



Bethlehem Star



A Message from Our Pastor

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Fall is upon us and we have much to look forward to. We will celebrate our Mission Endowment Fund Distribution for this year on September 15th with many of our recipients present to accept our gifts and to tell us more about their own ministries in all over God's world.

Confirmation begins on September 8th with this year being all about Worship. I am excited to welcome 6th grade cousins Emma and Arianna B. into the program. Aaron B. is coming on board as a guide so it is shaping up to be a great year. In conclusion of her confirmation studies, Milena Z. will be affirming her baptism and being joined to Bethlehem as an adult member on September 29.

Sunday school this year will be an opportunity for service and fun. Remember the 1960's TV show Davey and Goliath? I sure do. It was a show created for kids by our Lutheran Church. The Claymation was amazing at the time. The stories all revolve around Davey and his dog Goliath as they deal with how faith shapes decisions in our everyday life. We'll be asking for volunteers to sign up for a Sunday morning to view an episode with the kids who are here, and then talk about what they've seen. No preparation is required though you may watch an episode in advance if you'd like. It is amazing how these stories have stood the test of time. After the story, you will all join those in fellowship hall for treats.

The choirs kick off Thursday, September 5. Bell choir meets at 6:00 pm and vocal choir meets soon after ringers are done at 7:15. New ringers and singers are welcome at one or both of the choirs. No experience necessary!

Blessings abound this fall! Come celebrate god's many gifts!

Pastor Elizabeth

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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

It's time to Ring and Sing!

It's time to be thinking of the fall schedule and the fabulous worship music for Sundays. The vocal choir can always use more voices and the bell choir can always use more hands. Please join us in our musical offerings to the Lord. If you have questions or are interested in joining either group, please contact the directors:

Vocal Choir—Dylan S.
Handbell Choir—Lynn H.

**BELOVED COMMUNITY POTLUCK WORSHIP & DINNER AT HOPKINS PARK—
SEPTEMBER 15
WORSHIP IN THE PARK 4-5 P.M. (BANDSHELL)
POTLUCK DINNER 5:00-7:30 P.M. AT HOPKINS PARK SHELTER**

DIAKONIA—Do you want to learn more about your Christian faith in the Lutheran tradition? Want to be more effective as a servant of Christ to others? If yes, the NI Synod's Diakonia program may be for you! Diakonia is a two-year program of theological education for adults who want to grow in their faith and discover new directions for putting faith into practice. A series of 12 courses, each five weeks in length, cover topics such as The Daily Life of a Christian, the Old and New Testaments, Communicating the Gospel, etc. The courses do not have to be taken consecutively, so you can try them out. Tuition and books are minimal, and financial aid is available. Contact Pr. Elizabeth.

TANZANIA DEVELOPMENT RUMMAGE SALE

September 19, 20, 21

Donations Sought for Tanzania Development Support Yard Sale

Tanzania Development Support is seeking donations of saleable items for their upcoming yard sale fundraiser. The event will take place on Thursday, September 19, through Saturday, September 21, from 8 AM - 4 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fellowship Hall.

Donations can be dropped off before the sale dates by calling Jeanine or Tricia to schedule a time for drop off or for more details about the sale. Arrangements can also be made for donations to be picked up if needed.

Proceeds from the sale will enable TDS to continue its many successful projects that promote education of youth, especially girls, and improve the quality of life in the Mara Region of Tanzania. Additional information about the TDS projects is available at www.tdsnfp.org.



Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

 * Cut-Ups Quilters continue *
 * their work each Monday *
 * morning at 8:30 a.m. Vol- *
 * unteers are needed for *
 * various tasks. No experi- *
 * ence necessary. Join us! *
 * *



Thanks to all those who helped with refreshments after church services this summer.

Offices closed September 2

Thank you to Ben & Josh M., grandsons of Bonnie S., for cleaning and weeding our community garden. Now we can find the produce!



I am working on a service project and am in need of jam/jelly or small jars with lids. Please drop them off in the office. I would like these by December 1.
 Thanks,
 Barb L.

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.

Do you know a student going to a new college? Refer them to a Lutheran Campus Ministry at: lumen-networkreferral.org/student-referrals/ or text "Lumin to 38470 for online referral link.

July Pantry Statistics
 Households served: 406
 People Served: 1,401
 Children Served: 547



If you want to borrow health equipment like walkers or wheel chairs from the church, please let the office know.

Dear Friends,
 "Thank you to Bethlehem for all your prayers and continued concern. I have a long road ahead for healing but with your prayers I will get through this."
 God's peace, Barb L.

SEPTEMBER 15—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.

NI SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA
31ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
NEW HORIZONS
 Trinity Lutheran Church, 1330 13th St. Moline
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 9:00 A.M.



Crop Walk Coming Up October 6

DeKalb Sondra King Memorial CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 6, 2019
First United Methodist Church
317 N 4th St
DeKalb IL
www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil
Facebook: [crophungerwalkni](https://www.facebook.com/crophungerwalkni)
What is a CROP Hunger Walk?



CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith events that build community while raising funds to end hunger in your own community AND around the world. Everyone is welcome to join! Your participation impacts individuals and families in more than 30 countries. In many developing nations, people can walk up to six miles a day to get food and water. One in nine people worldwide lack access to clean water and a healthy diet. We walk to be in solidarity, bring awareness to these issues and raise the funds for permanent change.

Fundraising to Help Others

Your participation helps neighbors around the block and around the world.

Church World Service works with partners in 30 countries around the world to provide clean water, seeds and tools, assistance with sanitary facilities and more. Find more information at www.cwsglobal.org

Local agencies that benefit from the CROP Hunger Walk:

- BARB Food Mart
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church Food Pantry
- Hope Haven
- Meals on Wheels
- Safe Passage
- Sycamore United Methodist Church Food Pantry

Join the Walk Today

To register your Walk Team or to find more information, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil

For More Information, Contact

Jane Hapemen (janehapeman@gmail.com; 815-758-7302)
Jean Evans (jeanned431@gmail.com; 815-751-5537)

September is Hunger Action Month

Did you know that one in seven people face hunger in Northern Illinois? Bethlehem Feed My Sheep Food Pantry, a member of Northern Illinois Food Bank, encourages you to get involved in local hunger relief efforts during the month of September, National Hunger Action Month.

Every week, Feed My Sheep provides nutritious food to about 1,400 people in our community. We appreciate all your donations that help sustain the food pantry's operations. If you have some free time, you may also want to consider volunteering for various tasks such as stocking shelves, or assisting in food distribution. Contact Pastor Elizabeth for more information.

Some DeKalb County Statistics

Child Food Insecurity Rate	20.3%
Fair Market Rent for 2 BR Apartment:	\$891
Renters as % of Total Households:	41.5%
Poverty Rate	16.2%
Number of People in Poverty	15,847

Poverty Simulation Friday, September 20 (Free)

The location will be at the theater in the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. The poverty simulation will start at 9:00 a.m. and go until 11:30 a.m. University of Illinois extension services will conduct the simulation. If you haven't gone through one of these simulations, you will find it to be eye-opening!

The objective of the simulation is to sensitize participants to the day-to-day realities of the life faced by people with low income, and motivate us to become involved in activities that help reduce poverty in our community. By taking part in the simulation, participants will experience what it is like to live a month in poverty. Register at web.extension.illinois.edu

Feeding our Hungry Neighbors in July

Number of Household served: 406

Number of individuals served: 1,401

Number of children served: 547

The LIHEAP program will begin on October 1.

+From Oct. 1-31, they will assist those who are 60 and older and those receiving a disability check.

+Beginning November 1, the program will be open to those with children 5 and under and those who are presently disconnected from their heat or electric.

+After December 1, LIHEAP will be open for everyone—both renters and homeowners.

(847) 697-5053 for information

Notes from Botswana

In a taxi one day, the driver asked me (Kelsey) about divorce and how people can stay married. At the bank, the teller asked me what I could teach her about the Bible when she saw that our bank account name included Bible translation. On an airplane, upon learning that I was a *Mma Moruti* (Pastor's wife), a man asked if I would discriminate against people who believe differently than me. I told him my job as a Christian is to respect and love others, no matter what they believe, and once love and respect has been established, then I could tell them what I believe. He pushed back, asking what if the opportunity never comes up to tell them what you believe. I told him that my job then would be to love and respect that person, no matter what. He smiled and let me know Christianity would be around for a long time if that was our attitude. People here are hungry for God's truths. More and more, we are being asked deeper questions about faith.

We have noticed a theme over the past couple months. Whenever someone finds out what we do, they ask for Bible Study materials. At the grocery store, at the bank, on the street, everywhere we go, people are asking how they can study the Bible. It doesn't seem to matter what language or subject, people are just hungry for God's Word.

We have a Bible Study at our house with the youth group. In Botswana, you are considered a youth until age 35, regardless of being married or having kids! This was a great opportunity for us to connect with some of the people at our church for a time of fellowship and food, including braai (grilled meat), chakalaka (vegetables in sauce) and pap (like thick grits, a local staple).

In addition to Bible Study at our house, Kelsey also had the opportunity to teach some of the ladies from church how to bake and decorate cakes. They were so thrilled to learn and are convinced this will help them find good husbands!

We believe God has placed us here to help meet the need, not only for scriptures in the local languages, but to promote tools and resources that allow people to dig into God's Word in deep and meaningful ways.

Prayer requests for our family:

Praise for a successful second school term this year for the kids.
Pray for the drought in Botswana and the impact on the people and environment.
Praise for the increased interest we've noticed in Bible Study materials.
Pray for God's guidance in our Scripture Engagement efforts.
Pray for clarity as we plan our next few months of work.
Pray for the Bible Society of Botswana, as they go through a lot of transition.
Praise for the progress being made in the projects as we move toward publication.
Pray that God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.

Carl & Kelsey, Mary Jane, Audrey, Judah, Gideon, Isaac
Lutheran Bible Translators—serving in Botswana
lbt.org/donate

