

Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for April 25, 2024
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm
317-283-6559

This Sunday is Faith Formation & Budget Forum.

Budget Forum: This Sunday April 28th at 9:00am, Bill Slover will offer a Budget Q&A ahead of the annual meeting in the lounge. This is a chance to preview the proposed budget for the 2024-5 fiscal year and ask any detailed questions you may have.

Annual Meeting May 5th 9:00am

Please mark your calendar for this year's annual meeting which is next Sunday, 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.

General Operating Net Income Update and Appeal:

Thank you for the additional giving many of you sent in December through March in response to our appeal to meet Bethlehem's planned expenses. Thank you also for your recent pledges. Our current pledges now exceed last year's pledges, which is a very good thing to see. 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, February and March helped, but we are still tracking \$33,000 BELOW for net income for the current fiscal year which ends June 30, 2024. Expenses are now running

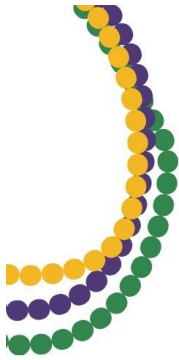
\$22,000 over expected budgeted figures with much of that due to a recent roof repair.

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.

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



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Sponsorship



PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING AN ITEM OR TWO FOR OUR TRIP!

Shirts

THE GIRLS HAVE SELECTED THIS SHIRT FOR THE TRIP. THE BACK WILL SAY BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH. THE COST PER SHIRT IS \$20 AND WE HAVE 6 PARTICIPANTS GOING TO NEW ORLEANS.



Meals



JUMBALAYA! PO BOYS! SHRIMP AND GRITS! NEW ORELANS IS KNOWN FOR THEIR AMAZING FOOD. HELP US HAVE A NICE DINNER OUT! WE WILL ALSO BE DOING A BEIGNET TASTING. ANY AMOUNT IS APPRECIATED.

Clear Bags & Water Bottles

CLEAR BAGS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE ARENA. BIG THANKS TO NANCY SLOVER FOR PURCHASING BAGS FOR THE TEENS!

THE STADIUM ALSO REQUIRES CLEAR WATER BOTTLES. THEY ARE \$15 EACH AND WE NEED 3.



Miscellaneous

WE WILL ALSO NEED A FIRST AID KIT, SUNSCREEN, PINS OR OTHER SMALL ITEMS TO TRADE, AND SNACKS

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BLC WITH "GATHERING SPONSORSHIP" IN THE MEMO. DONORS WILL RECEIVE TRIP UPDATE EMAILS AND PHOTOS. PLEASE REACH OUT TO CANDICE TATUM IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT!



Summer Days Together: June 23-27, 2024

A joint summer ministry of Bethlehem and Cross & Crown congregations Please join us for this reimagined VBS opportunity. As a group, we will participate in service projects, worship, fellowship, and lots of fun! Lunch, snacks, and t-shirts provided. An adult chaperone must attend with their child. Register [here](#). Reach out to Candice Tatum at ctatum@indylutheran.com or 317-426-1833 with any questions.



FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE

CONTACT:

Candice Tatum

317-426-1833

TO REGISTER

VISIT:



JUNE 23-27, 2024

Summer Days Together

**An opportunity for Families to Enjoy Worship,
Service, Fun, and Food Together**

Bethlehem will be joining Cross & Crown for Summer Days Together this June! Each day will include a service opportunity, short worship, lunch and snacks, and a fun outing to a local venue. We will meet at Cross & Crown in the morning before driving to a service site.

We will meet from 9:15 AM – 2:00 each day. All kids must be accompanied, and transported, by a designated adult 18 years of age or older. If you need help providing supervision for your child, please contact Candice, CTatum@indylutheran.org.



Summer Camp at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Summer camp is an excellent opportunity for our kids and youth to

experience God's love in the great outdoors! At Lutheran Hills, Lake Luther, or Lutherwald, kids participate in games, songs, Bible study, and so much more. Brochures are located near the Youth and Family bulletin board at church and at www.lomik.org.

Scholarships are available for those with a financial need. Please see Candice for more information or to request assistance.



More Helping Hams 2024 Update: Just to follow-up on BLC's great work with Helping Hams, last Saturday Brent Hege took a group of 13 Butler students to The Sharing Place to help distribute some of the food that BLC and others have donated to our neighbors. Butler's Center for Faith and Vocation Scholars and a few friends from campus spent three hours on Saturday morning helping clients shop for food. It was an interfaith effort, as the Scholars include Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs. See attached picture from lunch after their service at The Sharing Place.

