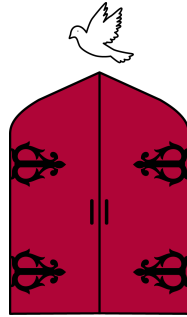


[View this email in your browser](#)



Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for December 12, 2024
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 3:30pm
317-283-6559

This Sunday: St. Lucia Celebration

General Operating Net Income Update and Appeal

As of November 30, 2024, net income for Bethlehem's general operating fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 was (\$35,742), which is a negative figure. Actual receipts for the period were \$127,844 as compared to budgeted receipts of \$169,278. Actual expenses for the fiscal year were \$163,586 as compared to budgeted expenses of \$169,278. The main driver of the negative net income figure was smaller giving totals of \$17,270 in October and \$12,013 in November. We need pledges and offerings of \$33,206 per month to be on budget. This amounts to \$7,663 per week.

Please check your funds available and consider additional giving. Regular giving is most helpful for meeting monthly expenses, and this can be automated via VANCO or your bank's bill paying service.

Thank you for your financial support of the ministries here at Bethlehem.
Bill Slover, Finance/Endowment Ministry

Christmas Caroling This Saturday we are going **Christmas Caroling! The more the merrier!** Two groups will be out visiting on two different routes—one close to Bethlehem (approximately 10 stops) led by Susan Powell and John Seest, the other around the north suburbs (approximately six stops—more miles in the car) led by Pastor Ranos, Karen

McCune, and Claire White. The groups will meet at noon at their first stops and end by gathering at the church for cocoa and refreshments at 3:00 p.m. If you haven't signed up to participate yet, contact Susan for more details about carpooling, destinations, starting location, etc. A finalized map & schedule will be distributed Friday afternoon.

St. Lucia Celebration: Please join in the St. Lucia festivities on this Sunday, December 15, in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. There will be traditional Scandinavian foods, but also welcome finger foods from the many cultures and traditions of our members. We invite you to share a food from your own ethnic background, or try one of the Scandinavian recipes posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Hope to see you there.

Saint Lucia of Syracuse, d. 304, martyr

On Sunday, we commemorate a saint particularly beloved in Scandinavian countries, Saint Lucia.

Lucia (or Lucy) was born in Syracuse, Sicilia (Sicily), around 283 CE. At a young age she chose to remain unmarried and dedicated herself to God at a time when Roman authorities persecuted Christians. Her mother, however, fearing for health and Lucy's future, tried to arrange a marriage for her daughter, which Lucy rejected. The man who was supposed to marry her retaliated by turning Lucy in to the governor of Sicilia as a Christian. When she refused to renounce her faith and offer a sacrifice to the Emperor, she was executed in 304 CE at the age of 21.

One popular legend says she used to sneak food to other Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs. In order to bring as much food as she could in her arms, she put candles in a wreath on her head to light her way through the catacombs, and this is how she is usually portrayed in processions and celebrations.

Though she is a Sicilian saint, her association with light (her name means "light"), feast day of 13 December (near the darkest night of the year, the Winter Solstice), and a resemblance in-name-only to, and subversion of, an ancient (evil) Scandinavian figure "Lussi", who flew through the sky on the darkest night of the year, made her an extremely popular saint in Scandinavian religion and culture, which is where the well-known Saint Lucy traditions come from.

This year, Antonio Ladrón de Guevara will be hosting the Bethlehem festivities. Antonio is a junior at North Central High School, and is proud to don the robes of St. Lucius. He is a member of the NC's Counterpoints showchoir and Repertory Theater, and participates in track and field. In his scarce spare time, he loves playing guitar and playing soccer.



Cards From Kids: This week, we get to thank our church staff for their service especially during this time of year, but all year round as they devote endless time, energy and love directly into our congregation to be sure Bethlehem Lutheran Church is always a place we can call home. If you are eager to let Pastor Ken, Precentor Susan, Parish Assistant Nancy, and Youth and Family Coordinator Candice know how blessed you are by their leadership, be sure to visit the card making station during our Brunch Fellowship time.

Christmas Eve Readers: Nine lectors are needed to do readings for the Christmas Eve 7:30 service. If we're short, some can double up. To volunteer, please email or text Marty Benson, mtb42@att.net or 317-696-9812, ideally by Dec. 18. Thanks

Office Hours

The church office is open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Looking to drop in and talk to Pastor Ken? If so, you'll most likely find me in the office:

Tuesdays: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Wednesdays: 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Thursdays: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Fridays: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

However, I sometimes have meetings (on- and off-site),

appointments, hospital/home visits, Bible studies, or other engagements scheduled during the day, so I may not always be in the office during these times. If you know in advance you would like to talk to me, please contact me so we can setup an appointment.

Jelly Drive

Peanut Butter is missing its best friend! Did you know that Cathedral Kitchen gets lots of donated peanut butter but sadly is low on jelly? Bethlehem will be collecting jars and bottles of jelly from now through the end of the month. Please purchase a container or two of your favorite strawberry, grape, or other flavor jelly, and place them in the box labeled "Jelly Drive" in the hallway. Thanks for your generous support!



Young Adult in Global Mission: Madeline

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. Madeline sent a new update last week: you can read it [here](#). Thank you!



The **IYG Pantry** is running dangerously low on food for the LGBTQ+ youth that we serve. 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.



If you have any questions about Stephen Ministry training and caregiving, please contact [Pastor Ken Ranos](#), [Abbi Todd](#), 253.905.3148, or [Shari Watts](#), 317.753.7323 for a confidential conversation.



Can you find this week's shields?

15 December 2024: Third Sunday of Advent — "Abraham and Isaac", violet (blue)

A brazier of burning charcoal and a bundle of wood symbolize Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac at God's command.

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!



BLC Members: Roger Gregory, Mike Smith

Family of members: *Carol Boyd*, (*Kate Boyd's mother; surgery*), Chris Burke, Steve Clark, Melanie Cochran, Rich Grady, Rick Graverson, Eric Hanson, Sam Hazlett, Adam Hege, Kurt Hofbauer, Deby Koss, Jim Kovach, Heather Patrick, Jeremiah Ray, David Schmidt, Robin Serafin, Steve Smith, Barry Storlie

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

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

Upcoming Birthdays

12/13 Vera Beatty, Gunnar Tysklind
12/15 Noah Pfligenstofer, Carol
Sternecker
12/18 Eli Hreno
12/19 Tonya Bergeson, Bill Slover

Upcoming Anniversaries

12/16 Sarah & Zach Heider
12/17 Deb & Jesse McDaniel

What's happening this week?

TODAY, December 12, 2024

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY, December 15, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am St. Lucia Celebration

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

MONDAY

TUESDAY

7:00 pm Stephen Ministry (BLC)

WEDNESDAY

9:00 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, December 19, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

[Church Calendar](#)

Serving This Sunday (Dec. 15th)

Acolyte - Levon Evans

Lector - Marty Benson

Serving Next Sunday (Dec. 22nd)

Acolyte - Kingston Queck

Lector - Phoebe Tatum

Advent Wreath - Clark family
Children's Sermon - Erik Tyskland
Communion Assistant - Traci
Rodgers
Communion Prep - *needed*
A/V - Phoebe Tatum
Usher - Erik Tyskland
Counters - G. Price & B. Alder

Advent Wreath - Beatty family
Children's Sermon - none
Communion Assistant - Lucia
Ladrón de Guevara
Communion Prep - *needed*
A/V - Nancy Slover
Usher - *youth needed*
Counters - G. Price & B. 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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
Created to...
connect.
grow.
serve.



office@indylutheran.org

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