

Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for March 14, 2024
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm
317-283-6559

This Sunday is Brunch and Stephen Ministry Sunday. A time to highlight Stephen Ministry and how this ministry helps carry out the mission of our Church. There is a special addition to this service. Shari Watts, having completed her training, will be Commissioned as a Stephen Leader. We celebrate and welcome her to the Stephen Leader team. You will also see Stephen Ministers serving during worship and there will be a short, enjoyable presentation. **Come to Brunch**, enjoy fellowship and visit our Stephen Ministry information table. Your Stephen Ministers look forward to talking with you about what we do.

General Operating Net Income Update and Appeal

Thank you for the additional giving many of you sent in December through February in response to our appeal to meet Bethlehem's planned expenses. As we explained in previous Blaze articles, we need offerings of \$31,913 per month (\$7,365 per week) to meet budgeted expenses, most of which are fixed expenses. Because of less giving in September, October, and November, our income fell behind and your generosity in December, January, and February helped, but we are still tracking \$19,000 BELOW for net income for the current fiscal year which ends June 30, 2024. Expenses are running very close to expected, budgeted figures, so it is income we need to focus on and increase.

You may recall ERTC (Employee Retention Tax Credit), a tax credit for businesses who retained all employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, did provide Bethlehem with \$50,191 with another \$4,000 expected. However,

this is a one-time credit that will not provide ongoing income. Also, a recently diagnosed roof repair will likely require a portion of this money.

Would you consider a permanent increase to your regular, ongoing giving to Bethlehem? Regular giving is most helpful to meet monthly expenses and to care for our beloved, but aging!, building, and our wonderful staff, music, and programs. Giving can be automated via VANCO (info available through church office) or your bank's bill pay service.

Please contact us with questions you have.

Thank you for your financial support of the ministries at Bethlehem.

Barb Alder and Bill Slover, Finance/Endowment Ministry

Please join us for the last Lenten soup supper next Wednesday,
March 20th 6 pm.

Remember all donations for your dinner support the youth trip to the ELCA
Youth Gathering.

Holden Evening prayer follows supper at 7pm.



Thank you for your support to the Versiti blood drive and Indiana Prison Writer's Workshop supplies drive in March! We collected 7 pints of blood to impact up to 21 patient lives, supporting our local

hospitals. We also collected a big IKEA bag full of supplies for the Indiana Prison Writer's Workshop and \$225 in cash donations. Thank you for your generosity to both of these life-saving organizations. We will be joined by [Debra Des Vignes](#), the founder of Indiana Prison Writer's Workshop, on April 14 at the 1030a service to hear about the organization and ways we can stay involved.

Mark your calendars for April 7 Service Sunday Helping Hams!



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.



Volunteer at The Sharing Place Food Pantry!

Scan here to find
volunteer shifts!



Located at:
6501 Sunnyside Rd,
Indianapolis, IN 46236

A Message from our friends at Lutheran Child & Family Services:

Dear Pastor Ranos and beloved Bethlehem Lutheran Church family,

I hope this message finds you all well and in good spirits. My name is Adrienne Looper, and I am honored to serve as the Community Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator at Lutheran Child and Family Services. The Foundation for LCFS supports the programs and services of LCFS and operates the Sharing Place Food Pantry.

<https://www.lutheranfamily.org/>.

I am reaching out to you with a heartfelt request for your invaluable support in fulfilling His will and serving our community through volunteer opportunities. ***Your church family has already made a tremendous impact with dedicated volunteers and generous donations, and for that, we are truly grateful.*** However, we are in urgent need of additional volunteers.

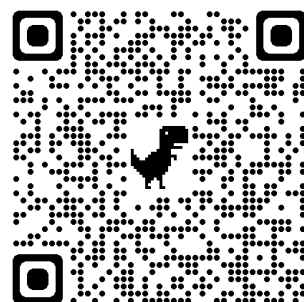
The Sharing Place Food Pantry, serving an 11-zip code area on the east side of Indianapolis, has seen a significant increase in the families we support. We are struggling to meet this demand without more volunteers. Your compassionate support as volunteers is crucial to our mission of providing essential food supplies to those in food-insecure households in Marion and Hancock Counties. As Lent and Holy Week approach, the need for volunteers becomes even more pressing with an influx of donations.

We have various volunteer positions available, including Shoppers, Sorting/Stocking, and Housekeeping roles. A flyer with a QR code is attached for easy access to our volunteer database, or you can visit the database directly at <https://lutheranfamily.galaxydigital.com/>. We welcome group volunteers and can be flexible with scheduling to accommodate different availabilities.

Your support and active involvement would mean the world to us. Together, we have the power to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need in our community. Thank you for considering this CALL TO ACTION, and please feel free to reach out if you have any inquiries or require further information.

Thank you for your unwavering support and consideration.

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 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!



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 SUNDAY March 17th

A time to highlight Stephen Ministry and how this ministry helps carry out the mission of our Church. There is a special addition to this service. Shari Watts, having completed her training, will be Commissioned as a Stephen Leader. We celebrate and welcome her to the Stephen Leader team. You will also see Stephen Ministers serving during worship and there will be a short, enjoyable presentation. **Come to Brunch**, enjoy fellowship and visit

our Stephen Ministry information table. Your Stephen Ministers look forward to talking with you about what we do.

For more information about Stephen Ministry at BLC 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 March this year in the South series:

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".

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: 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., Joseph Morone, Brooke Feister O'Brien, Werner Reicken, Jane &

Jim Reinhart, Linda Ruisz, Wayne & Michelle Russell, Edwin Stephenson, Judy Williams, We

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

Upcoming Birthdays

3/14 Debbie Ranos
3/15 Shari Watts
3/17 Gabriel Seitz
3/19 John Ensley, Pam Monahan
3/20 Zeke Bredehoeft, Laura Leininger
3/21 Erik Tysklind

Upcoming Anniversaries

What's happening this week?

TODAY, March 14, 2024

FRIDAY

12:00 pm Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Faith & Family Night at the Indy Fuel

SATURDAY

SUNDAY, March 17, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)
9:00 am Brunch & Stephen Ministry Sunday
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 21, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

Church Calendar:

Serving This Sunday (Mar. 17th)

Lector - Erik Tysklind*
Acolyte - Phoebe Tatum
Communion Asst. - Shari Watts*
Children's Sermon - S. Swenson*
Usher - M. Benson/E. Tysklind*
A/V - Nancy Slover
Communion Setup - B. Emmons* &
D. Simpson*
Counters - K. Steele & J. Smith
Flower Delivery - *needed*

*indicates Stephen Minister

Serving Next Sunday (Mar. 24th)

Lector - Rob Pritchard
Acolyte - Lucia Ladrón de Guevara
Communion Asst. - *needed*
Children's Sermon - S. Swenson
Usher - Rick Roberts
A/V - Nancy Slover
Communion Setup - Norma Crabiell
Counters - K. Steele & J. Smith
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

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

office@indylutheran.org

