



The Bethlehem Star

September 2026



The Joys of LABOR DAY

September 7th is Labor Day. Betty Davis, a well-known movie star in the early films said, “*Old Age ain’t for sissies.*” She said that on a Johnny Carson show in a surprise appearance after recently suffering a stroke with right side paralysis. When we get older, we remember when we could think clearly, jump, work around the yard and move smoothly without pain. Maybe you have experienced similar dwindling of body, mind and spirit capabilities. Growing old is hard labor and yet we have the gifts of experience, wisdom, and an ever-growing intimacy with our Creator. It is healthy to take time to squeeze the fruits of one’s life of labor. Thank God for blessings, successes and failures which made life stronger and more meaningful.

I recommend a book which has much wisdom for us old timers. The Gift of Years by Sister Joan Chittister: Blue Bridge Press. She writes that seniors carry stories which can enrich the life of others. She writes, “*It’s what’s inside of us, not what’s outside of us that counts; It’s what we learned along the way, what we meant to other people along the way, what we became inside----along the way---that is really who we are.*”

Older people have much value to offer the world but first they must realize their own value. We are children of God, no matter what age we are. Through the years, I have found it interesting to ask seniors how they got through tough times. One lady said that she turned to the source of truth and love, Jesus and shared this with herself and others.

A space in time is not to be feared or filled. Time is a sacred gift of life. When we are empty before God, he can fill our hearts. We are guided in the Bible to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Jesus fed 5,000. He can surely feed you and I what we need. All we are asked to do in return is to love Him by doing the best with what we have. We love to praise and please the LORD. Exodus 20:8 says, Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath; to the Lord your God.

Peace on the Journey together.

Pastor Bob

Pulpit Schedule

September

6 – Pastor Bob Hansen

13 – Pastor Bob Hansen

20 – Pastor Sharon Rogers

27 – Pastor Bob Hansen

August Birthdays

8	Jennifer Ewing
10	Jane Bidstrup
11	Betty Ruby
12	Helen Miller
19	Reilly Zak
21	Marjorie Hargrave
	Aaron Bloyd
30	Ingrid Inboden



Our friend, Betty Ruby, is celebrating her 90th birthday on September 11th. Let's shower her with cards!! Please contact the church office for her address.

Feed My Sheep Food Pantry

The JULY clients served are as follows:

	2026	2025
Households	469	522
Individuals	1452	1127
Children	434	469
# of Pantries	9	10





It is with heavy hearts, yet with hope in the resurrection, that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend and fellow member, Margaret Hayes, who went to be with the Lord on August 19, 2026.

Margaret was a cherished part of our community for many years, known for her English accent and her faithful presence. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Bethlehem received the following invite from The Junction Eating Place and has chosen to participate in their program. What a nice way for them to give back to the community!

My name is Chris, and I'm reaching out from The Junction Eating Place in DeKalb. We're starting a new Sunday program as a way to support and give back to the churches in our community.

Every Sunday, members of your congregation are invited to dine with us at The Junction. When they come in, all they need to do is mention the name of your church when ordering.

At the end of the designated period, 10% of the qualifying sales from members who mentioned your church will be donated back to your church.

There is no cost for your church to participate. We simply ask that you share the program with your congregation and remind members to mention your church when they visit us on Sundays.

We truly appreciate everything our local churches do for the community, and we would love the opportunity to give something back while bringing people together over a good meal.

If your church would like to participate, please reply to this email and we can get you added to the program.

Thank you, and we hope to welcome your congregation to The Junction soon!

Warmly,

Chris

The Junction Eating Place

DeKalb, Illinois



**SAVE THE DATE TO
JOIN US FOR SOME FUN!**

**LOAD UP YOUR
TRUNK WITH TREATS**

October 17th

2-4 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1915 N First Street

DeKalb

10 Things You'll Probably Never Know (*But Should*)

Dr. Natalya @elnatherapy



1. You're someone's favorite part of a day you barely remember.



2. Someone has repeated your advice long after you forgot giving it.



3. A stranger noticed you & smiled — you just didn't notice that day.



4. Someone still remembers something kind you did years ago.



5. You've been the reason that someone didn't give up.



6. Someone defended you when you weren't in the room.



7. Someone became a little better because they knew you.



8. Someone has missed you without ever reaching out.



9. You've made someone feel less alone without even realizing it.



10. You've mattered in moments you didn't know were important.

How to protect yourself from card skimmers

You may never spot a well-made skimmer by sight alone. Still, you can lower your risk and catch suspicious activity faster.

1) Tap instead of swiping when you can

If a payment terminal supports contactless payments, use them. The Secret Service recommends tap-to-pay when possible. You can also use a digital wallet on your phone if the retailer supports it.

