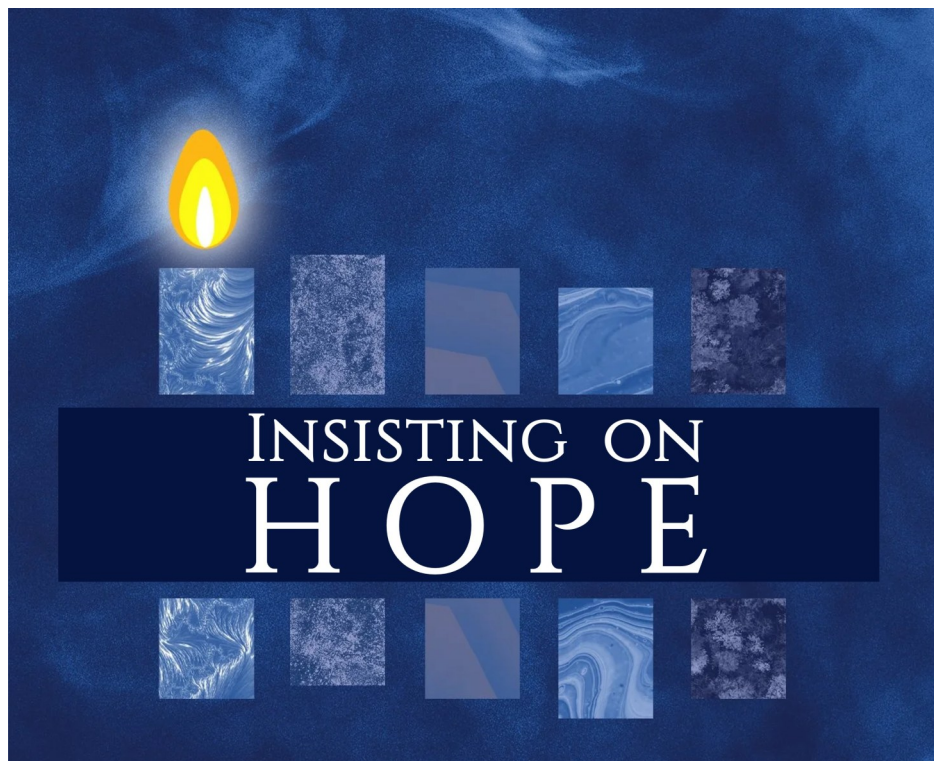


November 30, 2025



First Sunday of Advent

We encourage children to feel welcome in church during worship. And we recognize that kids need to move and fidget while we share this time together. Tables and coloring pages are available to kids in both the front of the worship space and in the Commons. Parents, please feel free to let your kids move around as needed.

*(Congregation speaks the **bold print** in this program and on the screen.)*

Prelude

Claudius Cazan

Welcome and Announcements

(please stand)

Confession and Forgiveness

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our gracious Heavenly Father calls us to confess our fears and our sins in confidence and hope, trusting in the promise of forgiveness. We lay our hearts before God. We pour out the truth of our lives. We cannot hide anything from our Creator, and in that truth, God comes close to us. Let us join in this prayer that God may draw close, to break in here in this place, in our lives.

Ever present God,

we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always with us. Amen.

Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW# 260

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

(to the tune of Come Thou Long Expected Jesus)



Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy__ on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy__ on__ us.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.__ Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in__ to our dark - ness. Fill__ us__ with your ho - ly love.
Heal all__ con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us__ how to__ live as one.



All: Be our strength in times of__ trou - ble. Set us free from chains that__ bind.
Show us how to love our__ neigh - bor. Run to those who__ cry for__ help.



Breathe new_ life in - to our__ spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our__ hearts and minds.
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our__ Lord, Em - man - u - el.

Hymn of Praise

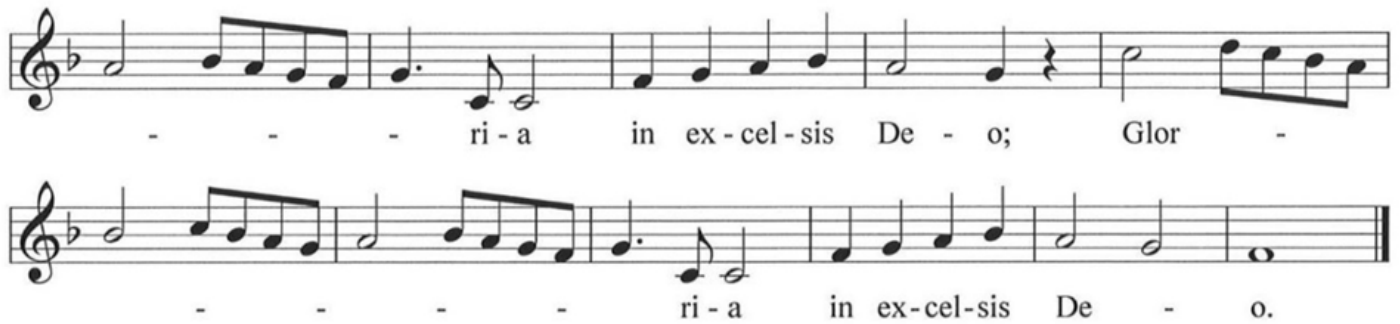
(to the tune of Angels We Have Heard on High)



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good - will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



(be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together. We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

This is most certainly true. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us. Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

The first candle is lit.

