

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at

[www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Eastertide**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

*If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM*

**\*= Please rise in body or spirit**

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

***I will not fear :: For you are with me***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

"Holy Ground"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

played by Kathy Bowe

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Jesus the Christ said, I am the Good Shepherd.

**We have come to follow him.**

We gather in the name of the One who leads us by still waters.

**We have come to be restored in him.**

We gather in the name of the One who prepares a banquet for us.

**We have come to be fed by his love, so let us worship God.**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**Loving God, our shepherd, guide and giver of life. You nourish our lives and lead us into green pastures. You restore our souls with rest and peace. You give us joy so our lives overflows with goodness and grace. You walk with us through the darkest valleys, offering us courage and compassion. At all times and in all circumstances, you are with us, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, so we praise you, Holy One, here and now, now and always. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #437 (all)

“He Leadeth Me”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of mercy, You lead us into green pastures, but our lifestyles put those pastures at risk. You offer us rest, but we like to pursue our goals, whatever the cost to the earth or our health. You call us to show compassion, but we are quick to judge others. Forgive us, and humble us to live with respect in creation. Amen.** (time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Jesus said, Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God’s gift to you this day.

**We are renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves within us each new day. Thanks be to God!**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Psalm 23** - p. 604 in hymnal - Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

**John 10:11-18**

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

## SERMON

\*HYMN #431 all "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

### THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION and WELCOME  
QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

\*AFFIRMATION 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 THE CANDIDATES

Candidates: *O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.*

#### \*PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION

**Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray 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.**

ACT OF CONFIRMATION (Parents, sponsors, family members, etc. may also come forward to “lay hands upon” the confirmand.)

#### PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMING QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

#### WELCOME

Let us, the members of Bethlehem United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

#### GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Minister: Go in the peace of Christ

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM

“Walk With Them, Lord”

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

Petitions end with: Lord, in your mercy, **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.**

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "A Shield About Me" played by Kathy Bowe  
(Jingle Change goes to One Great Hour of Sharing – There are envelopes in the pews if you wish to make larger contributions.)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Old Hundredth"

**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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Giving God, you are our Shepherd, strong and wise. Bless the gifts we offer and multiply their impact in the world. Use them to spread your love and protect all that is vulnerable in your creation, for the sake 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.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Shout to the Lord”

played by Kathy Bowe

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **The Undy 500 is coming!!**

During the month of May, Bethlehem will be collecting undergarments for The Guest House of Milwaukee, a men's shelter.

- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2XL, and 3XL Undershirts
- Men's S, M, L, and XL Underwear - Boxers and Boxer Briefs only! (no "tighty whitey's")

The basket for donations will be near the church entrance. Jingle Change for the month of May will also support The Guest House.

**\*\*There will be a retirement celebration for Rev. Melinda Feller on Sunday, June 2. Please see the notice on the “community events bulletin board for details.**

### **Do you know what items Bethlehem saves?**

Several Bethlehem organizations save items to enhance their fund raising efforts. These organizations raise money through-out the year to fund their charity giving. There is a poster board set up in the fellowship hall of the things Bethlehem saves. It also tells you where you can place these items. Please consider saving and bringing these items along to church. Thank you!!

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS** -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- Thursday, April 25 – Smoked Pork Chop Dinner – 4p-6:30p – Saron UCC
- Saturday, April 28 - AYCE Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Supper – 3p-6p – Zion Lutheran, New Holstein
- Wednesday, May 8 – Brat Fry – 4p-7p St. James UCC- Spring Valley
- Thurs/Friday, May 9 and 10 - Rummage Sale @ Zion Lutheran, New Holstein
- Friday, May 10 – Drive Thru Fish Fry – 4p-7p – Held at Anchor Lanes – Sponsored by Community UCC, Elkhart Lake

### **2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

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

Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor – Randy Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

Kelly Suttner

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Art Matzdorf	Wanda Matzdorf
Nancy Zimmermann	Chad Jeanty
Nancy Henschel	Gary Steinhardt
Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Crystal
Darlene Horneck	Renee
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Dawson Horneck
Jim Markelz	Brad Westphalen

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

**Other Concerns:**

Victims of war, conflict or unrest: Haiti, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan  
Earthquake victims in Taiwan.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 4/21:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Confirmation

**Monday 4/22:** ~Happy Birthday Amy Wempner!

**Tuesday 4/23:** ~Happy Birthday Kaye Radder!

**Wednesday 4/24:**

**Thursday 4/25:** 8:30am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry

**Friday 4/26:**

**Saturday 4/27:** ~Happy Birthday Mia Watson and Ryan Rabe!

**Sunday 4/28:** 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Book Study; 9:30am Worship

**March Pantry Items:  
Bottle of Hand Soap, Dish Soap or Shampoo**