

Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for April 4, 2024
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm
317-283-6559

This Sunday is Helping Hams.

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.

Helping Hams is THIS SUNDAY. Between services, please join us in packing 48 boxes of food bought with your generous donations to give to needy families, all while eating donuts. After packing the boxes, we'll need a few strong souls to cart the full boxes to the Sharing Place van.

Thanks to all who donated!

If you are able to help sort the food, from 1 to 3:30 on SATURDAY, we could use a few more volunteers.

To volunteer or for more information, please call or text Marty Benson at 317-696-9812 or email mtb42@att.net.

Thanks for helping with this great cause. It is a fantastic way to heed Jesus' call to "Feed my sheep."

Women's Retreat: If you are available and interested in attending the Women's Retreat at Lutheran Hills April 26-28, please email or text Candice Tatum at ctatum@indylutheran.org or 317-426-1833. We need at least 10 participants to make the retreat happen. If a weekend of relaxation sounds like heaven to you, please join us!

Bingo and Karaoke is back! Stick around after the 10:30 service next Sunday, April 14th for pizza, prizes, music, and more. It's a fun afternoon of food and fellowship and you don't want to miss it. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can order enough pizza.

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

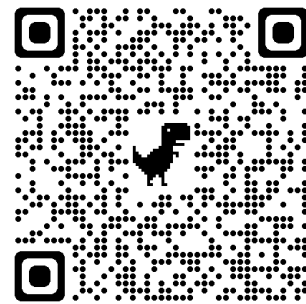
historical novel called 'West with Giraffes' by Lynda Rutledge. We also share books we are reading for our own pleasure, often have a refreshment, and a short social visit. Our only criteria for the 'book of the month' choice is that it be interesting and well written. Sometimes we choose really well, 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.

Blaze Deadline Submissions: All articles for the Blazes dated April 25, May 2, & May 9th are **due my Friday April, 19th**. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Annual Reports are **due tomorrow, April 5th!!**

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 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 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 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 April this year in the South series:

7 April 2024: Second Sunday of Easter — "The Chief Cornerstone", white
Biblical references to Christ as the chief cornerstone of the church are found in Ephesians 2:20 and 1 Peter 2:6. The monogram "IHC" is an abbreviation for the Greek word for Jesus (Iesous, but the "e" looks like an "H", hence the monogram). The Chi Rho symbol is an ancient Greek abbreviation for Christ (the chi looks like an "X", and the rho looks like a "P").

14 April 2024: Third Sunday of Easter—"Bread of Life", white
The symbol of Christ as the bread of life is in reference to a passage in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life..."

21 April 2024: Fourth Sunday of Easter—"Fountain of Salvation", white
This heraldic symbol of a fountain refers to Zechariah 13:1, "In that day there shall be a fountain open to the House of David... for sin and uncleanness."

25 April 2024: Mark, Evangelist—"St. Mark the Evangelist", red
Saint Mark the Evangelist's symbol is a winged lion, which also represents John the Baptist's preaching in the wilderness, which Mark likened to a lion's roar.

28 April 2024: Fifth Sunday of Easter—"Good Shepherd", white
The Lord as the good shepherd is based on John 10:11, "I am the Good Shepherd." He is usually shown as a young, beardless man with a lamb over his shoulders.

Liturgical festivals for which there are no shields:

1 April 2024: Annunciation of Our Lord*

Note: The actual date for this celebration is 25 March. However, when a lesser festival falls on a Sunday or other principal festival in the Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter seasons, it is moved to the next open day. When the Annunciation falls during Holy Week, in which every day is a principal festival, it moves all the way to the

Monday after the Resurrection of Our Lord—in this case, 1 April!

--- 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, Beverly Emmons, Roger Gregory, Bob Keck, Juanita 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, Player family, 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.

Upcoming Birthdays

4/4 Lucia Ladrón de Guevara, Tim Moriarity, John Pitts
4/6 Jen Pittman
4/7 Lydia Tatum
4/10 Jennifer Wilson
4/11 Kyle Bredehoeft

Upcoming Anniversaries

April 5 Courtney & Nick Vurva

What's happening this week?

TODAY, April 4, 2024

FRIDAY

Noon Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY

SUNDAY, April 7, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am Service Project - Helping Hams

10:30 am Resurrection of Our Lord (Live & Streamed - YouTube)

MONDAY

3:06 pm Solar Eclipse

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, April 11, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

[Church Calendar](#)

Serving This Sunday (Apr. 7th)

Lector - Brent Hege

Acolyte - Phoebe Tatum

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Children's Sermon - Sarah Evans

Usher - Tim Wott

A/V - Nancy Slover

Communion Setup - L. VanEvery &
needed

Serving Next Sunday (Apr. 14th)

Lector - Karen McCune

Acolyte - Connar Queck

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Children's Sermon - Karen Feder

Usher - Marty Benson

A/V - Nancy Slover

Communion Setup - L. VanEvery &
needed

Counters - G. Price & B. Alder
Flower Delivery - *needed*

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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

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

office@indylutheran.org
