

Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for March 21, 2024  
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm  
317-283-6559

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**This Sunday** is Faith Formation and Palm/Passion Sunday.

## **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*

## **Annual Meeting May 5th 9:00am**

Please mark your calendar for this year's annual meeting which is May 5th at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The constitution requires 50 voting members to reach quorum, so please make every effort to attend.



**Congratulations** Shari Watts, who was commissioned as a Stephen Leader during Stephen Ministry Sunday, March 27th.

## **Holy Week:**

- Sunday, March 24th 7:30am & 10:30 am, Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion
- Thursday, March 28th 7:00 pm, Maundy Thursday
- Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Noon & 7:00 pm, Good Friday
- Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> sunset (8:00 pm) Easter Vigil & Reception (Childcare provided)
- Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Resurrection of Our Lord and Continental Brunch

**Easter Fellowship Times:** Christ is Risen, Alleluia! We celebrate together twice, first at a champagne (and fruit punch) reception immediately following the Easter Vigil service. Then again for a continental brunch at 9am before Easter Worship. Fruit, juices, hot beverages, pastries, egg salad and hard-boiled eggs on Easter morning. Easter is not a pitch in, but if you are willing to help (hall setup on Saturday, or food prep) please contact Karen [McCune](#) or the church office.

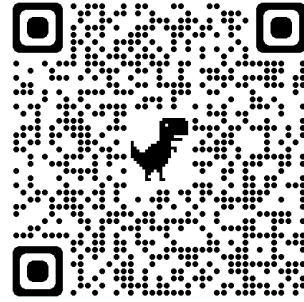
**Helping Hams** makes its triumphant return on Service Sunday April 7. Between services, we will pack 48 boxes of food bought with your generous donations to give to needy families. One box costs about \$72. Why not "buy a box" or more? Make checks out to Bethlehem and note Helping Hams in the memo line 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).

**An invitation to Readers:** The women's reading group called Sharing Books invites you to join us as we explore the written world of books. We meet for about an hour at 7pm on the second Monday of each month, and we really do discuss a book each month, most recently a historical novel called 'West with Giraffes' by Lynda Rutledge. We also share books we are reading for our own pleasure, often have a refreshment, and a short social visit. Our only criteria for the 'book of the month' choice is that it be interesting and well written. Sometimes we choose really well, sometimes a dud. (you really don't know in advance!). Our book choice for April is 'The Maid' by Nina Prose, billed as a mystery thriller – we shall see. Please consider joining us in our travels via the written word.

**Sharing Books, April Date Change:** Due to the solar eclipse, Sharing Books moves to April 15 (instead of April 8). We return to our usual 2nd Monday in May.

## **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!



# 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.



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](#), [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:

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:

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, *Juanita Keck (fell)*, 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, Wendy

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

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### Upcoming Birthdays

3/21 Erik Tysklind  
3/22 Brenda Grable  
3/25 Trecia Gardner  
3/26 Mia Gramlich

### Upcoming Anniversaries

March 26 Alayna & Derek Urban

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## What's happening this week?

**TODAY**, March 21, 2024

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

**SUNDAY**, March 24, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am Faith Formation

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

No Lenten Soup Supper

No Holden Evening Prayer

7:30 pm Soloist Rehearsal

**NEXT THURSDAY**, March 28, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday (Live & Streamed - YouTube)

[Church Calendar:](#)

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**Serving This Sunday  
(Mar. 24th)**

Lector - Rob Pritchard

Acolyte - Lucia Ladrón de Guevara

Communion Asst. - Lori VanEvery

Children's Sermon - S. Swenson

Usher - Rick Roberts

A/V - Nancy Slover

Communion Setup - Norma Crabiel

Counters - K. Steele & J. Smith

Flower Delivery - *needed*

**Serving Next Sunday  
(Mar. 31st)**

Lector - Carl Crabiel

Acolyte - Ben Levine

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Children's Sermon - Pastor Ken

Usher - Rick Roberts

A/V - Nancy Slover

Communion Setup - *needed*

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 Worship at 10:30 am

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

Maundy Thursday in-person Worship 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!

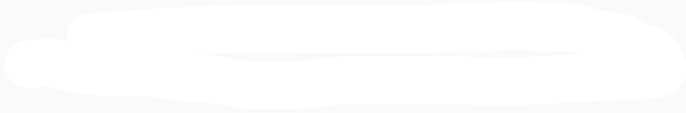


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[office@indylutheran.org](mailto:office@indylutheran.org)

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