

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Our Pastor

"I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Ps. 9:1

October

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I read a couple of articles this week about gratitude. One was from Harvard Medical School, another in Psychology Today. According to researchers those who are the most grateful in daily living exhibit lower anxiety, less depression, and better sleep, to name a few of the "side effects." Indeed, making a concerted effort to acknowledge people, circumstances, and things that you are grateful for can measurably improve those areas of our lives. Why not be grateful?

Miss Toni has been the sign-in person for our Thursday Pantry for many years. Hers is the first face many meet at Feed My Sheep. She does a wonderful job. A number of months ago she gave me a *Blessings Jar* as a gift. This month we're going to put it to use. The jar will be on the table in the back of the church along with slips of paper. Please take the time to name things you are grateful for in your life, however small or large, and we will include those things we are grateful for in our prayers each week.

Can we practice gratitude together? Could we develop into a more grateful congregation? How might that influence our mission in the world?

Let's try it!

Grateful for all of you,
Pastor Elizabeth



Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

2019 Mission Endowment Fund Distribution

“As each has received a gift, employ it for another . . .

In order that in everything God may be glorified.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee of Bethlehem is pleased to continue the outreach of our congregation, extending God’s work within our church, the community and the world.

During the worship service on Sunday, September 15, we presented gifts to many worthy recipients representing a wide variety of ministries. Check out the list below:

4-C Community Coordinated Childcare

Arcot Lutheran Church—India

Bethlehem Feed My Sheep Food Pantry

Synod Mission Support

Everyday Better Initiative—Jonathan’s House

Grace Place @ NIU

Lutheran Bible Translators

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Safe Passage

Voluntary Action Center

Ending Hunger . . . One step at a time . . .



Crop Walk is Sunday, October 6!

Registration will be at 2:00 and step-off at 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in DeKalb.

You can choose to do a 4 mile or 1 golden mile walk against hunger. You can also just donate at www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil.

25% of the funds raised will be returned to DeKalb County agencies **including our Bethlehem Feed My Sheep Food Pantry**, Meals on Wheels, Hope Haven and Safe Passage.

75% of the funds will be used by Church World Service (CWS) for disaster relief, refugee crisis, and self-help development projects throughout the world.

Last year our pantry received over \$900 from Crop Walk/Church World Service.
Donate at www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil or see Emily, our coordinator, at church.



Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

To my Bethlehem family,

"I was blessed to receive a financial gift from the Star Seminarian Fund this year. While I'm obviously not going into seminary, I am ever so grateful to our church council for deciding to split the fund and generously give me a portion of the fund. Thank you to all of those who gave money for the fund. I may find a way to have a part time job eventually, but starting out vet school is a full time job in and of itself so the added financial support will be very helpful and is truly a blessing.

As an update I just wanted to let everyone know that the move to Florida was a success and while it is already challenging, I love vet school! I also love living in Florida! Dad spent a lot of time doing construction/repair projects around the house and now it's all in order and is feeling like home. It has been quite the ride to get here, from the application process all the way through the move down here, and I know it wouldn't have gone as smoothly if it wasn't for all your prayers. I appreciate all of the prayers and support throughout this journey. I miss you all very much and look forward to visiting during my breaks. I am all settled in now & am ready for visitors if anyone is in the area!

Thank you all again for the spiritual, emotional & financial support. It means the world to me."

With love,
Jennifer H.

Do you have a weed wacker? We need some weed removal help! Call the church office.

Want to volunteer to help the Cut-Ups? You can just show up on Monday mornings around 8:30 to participate!



Have a Happy & Safe Halloween!

Month of August Income	11,381.50
Month of August Expenses	<u>13,572.84</u>
Net Month of August	(-2,191.34)

Lutheran World Relief

Families in the Bahamas have lost everything. 70,000 people need immediate lifesaving help as the death toll continues to rise. The stories and images are heartbreaking. Entire towns leveled, homes destroyed, lives shattered. The people hardest hit are the ones who can least afford it. They are now homeless, desperate and in shock.

Contact Lutheran World Relief (lwr.org) if you can help.

Lucky to Be Alive

Maria is safe now. And, thankfully, so are her three children. They're lucky to be alive, as their heartbreaking story reveals.

In Guatemala, gang members murdered Maria's husband. She had to flee her homeland to keep her family safe. With her young children clinging to her, Maria jumped on a train and climbed to the top of a boxcar. They rode in brutal heat and bone-chilling cold for three days and nights. Maria never slept—scared that her children would fall off the roof of a fast moving train. What little food she had, she gave to them.

When they got off the train, Maria and her children walked for days before US Border Patrol picked them up. They were held in an ICE facility with little food and no clean clothes. They slept on a cold floor—treated more like animals than people.

Then one day, the family was loaded onto a bus. They had no idea where they were going and were terrified. But their horror turned to relief when they arrived at a Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service shelter.

LIRS staff and volunteers welcomed Maria and her children with open arms and a hearty meal. Within a few hours of being at the LIRS shelter, Maria's children went from being silent to playing with toys and laughing.

