

Bethlehem Lutheran Church e-Blaze for May 2, 2024

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

317-283-6559

Office Hours: There will be no regular office hours from April 30th through May 14th. Pastor Ken will be checking church voicemails. If you need to reach Pastor, call 715.891.9075 or ken@ecumenicallife.com.

This Sunday is Brunch & Annual Meeting.

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

Our congregational meeting is also on **Service Sunday, May 5**. We are taking donations for The Indiana Diaper Bank.

We can take donations of diapers, wipes, and/or or monetary donations. For every dollar donated, the Diaper Bank can purchase 6 diapers. Please place donations in the large blue bin outside of the church office. Checks can be made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and note Indiana Diaper Bank in the memo line. The greatest size needs are sizes 3-6, however any size, including pull-ups. will be accepted. Opened boxes or packs are also accepted, i.e. if you have a little one that has outgrown a size.

the facts about diapers



1 in 3 families in Indiana struggle to afford diapers



Diapers cost \$100 a month per child



No government programs help cover the cost of diapers



57% of parents missed work because they didn't have diapers to send to daycare



Ascension of Our Lord

Forty days after the Resurrection of Our Lord, according to the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus gathered his disciples in Jerusalem and "was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9). The event has been celebrated as one of the festivals in the church since at least the fourth century CE.

Because it is celebrated forty days after Easter, the festival of the Ascension always falls on the Thursday between the fifth and sixth Sundays of Easter.

This year, the Ascension of Our Lord falls on 9 May. We will celebrate with a Service of Holy Communion that night at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday... podcasts?

The Wednesday Books group is doing something a little different this time. Instead of a book, the group is discussing a five-part podcast series on Martin Luther. The podcast is "The Rest is History" hosted by Dominic Sandbrook and Tom Holland (no, not that Tom Holland), and we're listening to episodes 433-437. Each is about an hour long and can be found through most popular podcast apps and sites, as well as at <https://therestishistory.com/episodes/> . We're discussing one episode a week, so come and join us at 7:00 pm on Wednesday nights after 6:30 pm Evening Prayer.



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.



Lutheran
Outdoor
Ministries
Indiana-Kentucky

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**

**TEXT BETHANY AT (317) 850-9722 TO RSVP
BY WEDNESDAY MAY 1ST**

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 May & June. 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:

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

Q: When is it appropriate to make the sign of the cross, both in and out of service? When is it not?

A: Making the sign of the cross on one's body is one of the most ancient signs and practices of the church. Its origin is in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. In our current practice, after a person is baptized with water, "the presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says: '(Name), child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.'" Every sign of the cross made afterward is a reminder of that first mark given in our baptisms.

Originally, the sign of the cross was done as it is done in Holy Baptism: you'd use your thumb or a finger and "trace" the invisible sign of the cross still on your forehead to remind you it was there. Many people still make

the sign of the cross this way. Later, the sign grew into a movement that covered more of the body.

Two variations of the fuller movement are in use. In Western Christianity, the sign is most often made with the two middle fingers of the right hand held together, and touches four or five areas in sequence: the forehead, the lower chest, the left shoulder, and the right shoulder (and sometimes over the heart). In Eastern Christianity, the sign is most often made with the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand held together, and the sequence is: the forehead, the lower chest, the right shoulder, and the left shoulder.

Now, when is it appropriate to make the sign of the cross? Anytime! Around the year 200 CE, Tertullian wrote: "In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting on our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in lighting our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever employment occupies us, we mark our forehead with the sign of the cross." He also wrote, "We Christians wear out our foreheads with the sign of the cross" because they made it so many times during the day. Martin Luther encouraged every Christian to make the sign of the cross first thing in the morning after waking up, and as the last thing they did before falling asleep as a reminder that they were baptized and beloved children of God.

It can be made at any time when one is praying. It can be made any time someone wants to remind themselves that they are loved by God. It can be made as a sign of comfort when afraid. It can be made to bless things and people. Parents can make the sign of the cross on their children's foreheads to remind them of their baptisms. There is no limit to the use of the sign of the cross, except of course, using it for evil purposes--that would be the only "inappropriate" use of the sign.

We are also invited to make the sign of the cross in our public worship. During the celebration of the Holy Communion, the sign is most often made:

- During the Invocation at the very beginning of worship.
- During the words of absolution at the end of the Confession and Forgiveness.
- During the Blessing at the end of worship.

At these three points in our bulletins, we print a small cross ✝ as reminder that the sign of the cross can be made here.

There are other traditional times the sign of the cross can be made in the celebration of the Holy Communion:

- When the words "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" are sung during of the "Holy, Holy, Holy" hymn.
- At the announcement of the reading of the Gospel, when the sign of the cross is made three times: once on the forehead, once on the lips, and once over the heart.
- During the recitation of the Nicene Creed at the phrase, "and the life of the world to come."
- Any time the name of the Holy Trinity ("Father, Son, and Holy Spirit") or the name of Jesus is used.

During services of Daily Prayer, it's customary to make the sign of the cross at the beginning when the Holy Trinity is invoked and at the end during the Blessing.

The sign of the cross is also made during special worship services: on the forehead of the newly baptized, on the forehead of the sick during prayers for healing, stretched with cords over the area a new church building is to be built, and as part of the Welcome to Baptism.

Other traditions make the sign of the cross at other times during certain worship services, but again, there's never an inappropriate time to make it.

So whenever you feel the urge to make the sign of the cross-- during worship or outside of it--go ahead! Whether you make it on your forehead or over your body, whether you pray out loud or silently, whether you just need to be reminded that God is with you, the sign of the cross is available any time, at any place, you need it.

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

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

Upcoming Birthdays

5/2 Annalise Knutson
5/4 Sarah Morgan, Charlotte Wilson
5/5 Andy Swenson
5/7 Meredith Emmons, Karen McCune
5/8 Sam McHenry, Courtney Vurva

Upcoming Anniversaries

What's happening this week?

TODAY, May 2, 2024

FRIDAY

12:00 pm Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY

SUNDAY, May 5, 2024

7:30 am Holy Communion (Spoken)

9:00 am Annual Meeting/Brunch

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

MONDAY

TUESDAY

7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Mtg (BLC)

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 9, 2024

10:00 am e-Blaze arrives

7:00 pm Ascension of Our Lord (Live & Streamed - YouTube)

[Church Calendar](#)

Serving This Sunday (May 5th)

Lector - Erik Tysklind

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*

Serving Next Sunday (May 12th)

Lector - Ardy Hollingsworth

Acolyte - Zeke Bredehoeft

Communion Asst. - *needed*

Children's Sermon - Erik Tysklind

Usher - Rick Roberts

A/V - Peter Russel

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

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