

PERSONALLY:

We are all familiar with John 11:35: “*Jesus wept.*” Though famous for being the shortest verse in the Bible it gives us one of the longer views into the heart of Jesus. He wept because He entered personally into the pain of His friends and neighbors. And as we share our lives with people, that is what the Lord is asking us to do as well – to hurt when they hurt.

POWERFULLY:

Jesus drew on God’s power in numerous ways throughout His life. We see that in the miracles He performed. But we tend to forget that Jesus told His disciples (and us) that we would do even more powerful things. John 14:12 says, “*Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these...*” As we set about to serve and share our lives with those around us, we can take Jesus at His word and believe that people will, in time, give their lives to Christ. We need to claim that power to share our faith, and to see people drawn to Him.

Learning that serving is part of sharing our story is an “*I can do that*” experience.

And serving those in close proximity – perceptively, personally and powerfully, is the way to see the Lord working through you.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts of how you are engaging in BLESS relationships as a lifestyle to bring the hope of Christ to others.

Blessings,

Pr. Sharon

P. S. A reminder if it helps B.L.E.S.S. stands for:

B= Begin with prayer

L= Listen and be aware of the needs of those around you

E= Eat with your neighbors, co-workers and friends

S= Serve, look for ways to be a servant to others

S= Share your story, share your faith... after you have prayed, listened, had a meal, and served.

FEBRUARY

PULPIT SCHEDULE

2—Pastor Sharon Rogers

9—Pastor Bob Hansen

16—Pastor Bob Hansen

23—Pastor Sharon Rogers

Bethlehem is in need of a few volunteers.—church council, counters (2X/month), and Sunday readers. Also, there is a need for volunteers to help with Saturday food pantry pickups.

If interested, please contact the church office and let them know. Many hands make light work!!

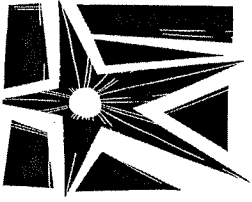


Next meeting is
February 10th
at 7 pm.



- 2 Justin Zak
- 4 Judy Sisler
- 20 Don Krehl
- 29 Heather Breuer

In the March newsletter we will post where Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services will be held.



Bethlehem Star



February 2025

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." – Mark 10:45

We understand our call to be like Jesus. And Jesus was a servant. His entire ministry is a stunning example of serving wherever He went – from His first miracle in Cana, to the feeding of the 5,000, to the simple expression of washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus served, that's how He lived life.

Every other month since the fall, I've shared how to live the **B.L.E.S.S.** lifestyle, and I know many of you are already serving in many ways – at church, with charitable organizations, or volunteering in numerous other ways. So the question for this month is are there ways to be more intentional about how and where we serve?

Dave Ferguson, lead pastor of Community Christian Church in Chicago and developer of the B.L.E.S.S. Lifestyle, offers these suggestions regarding the first "S" of **serv**ing more intentionally:

PROXIMITY:

The first place to start serving is with those in close proximity to us. This makes a lot of sense, but so often we think in terms of going on a mission trip or serving people in a shelter in the inner city. Those things are great, but we start with right where we are. Look around – to your neighbors, to the people you work with, or how about the parents of the kids you sit on the sidelines with while watching soccer? Start there. Everyone wants to do something big for the Lord, but that big thing could be right next door.

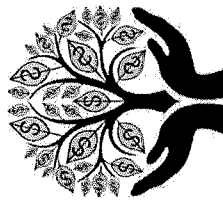
PERCEPTIVELY:

Listening is seeking to understand the people God has put in close proximity to us. And in coming to know people better it helps us to share perceptively – to be able to speak into their lives. Isaiah 50:4 says, *"The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I should know how to sustain the weary with a word..."* Listen and then ask the Lord to show you how to perceptively speak into people's lives.

The Pantry received a generous donation in January to purchase another Upright freezer to replace one that wasn't working properly. We also purchased 3 hand trucks with the remaining funds from the EFP Reach & Resiliency Grant that was received last June.

Bethlehem Feed My Sheep Food Pantry
The December clients served are as follows:

	2024	2023
# Households	334	378
# Individuals	1072	1192
# Children	326	369
# of Pantries	7	8



December Financials

Income	10,010.68
Expenses	-14,103.37
Shortfall	-4,092.69

OFFICE HOUR INFO: Monday 8-1
Wednesday 8-1
Thursday 8-1

Phone: 815-758-3203

Website: bethlehemdekalb.org

E-mail: belcdekalb@comcast.net

Facebook: [bethlehemdekalb](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemdekalb)

If you'd like anything to be included in the March newsletter, please have it to the office by February 20th. Thank you.