

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Our Pastor

November marks the end of our church year, our liturgical year. December marks the beginning of a new church year with the anticipation of a new babe being born into the world. But first November, beginning with All Saints Day, the readings remind us of our mortality and predict war, disaster, and the end times. It's enough to make us yearn for a savior or king—and we get both as the time after Pentecost draws to a close on Christ the King Sunday.

On the surface, not much good cheer. But buried beneath the darkness and death of November is the promise of resurrected life; an end to sadness and tears; the opportunity to give thanks for, share, and partake of the rich harvest of the earth; and a chance to renew our unwavering, confident trust in God. Don't judge the month too harshly—go deeper, and follow the flow.

We begin with the opportunity to remember the past, honoring the saints who contributed to the creation of the kingdom. Both our churches and our families were built by dearly departed loved ones. It is because of them that we are able to joyfully give thanks for this life and cling to a long-standing faith, especially in the darkest of times.

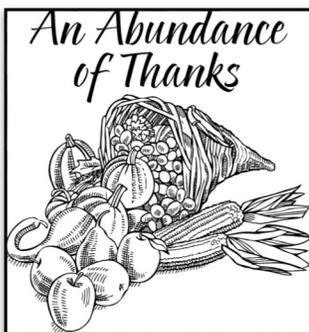
In worship, All Saints in particular and November in general are ideal times to acknowledge that although death is a part of life, death does not have the final word. In a society that keeps people alive at all costs, sanitizes death, and even demands that the grieving “move on,” this is our time to collectively pause, grieve, and remember.

Thanksgiving is a holiday that unites us because it isn't faith-specific; it belongs to everyone. Bethlehem will continue our practice of having a time of prayer and praise followed by refreshments on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day at 1:30 in the afternoon. Bring a friend, take a pause before the festivities for a gentle service of song and prayer.

On the heels of this secular United States holiday filled with Christian tradition, we bid farewell to the church year and as spectators are suddenly swept into hearing the encounter between Pilate and Jesus. It is in this reading (John 18:33-37) that we hear Jesus declare that his kingdom is not from this world; “truth” stands before us and before Pilate in the truly human Jesus Christ. Indeed, on this Sunday we are reminded that Christ is a king who gathers all the saints and whose reign is one of justice and mercy. Much of what is written above was taken from our worship helps at Sunday's and Season's. I give thanks for them for helping me communicate the importance of November. I give thanks for you each day as you walk this path with me.

Peace, Pastor Elizabeth

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From Lutheran World Relief President

“Our colleagues in Indonesia tell us that aid is finally making its way to survivors, but many roads are still impassable, and reaching remote areas is still challenging. Families are traumatized, they’ve lost everything, and will now have to start over from scratch.

The news from Indonesia weighs heavy on my heart. And it’s not just the Indonesian people who are suffering. It sometimes seems that our world is inundated with one crisis after another, and the suffering of our brothers and sisters can seem overwhelming.

Last month, as Hurricane Florence approached the east coast of the United States, a super typhoon — the strongest storm recorded anywhere in 2018 — made landfall in the Philippines. In Puerto Rico and Dominica, families are still working today to recover from Hurricane Maria, more than a year later.

An economic crisis of historic proportions is driving hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan people to seek refuge in nearby Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, as they can no longer afford the basic necessities of life in their home country. Unrest continues to destabilize the Middle East, with countless families fleeing violence at home to rebuild their lives in a new place.

That’s why I’m writing you today, in hope that you will consider *making an extra gift* — above and beyond your usual generous support — so that together we can reach someone who is suffering right now.

Thanks to supporters like you, Lutheran World Relief has been helping the most vulnerable in the wake of disaster and conflict for nearly 75 years. When disaster strikes, your support provides immediate aid and helps families impacted by these disasters recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge, and rebuild their lives so they are better and stronger than before.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and for considering an additional gift at this time of extraordinary need in our world.”

In Christ, Daniel Speckhard,
President and CEO, Lutheran World Relief



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief, 700 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230
lwr.org

SAVE THE DATE: PART I OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, December 16, 2018 immediately after the worship service

Where: In the sanctuary

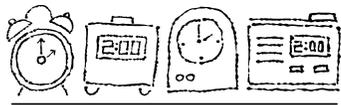
We will take action on a report from the Nominating Committee, the financial spending plan for 2019, and a recommendation from the Reconciling in Christ Task Force. Time is also scheduled for comments and questions from members.

