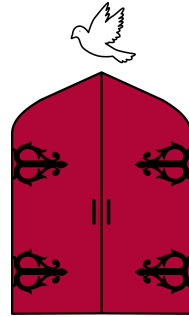


[View this email in your browser](#)



Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for February 6, 2025

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 3:30pm

317-283-6559

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**This Sunday** is Faith Formation. Youth lesson is The Disciples, Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3. Adult Faith Formation (see below) will meet in the lounge from 9:00 am to 10:00am.

### **General Operating Net Income Update and Appeal**

As of December 31, 2024, net income for Bethlehem's general operating fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 was (954), which is a negative figure. Actual receipts for the period were \$187,067 as compared to budgeted receipts of \$203,134. Actual expenses for the fiscal year were \$188,021 as compared to budgeted expenses of \$203,134.

December was a big comeback month for us on the fiscal front. The net income figure at the end of November was (\$35,742), which is a much bigger negative figure. But in December, pledges and offerings totaled \$58,506 which well exceeded the \$33,206 per month that we need to be on budget. There were also some savings on the expense side in several categories that helped to provide this result. So hearty thanks go out to all who contributed!

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

**Pastoral Letter to the Congregation:** Click [here](#) to read a Letter from Pastor Ken regarding Accusations Made Against Lutheran

Social Services, Global Refuge, and Other Lutheran Organizations.

**Stewardship 2025:** Last week 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 will be mailed this 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.

**Adult Life Learning Sessions Begin Sunday, February 9th!**

Don't miss the first of our exciting new Life Learning Sessions for Bethlehem members and guests this Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM-10:00 AM in the lounge! Life learning sessions will be offered for adults on Faith Formation Sundays in February, March, and April.



Get ready for an enlightening experience on February 9<sup>th</sup> as we welcome the dynamic IN-KY Synod disaster coordinator, Jayme Beneker, for the first of three sessions on Disaster Response. Jayme will guide us through interactive discussions and hands-on activities that delve into how we can respond to disasters affecting our communities in Indiana and Kentucky.

**February 9** Learn about the stages of a disaster and find out how the IN-KY Synod responds in case of a disaster.

**February 16** Join in a hands-on disaster simulation and discussion to better understand what individuals and groups face in an emergency.

**March 9** Together, we will identify the assets Bethlehem has that would be helpful to our community in case of a disaster and ways we may be

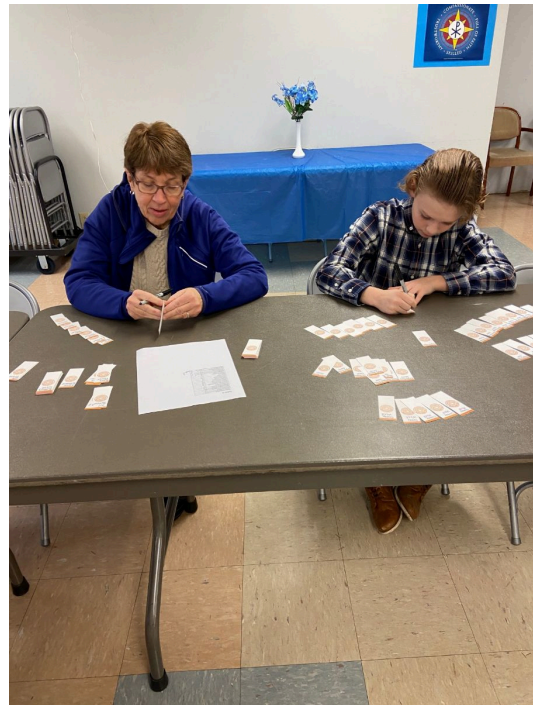
uniquely suited to oer help.

Take advantage of these and future life learning sessions to engage, connect, and collaborate with fellow members as we explore a variety of topics. Don't miss out on this chance to deepen your faith while making a difference—join us for these transformative sessions!

Contact Susie Swenson, 317-251-1605 or [sgswenson@comcast.net](mailto:sgswenson@comcast.net) for more information.



**Last Sunday's Service Project** creating species tags for the native plants for Indy Urban Acres (IUA), a local non-profit urban farm. More information about IUA and their native plant sale can be found here: [www.iuaplantsale.com](http://www.iuaplantsale.com)



**The 65th Street Klezmerim**, sponsored by Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and conducted by Shawn Royer, PhD, will be performing **Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 2 PM in Bethlehem Lutheran Church.** Klezmer music was originally Central and Eastern European Jewish folk music. The essential elements of the tradition include dance tunes, ritual melodies, and virtuosic improvisations played for listening; these would

have been played at weddings and other social functions. The musical genre incorporated elements of many other musical genres including Ottoman (especially Greek and Romanian) music, Baroque music, German and Slavic folk dances, Yiddish theater and religious Jewish music. This event is open to the public.



**Bingo, Karaoke and Pizza fellowship!**

# 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.kellydaviesstudio.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 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Updated Directory:** Do you need an updated directory? There are a few, printed and available for taking. They are located outside the main office.

**Young Adult in Global Mission:** [Madeline](#)

Madeline's most recent update (1/31/2025): you can read it [here](#).



The **ITYG 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.



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## Can you find this week's shield?

9 February 2025: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany — "Prodigal Son & Pig", green  
*This is a symbol of the son's squandering of his inheritance and reduced to living in a barnyard.*

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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!



BLC Members: Chervyl Leshner, David Daniell  
*(accident)*

Family of members: Carol Boyd, Chris Burke, Steve Clark, Melanie Cochran, Liz Fisher *(Mike Smith's aunt; health complications)*, 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.

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## Upcoming Birthdays

2/6 Michael Pritchard, Gunnar Queck  
2/8 Elliot Levine  
2/10 Art Hennig  
2/12 Ron Gyure, John Hertig  
2/13 Keith Beatty

## Upcoming Anniversaries

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## What's happening this week?

**TODAY**, February 6, 2025

### FRIDAY

12:00 pm Men's Bible Study

### SATURDAY

11:30 am Baby Shower for Baby Ranos!

**SUNDAY**, February 9, 2025

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am Faith Formation: Child **and** ADULT

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

12:00 pm Bingo/Karaoke/Pizza

### MONDAY

6:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting

7:00 pm Women's Sharing Books

### TUESDAY

### 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**, February 13, 2025

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

### [Church Calendar](#)

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#### **Serving This Sunday (Feb. 9th)**

Acolyte - Kingston Queck  
Lector - Brent Hege  
Children's Sermon - Karen Feder  
Communion Assistant - Traci  
Rodgers  
Communion Prep - Brenda Grable  
A/V - Nancy Slover  
Usher - R. Roberts & M. Benson  
Counters - N. Slover & B. Alder

#### **Serving Next Sunday (Feb. 16th)**

Acolyte - James Clark  
Lector - Norma Crabiel  
Children's Sermon - Sarah Evans  
Communion Assistant - Lori  
VanEvery  
Communion Prep - Brenda Grable  
A/V - Nancy Slover  
Usher - *needed*  
Counters - N. Slover & G. Price

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!

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church.**  
Created to...

**connect.**  
**grow.**  
**serve.**



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[office@indylutheran.org](mailto:office@indylutheran.org)

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