



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Musician: Polly Jeanty

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

***= 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

The voice of the Lord is powerful :: the voice of the Lord is full of majesty

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

**O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

O Lord, open our lips,

And our mouths shall declare your praise.

O Lord, open our eyes,

So that we may behold your presence.

O Lord, open our ears,

So that we may hear your call to follow.

O Lord, open our hearts,

So that we may offer you worship in love and joy.

*OPENING PRAYER:

**God, our Creator and Redeemer,
your faithfulness endures forever.**

You offer us new life in Christ Jesus and call us to follow him.

You challenge us to bring life and hope to the world you love.

In you we find strength and courage to face every challenge.

**And so we offer our praise and gratitude to you, O God,
with Christ and the Spirit, one God, now and always. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN #225

“Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Faithful God,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost

yet it's hard to recognize we have lost our way.

We seek the next new thing instead of your gift of new life.

We follow the trends of our culture rather than Jesus' example.

Wash over us with your cleansing Spirit,

and renew our commitment to follow your purposes revealed in Christ

Jesus. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

Let us rejoice, for God has put a new song in our mouths!

We trust in God's enduring love and mercy, washing over us every day.

Know that forgiveness is ours through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to our God. Amen.

*RESPONSE #82 v1

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 40:1-11- p. 621 of Hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even.

John 1:29-42

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one about whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.’ ³¹ Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he

might be made known to Israel.” ³² John testified, “I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. ³³ Even I didn’t recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I have seen and testified that this one is God’s Son.”

³⁵ The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus walking along he said, “Look! The Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, “What are you looking for?”

They said, “Rabbi (which is translated *Teacher*), where are you staying?”

³⁹ He replied, “Come and see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated *Christ*^[a]). ⁴² He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated *Peter*).

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #322

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

This morning, we officially welcome Archer Ray Lau to God’s family. Archer was born on December 21, 2024, to parents, Austin and Mariah Lau. Archer’s sponsors are Zach & Katie Matznick and Wyatt Lisowe

INVITATION

WELCOME

Leader: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Leader: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.⁴

ADDRESS

Leader: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible ...and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.⁹

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please stand)

People: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he/she explores life. We enfold this child in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with these parents in telling the gospel in our midst so that this child may live with us for Christ, showing forth Christ’s love for all people.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

L: Do you believe in God?

P: We believe in God, Father Almighty.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, Giver of life.

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

*HYMN #516

“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

PRAYER CONCERNS

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.

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

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. January's Jingle Change supports Bethlehem's Mission Fund.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Tune: 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

Gracious God, we offer you our gifts with humble hearts. Each gift seems small on its own, so bless each one and those of your people throughout the Church. Through the work of your Holy Spirit, surprise us with all that our gifts can accomplish, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG #578

“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

POSTLUDE

Bethlehem Announcements:

- Bethlehem's ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, Jan. 25 after a short worship service. Please plan to attend! Also, any annual report items for the "packet" need to be submitted to Traci by Sunday, Jan. 4. (trabefamily5@gmail.com) Thank you!
- Chili Supper Tickets Available – packets of 10 tickets for the February 4, 2026 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out any packets you take. If you'd like less than 10 please see Kaye Radder. Payment is due by Feb 4.
- **Up Coming Events!!**
 - Sunday, Feb 8 – New member Sunday! - Fellowship and food to follow. See Pastor Randy if you're not a member but would like to be!
 - Wednesday, Feb. 8 – 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Communion
 - Sunday March 1 – Potluck and "Game Day" to follow worship

Community Announcements:

- Friday, Feb 20 – Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry- (11928 Marken Rd. – School Hill) Dine-in from 3:30-7pm. Carry-outs available 11a-1p and 3:30-7:00pm by calling 920-773-2380. Grilled cheese also available. (See flyer for more details.)



Those struggling with health issues:

Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Jackie Volland
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Eileen Koppenhaver
Margaret	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer	Helen Henning
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This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 1/18: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Baptism; 5pm Youth Leaders meeting @ BUCC **Spirit Articles Due**

Monday 1/19: *Happy Birthday Shelby Aschenbach and Hailey Wirtz!!*

Tuesday 1/20:

Wednesday 1/21: 6pm Confirmation class; *Happy Birthday Katrina Rumpff!*

Thursday 1/22: *Happy Birthday Nancy Zimmermann!*

Friday 1/23:

Saturday 1/24:

Sunday 1/25: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship followed by Annual Meeting; 6pm BUCC @ Sheboygan Warming Center

Jan/Feb Panty Item: Can of Soup

