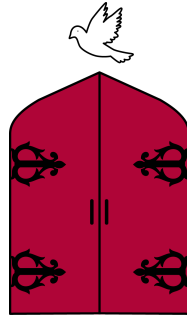


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Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for September 5, 2024

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

317-283-6559

This Sunday: Faith Formation returns **this Sunday at 9 am!** Please join us in the Sanctuary for a brief Opening followed by bagels for both parents and kids in the Lounge. After a group prayer, kids will follow teachers upstairs for class. Please pray for the beginning of Faith Formation.



Service Project Update: We are glad to be back in the swing of the church calendar with the return of Service Sundays! This past Sunday, a group of 15-20 members delivered baked goods and notes of gratitude to the emergency medical teams at Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) stations 14, 21, 31, and 32. The fire fighters seemed very appreciative of our gifts and looked forward to enjoying them before they raced off to another call. The September Service project has come to honor and serve those who serve us everyday - emergency responders - in memoriam of the brave responders who raced toward danger in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. If you missed Service Sunday, but would like to participate, there is

still time! Emergency responders are heroes everyday and would be happy to receive a treat in gratitude, or a kind note. IFD stations are linked here to find a station near your home: chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://media.graphassets.com/ybMWqNpOS0KEOJne2QLX>

Looking forward to our fall service projects, please save the dates for the following events:

- October 6: Storm Drain Cleanup & Neighborhood Beautification - bring your shovels and work gloves, and prepare to get a little dirty as we beautify the neighborhood BLC calls "home"
- November 3: Great Chicken Roundup - a really fun event the congregation flocks to in packing food donations to support Lutheran Family & Child Services ministry (more details and fundraising opportunities coming soon!)





BLC is heading to Victory Field! Please sign-up no later than **this Sunday, September 8th**. 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.

Power pole replacement project update: The building will be closed and without power and WIFI on **Monday, Sept. 9th & Monday, Sept. 16th, from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM**, this is a change in dates from the last notice. If you need to access the building that day, you will need a physical key to the building.

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.

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 8th 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!



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.



Dear Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

On 9/9/24, Stephen Minister training begins for a group of 3 laypeople from BLC and Cross and Crown.



Over the next few months these future Stephen Ministers will receive extensive training in Christian caring skills. Some of the areas they will cover include listening effectively, addressing feelings, confidentiality, using the resources of Christianity, being assertive, and a number of topics dealing with specific life crises. Throughout, the training will emphasize the theology of caring for the whole person.

Following the training, these men and women will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers to carry out ministries of caring within our congregations and communities, with people experiencing hospitalization, grief, divorce, job loss, and many other life crises.

The people who are participating in this Stephen Ministry training and committing to serve as Stephen Ministers are:

Brent Vaughn(BLC), Linda Stuckert(C&C) and Terry Anderson(C&C)

Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers as they receive this training for caring ministry.

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.

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:

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".

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, 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, 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.

Upcoming Birthdays

9/5 Kaaren Rodman
9/10 Ella Hirschey

Upcoming Anniversaries

9/6 Jennifer & Travis Wilson

What's happening this week?

TODAY, September 5, 2024

FRIDAY

12:00 pm Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY

SUNDAY, September 8, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:30 am Faith Formation

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

MONDAY

6:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting

7:00 pm Women's Sharing Books

TUESDAY

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 12, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

[Church Calendar](#)

Serving This Sunday (Sept. 8th)

Acolyte - Lucia Ladrón de Guevara

Lector - Kaaren Rodman

Children's Sermon - Natalie Goss

Communion Assistant - Jennifer

Scharbrough

Communion Prep - Beverly

Emmons

A/V - Phoebe Tatum

Usher - R. Roberts & P. Russel

Counters - B. Slover & K. Alder

Serving Next Sunday (Sept. 15th)

Acolyte - Kingston Queck

Lector - Ardy Hollingsworth

Children's Sermon - Jennifer

Scharbrough

Communion Assistant - Jennifer

Scharbrough

Communion Prep - Beverly

Emmons

A/V - Nancy Slover

Usher - *needed*

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

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



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www.indylutheran.org

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