I personally wish to thank each of you for your attendance at previous meetings this year and look forward to seeing you at Part I of our annual meeting.

Jerry

Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

“Thank you for your gift to LBT and the work of Bible translation for those who do not yet have God’s Word in the language of their heart.”
Lutheran Bible Translators



**November 4
2 A.M.**

November Confirmation Schedule:
November 14: Service: Cleaning @
Grace Place
November 18: 10 Commandments, Pt I

Deepest sympathy to the family of Carol S on her recent death. Funeral services were held at the church on October 25.

*Dear Bethlehem Family,
“It’s so heartwarming to be involved in a community of Christ-like ‘wanabees’ thanking and praising God and sharing with one another visible and bountiful acts of love and care.
We speak for our son, Soren and daughter-in-law Mary, giving thanks for the cards sent and the prayers offered during their ongoing recovery from their motorcycle mishap. Both have made progressive strides with recovery. They’re in good hands.”
Thanks! Gordon & Virginia*



Consider donating your winter gloves, mittens, and warm coats to our Food Pantry. We could also use your clean plastic shopping bags! A good way to recycle them!

**ANNUAL MEETING—PART I
COMING UP IN DECEMBER 16**
Watch your bulletins & newsletters for reminders.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all!
Offices &
Food Pantry closed
Thursday, November 22**

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$10,459	\$120,877
Expenses	15,349	135,382
Net	(\$4,890)	(\$14,505)

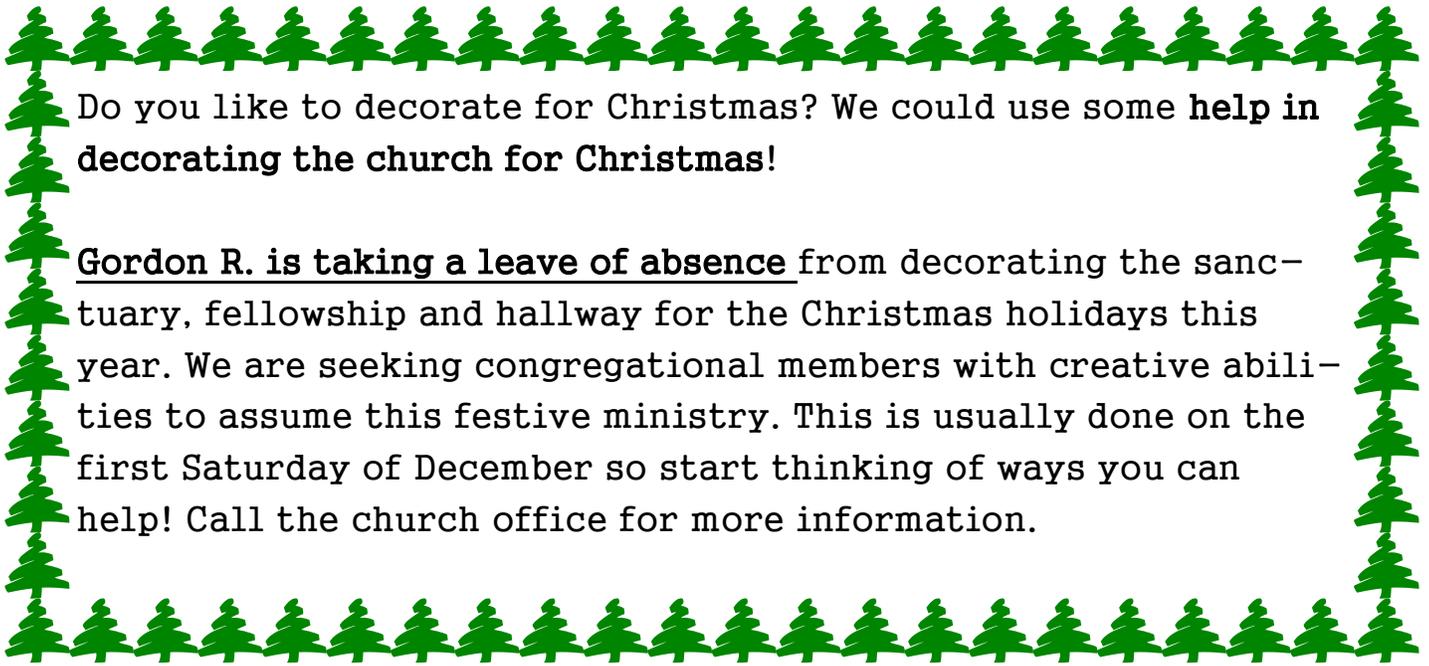
Home communion is always available to those who cannot attend church regularly. Please contact the Margie for more information.

