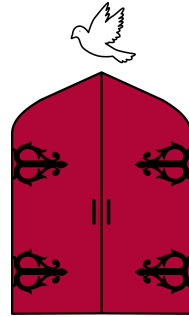


[View this email in your browser](#)



Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for February 20, 2025
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 3:30pm
317-283-6559

This Sunday is Faith Formation for kids and adults. Sunday School: Joseph Feeds his Family, Genesis 45:3-11, 15.

Upcoming Life Learning Sessions for Adults during Faith Formation on 2/23/2025 and in March 2025

Life Learning sessions are taking place in the lounge on faith formation Sundays (2nd and 4th Sundays of the month) this Spring in February, March, and April from 9:00 AM-10:AM.



Disaster Response Simulation

4th Sunday of February (2/23/2025, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM)

Our Indiana-Kentucky Synod disaster coordinator, Jayme Beneker, will engage us in a simulation that will help us understand and empathize with the problems and emotions that victims experience after a disaster. All are welcome to join us for this intriguing session.

Identifying Bethlehem's Assets for Disaster Response

2nd Sunday in March (3/09/2025, 9:00 AM-10:00AM)

Jayme Beneker will lead us as we explore assets that Bethlehem's building, location, and members might provide if a disaster struck our community. Previous sessions are not a prerequisite to participation in this one. This session is the final of three sessions that Jayme will lead for us this Spring.

Coming Out as Christians

4th Sunday in March (March 23, 2025, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM)

Maury Plambeck and Sam McHenry have been together for 38 years. They both grew up in Christian homes. Maury and Sam will lead a dialogue about their struggles as gay Christians, their relationship, and their lives.

Watch March eBlaze newsletters and Sunday bulletins for titles and descriptions of our two April sessions (4/13/2025 and 4/27/2025) that will wind up our adult Life Learning Sessions for the Spring of 2025.

Questions? Contact [Susie Swenson](mailto:Susie.Swenson@bethlehem.org) (317-251-1605)



On 8 February 2025, the **Ranos family** welcomed a new addition:

Jamie

Danielle Ranos! Jamie was born a few weeks early, but healthy and happy. After spending a week in the hospital, the whole family is home.

I want to thank everyone who put together a wonderful shower for Debbie, especially since she couldn't be there; Jamie was born during the shower! Jordan enjoyed getting to open all of your cards and presents, and Sue (Debbie's Mom) enjoyed meeting everyone and seeing how much Debbie is loved.

The Congregation Council has granted my request for eight weeks of paternity leave starting 9 February through 6 April. During these weeks, I will continue to lead Sunday morning worship, faith formation, and activities; but I will not be available during the week. Both the Wednesday night book group and the Friday afternoon Men's Bible study have elected to take a break until mid-April. Wednesday evening prayer will not be held in February, but Holden Evening Prayer will be held during Lent.

If you need pastoral care while I am on leave, I have arranged for coverage from a few of my colleagues. I commend you to Pastor Ed Strietelmeier from Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, who is available until 23 March. After that, Pastors Bob and Sarah Nowak from Pleasant View Lutheran Church are available. They are wonderful pastors who will accompany you while I cannot, so please do not hesitate to contact them if you need them.

I will return in full before Holy Week. I'm grateful to the Congregation Council for giving me the time to better care for my family and myself.

Peace,
Pastor Ken

Contacts for Pastoral Care:

The Reverend [Ed Strietelmeier](#) (until 23 March): 419-410-4400

The Reverend [Bob Nowak](#) (after 23 March): 317-253-0872

The Reverend [Sarah Nowak](#) (after 23 March): , 419-343-2559



March Service Sunday is coming up! Join us on March 2nd at 9a to assist [Laundry & More](#), a Lawrence-based organization that exists for families to wash their clothes and bedding for free. We'll make sandwiches for families served by Laundry & More and collect monetary

and supply donations for the organization - they spend about \$11 per family for coins in the laundry machines. Quarters, dollars, and checks can be made out to BLC (note Laundry & More in the memo line). In addition to financial donations, we are collecting laundry detergent pods, waterless detergent sheets, dryer sheets, and 30 gallon heavy-duty garbage bags. They are not collecting liquid detergent at this time.

Laundry & More also provides sandwiches to the 40-50 families they serve at each washing and we are looking for volunteers interested in assembling sandwiches in the kitchen. Donations of individual/snack size packages of goldfish-type or snack crackers are also welcome for kids that accompany their caregivers to the laundromat.

To see more of the impact Laundry & More provides, check out this [video](#).

The 2025 Nominating Committee – We are seeking nominations for Church Council and Synod Representatives. Please consider serving the church in one of these capacities. If interested or have a name to suggest, please contact the [church office](#) by Feb. 28. You may also contact a member of the nominating committee - Bill Slover, Kate Lutholtz Bridge, Stephanie Levine, Carl Crabiel, Natalie Goss, Bev Todd.

