

Bethlehem Star

A Message from our Pastor

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, every day.*

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If you have been at worship with Bethlehem this summer perhaps you have sung this Kyrie by the contemporary church music writer David Haas. It is swingy and upbeat; I can hardly keep from moving and responding physically to the tune. The words though are one of the most ancient prayers of the church taken right from scripture. *Kyrie eleison*, a form of the Greek for *Lord, have mercy*. As when the Canaanite woman, a gentile rushed out from a crowd and started shouting, imploring really, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon" in Matthew 15:22. *Lord, have mercy*, sounds like a cry of desperation. Or as in Matthew 20 when a couple of blind men sitting by the road learn that the one who is passing them by is Jesus and they both shout out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" Jesus had touched the eyes of those blind men and heal them, and the scripture says they followed him.

Kyrie eleison is a prayer, a cry, a hope, for our world, and our lives. I think that is why I like this version of the prayer that we sing this summer. The words are serious and thoughtful but the tune is a lark. At times they don't feel as though they go together...but then I find that I sing it in my head and heart all week long because the music just sticks to me. *Kyrie eleison*. On our world and on our way. As we move through our lives facing change and sorrows and uncertainty it is a good thing to have on the lips to remind us whose we are. *Lord, have mercy*.

Peace,
Pastor Elizabeth



Mark Your Calendars for Tanzania Development Sale

We will have another chance to donate items this year to a good cause! The Tanzania Development Support Group is having another sale at our church on September 13,14,&15. If you would like to donate items for this sale, you can contact the co-founder, President, Dr. Kurt Thurmaier at (815) 501-2224. They are usually willing to make arrangements with donors to pick things up.

Beginning in September, please feel free to drop off your items for the sale at the church. Donations can be stored in the Frog Room or ask the church office for details.

Please also mark your calendars to attend this event and make some unique purchases yourself!

Back to School Bash

Free school supplies are available at the Back to School Bash!

Saturday, August 11

11:00—2:00 p.m.

Sports and Rec Center
1765 S. 4th Street, DeKalb

School Supplies

Food

Live Music

Games

Transportation

Transportation: A shuttle bus will run continuously from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. from these 2 locations: Littlejohn Elementary and Huntley Middle School.

Consider the New Tax Law in Your Charitable Giving

With the standard deduction doubling under the new tax law, many of those 70.5 or older will see fewer financial benefits because the standard deduction could be more than their itemized deduction, including things like charitable gifting.

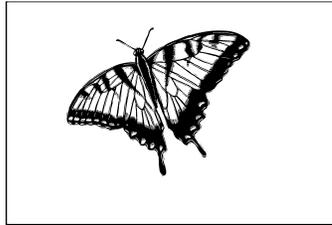
If you are 70.5 or older and have an IRA, you can donate money from your IRA account directly to a charitable organization or organizations without those gifts counting as income.

Talk with your tax person, accountant, or where your IRA is held to find out more. You are also welcome to contact me (815) 895-3022, and I will tell you how Annette and I are using this provision to make charitable gifts to Bethlehem and other groups.

Jerry

Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

 * All women are invited *
 * to the *
 * **FALL SALAD SUPPER** *
 * *
 * **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4** *
 * **AT 6:00 P.M.** *
 * *
 * Please bring your favorite *
 * salad to share. Dessert, rolls *
 * and coffee will be provided. *
 * More information coming in *
 * the near future. *
 * *

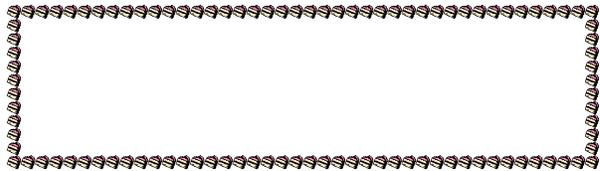


DeKalb District Schools for
 grades K-12 will begin
 August 15 this year.

ALTAR GUILD COULD
 USE SOME HELP.
 PLEASE SEE GORDON
 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

A big thank you to
 Nadine, our Thursday
 pantry volunteer, for
 helping us to pick the
 vegies from our com-
 munity gardens.

Thank you to all for the lawn and grounds help
 this year. A special thanks to Andy, Jim, Julie,
 Joan, Ted, and Dan.



