

# Bethlehem Star

## A Message from Our Pastor

I'm just wondering? How can I keep God front and center each day during Lent? How about a fallback to Martin Luther? From Luther's Small Catechism:

### THE MORNING BLESSING

In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

"God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen." Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well:

"I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Forty days of starting the day thanking God. Could it change me? How about you?

Peace,

Pastor Elizabeth

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Lent Information</i>       | 2 |
| <i>Updates &amp; Concerns</i> | 3 |
| <i>World Day of Prayer</i>    | 4 |
| <i>Resourcing Event</i>       | 5 |
| <i>Ushers, Greeters</i>       | 6 |
| <i>Pantry Info to First</i>   | 7 |
| <i>Spring Retreat</i>         | 8 |
| <i>Calendar &amp; Misc</i>    |   |



## Many Thanks!

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Many thanks for your notes and cards and concerns over the months that we’ve been away from Bethlehem dealing with health problems, visiting various clinics, hospitals, doctors, nurses, etc. There are a lot of services in this community that we have discovered offering assistance of every kind to cover ones needs. We are certainly blest with available resources.

It may be quite a while before we will reappear on the scene at Bethlehem but we haven’t forgotten about you and your many kindnesses and blessings over the years we joined this fellowship in Christ—”A Congregation of Glowing Hearts.”

May there be many more good times ahead as we continue to journey together with one another in the future.”

Thanks for the memories!

Gin & Gordon R.

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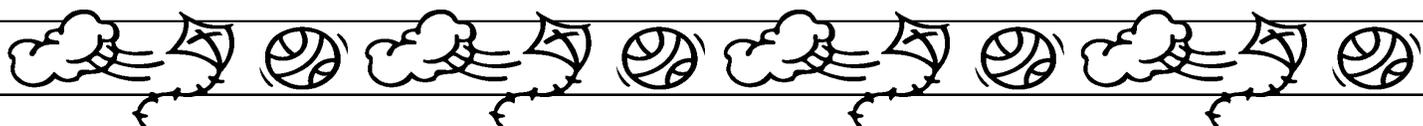
**If confusion is in your life,  
talk with God silently in your privacy.  
Be still and listen, for His Words touch.  
Sometimes God will just blow on you, but you will know  
that it is Him, if your heart is in the right place.  
Keep your faith, God has never failed you.  
Don’t fail yourself.  
God loves you, Jesus is there for you.  
Be blessed and stay in His given knowledge.**

**Toni R., Pantry Volunteer**

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## Lutheran World Relief Mission Road Trip

Maryland is beautiful in May! First Lutheran Church, DeKalb, is again sponsoring a week-long Lutheran World Relief mission trip to New Windsor, Maryland, April 18-25, 2020. This trip assists in the global mission of LWR to help people in severe distress through its quilts and kits ministry. The week is spent helping pack quilts and kits for overseas shipment, visiting the LWR office in Baltimore, and doing some sightseeing on the travel to and from Maryland. Participation is limited to 16 persons, and there are still several openings. A brochure with further information is available in the Bethlehem Church office. If you have questions or are interested in participating, please call Pastor Dennis or Beverly H. at (815) 748-7124 by March 25th.

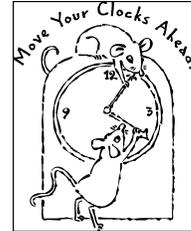


## Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

Dear Bethlehem Friends,

"Thank you for your generous gift to Grace Place Campus Ministry. Our ministry on the NIU Campus in DeKalb is strengthened because of partners like you. Your gift allows us to continue to welcome all who seek a place to be fed and feel love. Through weekly meals and worship, our students know that they are cared for and loved. Thank you again for your gift and your partnership."

Peace,  
Pastor Mack



March 8  
2:00 a.m.

Dear LCW Ladies,  
'Thank you for the Christmas gift!'  
Nadine  
Thursday Food Pantry

Thank you to Cut-Ups Quilting group for donating cups, plates and coffee to our kitchen supplies. Also, thanks to them for donating to Pastor's Good Samaritan Fund.

### January Food Pantry Totals

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Number of Households served:  | 529   |
| Number of Individuals served: | 1,829 |
| Number of Children Served:    | 690   |

**JESSICA BREUER HAS A BIRTHDAY IN MARCH** (March 25). She would love birthday cards and notes! Send to: Jessica Breuer  
Y15555—P.O. Box 1000  
Lincoln, IL 62656

### January Financials

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| From Members & Friends | 16,146.50        |
| Expenses               | - 13,753.11      |
| Total                  | 2,393.39 SURPLUS |

### NEWS FROM CUT-UPS:

*THANK YOU to all who purchased a chance on the quilt. We raised \$187.00. That will get us a roll of batting, lots of thread and a contribution to Pastor's Good Samaritan Fund. The winner is Harry Huhta. Enjoy your new quilt, Harry!*



**A big thank you** to Schnuck's Market for donating all the bread for our food pantry use. Wal-Mart continues to provide us with many items on Wednesdays and Saturdays from the Feeding America Program. We thank them also! And thank you to Pr. Elizabeth & Jim Mascal, Pr. Bob Hansen & NIU students, Carol V. and Sonja H, Julio, Ted & Sandy W. for picking up items.