On behalf of the Butler CFV and The Sharing Place, thanks to Bethlehem for contributing so generously to our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity!

COME CELEBRATE BOB'S LIFE AND HIS
FAVORITE THINGS:
FAMILY, FRIENDS AND BEER!



BOB KECK'S

MAY OCTOBERFEST

BEER 🍷 FOOD 🍷 MUSIC

19973 VICTORY CHAPEL RD NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060

SAT MAY 4TH, RAIN OR SHINE	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
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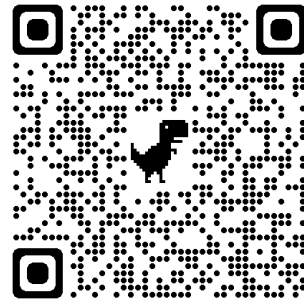
**TEXT BETHANY AT (317) 850-9722 TO RSVP
BY WEDNESDAY MAY 1ST**

Astronomers Without Borders would like your used eclipse glasses to distribute to schools and communities in the U.S. and overseas

for future eclipses. So instead of trashing them, bring yours to church and place in the box on the hallway table. Many thanks.

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 & May. 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 & May this year in the South series:

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.

1 May 2024: Philip and James, Apostles —"St. Philip", red
The tau cross and bread basket are symbols of the apostle Philip referring to his participation in the feeding of the multitude and for his work in spreading the word of Christ.

"St. James the Less", red

James is represented by a hand saw, a symbol of his martyred remains being sawn asunder.

5 May 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter —"The Vine", white

The Lord declares in John 15:1 that He is the true vine. The vine also represents the Holy Eucharist.

9 May 2024: Ascension of Our Lord —"The Ascension", white

The fiery chariot of Elijah has long been a symbol of Christ's ascension.

12 May 2024: Seventh Sunday of Easter —"Alpha - Mu - Omega", white

The banner with these Greek monograms refers to Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

14 May 2024: Matthias, Apostle —"St. Matthias", red

Chosen to replace Judas as one of the twelve disciples, this apostle's symbol is a book representing his gospel overlapped by a double bladed ax, the instrument of his death.

19 May 2024: Day of Pentecost —"Flames of Fire", red

Pentecost is represented by seven flames of the Holy Spirit that descended upon Christ's believers.

26 May 2024: The Holy Trinity —"Shield of the Holy Trinity", white

This circle and band motif was used in the Middle Ages to express the doctrine of equality, unity, and separateness of the triune God. The central circle is inscribed "Deus" (God) with three radiating arms inscribed "est" (is) connecting three equal sized circles inscribed "Father", "Son", and "Holy Spirit". Outer bands that connect the three circles are inscribed "non est" (is not).

Liturgical festivals for which there are no shields:

31 May 2024: Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

--- 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, 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, Bob Strobel

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

We offer our condolences to Donna Sandage on the passing of her husband, [John Drake](#). John served as Treasurer and Finance Chair at Bethlehem.

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

Upcoming Birthdays

4/26 Susan Bem, Erik Haggstrom,
George McCord

4/27 Zazel Bredehoeft, Rusty
Geiser

5/1 Trey Feder, Madeline Smith
5/2 Annalise Knutson

Upcoming Anniversaries

What's happening this week?

TODAY, April 25, 2024

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY, April 28, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am Faith Formation

9:00 am Budget Forum

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

MONDAY

TUESDAY

7:30 pm Stephen Ministry Facilitator's Mtg (Zoom)

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, May 2, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

[Church Calendar](#)

Serving This Sunday (Apr. 28th)

Lector - Gloria Price

Acolyte - James Clark

Communion Asst. - Jennifer

Scharbrough

Children's Sermon - MaryBeth

Wott

Usher - Rick Roberts

A/V - Nancy Slover

Communion Setup - L. VanEvery &

B. Grable

Counters - G. Price & B. Alder

Flower Delivery - *needed*

Serving Next Sunday (May 5th)

Lector - Erik Tyskland

Acolyte - Levon Evans

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Children's Sermon - Ellen Rispoli

Usher - Ken Moeller

A/V - Phoebe Tatum

Communion Setup - *needed*

Counters - K. Alder & 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

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