

# The Bethlehem Star

## March 2021

We are a Christian community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ that gathers to worship, learn and share, and reaches out to welcome, witness and serve.

### Pastor Scott's Bible Study resumes Thursday, March 4 at 1pm.

Join us on Zoom for an overview of the book of Genesis. This first Book in the Bible tells us much about God's deep love for creation and all that is in it. It also begins to show us how we have chosen to rebel against God and the mess of the world that creates. In the end, however, God remains faithful and offers the eternal promise of hope. Scan this code for the zoom link (it'll be the same week to week) or get the link in Pr. Scott's Virtual Church email that comes out on Tuesdays. And feel free to invite a friend - even someone who lives outside our own area!



### March Blood Drive

Thanks to all who volunteered to give blood February 2<sup>nd</sup> at BLC.

As the accompanying poster says, our next blood drive at BLC will be Tuesday, March 30. Several of you have already signed up to donate on that date; instructions for others to sign up are on the poster. Early sign-ups get their first choice for times to donate. There are currently, as I write this, times available from 1:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Results of testing your February 2<sup>nd</sup> blood donations for the presence of Covid antibodies should be available on your Vitalant web site account. Those of you for whom those tests came up positive may be asked to donate convalescent blood plasma as soon as you are eligible to donate blood again.

Gary Aasheim  
BLC Vitalant Blood Drive Coordinator  
(M) 406-698-4138

### FLBC Adult Spirituality Retreat

This retreat will seek more to encounter than to learn about the Shepherd of our souls. We'll dwell with God in Word, prayer, silence, and song in Flathead's incomparable beauty and FLBC's generous hospitality. Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Sunday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends with lunch on Tuesday. Register online at [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net) or call the camp office on 406-752-6602.

April 18-20, 2021  
\$165/person  
(Monday Only = \$125)  
\$50 deposit &  
registration due by  
April 6th



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OUR THOUGHTS *and* PRAYERS *are with* YOU

**Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:**

Louise Gullick, Beverly Hubbard, Ari Beck, Tony Depue, Maurice Serna, Ada John, Steve Arno, Carla Branson, Melissa Berry, and McKenna Couch.

Please be aware that the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council has resolved to require that face masks be worn by all people inside the building during and immediately before and after worship services with exceptions for those leading worship while remaining in the chancel (altar) area of the church. In addition, in order to reduce the possible spread of coronavirus, we ask that worshipers sing softly, and refrain from close proximity to others who are not part of their family unit. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Grace Comes First**

Everyone knows that Lent is about repentance. At least that's what I thought. I've encountered several folks over the past couple of years who don't know what Lent is – or they have a vague understanding that it's about "giving something up," but don't know its connection to Easter or the rest of the Christian calendar. And when I explain to them that it's a "season of reflection in preparation for the commemoration of Jesus' death and resurrection," they (more often than not) react with a sense of discountenance that seems to indicate that they think religious faith is all about making you feel bad.



Unfortunately, faith in God has been, if not implied, then certainly inferred to be mostly about judgement. God, in the minds of many, is a force that must be appeased, must be tempered, must be soothed. Lent, with its emphasis on repentance, draws attention to that inference.

And for the things we must repent, Lent, and any part of our church life which makes our brokenness known, is a good thing if only for the sake of our calling to love our neighbor. Even today, I had the opportunity to ask forgiveness of a friend... A burden was lifted, and freedom restored, by the word, "you are forgiven."

So, I'm drawn to the truth of God's grace which, like a cup of cold water, soothes the soul even before the first sip is received. Rather than a God who needs to be appeased, God is the incarnate eyes that strain to see over the horizon for a glimpse of our weary souls coming home after our prodigal trials. God is the parent whose arms reach out to us – that run to embrace us – while we are still fearful of arriving back at the place of our transgression. God's grace comes before our minds even think to utter words of forgiveness. The God of Lent is the God who, in Jesus Christ, speaks grace to allow us to forgive ourselves.

Joy in the journey,  
Pastor Scott

**BLC COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**  
 (Meeting conducted via Zoom)  
 February 9, 2021

**Treasurer's Report** (Duane Anderson)

- January Income \$26,907 (of which \$10,000 was moved to Restricted Funds-Large Gifts); expenditures \$29,962.
- Ending balance January 31st \$38,132

**Music Ministry Report** (Marshall Jones)

- Eight people have indicated interest in participating in virtual choir.
- Planning on another hymn sing in Lent – “favorite hymns without Alleluias”.
- Hymn histories continuing Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.
- Posting on Facebook some of music in new hymnal supplement All Creation Sings.