There's something you can do to help! Because of generous supporters, LIRS can meet urgent needs of asylum-seeking families. Your gift also supports families as they travel to meet their sponsor families and resettle into welcoming communities.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
700 Light Street,
Baltimore, MD 21230
lirs@lirs.org

Do you need help paying your HIGH gas and ELECTRIC bills?

Call Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

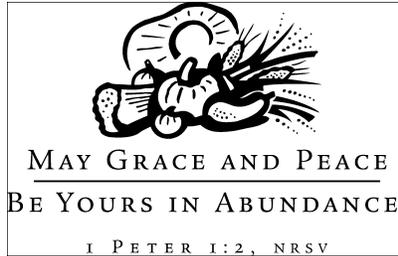
(815) 758-3835 for information

October 1 Seniors and those receiving disability may apply

November 1 Families with children 5 and under & disconnected apply

December 1 Opens to all.

Thanksgiving for our Food Pantry Clients



Please help us with our Annual Holiday Meal Boxes!

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

The Northern Illinois Food Bank is offering holiday meal boxes that serve 8. This box will include a 12-14 pound turkey, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, two veggies, cranberry sauce, dessert and more for just \$16. We must order early, so write your check for the Food Pantry soon. We are counting on you! **We will order 100 boxes** for our Food Pantry clients, so your generous donation would be greatly appreciated.

Make your checks payable to Bethlehem and note that it is for the Thanksgiving boxes.

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Your Name _____

of turkey dinners @ \$16/ea. _____

Amount of check attached \$ _____



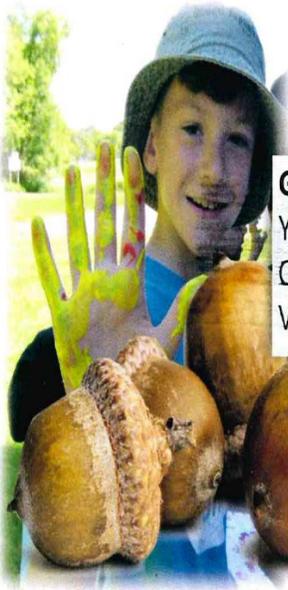
LOMC Autumn Fest

It Is Always Time to Plant Seeds of Faith at LOMC!

Connecting the Word of God with the World of God

"Just returned from a weekend for Stroke Survivors and their families. The cabins were perfect! All of the facilities were clean and beautiful. Just perfect!"
-Nancy Higginbottom

"Great place for kids to learn life's lessons and have **Christ at the center** of their learning!!!" -Kathy Neptun




AUTUMN FEST
Saturday, October 12
 Annual Open House
 10am-5pm
 Quilt & Silent Auctions
 Fun Activities For All Ages
 Lunch Provided
Freewill Donations Accepted

GIFT LOMC TODAY!
 Your gift is needed and greatly appreciated.
 One-time and recurring gift opportunities available.
 Visit www.lomc.org for info on all the ways to give.

Thank you for supporting LOMC financially! Together we are growing a legacy of ministry for people of all ages and all year-round.

Financial gifts like yours help LOMC be a premier place to grow in faith in God's special outdoor setting.

Our LOMC board members want to thank you during September and remind you personally about the continuing need to gift LOMC financially this fall season.

Blessings on our work together!

Rob Gieraltowski
LOMC Executive Director

LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER



PO BOX 239, OREGON IL 61061 • 815-732-2220 • www.LOMC.org

The Emergency Food Program

The Northern Illinois Food Bank believes in utilizing public-private partnerships to its fullest. One of their partners in the fight against hunger is the federal government with the Emergency Food Program.

The Emergency Food Program (EFP) is a federally funded program. The USDA commodities distributed to agencies as a "sub recipient" of the Northern Illinois Food Bank is considered to be a form of federal assistance. A dollar value is assigned to each commodity based on the cost to the government. The Northern Illinois Food Bank is required to inform us of the value of federal assistance that they provided to us. TANF is food exclusively for families with children under 18.

During the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, our Food Pantry received the following food items from Northern Illinois Food Bank through the Emergency Food Program:

EFP Pounds: 95,854.22

Estimated Federal Dollar Value: \$88,181.79

TANF Pounds: 1,943.00

Estimated Federal Dollar Value: \$1,472.53

These amounts should be considered as federal funding for our emergency feeding program. We were pleased with the EFP amounts donated to our Food Pantry for the last fiscal year, it was 8% more than the past year. Your continued support of the Feed My Sheep Food Pantry is very important!



Feed My Sheep Statistics for August 2019

Bethlehem's Food Pantry has been busy in the past few months. For the month of August 2019 our numbers are as follows:

Number of households served during month: 477

Number of individual served in August: 1,519

Number of household with children under 18: 234

Number of children 18 or younger served: 536

We want to thank everyone for helping us. As the weather starts to get cooler you might want to think about donating those slightly used winter coats or gloves so our pantry clients and their children can stay warm. They appreciate your help!