Do you know members who cannot attend church but would like a weekly bulletin? Let the office know and we will mail one to them each week.

Judy and Elmie are available to start a **Prayer Chain** for you or your loved ones when the need arises.

60 QUILTS WERE DELIVERED TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IN OCTOBER! THANK YOU TO OUR CUT-UPS!

Hanging of the Greens



Do you like to decorate for Christmas? We could use some help in decorating the church for Christmas!

Gordon R. is taking a leave of absence from decorating the sanctuary, fellowship and hallway for the Christmas holidays this year. We are seeking congregational members with creative abilities to assume this festive ministry. This is usually done on the first Saturday of December so start thinking of ways you can help! Call the church office for more information.



JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS . . .

PRAYER, PRAISE & PIE

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE (followed by a Pie Social)

COFFEE & PIE PROVIDED!!

NOVEMBER 21 1:30 P.M.

Now you have time to give thanks to God with us before the family arrives. Join us at 1:30 p.m. for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship followed by pumpkin pie in the Fellowship Hall afterward.



Hospice Programs for the Holiday Season

MEMORIAL TREE

The public is encouraged to bring in a favored ornament that will be placed on our memorial tree to honor deceased loved ones during the holiday season. You may bring in ornaments beginning Wednesday, November 21.

B.U.N.S.—BAKING UP NICE SURPRISES

Baking up nice surprises will take place on December 3,4,5. Volunteers will assemble and deliver bags of baked goods to patients and newly bereaved family members. This is one small way the hospice community can let others know that they are thinking about them. If you are interested in baking, assembling or delivering, please call (815) 756-3000 for more information.

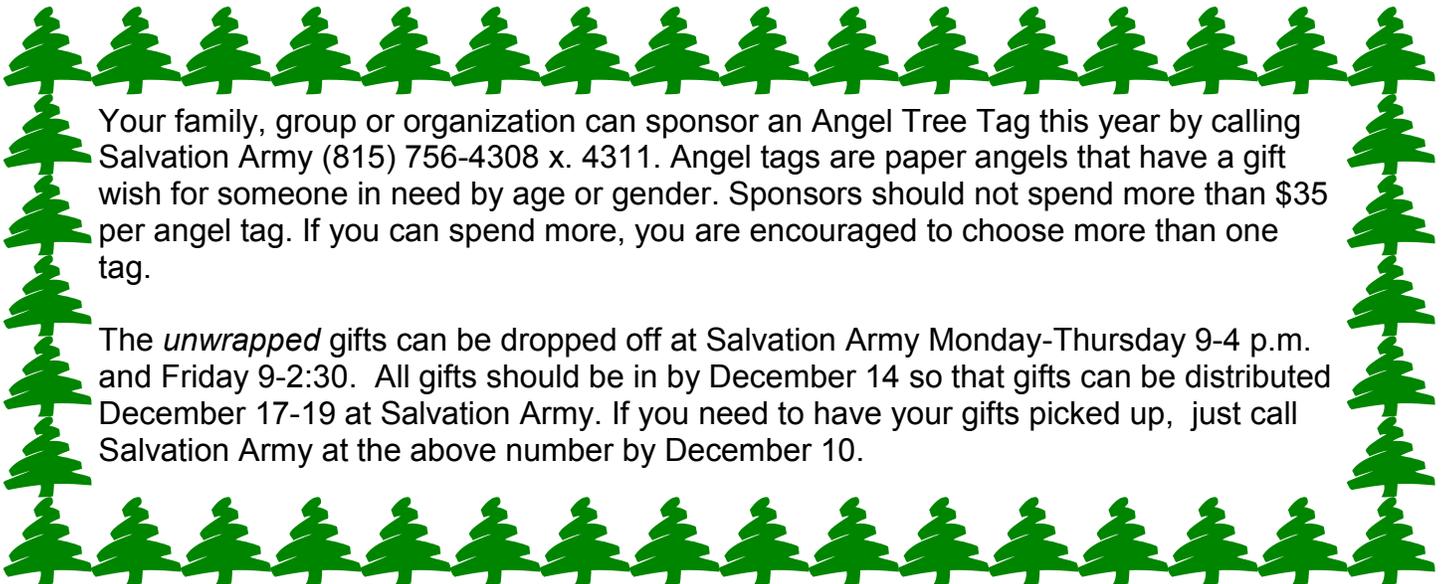
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING

