Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church SEPTEMBER 2017

Bethlehem Star

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A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Exciting events and grace filled days are happening at Bethlehem! Because of you, your family, and our congregational family, the gospel is being boldly proclaimed and the joy of God's grace in Christ is celebrated in marvelous ways. Indeed, through our ministry together, countless lives are being touched with the love of Christ.

As we look ahead to ministry as a family of faith at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, we are embarking on an initiative that will help us grow in ministry and ways we can bring connections with people and Christ. This initiative is a three year discipleship and generosity growing opportunity for the whole congregation. Our ministry initiative is called ***"First, We Give of Ourselves."*** This emphasis will be a celebration of our ministry and growing in the delight of God's grace. As we consider the gift of grace in Christ, we will also explore the joy of our giving in grace.

This fall, the focus of **"*First, We Give of Ourselves"*** will be **"*Giving in Grace.*"** We will explore together, the wonderful gift of God's grace in Christ and how it is the foundation of our discipleship and giving.

Our Kick-Off Sunday for ***"First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Grace"*** will be Sunday, October 1st. Our fall emphasis will culminate with a celebration of ministry and the sharing of commitments of how we can "give of ourselves" in ministry on Sunday, October 29th.

"Giving in Grace" **All Congregation Bible Study**
Another important element of this emphasis is an "all congregation" Bible Study entitled **"Giving in Grace."** We will be exploring this study on Sunday's in October during education time. They will also be available on our website at bethlehemdekalb.org. You are invited to be a part of these conversations.

Plan to be on hand in worship and join a ***"Giving in Grace"*** Bible Study this fall as we consider together how, ***"First, We Give of Ourselves."*** How exciting it will be to grow together in discipleship and the joy of generosity.

Serving in Christ, Pastor Elizabeth & your Stewardship Team

Lutheran Church Women Circles & Groups Starting Again

Rebekah Circle—2nd Tuesday of each month—1:30 p.m.— at church in Fellowship Hall

Sarah Circle—2nd Thursday of each month—9:15 a.m.—meets at Oak Crest Retirement

Eve Circle—3rd Monday of each month—6:30 p.m.—meets in members' homes or church

Martha's Sisters—1st, 3rd & 4th Thursday—9:30 a.m.—meets in kitchen at church

For Your Information

Hospice Volunteer Training Class, DeKalb office, 2727 Sycamore Road, Thursday evenings, September 21—October 26, 6-9 p,m. If you are a good listener and have a desire to make a difference in the lives of others, becoming a Hospice Direct Care Volunteer may be a good fit for you. As an integral part of our team, your compassion and flexibility will help each patient and their loved ones to be free to focus on the best quality of life possible during a most difficult time. There is no charge but registration is necessary by Friday, September 15. Please call Sue Goudy, Volunteer Coordinator, at (815) 756-3000 for information or to register.

Hospice-Sponsored Support Groups
Lunch Bunch, DeKalb 4th Weds. 11:30 and Sycamore-2nd Weds. Noon. Casual lunch for widows/ widowers, significant others.

Living After Loss—4th Monday each month 6:30-8:00 p.m. Support for grieving parents.

Share—2nd Thursday each month, 7-9:00—support for miscarriage/early infant loss.

First Friday Friends Club—DeKalb—1st Friday of each month—5-7 p.m. October-May
Support for children 1st-8th grade, who lost a parent or sibling.

Bridges of Hope—Six week series, educational support for those with recent loss.

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE—SEPTEMBER 22 & 23
Friday 12-5 and Saturday 9-1

We need your help in donating your **good used STUFF** for our Youth Rummage Sale this month. Proceeds from the sale go to benefit our 2018 Youth Trip to Houston! Please keep an eye out for the times and dates that donations can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall the week before the sale or talk to Pastor Elizabeth.

We hope to make this a big fundraising event to support our trip!

Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED

to the

FALL SALAD SUPPER ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 AT 6:00 P.M.

Please bring your favorite salad to share. Dessert, rolls and coffee will be provided.

Men are invited to join us for the program at 7:00 p.m.

Offices closed September 4

Cut-Ups Quilters begin their work on Monday, September 11 at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed for various tasks. No experience necessary. Join us!

