



Bethlehem Star

A Message from our Pastor

Highlights

Epiphany & Dinner	2
Updates & Concerns	3
Family Serv/Safe Pass	4
Council Members	5
Ushers/Greeters	6
Calendar	

Epiphany: it's a day, it's a season, and it's a way to walk through the world! As a day, Epiphany is the day we celebrate the leading of the star that brings the men from the east to witness this infant that would change the world.

*Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,**

As a season we see it reflected in the green of the altar cloth and the stories that show forth God's glory: Jesus baptism, his teaching in the synagogue, the extraordinary signs he makes in the ordinary things in life—a wedding and wine, the choosing of the twelve and the Jesus teachings on God's radical love.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding-guest,
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine.*

And finally we experience Jesus transformation on a hilltop shining forth God's Glory in the foretaste of his resurrection.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Mirrored in Thy holy Word;
May we imitate Thee now
God in man made manifest.*

Blessings,
Pastor Elizabeth

*ELW 310 – Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
It is also called Theophany ("manifestation of God"),



Ethnic Dinner Date and Time

Come and celebrate the end of the Christmas Season on **January 6, 2019, 10:30 A.M.** We will gather in the Fellowship Hall right after service. Bring a dish to pass that represents your ethnic heritage or a dish that was your favorite growing up. Kitchen staff will be on hand to accept your dish before service.

After dinner we will be entertained by members telling us stories from their past, singing traditional Christmas songs, reading stories or poems, or ???

Contact me at 815-748-5915 or see me at church to sign up for entertainment or to help in the kitchen.
See you there! Nancy



Come One Come All!



Our Epiphany party will be held on January 6, 2019 right after service. Bring a dish to pass. We will tell stories, sing songs and generally have a wonderful time.
See you there!

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR . . .

are the following people who made donations to the Star Seminarian Fund 2018. This fund was established to support seminary students who are studying for pastoral ministry.

Bob & Donna Rae

Carl & Margie

Kathleen

Jerry & Annette

Don & Sherry

Irene K

Gordon & Virginia

Doris R

Jay & Betty

Ed & Edna

Happy New Year ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*



Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks



Dear Bethlehem,
"I want to thank Sarah Circle at Bethlehem for the Christmas cookies and a thank you to Judy Sisler for delivering the cookies. Also, thank you for the Christmas cards."

God Bless, Lorna K

They Made a Difference!! Thanks to Marilyn, Sandy & Ted and others who transformed Bethlehem's sanctuary and halls into a beautiful place for the holiday season.



**ANNUAL MEETING,
 PART II
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 20**

**Committee Leaders in 2018:
 Your annual reports are now due!**

Dear MEF and Bethlehem,
 "Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the work being done in Sierra Leone. I'm so grateful for our generous community and for the commitment to local and global outreach. Your gift will go far toward our goal of improving and expanding education for the children at Jonathan's House in Sierra Leone! Thank you again!"
 Lynnea (& the EBi board)

	November	Year-to-Date
Income	\$ 9,764	142,939
Expenses	14,361	158,669
Net	(\$4,597)	(\$15,730)

A Lift Chair is available if you need one. Please see Sonja H. for more information.

Dear Bethlehem Family,
 "Thank you for your prayers, cards, and well wishes after my surgery. I am blessed to have such caring friends. Thank you to Pastor Elizabeth for her visit. Wishing each of you a joyous New Year!"
 God's Blessings, Sherry

Dear Friends at Bethlehem,
 "Merry Christmas from Botswana! It's hard to believe it's almost Christmas—the high here is 102 degrees today! We are so glad to be a part of the Bible Translation work here in Botswana. Thank you for your prayers and financial support of our ministry—we couldn't do it without you!"
 God's Peace, The Grulke Family

The Year at Family Service Agency

Thanks to your support we are serving almost DOUBLE the seniors we reached last year—including providing nutritious food and exciting outings.

Our Youth Mentoring (formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters) reported 100% of kids were sure they would finish high school and 100% were mostly sure they would go to college. We are really making changes in these kids' lives that inspire and encourage them to be better and think bigger!

Unfortunately, the Children's Advocacy Center is as busy as ever. All you have to do is pick up a newspaper to see that every other day someone is being arrested or tried in court for abuse of a child. Many people are unaware that we lead the only multi-disciplinary team that interviews child victims and maintains ongoing case management, counseling etc. for the duration of the trial, which may take as long as three or more years (on average \$7,000 value all free to every victim).

Over in the Center for Counseling we've been busier than we could have anticipated. It's hard for our therapists to catch a breath with all of the low-income clients we've been seeing since we became Medicaid-approved.

With this unprecedented growth, increased demand for services and interest in our low to no cost programs, we do need volunteers and your continued support!

The Year at Safe Passage

For many, coming to Safe Passage can be the start of a new beginning. Safe Passage can be the place where they can learn or re-learn what it means to feel safe, whole, and respected. Safe Passage can be the place where they allow themselves to dream again. Safe Passage can be the place where they finally start to feel like survivors.

For over 900 adults and children in 2018, Safe Passage was the beginning of a new life, a life filled with healing, hope, and possibility. Thanks to your support and the support of our generous community, we have been able to provide shelter, counseling, and crisis support for so many brave survivors of violence. As we look forward to the new year, our services, unfortunately, are more needed than ever.

Thank you for your continued support to the life-saving work of Safe Passage and for standing together with all of us in our fight to end violence.