This candle lighting ceremony unites families and friends around the globe to honor memories of children who have left too soon. This event will take place in Hopkins Park on Sunday, December 9, at 6:15 p.m.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

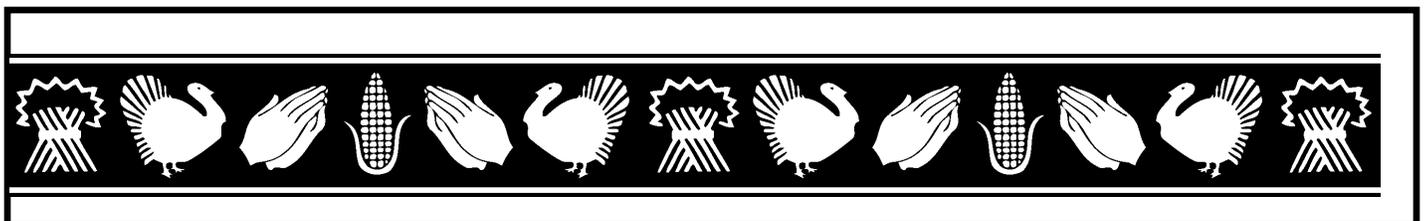
This bereavement support event will take place on Thursday, November 15, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Encouragement and supportive information will be delivered to help others navigate through the holiday season. (815) 756-3000 for more information.

Christmas Angel Tree Program at Salvation Army



Your family, group or organization can sponsor an Angel Tree Tag this year by calling Salvation Army (815) 756-4308 x. 4311. Angel tags are paper angels that have a gift wish for someone in need by age or gender. Sponsors should not spend more than \$35 per angel tag. If you can spend more, you are encouraged to choose more than one tag.

The *unwrapped* gifts can be dropped off at Salvation Army Monday-Thursday 9-4 p.m. and Friday 9-2:30. All gifts should be in by December 14 so that gifts can be distributed December 17-19 at Salvation Army. If you need to have your gifts picked up, just call Salvation Army at the above number by December 10.



A Snapshot of Our Synod's Ministry

Congregational Life Committee

+The CLC provides a valuable resource opportunity in the annual Congregational Resourcing Event held each March at Kishwaukee College. This event is designed to provide congregations a variety of resources and ideas for ministry. A keynote speaker and dozens of workshops offer a wide array of topics to resource our congregations in their ministry. +The CLC also provides ministry grants to help congregations expand their ministry and mission. +CLC subcommittees also offer support in specific ministries such as Worship, Youth Ministry, Stewardship, and Safe Church.

Global Mission

+Our Northern Illinois Synod Global Mission Committee works with our two Companions, the North Central Diocese in Tanzania (ELCT) and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in Tamil Nadu, India. +Currently, our NI Synod has 22 companion congregations in the Arcot Lutheran Church. +The GM committee also works with ELCA-GM programs and sends funds to ELCA missionaries in Tanzania and India.

Outreach Committee

+The Outreach Committee of our NI Synod partners with both established and new congregations in our synod, supporting them in their mission of making Christ known. +New ministries in our synod include Iglesia San Jose Obrero in Moline, Dwell, a ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Yorkville, and Intersection, a small group ministry in Genoa. +Congregations receiving partnership support funds to assist vitality and renewal are St. Paul Lutheran in Sterling and Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Homer Glen. +The Outreach Committee is also providing support to the Northwest Conference Faith and Vitality Project. +Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Galena and Joyful Spirit Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook receive support for their vitality efforts through the NIS Mission Fund and Outreach Committee budget.

