



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 swiny 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 healed 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



PASTOR'S CELL NUMBER: Reminder: The hospitals are not required to notify the pastor when you are in the hospital. You may want to write down Pr. Elizabeth's cell number in case you need it. Please also note Pastor will be on vacation in early August and Pastor Hunt will be on call for her.

BELOVED COMMUNITY POTLUCK DINNER



Sunday, August 18, 5—7:30 p.m.

at

St. Paul's Episcopal Church—DeKalb



TRIP TO SIERRA LEONE

As Lynnea prepares for her upcoming August trip to Sierra Leone, she is in need of suitcases! Lynnea needs 3 good-sized suitcases to pack supplies and tools for their work at Jonathan Child-care Center in Bo, Sierra Leone. If you have a suitcase or two to donate, please catch Lynnea after worship or call her at 515-450-1830. She's not able to guarantee the suitcases will make it back to the States, so if you are willing to part with them, that would be wonderful! Thank you!

DeKalb Municipal Band Concerts

August Concerts—Tuesdays 8:00 p.m., Hopkins Park

August 4	Special Elwood House Concert 2:30 p.m.
August 6	The Final Frontier—A Stargazing Concert
August 13	A Musical Trip Around the World!
August 20	Closing Night!

Bethlehem's Finances for June 2019

Income from members & friends/other	11,748.50
Less: Expenses	<u>16,536.40</u>
Shortfall	(-4,787.90)

Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

 * THANK YOU . . . *
 * * * * *
 * . . . To all those who help *
 * collate, stuff, and stamp the *
 * STAR every month. *
 * * * * *
 * . . . To all those who help *
 * each Sunday in worship as *
 * worship assistants, com- *
 * munion servers, ushers, *
 * greeters, lectors, and aco- *
 * lytes during the year. *
 * * * * *



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

ALTAR GUILD COULD
 USE SOME HELP.
 PLEASE SEE GORDON
 R. FOR MORE INFOR-
 MATION!

Dear Bethlehem,
 "Thanks to all for the many
 calls, cards and visits from my
 Bethlehem family during my
 recent hospitalizations. God
 was truly present."
 Nancy C.

Thank you to all for the lawn and grounds help
 this year. A special thanks to Jim M., Ted W.,
 and Dan G.

FYI: Pastor Elizabeth will be on vacation
 soon. Pastor Janet will be on call for emer-
 gencies.

Our Food Pantry totals for the month
 of June 2019:
 Households served: 396
 Clients served: 1375

If you would like to send a note or just say
 "hello" to Jessica B:
 Jessica B.
 Y15555
 P.O. Box 1000
 Lincoln, IL 62656

Dear Pastor Elizabeth & Bethlehem,
 "Thank you so much for allowing us to host our Pride Party at your church! The event
 was very well attended and everyone was so grateful of your support for the LGBTQIA+
 community!"
 Thanks again, Kendal—Safe Passage Staff



*LCW Circles . . . Please hand
 in your circle information to the
 church office as soon as possi-
 ble so we can start the 2019-20
 LCW booklet.*

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

Food Pantry Clients Tell Us Why They Need Us

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.

CROP WALK

Crop Walk needs you! If you would like to help by being Bethlehem's coordinator and to help sign people up for the Walk (on October 6), please see Pastor Elizabeth or the church office. Bethlehem's Feed My Sheep Food Pantry receives almost \$1,000 per year by participating in Crop Walk.