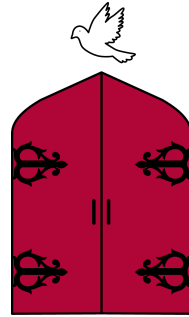


[View this email in your browser](#)



Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for August 29, 2024  
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm  
317-283-6559

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**This Sunday:** We move to our regular year long schedule of worship at 7:30 am and 10:30 am.

Service Project Sunday resumes at our regular time starting in this Sunday! On the first Sunday of each month, we will gather for a service project aimed at extending our love and care for our sisters and brothers in Christ. These projects ask for our time, talent, or treasure (and sometimes all three), and it's a really fun way to commune with our BLC family outside of worship.

On this Sunday, September 1, we are asking for baked good donations (store bought or homemade) to take to first responders. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 930a to make cards and then distribute cards and baked goods at fire stations around Bethlehem. If you're not able to join us, but would still like to participate, please feel free to take a baked good donation to your neighborhood fire station. For a map of Indianapolis Fire Department stations, please see the map at this link: <https://media.graphassets.com/ybMWqNpOS0KEOJne2QLX>

**Precentor's Note:** In July I got to attend the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians conference at Valparaiso University. I came home with some big words scrawled in my planner: "Be distinctively Lutheran. No one else is going to! ...And be adaptable and fresh." Here at BLC we're good at being "Distinctively Lutheran," and that will not change on my watch. "Adaptable and Fresh" became a lens for me to experience the worship at

the conference and reflect on our worship at BLC. In the months ahead, you'll notice a few little things that are out of the ordinary in our worship. They'll mostly be very little, don't worry! My goal is to grab our own attention with a little healthy disruption—that amazing word the youth reflected on this summer at summer camps and the National Gathering.

One change is not so little, and will begin this Sunday. We're used to launching our gathering with announcements, and then hearing a prelude as we prepare our hearts (and nervous systems!) for worship. Up until 10:30, we've come to expect a roar of joy and friendship in our sanctuary. **Starting this week, prelude music will always begin at 10:25.** Why? I want to provide a peaceful gloss for those who may want to enter and pray. The roar of joy and friendship is always welcome at BLC, but ***let's work together toward relocating the roar to the lounge and the lawn for those five minutes***, and keeping the joy and friendship in the sanctuary somewhat hushed. Following the announcements, you will hear a short musical "Introit," serving to focus the whole assembly's attention on the liturgy ahead. Our ushers will be placing signs at the entries to the sanctuary before worship begins that say simply *"Enter in reverence. Others may be praying here. Please use quiet voices in the sanctuary as we prepare for worship."* Parents, I'll explain this change to our kids at the beginning of our first Faith Formation hour on September 8. But I'd encourage you to give them a heads-up.



**BLC is heading to Victory Field!** Join us for a fun night of baseball and fellowship on Saturday, September 14th at 6:30pm. We're trying out Lawn Seats this time to give the kids more room to run and play, but we want members of all ages to enjoy the game so if you would prefer

Box Seats, please reach out to [Candice](#). There is a sign-up on the bulletin board at church. Tickets are \$9 each in the lawn (or \$15 in the stands) and checks should be made out to Bethlehem with "Baseball" in the memo. Please sign-up no later than **Sunday, September 8th**.

**Power pole replacement project update:** The traffic patterns in the church parking lot continue to change daily. Please be aware anytime you come to church.

The building will be closed and without power and WIFI on Monday, Sept. 9th, from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If you need to access the building that day, you will need a physical key to the building.

**Seeking Faith Formation Teachers:** As summer comes to a close (boo!) and we return to our "normal schedule", there are many exciting programs coming back at Bethlehem. **Faith Formation classes resume on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.** There's a class for everyone! Julie Smith will lead our youngest kiddos. Katie Bredehoeft is the teacher for Grades 1-3. Jennifer Scarborough heads up the Grades 4-5 kids. Pastor Ken will lead Middle School/Confirmation classes. And I will meet with our High Schoolers. We could always use more help! If you are interested in co-teaching, being a substitute teacher, or doing a "one time only" appearance as a Guest Speaker in the Teen Class, please reach out and let me know! We'd love to have you.



