



BETHLEHEM STAR

Go and...serve with neighbors



This month's Go and...theme is Go and...serve with neighbors. This is brilliant. We are so used to hearing go and serve your neighbor. Go and serve God's world. The implication is that we are the active ones who go out and take our superior resources and gifts to those in need. To be fair, there's definitely a place for that. Lots of organizations depend on it.

But to go and serve with neighbors implies something very different. That's when we partner with others who live in the area we wish to serve. Church mission trips have long been a popular component of ministry in many churches. Good ones do good things. But some church mission trips – or even non-church mission trips – have been less than helpful because the would-be missionaries play the great white savior. They swoop in with their superior resources and help in ways that are not helpful.

My favorite story comes from Tanzania. A group had come through and toured Machame hospital near Moshi. Noting that the hospital laundry was done by hand and hung out on bushes to dry, members of the group decided they needed an industrial washer and dryer. What they could have learned but didn't was that the electrical grid there can't support an industrial washer and dryer. They were being used for storage.

Go and serve WITH neighbors means injecting humility and a willingness to listen to what is already being done by the people in the situation, and what's really needed. It means building relationships with neighbors – as individuals in our own neighborhoods yes, but also as a community of faith. It may also mean being willing to let neighbors serve us.

So often we live in our own little world and don't even get to know our neighbors. I live in Waverly and am involved in various community things. As Waverly grows, people will sometimes raise concerns about losing the small-town feeling. But when I ask more about that, they mostly don't seem to know how to describe what they mean by that. The ones I've asked mostly don't seem to know even their own neighbors.

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Really all of the go and... themes we've covered actually do give us an opportunity to know our neighbors.

Go and...pray. We can pray for our neighbors and ask God to lead us to relationship with them

Go and...listen. Go and...tell your story.

So a challenge for the month – go and get to know a neighbor you don't. It can be either in your own neighborhood or the church community. Have neighbors over for coffee or a block party.

I've also been thinking for awhile about more ways we might be able to do this as a church community, especially in Davey. Helping with the park renovation was a great example of serving with neighbors. What ideas do you have?

In Christ,
Pastor Kris

Mission:Possible

After two listening/discussion sessions last spring, a working group got together to talk more about mission, mission statements, and the future of Bethlehem. We came up with something like this as a place to start:

Mission Statement

Connect ————— Reach out ————— Connect

We are a small, welcoming community of faith who gather to connect to each other and to Christ in worship and to support one another. We then reach out to connect to our community and the world to share God's love.

The council will hammer this out a bit more formally and present it at the annual meeting. But we will also use it to draft a policy for making grants from our investment funds.

Worship is at 10:30 am Sundays, in person or online—or you can join us later on YouTube. Links to the bulletin and YouTube channel can be found on our website:

<https://www.bethlehemdavey.org/worship-in-person-and-online>

Calendar

- October 8** 10:30 am—Worship
October 15 10:30 am—Worship with holy communion
October 22 10:30 am—Worship
October 29 10:30 am—Reformation worship with holy communion

October helpers

Cleaning— Charlie and Karen
Lector - Charlie
Coffee - Annie and Curtis
Usher - Charlie
Communion Assistant – Laurie
Altar setup—Charlie and Karen
Little Free Pantry—open

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Church Website—bethlehemdavey.org



[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](#)

Council president—Jeff Atkinson—402-432-6212

Council members—Charlie Brown, Linda Sestak , Jerri Daugherty, Curtis Olson