2) Inspect the payment terminal first

Take a few seconds before inserting or swiping your card. Look for a reader that appears loose or crooked. Also watch for damage, unusual gaps or parts that do not seem to line up correctly. The Secret Service recommends avoiding a reader if something looks altered or damaged.

3) Give the reader a gentle pull

Some overlay skimmers sit directly on top of the legitimate card reader. Before swiping, gently check whether anything feels loose or moves unexpectedly. Do not try to rip apart a terminal. If something seems suspicious, stop using it and notify the store.

4) Cover the keypad when entering your PIN

A skimmer may capture card information while another device records your PIN. Use your hand to shield the keypad whenever you enter a PIN. That simple habit can make captured card information less useful to a criminal.

5) Turn on transaction alerts

Enable alerts through your bank or card issuer so you know when your card gets used. Pay attention to small charges too. If you see something you do not recognize, contact your financial institution using the number on your card or its official app. If money has already disappeared from an account, copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://cyberguy.com/security/what-to-do-if-your-bank-account-is-hacked>

6) Check your EBT balance regularly

EBT users should review their account history for transactions they do not recognize. The Food and Nutrition Service recommends checking EBT accounts regularly. It also advises changing your PIN at least once a month, particularly before your benefits are issued. If you spot an unauthorized transaction, change your PIN immediately and contact your state EBT agency.

7) Never share your EBT PIN

Government agencies should not need your PIN to verify your eligibility. Do not provide your EBT card number or PIN in response to an unexpected text, phone call or email. Federal officials warn that criminals use several methods to steal benefit information, so protecting the PIN remains important even when no physical skimmer is involved.

8) Consider a credit card with stronger built-in security

Not all credit cards offer the same security features. While a secure credit card cannot stop a skimmer from capturing information from a physical card, stronger built-in protections can help you spot fraud quickly and limit the damage if your information is stolen. Look for features such as real-time transaction alerts, the ability to instantly lock or freeze your card from an app, strong fraud monitoring and virtual card numbers for online purchases. Some cards also work especially well with digital wallets, which can help keep your actual card number hidden during contactless transactions.

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Together by Grace

Bible Conversations

Psalms

Martha's Sisters meets by Zoom every Thursday from 10:30-11:30. The next book that we're studying is a series called Together by Grace: Bible Conversations, which has three goals for bringing people together.

1. **Gather** together regularly, building and strengthening relationships with one another.
2. **Dwell** together in God's word, seeking what it means for us, our faith community, and the world.
3. **Engage** faith together, loving and serving God and our neighbors in daily life.

The role of the participants has five guidelines:

1. Love and respect one another as beloved children of God.
2. Balance our listening and speaking so that all voices may be heard.
3. Treat conversations in the group as sacred, meaning that what is shared helps build community and strengthens faith of others.
4. Pray for one another as a caring community in Christ.
5. Invite and welcome others to join us on this journey.

We'd enjoy anyone to participate in the study of the Psalms. Should you have any questions, please contact the church office.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday thru Thurs 8-1
Phone: 815-758-3203
Website: bethlehemdekab.org
Email: belcdkalb@comcast.net
Facebook: bethlehemdekab

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8-1 Office Open 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence	2 8-1 Office Open 10:30 FMS Pick-up Noon-VAC Lunch	3 8-1 Office Open 8:30 FMS Pick-up 9:30-11:30 FMS Pantry 10:30 Martha's Sisters	4	5 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-up
6 9:30 Worship Pentecost 10	7 Office Closed in observance of Labor Day	8 8-1 Office Open 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence	9 8-1 Office Open 10:30 FMS Pick-up Noon-VAC Lunch	10 8-1 Office Open 8:30 FMS Pick-up 9:30-11:30 FMS Pantry 10:30 Martha's Sisters	11	12 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-up
13 9:30 Worship Pentecost 11 'Wear you team Colors Sunday'	14 8-1 Office Open 12:30 Cut-Ups	15 7:30 FMS Truck Delivery 8-1 Office Open 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence	16 8-1 Office Open 10:30 FMS Pick-up Noon-VAC Lunch	17 8-1 Office Open 8:30 FMS Pick-up 9:30-11:30 FMS Pantry 10:30 Martha's Sisters	18	19 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-up
20 9:30 Worship Pentecost 12	21 8-1 Office Open 12:30 Cut-Ups	22 8-1 Office Open 11 Club 55 Pantry 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence	23 8-1 Office Open 10:30 FMS Pick-up Noon-VAC Lunch	24 8-1 Office Open 8:30 FMS Pick-up 9:30-11:30 FMS Pantry 10:30 Martha's Sisters	25	26 8:30/9:30 FMS Pick-up
27 9:30 Worship Pentecost 13	28 8-1 Office Open 12:30 Cut-Ups	29 8-1 Office Open 3-5 FMS Pantry 7:00-9:30 HarmonEssence	30 8-1 Office Open 10:30 FMS Pick-up Noon-VAC Lunch			