**Pastor's Report** (Pastor Scott Thompson)

- Ash Wednesday to be a drive-in service.
- Strategic Planning Team had great first meeting. Debbie Snyder will be communicator.
- Wondering if instead of Easter Lilies we should do something like what was done at Christmas.
- Reported that Neighbors in Need in good financial management over last 6-8 mos. They are grateful for BLC's help as their largest donor.

**Old Business**

- Reviewed proposed By-Law changes Re. Finance Committee. Motion made, seconded, approved to forward By-Law Changes for addition of Finance Committee to congregation for a vote at upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting.
- Nominating Committee for the next Council term discussed. Committee directors terming out: Fellowship, Outreach, and Stewardship; will also need to replace President; 1 VP; Treasurer; Recording Secretary. Asked committees to put forward a couple names.
- Discussion with Pre-school about next year's rent.

**New Business**

- Began conversation regarding In Person gathering sizes; conversation to be continued.
- Discussed possible updates to Commons area, bathrooms, entry area,
- Motion was, seconded and approved to give 10% (\$11,000) of recently received large gifts. Designated Missions and Amounts are as follows:
 

▪ Abbie Shelter	\$ 500	▪ Neighbors in Need	\$1,000
▪ FLBC	\$5,000	▪ Nurturing Center	\$1,000
▪ Fltd Warming Shelter	\$ 500	▪ NW MT Vets Pantry	\$1,000
▪ Heart Locker	\$1,000	▪ Sparrow's Nest	\$1,000
- Motion made, seconded, approved to accept donations to an organization such as ELCA Good Gifts, Maasai Girls School, etc. instead of Easter Lilies.
- Motion made, seconded, approved to accept bid from Rhodes Home Improvement to remove drinking fountain in Hjortland Building.
- Suggestion made to create a file (electronic or real), in the office, to keep track of continuing resolutions and policies.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

## The Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee consists of Peggy Aagenes-Janzer, Karl Brohn, John Erfle, Marianne Gielow (facilitator), Larry Kaber, Kellie Nelson, Dan Paschke, Jana Pursell, Dale Saverud, Brooke Schmidt, Debbie Snyder (communicator), Pastor Scott Thompson (spiritual director).



The Strategic Planning Committee has met first on January 26th, and our second meeting was February 11th. Our 3rd meeting is scheduled for February 25th. We are scheduled to meet every 2 weeks for, probably, 6 to 9 months. We are committed to working together, listening without filters. Also, to not miss a meeting and do the homework and tasks that are assigned to us. Finally, to be prepared for each meeting and to pray daily for each other and the task before us.

Our first meeting was getting to know each other, and our walk in life that brought us to BLC. We were asked what we HOPE to see for the future of BLC.

Some answers: I want BLC to be here for my grandchildren, to be relevant but not trendy without losing our tradition, find common solutions, be curious to the needs of our community, be open to new ideas.

At our second meeting we studied Acts 10 and the relationship between Peter and Cornelius, the Jew and the Gentile finding their common ground, realizing that God calls us to accept all people. We did an exercise on Understanding my Worldview, finding we all have commonalities and differences.

Please keep us in your prayers and know that God is steady for us All the time.

Respectfully,

Debbie Snyder (communicator)

### Wednesday Evening Prayer

March 3, 10, 17, & 24

6:30 Worship

Please come and join us in-person and on Facebook Live.



### March Hymn Sing

We will be having a Virtual Hymn Sing on March 24th at 7 PM, in-person after Evening Prayer and via Zoom. We will send out the link closer to the date. So stick around after worship and request your favorite hymns of the season.





## Hymn Histories

Join Marshall on Tuesday's at 4:30pm for a fun, in-depth look into the stories behind your favorite hymns! He will put a special focus on the hymns for the upcoming worship service each week to give you a little background into each song and why we sing it. To join this exciting class, contact Marshall for the Zoom link.

## Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Join us Wednesday's mornings at 7am for fun and fellowship at the Men's Breakfast and Bible Study via Zoom. If you are interested please contact John Erfle for more information 406-261-6403.



## Coffee Hour with Pastor Scott

Join Pastor Scott for an online Coffee Break on Wednesday mornings at 9am. It's a great way to catch up with each other and stay connected. Get the Zoom link in the Virtual Church weekly email which Pastor Scott sends out on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Need to be added to the Weekly Update list? Call the office and we will be happy to add you.

## Flower Sponsorship

Would you like to dedicate an altar flower arrangement in honor or memory of someone special? There are a couple ways to sign up. You are welcome to call the office and Kellie will put your name and dedication on the list. Or, if you have online capabilities, you can go to [www.bethluth.org](http://www.bethluth.org) under Volunteer/Sign Up and there is an option to click on "Altar Flower Sponsorship" and enter your information on the website you are automatically directed to. In order to pay for your arrangement, you can drop off a payment of \$25 to the office, leave it in the offering plate with a note as to what the money is for, or you can also pay for your flowers on our website under the "Altar Flower Sponsorship" tab which includes a button to pay for them as well. If you would like something in particular for your arrangement, Rose Mountain Floral is happy to oblige. Contact them at 752-7673 and let them know what you have in mind.