Our Food Pantry totals for the month
 of June 2018:
 Households served: 398
 Clients served: 1,449

If you would like to send a note
 or just say "hello" to Jessica con-
 tact the church office for her ad-
 dress.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED: We are looking for a new "counter" for Sunday
 mornings. The rotation is about every 4 weeks. Contact Barb if you can
 help.**



*LCW Circles . . . Please hand
 in your circle information to the
 church office as soon as possi-
 ble so we can start the 2018-19
 LCW booklet.*

Want to help with watering our gardens
 in August? Please see Julie.

Food Pantry Clients Tell Us Why They Need Us

Recently the Northern Illinois Food Bank brought us some paper plates that they wanted our Pantry clients to write on with answers to questions like: "I am at the Food Pantry today because . . ." These plates will then be collected by the Food Bank and will be sent to Congress during September's Hunger Action Month . . .

Some of the answers to "I am at the Food Pantry today because . . ." are as follows:

I need a little extra food to get by. It's hard to get by on Social Security only.

No money to buy food.

We ran out of food this month and have no money to buy food.

Not working and only get my Social Security.

This was a last minute decision but I'm glad people were here to help me.

I am unemployed and need help with food; no food stamps either.

We are out of meat and have no money. We are grateful to come here for food and fellowship.

I'm a single mom and only have a part time job.

It's a necessity for me. I'm so thankful for your help. God bless!

We are both on Social Security and have trouble paying bills and keeping up.

It is a beautiful experience coming here.

I need food. I have a lot of debt and am not working.

I thank God for the Food Pantry.

I need financial help to survive! I'm retired, can't work,

Deciding to come to the pantry was hard. I'm really grateful to have this when I need it. You people are a blessing!

I am on disability and don't have enough to eat.

I can't work because I am a single mom with a homebound daughter with schizophrenia and another with mood disorder and several other psychiatric conditions.

We're retired and help the people living with us.

This pantry is what kept food in the cupboard during unemployment.

There are more Bible verses telling us to help the poor, than verses on any other subject. "The world has enough to meet everyone's need, but not enough to meet everyone's greed." Gandhi

I am thankful for the pantry because seeing your child hungry is the worst thing a parent can feel.

This winter we were cold and everything is expensive so we survived by using the pantry.

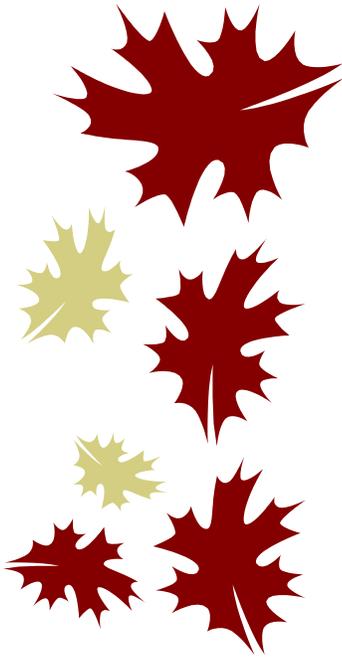
Times are hard and coming here makes life a bit easier

Minimum wages are too low and cost of living is too high!

My family and I are struggling to make ends meet. The food pantry really helps us.



Bethlehem Women's Fall Salad Supper



Bethlehem Women's Fall Salad Supper

*Tuesday, September 4
6:00 p.m.*

Program to follow the salad supper:

There is no charge for this event. Just bring a salad to share.
Table service, beverage and dessert are provided.
Program and information to be announced soon.

To help us plan, please let us know that you are coming by
Sunday, September 2

Welcoming International Students



The annual COMMUNITY welcome picnic for international students at NIU and their families is set for Friday, August 24, at 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 511 Russell Road in DeKalb.

Volleyball and other games are intended from 4:00 p.m. on with food brought at 6:00 p.m. and served shortly thereafter. A committee will supply chicken, rice, and a drink, while community members are asked to bring LARGE complimentary dishes to pass and a welcoming spirit.

Is there ever a time when this picnic could be more meaningful?? We NEED many community members to participate. For questions, phone Immanuel at (815) 756-6669.

