

The Bethlehem Star

March 2026



"WALKING LENT TOGETHER"

How many Lenten Journeys have you taken? I have been ordained since 1973. I have been walking this journey for 80 years now since March is my birth month. I am reminded of how precious each day is. It's a gift to be alive. Let us share some ideas from our tools of faith.

We started out last month on February 18th with *Ash Wednesday*. With our heads bowed in humility we remember "From dust you came, to dust you shall return." We are penitent. Dusty cross smudges on our foreheads remind us that we are not perfect. Jesus says to all who receive his love, you are my beloved. Forgiveness from God, gives us a new start, so we don't have to be stuck like a car in the mud somewhere in the wilderness of life. A person, asked me, "Why doesn't God just eradicate evil? Isn't God powerful enough to do that?" Then we remember that there are times in life when we sin. What if there was no second chance. God loves us so much that *he gave his only begotten Son to die for us*. Jesus uses the power of love, which overcomes evil, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." And to the criminal, "Today, you will be with me in paradise." God is so patient that he uses his passion to dig us out from our muddy mess. Sometimes it is as simple as saying "I love you Lord" and receiving the hug that he is offering you.

Now that we are reunited with Jesus our Savior, what will we do with that GIFT? "If you want to be greatest among you, serve the rest." Picking up Jesus' Cross is not easy. It is radical. His heart declares the Beatitudes (Matt 5: Blessed are: the poor, those who mourn, the meek, those who thirst for righteousness' sake, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and blessed are those who are persecuted for my name sake. Blessed are those who humble themselves.

I used to think that when Jesus called the disciples to be *fishers of people* that he was talking just a few of great faith. The fact is that the call is applied to us too. You may say, well I can't drop family, possessions and job to walk by HIS side. The CALL can be radical; but we are called from our own abilities. Some can say Yes, with great salt (conviction with a firm YES) and light (the love of the Holy Spirit shining through). God bless them. Jesus does not let us off the hook (pardon the pun). You can visit someone who is sick or lonely, write a card, forgive a family member, give a hug or volunteer. We can PRAY for those who need "The peace that goes beyond understanding" or strength to meet challenging times. Prayer is a blessing most precious. When we do these things, we are doubly blessed because the person who receives them, and you, will feel the love of God--- even if that person does not know God. Jesus is the light of the world. You and I are not. But we can carry light and truth, intentionally to those around us. Finally, for those who are old like me, please share your history, wisdom, maturity, truth and faith with the young. We have left them with a challenging world to live in. You are the Beloved of God. I am honored to walk with you.

In Christ's love, Pastor Bob

Pulpit Schedule

March

3/1 Pastor Bob Hansen
3/8 Pastor Sharon Rogers
3/15 Pastor Bob Hansen
3/22 Pastor Sharon Rogers
3/29 Pastor Sharon Rogers

March Birthdays

5 Sandy Woodin
8 Tammie Farley
Kelan Graddy
15 Karin Graddy
Amanda Luchsinger
18 Pr. Bob Hansen
25 Jessica Breuer



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

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Households	412	334
Individuals	1207	1072
Children	307	326
# of Pantries	8	8



OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday

8 am - 1 pm

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

*Easter Lillies are available for pre-order.
Cost per Lily is \$13.75, which is a 7 inch double plant pot.
Orders need to be in by March 2nd.*

#_____ of Lily Plants @ \$13.75/plant

Name of donor:_____

In Honor of:_____

In Memory of:_____

You may take your plant home after worship on Easter Sunday.

Flooring Project Update

The flooring for the renovation project in the fellowship hall, hallway, and the multi-purpose rooms has been ordered. We have scheduled the week of March 8th to have the floors stripped by Clean USA and the new flooring installed by Delano's. This project will involve a lot of planning, packing and moving furniture and appliances for both Club 55 and Bethlehem's Food Pantry.

There is still time if you are interested in supporting this project to donate to the Flooring Improvements Fund. Please identify your contribution when giving. To date, we have received \$500 in member donations.

Our Annual Meeting Part II will be held on Sunday March 22nd following the worship service in the lounge area.

Bethlehem's Feed My Sheep Food Pantry received \$250 from Thrivent to hold a Community Impact project. With those funds the food pantry was able to purchase 87 bags of granulated sugar. On Thursday, February 19th with the help of our volunteers, Pastor Bob, Barb Luchsinger and Sue Ann Brown, they handed out 47 bags of sugar to the 55 pantry clients who visited the pantry that day.







Bethlehem's Feed My Sheep Food Pantry received notification from the ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread Feed Ministry, that we have been awarded \$500 in support of our feeding ministry program. With so many families experiencing increasing need in the face of economic strain, it is an honor for them to partner with ministries like ours that serve as a beacon of hope.

MARCH 2026

OFFICE HOURS/CONTACT INFO:

Monday thru Thurs 8-1
 Phone: 815-758-3203
 Website: bethlehemdekalb.org
 Email: belcdekalb@comcast.net
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship 2nd Lent Coffee Fellowship	2 7:30 FMS Truck Delivery 8-1 Office Open 12:30 Cut-Ups	3 8-1 Office Open 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence	4 8-1 Office open 10:30 FMS Pick up Noon-VAC Lunch	5 8-1 Office Open 8:30 FMS Pick-up 9:30-11:30 FMS Pantry 10:30 Martha's Sisters	6	7 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-up 
8 9:30 Worship 3rd Lent	9 8-1 Office Open 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence Flooring Install	10 8-1 Office Open	11 8-1 Office Open	12 8-1 Office Open 10:30 Martha's Sisters	13	14 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-up
15 9:30 Worship 4th Lent	16 8-1 Office Open 12:30 Cut-Ups	17 7:30 FMS Truck Delivery 8-1 Office Open 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence 	18 8-1 Office open 10:30 FMS Pick up Noon-VAC Lunch	19 8-1 Office Open 8:30 FMS Pick-up 9:30-11:30 FMS Pantry 10:30 Martha's Sisters	20 Welcome Spring 	21 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-UP
22 9:30 Worship 5th Lent Part II Annual Meeting following worship	23 8-1 Office Open 12:30 Cut-Ups	24 8-1 Office Open 11 Club 55 Pantry Drive-Thru 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence	25 8-1 Office open 10:30 FMS Pick up Noon-VAC Lunch	26 8-1 Office Open 8:30 FMS Pick-up 9:30-11:30 FMS Pantry 10:30 Martha's Sisters	27	28 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-Up
29 9:30 Worship 	30 8-1 Office Open 12:30 Cut-Ups	31 8-1 Office Open 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence				