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## News from the Bell Choir

The Bell Choir is excited to have a few more ringers playing with us since January. This means that for the first time in several years we are using ALL 3 OCTAVES OF OUR BELLS! For those who don't know musical language, we had several bells sitting in their case, not in use because we didn't have enough hands to ring them. By using all the bells we can play higher and lower notes. And we have another drawer of music available. We're enjoying putting them to use and get better every week!

One of our new players is an NIU student, Roberto DeLeon. He is a junior percussion major so he brings his strong musical background and skills to the choir. Roberto will be giving his percussion recital on Saturday, April 18, at 11:00 at NIU. A poster is hanging in our hallway. You won't want to miss it. And please welcome Roberto when you see him on a bell Sunday!

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## 2020 Congregation Resourcing Event March 14

**MARCH 14 AT KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE**

**Keynote speaker:**

**ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**

**Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE)** is one of our synod's finest yearly events. Whether you are a church council member, teacher, musician, volunteer –really anyone in the congregation – can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries.

Come, experience, and bring home new ministry tools. In addition to workshops from the keynote speaker and NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, other workshops feature topics including: Congregational Leadership, Evangelism/Outreach/Hospitality, Faith Formation & Growth, Social Justice, Spirituality/Wellness, Stewardship, Worship, and Youth/Family/Children.

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## Thank You!

Dear Bethlehem,

“Thank you for supporting Hope Haven and valuing the homeless that we serve. Your donation will provide food, shelter, services, and positive changes for the homeless living in our community.

The hopes of the homeless are to move to safe, stable, and affordable housing and to live as independently as possible. Our goals are to transition the homeless to permanent housing, reduce the days the homeless spend in the shelter, increase the income of the homeless, reduce the recidivism of homelessness.

None of this work, for the client and staff, would be possible without the kindness and gifts from donors like you. Pulling someone from the deprivation of homelessness and poverty requires a team of people who embrace the same mission. Thank you for joining us; we are all full of gratitude for your compassion and commitment to the homeless, and our work.”

Lesly D. Wicks, Executive Director

## NIU Non-Profit—Camp Kesem

We are writing about a meaningful non-profit organization at Northern Illinois University called Camp Kesem. Camp Kesem is a nationwide community that supports children through and beyond their parent's cancer with innovative, fun-filled programs that foster a lasting community. Camp Kesem NIU provide a free week of summer camp and year-round programming activities to this often overlooked population.

Every child experiences a parent's cancer journey uniquely. Whether a parent dies, survives, or is currently undergoing treatment - a child's Kesem experience, grounded in experiencing the joy of childhood, helps children cope with a parent's cancer with a community of support with peers who are just like them.

Since our camp is free for participating families, we rely on support from our valued friends and family in order to make camp possible. We hope to serve 43 children this year, and cannot meet this need without additional support.

At Northern Illinois University, we are looking for support with collecting necessary supplies for our camp week in June through sharing our [Amazon Wish List](#) or dropping off a box with a list of supplies needed. By supporting our organization you will help support children through and beyond their parents cancer year-round. There are many benefits to supporting non-profit organizations and you will receive recognition on our social media as well as on our monthly newsletter that goes out to 100+ supporters. If you need more information or have questions, please contact us at [northernilinois@campkesem.org](mailto:northernilinois@campkesem.org) or (630) 442-9044. Thank you for your support and time!

Best, Amanda, Chapter Director

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## Tanzania Spring Yard Sale Here



# Tanzania

Development Support

## YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Thursday, April 16

Friday, April 17

Saturday, April 18

8 AM - 4 PM daily

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1915 North First Street  
DeKalb

Items can be dropped off at the church starting April 13 or call the church office.

Contact: Peter at [peterschram@tdsnfp.org](mailto:peterschram@tdsnfp.org)

# For Lent: Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

During Lent we are collecting items for Personal Care Kits. Lutheran World Relief provides Personal Care Kits to people displaced due to conflict or natural disaster. The simple items: bath towel, **soap, comb, toothbrush and nail clippers**, help people maintain dignity in difficult circumstances.

In 2019, LWR distributed 119,865 Personal Care Kits through Partner Agencies in 18 countries. (Bath towels are being purchased with Thrivent Action Team Seed Money but we need the other items to complete the kits.) **Pick up a "brown bag" in the lounge, read the list of items needed and fill the bag with the items for one or more kits. Return the filled bags to the container in the lounge by April 1.**

Please note that toothpaste is not included on the list. The timeline between kits being assembled and when they are distributed is uncertain so a fresh tube of toothpaste is distributed with each kit. Also, avoid the big multi-packs of combs since often there are only one or two combs that are sturdy enough to include in the kit.

Thank you for your help in this important ministry during our Lenten season!



## EASTER LILY ORDER FORM 2020

To order your plant, please complete this form and give to an usher; place in the offering plate, or **leave in the church office no later than March 29**. Please make your check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and include with your plant order.

# \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) @ \$13.00 each

Name of Donor



In memory of

In honor of

**Easter Sunday is April 12.**