

Bethlehem Churches plan a Remembrance of those lost to Covid and a Celebration of a New Beginning, as we move towards the end of the Pandemic.

Plans are underway for a community wide Celebration of the Bethlehem Star. The Star has lit up the community since the beginning of the pandemic and has shone as a beacon of hope, comfort and solidarity since March 21, 2020 during the dark days of Covid. On August 21, 2021 the Star will go dark again in anticipation of being re-lit for the Christmas season.

The Remembrance and Celebration for the Bethlehem community will be held in the grounds of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran church, the location of the Bethlehem Star.

Plans for the Celebration, led by the Bethlehem Ministerial Association and the Bethlehem Star Committee, will include food, special music and activities for children and adults.

A respectful service of remembrance will be a part of this time together as we take time to remember those who lost their lives in the pandemic. Names of family members and close acquaintances, who attended local churches or who resided in the Bethlehem community will be read followed by the ringing of a ship's bell. Community residents or church members are encouraged to share these names to be read by calling Mt. Pisgah Lutheran (828 495 8251)

The Committee feels that though the pandemic is not completely over, this Celebration of Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and the thoughtful remembrance of those who have gone before us is much needed.

The August 21st date at 6:30-8:00 will be the beginning of a new school year as well as the anticipated beginning of closure of this pandemic. Turning the Star off will encourage us to share His light and love. As Isaiah wrote, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" and as John reminded us "the darkness has not overcome it"

We look forward to this special time together Sat August 21st 6:30-8:00 and to the re-lighting of the Star this December 4, 2021, once again providing a special focus on Jesus the Light of the World.

Blessings

In His Light and Love

Pastor Mike, The Bethlehem Pastors and Star Committee