

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

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**This Sunday** is Service Project Sunday.

**Service Sunday project** - We have less than one week before the March Service Sunday project! We're in need of more volunteers to sign up to donate blood on site between 830a-1130a on March 3. Versiti will have their blood mobile in the church parking lot and many slots are still available. If you are not able to donate blood yourself, please consider letting others know about the drive. This is an "open drive" meaning anyone can sign up to donate. Please sign up at the link [here](#).

To help understand the role your blood donation can provide, we've linked a video here [Sickle Cell - Mariah Roberts | Versiti \(youtube.com\)](#).

In addition to the blood drive, we are also collecting supplies for the [Indiana Prison Writer's Workshop](#). From their website: In a world that often looks down upon those who have made mistakes, the Indiana Prison Writers Workshop stands as a beacon of hope, offering incarcerated individuals the chance to transform their lives through the power of words, accessing deeper levels of the heart. This unique program has not only proven that writing has therapeutic benefits, but has also demonstrated how education and creativity can break down barriers and bring about positive change within the prison system.

The Prison Writer's Workshop is looking for the following types of donations linked below. Supplies linked are examples and do not need to

be the exact same, but donations do need to be new, due to Department of Corrections requirements.

[Composition notebooks](#)

[Pens](#)

[2-pocket folders](#)

We will be collecting these in Fellowship Hall during the Service Sunday hour.



## **Today is the last day to order Easter**

**Flowers:** Please help us decorate the sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers for Easter. Each 6" pot is \$8.00. There are Easter Lillies, Tulips and Daffodils to order. Please submit your [orders](#) by today, February 29th. Or [email](#)/call the office, 317.283.6559. Pay by check, cash or [Vanco](#). Thank you!

## **Lenten suppers – a visit to New Orleans**

**Wednesdays at 6pm**

**(Mar 6, 13, 20)**

We leave the NOLA Cajun traditions for a combination of African and Asian influences, and a sampling of pure NOLA street food. Remember all donations for your dinner support the youth trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering.

### **Mar 6 Menu**

Ya-Ka-Mein – LF

Corn Chowder with Bacon

Split pea Soup – LF, GF, V

Beverages

PB&J

Salads

Assorted Breads

**Holden Evening prayer follows supper at 7pm.**

## **WEDNESDAY BOOKS**

The Wednesday book group is starting a new book this Wednesday, 28 February. We will be reading another book by Elaine Pagels, [Adam, Eve, and the Serpent: Sex and Politics in Early Christianity](#). The description reads:

"How did the early Christians come to believe that sex was inherently sinful? When did the Fall of Adam become synonymous with the fall of humanity? What turned Christianity from a dissident sect that championed the integrity of the individual and the idea of free will into the bulwark of a new imperial order—with the central belief that human beings cannot not choose to sin? In this provocative masterpiece of historical scholarship Elaine Pagels re-creates the controversies that racked the early church as it confronted the riddles of sexuality, freedom, and sin as embodied in the story of Genesis. And she shows how what was once heresy came to shape our own attitudes toward the body and the soul."

Pagels is an accessible author, and the group previously enjoyed her book on the Origin of Satan. Because we're starting a new book, this is the perfect time to hop in and join us.

The group meets every Wednesday night following Evening Prayer. Come enjoy a Lenten soup supper at 6:00 pm, then stay for Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm followed by Wednesday Books at 7:30 pm.

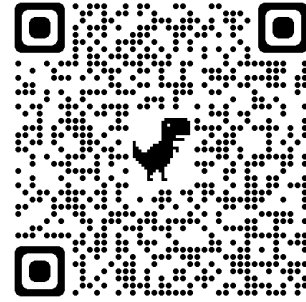


**Indy Fuel Faith and Family Night** – March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm. All-you-can-eat hot dogs, popcorn, and chips. Tickets are \$17 per person. Sign up on the bulletin board for a fun night of hockey and fellowship!

**Helping Hams** makes its triumphant return on Service Sunday April 7. Between services, we will pack 48 boxes of food bought with your generous donations to give to needy families. One box costs about \$72. Why not “buy a box” or more? Make checks out to Great Chicken Roundup/Helping Hams or donate through [Vanco](#), selecting Chicken Roundup/Helping Hams. To volunteer to help prep on April 6 or for more information, please contact Marty Benson, 317-696-9812, [mtb42@att.net](mailto:mtb42@att.net).

## Stewardship Campaign needs

**you!** Thank you to all that have completed their pledge. Current pledges are under what we received last year. The Council and Finance Committee need pledges to plan our budget for the upcoming fiscal year.



Please faithfully consider what you are able to pledge to Bethlehem, so we may continue our church and community programs. Use this QR code, the paper pledge cards (found in the hallway outside the church office OR [here](#), to complete a pledge. Thank you!!