Refreshments & Fellowship

The first Sunday of each month is your Sunday to provide and serve refreshments. All who are not connected to a Circle are welcome to help! Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Welcome Lynn Hansen as our new Bell Choir director. Vocal Choir and Bell Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, September 7.

Dear Friends at Bethlehem:
"I want to thank Pastor Elizabeth for her visit and also all the other friends who came to visit me.
Thanks to everyone who sent get well cards. Thank you for your prayers." God Bless, Lorna

Sympathy to the family of Kathleen Koski on her recent death. A memorial service was held on August 17.

Recycle your plastic grocery bags! They are needed in the food pantry.

Reminder: When your group has finished meeting in the evenings please remember to turn off the lights and lock all doors. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER 10—9:30 A.M.
Mission Endowment Distribution

Meet the recipients in Fellowship Hall after the service to find out more about what they do and how our donations could help their organizations and programs.

You are invited to bring your pet or pets to share a service of **"Blessing of the Animals"** on Saturday, September 30, at 10:30 a.m. at Pastor John & Connie Seraphine's Heatherhope Farm. If bringing your pet is difficult, consider bringing a photo. We will share our joyful and sorrowful stories and praise God for these gifts of love.

2018 TRIP TO INDIA

If you are interested in traveling with the group to India in 2018, you may be eligible for a scholarship if: you are an ELCA church member and member of the NI Synod, agree to share your experiences with congregations in the Synod, and provide proof that you are able to go on the trip. A total of $2000 is available in grant awards from the Global Mission Committee. An individual may request up to $1000. Contact: e-mail: cerdmann@nisynod.org.

LCW Salad Supper & Program

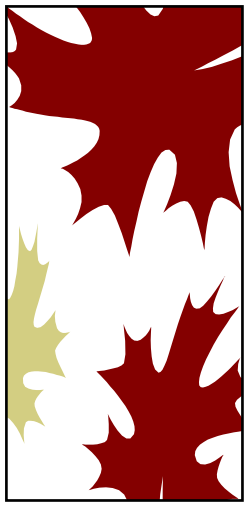
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

September 5

6:00 p.m.

1915 N. First Street
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Bring a dish to share



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1915 North First Street, DeKalb
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Bethlehem Women's

Fall Salad Supper

Tuesday, September 5
6:00 p.m.

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

The supper is a women's event; men are welcome to attend the presentation which will follow at about 7:00 p.m. To help us plan, please let us know that you will attend.

Book Study

This 6-week study will be continuing on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. The book is *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why* by Phyllis Tickle. The book helps us understand the path the Christian Church has taken for over 2000 years and can help us move into the future of the church with courage and faith. Books are available and more can be ordered. The plan is to read a section or chapter from the book and then meet for an hour of in-depth discussion. Talk to Pastor Elizabeth for more info.

Action Team for Food Pantry!

While working at the Food Pantry one day, Sonja, one of our volunteers, noted that new clients often could not determine who was a client and who was a worker. She felt that the workers would be more effective if they were identified in some way like wearing a special t-shirt. Someone suggested that
Thrivent members at Bethlehem should find out "how t-shirts were acquired." The group met with Thrivent and found that the "Action Team" of Thrivent members could access shirts and $250.00 to be used for projects at the Pantry.

A proposal was submitted to Thrivent identifying the need for the t-shirts and cash that could be used for pantry items such as new carts, or shelving, etc. and was approved.

SO . . . What can *you* do to assist in the program?
Come to church on September 17th.
Welcome Food Pantry workers who will be honored.
Enjoy the social time and goodies after church on September 17.

If you have any questions about this Thrivent program, please talk to: Pastor Elizabeth.

Wine on the Terrace

Saturday, September 16, 4-7 p.m.

The Ellwood House terraces and gardens offer a picturesque setting for an evening of fine wine, unique appetizers, desserts, and live music. The wines will be selected by John McIntyre of Hy-Vee Wine and Spirits, with Hy-Vee Catering providing tasty appetizers and desserts. This major fundraiser has become an eagerly anticipated community event. There are 200 tickets available. Tickets for this event are $50 and should be purchased in advance. Don't miss this great opportunity to experience wonderful food and wine at the historic Ellwood House Museum and Park. (815) 756-4609 for more info. Tickets may be purchased online at wine-terrace.eventbrite.com or in Ellwood House Visitor Center.

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