

## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, May 11, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Eastertide**

**Worship Leader: LouAnn Norsetter**

**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

***Sing praises to the Lord! :: Give thanks to his holy name!***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #554

"Holy Ground"

**We are standing on holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around**

**Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in his presence on holy ground**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Transformative Creator, you envelope us with examples of community

**ALL: We are witness to Jesus' up close and personal attempts to learn about and be with the people**

One: You want us to know that what happens outside of our church building matters to God's people.

**ALL: Continue to work in and through us to build towards collective flourishing**

One: Call us into living—

**ALL: Call us into being curious, approachable, and loving towards all Your creation**

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

**Creator of the Collective, let us begin by sitting in silence so that we can feel the presence of You in one another (moment of silence)... open up all our senses to be more available to the possibility of the Creator's reflection in one another and let us be ready to build up a world, one in which we become agents of change. Open our hearts, O God, and help us to feel the brokenness of your world so we can begin again. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #431**

**"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

**MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

**Holy One, We ask ourselves: Who do we say that we are? How do we show up against an oligarchy that allows discrimination, war, genocide, violence, transphobia, and poverty run rampant amongst God's people. When we experience tension, give us the courage to feel into that tension and to invite a feeling of love and kindness and grace the way that Your Son showed us time and time again. Be with us in this and all the hard moments still to come. Amen. (time of silence)**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**Beloved, let us go forth today and all the days with the courageous belief that we can truly recognize the Holy One in the other and then act accordingly.**

**By grace, Creator will move us towards the transformation where acts of love, humility, curiosity, faith, abundance, and hope are on display for all to witness.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571**

**"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**Psalms 23 – p.604 of hymnal**

## John 10:22-30

<sup>22</sup> Then came the Festival of Dedication<sup>[a]</sup> at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all<sup>[b]</sup>; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SERMON

"Still Counting Sheep"

\*HYMN #437

"He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### CALL TO PRAYER

#403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

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

Pray for yourself:

- ☐ May you be free of suffering.
- ☐ May you be as happy and healthy as is physically possible.
- ☐ May you experience ease of being.

Pray for loved ones:

- ☐ May they be free of suffering.
- ☐ May they be as happy and healthy as is physically possible.
- ☐ May they experience ease of being.

Pray for someone with whom you struggle:

- ☐ May they be free of suffering.
- ☐ May they be as happy and healthy as is physically possible.
- ☐ May they experience ease of being.

Pray for the whole world – everyone and everything:

- ☐ May they be free of suffering.
- ☐ May they be as happy and healthy as is physically possible.
- ☐ May they experience ease of being.

**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**

**Leader: We've heard God's call to us – to be abundant with our gifts of grace, love, forgiveness and time. And so let us be abundant in our giving so that the work of the church can be carried out beyond this building.**

**OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for May supports The Guest House of Milwaukee)**

**\*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**

**Collective Creator we thank you for the gifts of the people – from our ancestors to our elders to those who have still yet to come, we share what we have so that all can flourish and follow you. 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 and COMMISSIONING

Blessed people, go forth this week knowing that we are in this world together and that collective flourishing is possible.

**It begins with listening and paying attention to all that is around us and then inviting others to come alongside –**

so do just that, slow down and marvel at God's creation.

**Alleluia! We go forth in peace!**

## POSTLUDE

*\*\* Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter were written with modifications by Rev. Ellie Hutchinson, who serves as the Minister for Congregational and Community Engagement for the United Church of Christ.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ☐ The Bethlehem Merry Christians have signed up for the "PIG ROUND UP PROGRAM". This will take place in the month of May. This program is through Tietz's Piggly Wiggly in Kiel. The cashier will ask you upon check out if you would like to round up your total to the next dollar amount. At the end of the month the Merry Christians will receive a check on the amount that was rounded up for the month of May.
- ☐ Join us at the **Merry Christians brat fry** on Sat. May 17th, at the Piggly Wiggly in Kiel. We will be serving hamburgers, brats and steak sandwiches from 10:00 - 3:00
- ☐ Building and Grounds Meeting - Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the church library. All are welcome.
- ☐ **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

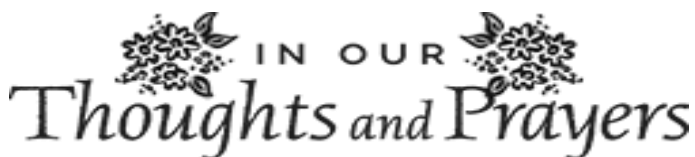
Thank you for supporting the ministry of Bethlehem UCC with your time and heart!

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check for flyers in fellowship hall**

- Brat Fry – Wed. May 14 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley
- Memorial Day, May 26, 11a-1p – Dinner @ American Legion Clubhouse in New Holstein. See flyer for details

### □ **OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH SOCIAL – AT JOHNSBURG!**

Saturday, June 7th, 2025. Outdoor Polka Mass @ 4PM. 5PM-9PM 2/5's Party Band. Brats, hamburgers, and refreshments available in the beer stand following mass. Raffle drawing held at 9:00PM. Putting Contest, Bean Bag Tournament, and Pot of Gold Raffle during event. Hope to see you there! St. John the Baptist Church [N9288 County Road W, Malone].



### **Those Grieving:**

### **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](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 - Rev. Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 5/11:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship; *Happy Birthday Pam Bowe!*

**Monday 5/12:** *Happy Birthday Jennifer Stroshine!*

**Tuesday 5/13:**

**Wednesday 5/14:** *Happy Birthday Sarah Arnold and Brenda Riesterer! Happy Anniversary Bryan & Ashley Radder!*

**Thursday 5/15:** :

**Friday 5/16:**

**Saturday 5/17:** 10a-3p Merry Christians Brat Fry @ Kiel Piggly Wiggly -

**Sunday 5/18:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship; 5pm \*\*SPIRIT NEWS DUE\*\*

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

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