## More volunteers are needed:

\*Communion preparers are needed for March and April. Please contact Beverly Emmons 317.414.5634 if you have questions.

\*Communion Assistants are needed to distribute communion during the 10:30 service. If you can help, please let the [office@indylutheran.com](mailto:office@indylutheran.com) know.

The new **Flower Chart** is posted on the Sign up board in the hall. Please stop by and sign up to sponsor flowers throughout the church year. Thank you!

**Greeting Cards:** Micheal Smith has generously donated greeting cards from his business, [Crown Point Graphics](#), for anyone interested in grabbing some. They are located on the tables outside the church office while supplies last. Make sure to visit and support his business if you have a chance. Thanks Mike!



The IYG 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 Cares***

**Visit [stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org) to see stories about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives!**

For more information about Stephen Ministry at BLC contact [Pastor Ken Ranos](#) 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 January this year in the South series:

3 March 2024: Third Sunday in Lent — "Peter's Sword", purple  
Peter's sword and sheath in saltire with the severed ear of the high priest's servant are used to represent Christ's arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

10 March 2024: Fourth Sunday in Lent — "Crowing Cock", purple  
This is a frequent symbol of Christ's trial and condemnation and refers to Simon Peter's denial of Jesus.

17 March 2024: Fifth Sunday in Lent — "Basin and Ewer", purple  
A basin with a ewer above refers to Pilate's act of hand washing.

24 March 2024: Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday — "Palms", purple  
Two palms in saltire symbolize the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week.

28 March 2024: Maundy Thursday — "The Lord's Supper", purple (white)  
A chalice with a wafer has long symbolized the Eucharist. The letters "INRI" (Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Judeans") on the wafer represent the real presence of Christ in the communion celebration.

29 March 2024: Good Friday — "Consummatum Est", black (N/A)  
A golden cross surrounded by the Latin phrase Consummatum Est, or "It is finished", symbolizes Christ's death on the cross.

30 & 31 March 2024: Resurrection of Our Lord - Vigil of Easter, Easter Sunday — "Resurrection", white  
The bursting pomegranate is a symbol of the power of Christ, able to burst from the tomb on Easter morning. The pomegranate is used to represent royalty, hope, and future life.

Liturgical festivals for which there are no shields:

19 March 2024: Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

25 March 2024: Monday in Holy Week

26 March 2024: Tuesday in Holy Week

27 March 2024: Wednesday in Holy Week

--- 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: Walter Bartz, Roger Gregory, Bob Keck, Ken McCune, John Pitts, Todd Rainer

Family of members: Chris Burke, Steve Clark, Melanie Cochran, Rick Graverson, Betty Griffis, Eric Hanson, Sam Hazlett, Adam Hege, Kurt Hofbauer, Deby Koss, Heather Patrick, Jeremiah Ray, Rich Scaer, David Schmidt, Robin Serafin, Steve Smith, Barry Storlie, Trieu family

Friends of members: Kristin Colber-Baker, Jeannie & Marvin Galbreath, Becky Halcomb, Stacey Keaffaber, Rosie Kepple, Judy Kreger, Lori, George L., Deda M., Jenny & Amelia Morris, Brooke Feister O'Brien, Werner Reicken, Jane & Jim Reinhart, Linda Ruisz, Wayne & Michelle Russell, Edwin Stephenson, Judy Williams, Wendy

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

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### Upcoming Birthdays

3/2 John Todd  
3/4 Sarah Quandt  
3/6 Griffin Mooers  
3/7 Roger Gregory

### Upcoming Anniversaries

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## What's happening this week?

**TODAY**, February 29, 2024

### FRIDAY

12:00 pm Men's Bible Study

### SATURDAY

**SUNDAY**, March 3, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am Service Project Sunday & Blood Drive

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

6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (Live & Streamed - YouTube)

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal & Wednesday Books

## NEXT THURSDAY, March 7, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

### [Church Calendar:](#)

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### **Serving This Sunday (Mar. 3rd)**

Lector - Ardy Hollingsworth

Acolyte - Zeke Bredehoeft

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Children's Sermon - J. Scharbrough

Usher - Marty Benson

A/V - Nancy Slover

Communion Setup - K. Rodman &  
B. Grable

Counters - N. Slover & J.

Scharbrough

Flower Delivery - *needed*

### **Serving Next Sunday (Mar. 10th)**

Lector - Lori VanEvery

Acolyte - Levon Evans

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Children's Sermon - Ellen Rispoli

Usher - Rick Rberts

A/V - Nancy Slover

Communion Setup - K. Rodman &  
B. Grable

Counters - N. Slover & J.

Scharbrough

Flower Delivery - *needed*

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

### **Worship With Us**

Sunday in-person prayer at 10:30 am

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

Holden Evening Prayer in-person prayer at 7:00 pm

[Click here](#) for 7:00 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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[www.indylutheran.org](http://www.indylutheran.org)

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



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