Social Ministry

+The mission of the Social Ministry Committee of our NI Synod is to provide inspiration, education, and support to our congregations in the Northern Illinois Synod and ELCA organizations in their ministry of caring for those in need, serving their neighbors, and seeking justice for all people. +To assist congregations, coalitions, and church-based organizations in their ministry, the Social Ministry Committee offers workshops and grants as resources for ministry. +Social Ministry subcommittees also provide support and resources. These subcommittees are: World Hunger, Climate Change, and Multicultural/Anti-Racism. The Social Ministry Committee also relates to Lutheran Advocacy.

Ministry Support

+Our NI Synod Ministry Support Committee has the mission of enabling Christians of the synod to realize their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers. +A major portion of the committee's budget goes to the work of Candidacy. Currently, there are 15 candidates working toward rostered ministry. +The Ministry Support Committee is also responsible for resources for ministry such as the Professional Leaders Conference, retreats, First Call Theological Education, salary guidelines, and Mutual Ministry information.

Thanksgiving Boxes for Food Pantry



**We are part of the way there!
Your help can make a difference!**

**Please help us with our
Annual Holiday Meal Boxes!**



Thanksgiving
D I N N E R S

**You can help some needy families have a nice
dinner this Thanksgiving!**



Thanksgiving
D I N N E R S

The Northern Illinois Food Bank is offering holiday meal boxes that serve 8 which include a 12-14 pound turkey, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, two veggies, cranberry sauce, dessert and more for just \$16. We had to order early, so write your check for the Food Pantry soon.

We have ordered 100 boxes for our Food Pantry clients this year so your generous donations would be greatly appreciated. *Make your checks payable to Bethlehem and note that it is for the Thanksgiving boxes.* Thank you for your continued support!

Name _____

of boxes at \$16 each _____



Send a Christmas Card to a Homebound Member!



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM 2018

Remember a loved one and help to make the Sanctuary beautiful for our Christmas Eve Service! To order your plant, please complete this form and give to an usher; place in the offering plate, or leave in the church office no later than **Thursday, December 13**. Please make your check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and include with your plant order.

_____ plant(s) @ \$13.00 each



Name of Donor _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

I will take plant(s) home after Christmas Eve services

I will share my plant(s) with a shut-in.

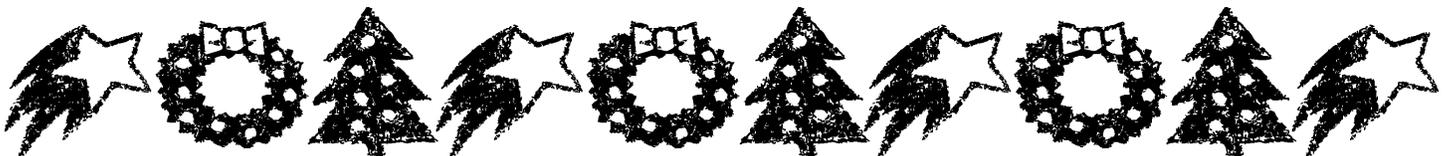
Ways to Help with Christmas at DeKalb Co. Rehab

You can support them this year by purchasing a gift for a special resident or with a monetary donation that will be used to purchase beauty shop gift certificates from our in-house salon or Peddlers Shop gift certificates. The money is put right into the client's own personal account, in our business office, marked for getting their hair done or gift shop sales.

If you would like to have the name or names of a special resident, please let the office know and they will send you a list of names and needs. If you choose a gift of clothing, we will send needs and sizes. If you would like to donate something other than the certificates or clothing, residents can use gripper socks, large print books, blankets, shawls, life-like baby dolls, small stuffed animals, nice smelling lotions, mp3 players with music uploaded, pens, and wheelchair or walker caddies (bags).

If you have any questions or are interested in helping to make the Christmas Season special for our residents, please call Jennifer H-Giannini, Community Life Director, (815) 217-0344 or jhgiannini@dekalbcounty.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration!



Star Seminarian Reminder

It's almost the Season . . . !

It's time to start thinking about supporting the **Star Seminarian** project at BELC. This fund was established to support seminary students who are studying for pastoral ministry. Your donations will be greatly appreciated and as an added bonus your name will appear in the December *Star* with special Christmas Greetings to the congregation.