### **Young Adults in Global Mission -**

For the next 10 months, Madeline Smith will be serving with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program in Mexico. To find out more about and support Madeline and the ELCA's YAGM program, follow the link below [Young Adults in Global Mission: Madeline Smith - YAGM](#). In addition, stay tuned to the Blaze for the bimonthly updates she will be sharing regarding her journey.

The above link will take you to a donation site for YAGM or you can donate by check in the offering plate (Madeline's Mission) or [Vanco](#) (hyperlink or QR code). Madeline is so grateful for your support in any amount. Thank you!



**Scam Alert from Pastor Ken:** You may have received suspicious emails or text messages claiming to be from Pastor Ken asking for your help with a private matter, usually asking to buy gift cards for someone. This is a VERY common scam. If you receive any message from me that looks suspicious, please keep the following in mind:

- My ONLY cell phone number for begins with a 715 (Wisconsin) area code. If you receive a text message from any other number, it is NOT me.
- I send emails from one of two email addresses. Bulk messages sent to the entire congregation come from "pastor@indylutheran.org" and are sent through the ICON Database system the congregation uses.

All other messages are sent from my personal email account "ken@ecumenicallife.com". Emails sent from this account are always digitally signed with a public cryptographic key. It will either be included as part of the message itself or sent as an attachment. You can use a program like GnuPG or Enigmail to verify the validity of the public key, proving that I really did send the email.

If you receive an email from any other address, even it comes through from "Pastor Ken Ranos", it is NOT from me.

- Lastly, if you are ever suspicious of a text or email, contact me directly a different way--don't reply to the text or suspicious email itself



The **LYG Pantry** is running dangerously low on food for the LGBTQ+ youth that we serve. Are you able to help??

Can you support Indy's LGBTQ+ Youth by ordering much-needed items

from our Amazon Wishlist. Click the [here](#) to order for a list of their most-needed items. If you would like to drop donations, you may do so M=F 10am-3pm at 3733 North Meridian St., 46208 or in the bins at BLC outside the church office.



**Stephen Ministry:** *Caring that changes lives*

For more information about Stephen Ministry at BLC contact [Pastor Ken Ranos](#), [Abbi Todd](#), 253.905.3148, or [Shari Watts](#), 317.753.7323 for a confidential conversation.



## Liturgical Shields

In 1945, Pastor Don Elder created two shields decorated with liturgical symbols--one for the Epiphany of Our Lord, and one for Reformation Sunday. He organized an Ecclesiastical Arts Group in 1949 and proposed decorating the entire ceiling of the sanctuary with similar shields to represent every Sunday, Principal Festival, and Lesser Festival celebrated in the church year at that time. Pastor Elder designed two series of shields (essentially the church year twice), 130 shields in total, and the EAG painted them, completing the project in 1952.

The shields don't always correspond to particular lectionary readings of the day, but they do draw on the themes for the seasons and incorporate symbols related to them. Each series runs from the top row to the bottom, from the front of the nave to the back.

These shields correspond to the Sundays and festival days of September this year in the South series:

1 September 2024: Time after Pentecost (Lectionary 22) — "Cornucopia", green

This is ancient symbol of God's bounty and one of the twelve tribes of Israel. It is also known as a horn of plenty.

8 September 2024: Time after Pentecost (Lectionary 23) — "Nine Pointed Star", green

The nine pointed star with each point bearing a letter represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit based on Galatians 5:22: Love, Joy, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Self-control.

15 September 2024: Time after Pentecost (Lectionary 24) — "Cross Barbee", green

This cross has ends that resemble fish hooks, recalling the disciples' appointment as fishers of people.

21 September 2024: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist St. Matthew the Evangelist", red

The winged man is the Evangelist Matthew's symbol because his Gospel traces the human descent of Jesus.

22 September 2024: Time after Pentecost (Lectionary 25) — "Christ the Victor", green

This ancient cross and monogram is formed by a Greek cross with "IC", the Greek abbreviation for Jesus, and "XC" for Christ on the upper side of the arms (in Greek, an "s" as the last letter in a word looks like a "c"). The Greek "NIKA", or "victory", appears below the arms. This Christ the Victor symbol is common in Byzantine art.

