



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, February 9, 2025
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Worship Leader: Pastor 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

On the day I called you :: you answered me

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: There is a good word for you if you are weary.

P: It is the Word of Love, deeper than every despair.

L: There is a good word if you have ever felt unworthy.

P: It is the Word of Hope, "Do not be afraid!"

L: There is a good word that needs to be heard.

P: It is the Word of Life, that raises up abundant blessings.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**God ever creating, ever loving, ever leading:
your presence is peace when we are frantic;
your Word is truth when we face deception;
your Spirit offers freedom when we are paralyzed by fear.
You give purpose in confusing times;
You call for justice when the world settles for inequality.
For all that you are, all that you have been, and all that you will be,
we worship you as the source of life,
the promise of redemption, and the spirit of love in action,
One God, now and always. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN #243**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Holy One, it is easy to succumb to weariness when our work seems to yield little goodness. Hope-crushing night can seem so long. Yet You call us to keep putting out into the deep, facing the reality of our emptiness. Sometimes it is of our own making. At other times, pressures beyond have submerged us to the point of losing our breath. So we release everything to you. We pray that Your promised forgiveness will continue to be trustworthy and true. Let it raise us up for some work of abundance made possible by your grace. We pray this in the name of the one You raised to life, Jesus the Christ. Amen. (Time of reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

Friends, hear the words of Jesus, “Do not be afraid!”

There is nothing in our past that matters more than what God can do, beginning now. We are forgiven by the one who has endured the depths of death and has risen to ever-new life.

Not only are we forgiven, but we are also sent to fish for others, whom God also yearns to gather with the net of holy love.

This is the Good News! We trust it with our lives. Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #82 v. 1 “O Come let us Adore Him”**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 6:1-8 - A Vision of God in the Temple

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

Psalm 138 – p. 721 in hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

“Answering the Call”

*HYMN #541

“Here I Am, Lord”

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER: #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

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.

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

CALL TO THE OFFERING – Your Jingle Change supports the Sunday School’s Leprosy collection for the month of February.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE To tune of the Doxology

**Oh God, may we who bear your name,
By gentle love your grace proclaim.
Christ’s gift of peace on earth declare,
And your anointing Spirit share. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the bursting nets, we thank you for your abundant blessings rising up at every turn. Multiply these gifts and our faith that your good news of life-giving love may stretch wider still. Yes, form us deep in Your heart for this good and gracious work. 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/COMMISSIONING (written by David Sparks)

One: Go from here to fulfill your calling as disciples of the Way of Jesus.

**All: We will listen for God's Word,
we will live with abundant hope,
we will promote justice,
we will be compassionate,
we will seek out new friends,
we will strengthen the faith community.**

One: And the grace of Jesus Christ,
who teaches, saves and sustains,
will go with you.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

**This morning's prayers and liturgies are used with permission from: ucc.org and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sunday, Feb 23 – Bethlehem hits the ice for ICE FISHING!! Immediately following worship, we will head to Scott and Jane Umland's on Wilke Lake and fish until about 2pm. Bring warm clothes, fishing gear and DNR license, along with your own beverages. We will grill brats, burgers, and hot dogs on the lake. Bait will be provided. If you don't have ice fishing gear, there will be some available for use. Additional information can be found in the Spirit Newsletter or by contacting Lee Watson.
- Thank you for supporting our Loads of Love ministry. In Jan we served 2 clients and expended \$76.50. In Feb. we served 4 clients and expended \$89.50. Our donations for January were \$17.50.
- Stay informed!!! Did you know that Bethlehem sends out a weekly email update called The Bethlehem Blurb? If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please send a message to randynmel5@gmail.com or BethUCCKiel@outlook.com.
- Dear Members of Bethlehem: Thank you so much for all your love and support as I have journeyed through the discernment process. I look forward to celebrating my ordination with you on **February 15 at 1:00pm**. It is my privilege to be your pastor! – Randy

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- St Mark's/St. James Mission Trip Team Brat Fry at Miesfeld's 9am-2pm on Saturday, February 15th.
- Rural Church Fellowship's Sheepshead Tournament, 1-3pm at Bethlehem UCC on Sunday, February 16th
- 24th Annual Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry – Friday, Feb 21, 2025 – School Hill – Dine in serving from 3:30-7pm, Carry-outs from 11a-1p and 3:30p-7p – call 773-2380 to order carryout. Grilled cheese plates, tortes, and raffle tickets also available.
- Saturday, March 8 – InCourage Annual Domestic Chef Charity event – 4pm – 10pm - See flyer for details
- March 14 and 15 – Volunteer for “Feed my Starving Children” MobilePak event – First United Lutheran Church of Sheboygan. To register, see informational flyers on the mission bulletin board.
- You can help support the CA wildfire victims at: <https://support.ucc.org/california-wildfires-2025>



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Wayne Stauss

Those struggling with health issues:

Diane Fidlin	Julie and Addison
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets	Emily (Melissa's cousin)
Brad Westphalen	Kurt (Randy's cousin)
Jessica Horneck	Darlene Horneck
Marie Rietbrock	Mary Beth Molitor
Tom Lefeber	Dawson Horneck
Dana	Jason

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer	Helen Henning
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2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

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

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

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Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 2/9: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00a Confirmation Class; 9:30am Worship;
Happy Birthday Zander Jeanty!

Monday 2/10:

Tuesday 2/11: 6:30pm Consistory meeting; *Happy Birthday Aaron Suttner!*

Wednesday 2/12:

Thursday 2/13: *Happy Birthday Dutton Hemauer!*

Friday 2/14: *Happy Anniversary Jerry and Carol Wehrmann!*

Saturday 2/15: 1pm Pastor Randy's Ordination – Reception to follow

Sunday 2/16: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30 Ladies mtg; 9:30am Worship 1:00pm RCF
Sheepshead Tourney; **SPIRIT NEWS DUE** *Happy Birthday Diane Fidlin and Ryan Holz!*

February Pantry Items:

Box of Sandwich bags, Ziplocs, Foil, Saran Wrap or Garbage bags