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**Kalispell Community Blood Drive  
Sponsored by Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church**

**Date: Tuesday, March 30th  
Time: 1:15 to 5:30pm**

**Location: 608 S Main St Kalispell, MT**

#VitalToLife

Vitalant is now testing blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies

\*Appointments strongly recommended

\*Please do not donate if you are sick

\*All successful donations will be tested for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19

\*Make appointment with Gary Aasheim @406 698-4138 or below

Schedule a donation, call **877-258-4825** or **vitalant.org**

## March Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Committees	3 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff <u>6:30pm</u> Lenten Evening Prayer	4 <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom	5	6
7 <u>9:00am</u> Worship <b>A-M</b> <u>9:00am</u> KOFI	8	9 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Council, Zoom	10 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff <u>6:30pm</u> Lenten Evening Prayer	11 <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Strategic Planning Comm., Zoom	12	13 <b>Remember to turn your clocks ahead tonight</b>
14 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> <u>9:00am</u> Worship <b>N-Z</b> <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>3:00pm</u> FLBC Confirmation Class	15	16 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom	17 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff <u>6:30pm</u> Lenten Evening Prayer	18 <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom	19	20
21 <u>9:00am</u> Worship <b>A-M</b> <u>9:00am</u> KOFI	22 <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	23 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom	24 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff <u>6:30pm</u> Lenten Evening Prayer <u>7:00pm</u> Hymn Sing	25 <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Strategic Planning Comm., Zoom	26	27
28 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <u>9:00am</u> Worship <b>N-Z</b> <u>9:00am</u> KOFI	29 <u>1:00pm</u> Women on the Go, Zoom	30 <u>1:15pm</u> Blood Drive <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom	31 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff	1 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	2 <b>Good Friday</b>	3

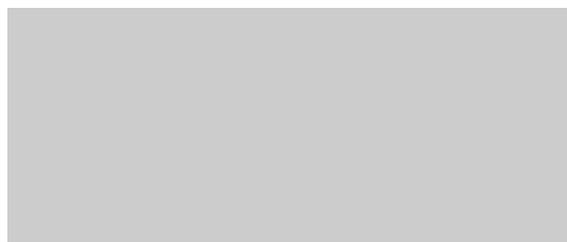


Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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[office@bethluth.org](mailto:office@bethluth.org) / [www.bethluth.org](http://www.bethluth.org)  
 Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Kalispell  
 406/752-6140 - 406/752-6145 FAX  
 KOFI 1180AM at 9:00am Sundays

Non Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
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 Kalispell, MT 59901  
 Permit #11

**bethluth.org**

Electronic service requested



Lola	Vulles	3/1	David	Gullickson	3/19
Steven	Mattson	3/2	Judi	Fenton	3/20
Bridgett	Meskis	3/3	Jeff	Louk	3/21
Kyle	Miller	3/4	Sierra	Siblerud	3/22
Alan	West	3/5	Eleanor	Dickinson	3/23
David	Christensen	3/6	Daniel	Johns	3/24
Dolores	Aadsen	3/7	Madison	Bunten	3/25
Gary	Aasheim	3/8	Terri	Mattson	3/26
Margie	Fiedler	3/9	Mike	Tronstad	3/27
Marcia	Rieke	3/10	Lydia	Bunten	3/28
Cecil	Noble	3/11	Lane	Smith	3/29
Oliver	White	3/12			
Michael	Galvin	3/13			
Kathi	Ebert	3/14			
Shirley	Struck	3/15			
Laurie	Happ	3/16			
Barbara	Andersen	3/17			
Colby	Cronk	3/18			

#### **Church Council**

##### **President:**

Paul Holmgren

##### **Vice Presidents:**

Amber Brohn

Duane Anderson

##### **Treasurer:**

Duane Anderson-  
acting

##### **Secretary:**

Janet Veidt

#### **Committee Chairs**

##### **Christian Education**

Linda Jones

##### **Fellowship:**

Peggy Aagenes-Janzer

##### **Outreach:**

Karen Fisher

##### **Property:**

Bill Pursell

##### **Stewarship:**

John Erfle

##### **Worship and Music:**

Judie Cundy

##### **Youth:**

Tony Nelson

**The deadline for  
 the April  
 newsletter is  
 March 22nd.  
 Thank you!**