29 September 2024: Time after Pentecost (Lectionary 26) — "Chi Rho", green

The Chi Rho is among the most ancient of Christian symbols. It is an abbreviation of the Greek word for Christ, "XP" (in Greek, the letter "X" makes the "chi" sound and the letter "P" is our letter "R").

Festivals for which there are no shields:

14 September 2024: Holy Cross Day

29 September 2024: Michael and All Angels

--- Excerpts expand on the work of Sheryl D. Vanderstel, historian, in "Christianity and Community: A History of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1923-1990".

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## Ask The Pastor

Got questions about religion, Christianity, faith, church history, theology, worship, etc.? Send your questions to [Pastor Ken](#) and you'll find your answer featured in the weekly e-Blaze newsletter!

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BLC Members: Roger Gregory, the Keck family, Ken McCune, John Pitts, Todd Rainer, Lillie Roper, Nova Urban

Family of members: Chris Burke, Dean, Liz Cantey, Steve Clark, Melanie Cochran, *Rich Grady (nephew of John Jordan, cancer)*, Rick Graverson, Betty Griffis, Eric Hanson, Sam Hazlett, Adam Hege, Kurt Hofbauer, Deby Koss, Jim Kovach, Heather Patrick, Player family, Sharise Powell, Jeremiah Ray, David Schmidt, Robin Serafin, Steve Smith, Barry Storlie

Friends of members: Kristin Colber-Baker, Jeannie & Marvin Galbreath, Stacey Keaffaber, Rosie Kepple, Judy Kreger, Lori, George L., Deda M., Lynn Medley, Joseph Morone, Brooke Feister O'Brien, Miss Perez, Werner Reicken, Jane & Jim Reinhart, Linda Ruisz, Wayne & Michelle Russell, Judy Williams, Wendy

[Let us know](#) if you'd like to add/remove someone.

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### Upcoming Birthdays

8/30 Levon Evans  
8/31 Mike Todd  
9/2 Angela Hertig, Rachel Mahan,  
Lexie Westphal  
9/5 Kaaren Rodman

### Upcoming Anniversaries

8/30 Julie Keck & John Champley  
8/31 Sarah & Bill Brown

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## What's happening this week?

**TODAY**, August 29, 2024

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**, September 1, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:30 am Service Project Sunday

10:30 am Holy Communion (Live & Streamed-YouTube)

## **MONDAY**

## **TUESDAY**

7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting (BLC)

## **WEDNESDAY**

8:30 am Wednesday Walk (Crown Hill)

12:00 pm e-Blaze submission deadline

6:30 pm Evening Prayer

7:00 pm Wednesday Books

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

## **NEXT THURSDAY, September 5, 2024**

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

### [Church Calendar](#)

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## **Serving This Sunday (Sept. 1st)**

Acolyte - Lucia Ladrón de Guevara

Lector - Lori VanEvery

Children's Sermon - Karen Feder

Communion Assistant - Traci  
Rodgers

Communion Prep - E. Rispoli & P.  
Russel

A/V - Peter Russel

Usher - Rick Roberts

Counters - B. Slover & K. Alder

## **Serving Next Sunday (Sept. 1st)**

Acolyte -

Lector - Kaaren Rodman

Children's Sermon -

Communion Assistant - Jennifer  
Scharbrough

Communion Prep - Beverly  
Emmons

A/V - Phoebe Tatum

Usher - Rick Roberts

Counters - B. Slover & K. Alder

If you can help with any of these upcoming services please contact the [office!](#)

## **Worship With Us**

Sunday in-person Worship at 10:30 am

Click [here](#) for 10:30 am Live-Stream

Wednesday Evening Prayer in-person at 6:30 pm

Click [here](#) for 6:30 pm Live-Stream



[Click here](#) to access BLC's YouTube channel

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Got something to add to the e-Blaze? The deadline to [submit articles](#) is every Wednesday at noon!



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