Stewardship 2025: Council shared a survey seeking feedback of how you feel things are going at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This [survey](#) is an opportunity for each member to give suggestions of what you like and what you would like to see happen at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Intent cards were mailed last week as part of Stewardship 2025. You may complete the card and return to church **or** complete the online [Intent](#). Your time and talents are so very important to the ongoing success of our ministries. Please prayerfully consider what you can share with others.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Fundraiser to support BLC Youth

6:30PM

**All-you-can-eat
Pancakes
Sausage**

03.04.25



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

The choir of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is presenting a **Lenten hymn festival** entitled "O Love of God." There will be two performances: Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 317 N New Jersey Street; and Sunday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 526 E 52nd Street.



Sculpture: "Trinity" by Kelly Davies, Wayzata, Minnesota. www.daviesartstudio.com

Thursday, March 13, 2025
St. Mary Catholic Church
317 N New Jersey Street
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 16, 2025
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
526 E 52nd Street
2:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH CHOIR

SUSAN POWELL
DIRECTOR

*O LOVE
OF GOD—
A HYMN FESTIVAL*

Helping Hams, the proud offspring of the Great Chicken Roundup (GCR), returns on **Service Sunday, April 6**. Starting at 9 a.m., between services, we'll pack 48 banana boxes of groceries bought with your donations.



Lutheran Child & Family Services will deliver them to households in need. Boxes run \$75 each. Please consider donating with a check made out to Great Chicken Roundup/Helping Hams or through [Vanco](#). To volunteer to help with pickup the **morning of April 5 (9 to 11 a.m.)** and/or setup that afternoon (1 to 3 p.m.), please contact [Marty Benson](#), 317-696-9812. Thank you.

Grace Unlimited is in search of a Treasurer for our Board. Grace Unlimited is an inclusive and affirming campus ministry for students that is supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Weekly worship services incorporate elements of both faith traditions, but students of all religious backgrounds are welcome to attend, regardless of where they are on their spiritual journey.. Grace Unlimited is an inclusive and affirming campus ministry for students that is supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Weekly worship services incorporate elements of both faith traditions, but students of all religious backgrounds are welcome to attend, regardless of where they are on their

spiritual journey.

The Treasurer role is about 2 hours a week balancing the boards books and meeting with the board about 4 or 5 times a year. Any Questions? Ask Sarah Morgan, Brent Hege, or Carl Crabiel (who is our newly retired Treasurer)

First Trinity Admin needed: First Trinity Lutheran Church is seeking an Admin Assistant to put their bulletins together each week. The position would be 3 to 4 hours a week after training and pays \$14/hr. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them send an e-mail to [Dan Mowry](#) or call 317-201-5230.

Young Adult in Global Mission: [Madeline](#)
Madeline's most recent update (1/31/2025): can be read [here](#).



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 shield?

23 February 2025: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany — "Prodigal Son &

Father", green

To show his forgiveness, the father orders the fatted calf to be killed in celebration of his son's return.

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: David Daniell, Chervyl Lesher, Traci Rodgers, Debbie Ranos, Carol Sternecker

Family of members: Holly Black, Carol Boyd, Chris Burke, Steve Clark, Melanie Cochran, Liz Fisher, Rich Grady, Rick Graverson, Eric Hanson, Sam Hazlett, Adam Hege, Kurt Hofbauer, Debi Koss, Jim Kovach, Elizabeth Kreppein, Heather Patrick, Jeremiah Ray, David Schmidt, Robin Serafin, Steve Smith, Barry Storlie

Friends of members: Father Michael Barton, Kristin Colber-Baker, Rosie Kepple, Lori, Deda M., Margo, Monica, Joseph Morone, 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

2/20 Kris Barringer, Ellen Rispoli
2/21 Luke Hreno
2/23 Phillip Landin, Scout Landin
2/25 Jesse McDaniel
2/19 Erin Schickel, Seth Schickel

Upcoming Anniversaries

2/26 Charlie & Becky Kendall

What's happening this week?

TODAY, February 20, 2025

6:30 Worship & Music Committee Mtg

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY, February 23, 2025

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am Faith Formation: Kids & Adults

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

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

9:00 am Wednesday Walk (Crown Hill)

12:00 pm e-Blaze submission deadline

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

NEXT THURSDAY, February 27, 2025

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

[Church Calendar](#)

Serving This Sunday (Feb. 23rd)

Acolyte - Ben Levine

Lector - Erik Tysklind

Children's Sermon - Pastor Ken

Communion Asst. - Lori VanEvery

Communion Prep - Brenda Grable

A/V - Nancy Slover

Usher - *needed*

Counters - N. Slover & J.

Scharbrough

Serving Next Sunday (Mar. 2nd)

Acolyte - Phoebe Tatum

Lector - Ardy Hollingsworth

Children's Sermon - Jennifer

Scharbrough

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Communion Prep - *needed*

A/V - Nancy Slover

Usher - M. Benson & T. Wott

Counters - K. Steele & J. Smith

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

No Wednesday Evening Prayer this week

[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.



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www.indylutheran.org

office@indylutheran.org

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