



Confirmation —Sunday—

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

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

or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Eastertide

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

Liturgist: Nancy Zimmermann

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

Praise the Lord! :: Praise him for his acts of power!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

"Holy Ground"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

In life, in death, and in life beyond death,

The Risen Christ is Lord.

In success and discouragement, in fear and in hope,

The Risen Christ is Lord.

Of the poor and broken, of the sinner and the sinned against,

The Risen Christ is Lord.

In Church and community, in our hearts and our homes,
The Risen Christ is Lord, and so we gather to worship in his name.

***OPENING PRAYER:**

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we rejoice in this new day you have made. We praise you for the abundant life with which you bless us, and for all the beauty that surrounds us as spring takes hold again. We praise you for your Son, Jesus, and the power of new life promised in his resurrection. We praise you for your Spirit at work in human history, to restore and redeem our hope with that power of new life. God of steadfast love, we worship you with the Spirit and the Son, and claim your gift of new life, even in the face of any doubt or danger within the world you love. All praise, honor and glory be yours, O God, now and evermore. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #203**

“Thine is the Glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of might and mercy, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us everywhere and always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your promises. We doubt the promise of resurrection for our own lives. Upheaval and anxiety eat away at our peace. Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness and your steadfast love for us. (time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free from sin and sorrow.

In Jesus Christ, God offers us the gift of peace.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ fill our hearts this day. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571**

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 5:27–32

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this

man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Psalm 150

¹ Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens.

² **Praise him for his acts of power;**

praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ **praise him with timbrel and dancing,**

praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,

praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.**

Praise the Lord.

John 20:19-31 - Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #80 “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord”

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION and WELCOME
QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

***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 CANDIDATE

Candidate: 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. 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 QUESTIONS 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"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(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.

COMMUNION RESPONSE #534 - Refrain only

"Fill my Cup, Lord"

Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up, Lord.

Come quench this thirsting of my soul;

Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;

Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

#403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for you are good,

Your steadfast love endures forever.

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"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for April supports One Great Hour of Sharing)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Doxology"**

**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, Along with our gifts we offer you our thanks for your steadfast love, our foundation when things around us seem uncertain. Bless these gifts and the ministry of our congregation; and bless the mission we undertake as part of The United Church of Christ. May what we offer spread the blessings we know to others, 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.***

BENEDICTION...POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Today is the last day to sign up for next Sunday's "Communion Class" for those who haven't been confirmed, yet are interested in learning about the Lord's Supper. Please sign up on the table in the fellowship hall.
- **It's UNDY 500 time again!** During the month of May, we are collecting NEW (in the package) undergarments for the Guest House of Milwaukee (shelter).
 - Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY (No "tighty whiteys" please)
 - Men's Undershirts
 - Women's Underwear***Please buy a variety of sizes in each item***
 - Men's S, M, and L Undershirts
 - Men's S, M, and L Underwear
 - Women's S, M, and L Underwear

Help Us with Church Tech! - Volunteers Needed – All Ages Welcome!

Bethlehem UCC is looking for volunteers—including youth—to help with our growing **technology ministry**. Whether you're tech-savvy or just willing to learn, we would love your help!

Areas Where We Need Support:

- **Sound Room** – Operate audio equipment during worship and events.
- **Live Streaming** – Run our laptop and camera to stream services online.
- **Promethean Board** – Form a committee to discuss a promethean board that functions as a whiteboard, connects to desktop devices and touch-sensitive displays. This can be used to share announcements, scriptures, and engaging visual content during services and other organization functions.

Youth volunteers can count this as **community service** or simply as a gift of your time and talents to your church.

No experience necessary—training will be provided!

Interested or have questions?

Please speak to Rev. Randy or any of the members of the Consistory

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Bethlehem UCC with your time and heart!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall

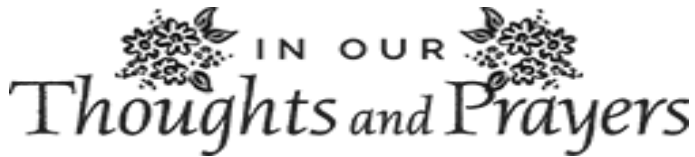
-Pancake Supper – April 27 – 3pm-6pm – Zion Lutheran – New Holstein

-Drive thru Pork Chop Dinner- Thurs, May 1 – 3:30pm-6pm – Saron UCC (reservations required).

-Fish Fry - Fri. May 9 – Community UCC, Elkhart Lake – 4p-7p- Dine in or carry out

-Brat Fry – Wed. May 14 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley

-May 3,4,9,10 – Dinner Theater @ Gloria Dei Lutheran in New Holstein – “Murder Me, Murder me Not” \$25/person see flyer



Those Grieving:

Robin Huegel (MIL of Emily Huegel-Jane's Daughter)

Nell Partin

Family of Luka Tipton

Those struggling with health issues:

Jill Sheets

Mary Beth Molitor

Will Mathes

Heidi Konen

Darlene Horneck

Emily (Melissa's cousin)

Brad Westphalen

Dawson Horneck

Jessica Horneck

Tom Lefeber

Marie Rietbrock

Donna Firman

Dana

Hubert

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer

Helen Henning

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

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 4/27: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30 WISE meeting 9:30am Confirmation Sunday with Communion; *Happy Birthday Ryan Rabe and Mia Watson!*

Monday 4/28:

Tuesday 4/29:

Wednesday 4/30

Thursday 5/1: : *Happy Anniversary Rick & Linda Rabe and Kerry & Sharon Rumpff!*

Friday 5/2: *Happy Birthday Barb Henning and Elizabeth Deignan!*

Saturday 5/3: *Happy Birthday Sara Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Garrett & Ginny Schultz and Kevin & Mandy Volland!*

Sunday 5/4: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00 Communion class; 9:30am Sunday worship with Communion;

April Pantry Items: Bottle Of Hand Soap, Dish Soap or Shampoo

Stay Informed! Sign up to receive Bethlehem's weekly email update, The Bethlehem Blurb. Send your email address to BethUCCKiel@outlook.com and you will be added!

Meet Our Confirmand!

Courtney Riesterer

Parents: Mark & Brenda Riesterer

School: 8th grade at Kiel Middle School

Mentors: Traci Rabe and Nancy Zimmermann

Courtney enjoys playing volleyball and running track. She likes to read and be around animals. Her favorite thing to do in her free time is to be outside around her pets.

Courtney also likes to go up North to fish and snowmobile. Courtney has an older sister, Carolyn, and a younger brother, Jake.

Verse: **Isaiah 41:10**

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.