Canticle of Light

(to the tune of Good Christian Friends)

This can - dle we will llight with - in God's ho - ly sight Hope and peace and

6 joy and love. Christ came to us from a - bove! This glo - wing light will guide our way, that

11 He'll come back to us we pray! Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!

Candle Lighting Prayer

Let us pray. God forever with us,

**In the time of Moses, you spoke through water in the desert and a pillar of smoke. In the time of the judges, you spoke through the prophets. In the time of Herod, you spoke through angel choruses and unlikely miracles. In every time you have been speaking. So today, in our time, we ask that you would speak again. Break through the chatter and the distraction of our weary minds and speak to us once more. With hope we pray,
Amen.**

First Reading

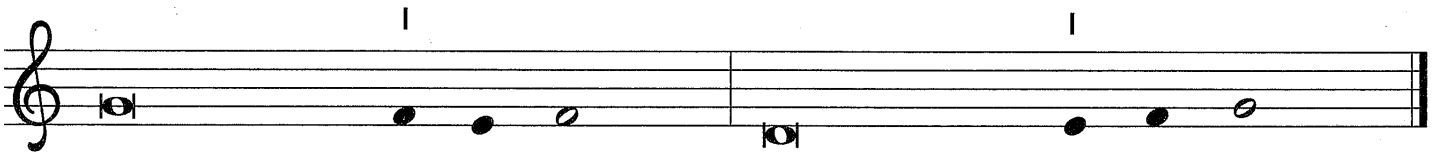
Lamentations 3:55-57

- ⁵⁵ I called on your name, O LORD,
from the depths of the pit;
⁵⁶ you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear
to my cry for help, but give me relief!"
⁵⁷ You came near when I called on you;
you said, "Do not fear!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:1-2, 15-20



¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

² sing the glory of his name;

give to him glorious praise.

¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;

I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁷ I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹ But truly God has listened;
he has heard the words of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed be God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

(to the tune of Joy to the World)

Al - le - lu - ia! To God we go! With joy we praise your name! You

8 have the words of e - ver - las - ting life Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu! Al -

14 le - lu, Al - le - lu! Al - le, Al le, Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:5-13

The Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

(be seated)

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

ELW# 254

(please stand)

Affirmation of Faith

We have seen the valley.

We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.

We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other.

We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim:

Unto us, love is born.

We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.

So still, we believe.

Amen.

The Prayers

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Greet one another with a word of welcome and peace.

(be seated)

Offering

Thank you for your offerings today. As Christ comes to us in the bread and cup of the holy table, we present ourselves through our own sacrifice of generosity to love and serve our neighborhood and the whole world. You can also give online at www.bethluth.org/give as a one time donation or as a recurring gift. Use this code to access the giving site.



(please stand)

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

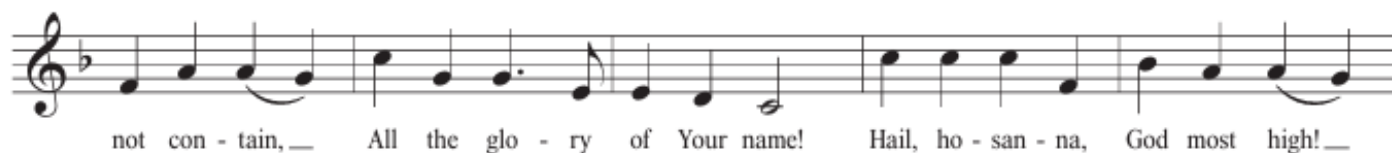
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

Sanctus

(to the tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)



Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

(to the tune of It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)



Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the table of Christ. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

Communion Hymns

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

ELW# 250

"Fling Wide the Door"

ELW# 259

(please stand)

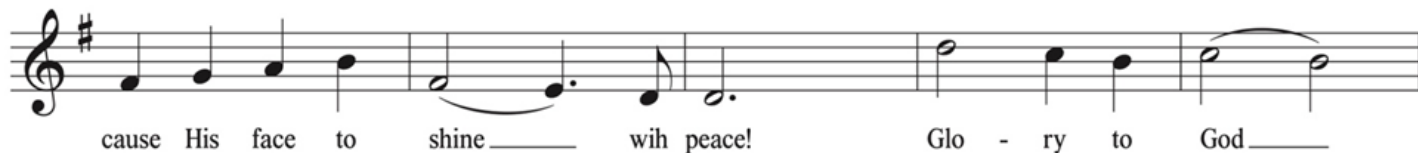
Communion Blessing

May the gifts of Christ's body and blood give your strength and hope now and forever.

Amen.

The Benediction

(to the tune of O Come All Ye Faithful)



Sending Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW# 244

Dismissal

In a fearful world, may you look for God’s spirit.

May you reach for each other’s hands.

May you choose courage whenever you can.

And in all things, may you remember

that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls,

the one who sends,

and the one who journeys with—

go in peace and be not afraid.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Claudius Cazan

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Some liturgical portions adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org.

Liturgical lyrics by Rev. Erin Nelson & Mt. Zion Lutheran, Hudson, WI and Rev. Annie Ladnier & HOPE Lutheran, River Falls, WI.

Flathead Valley Community Orchestra

Flathead Valley Community Orchestra will be performing a concert **TODAY** at 3pm in the BLC Sanctuary. Free admission. All are welcome!



Supper/Evening Prayer 2025

The Advent season is coming up quickly this year. We will, once again, be sharing this special time with our friends at Eidsvold Lutheran Church and Northridge Lutheran Church. There are three Wednesday's this Advent so it is the perfect time to gather together at each location to break bread and worship as a Lutheran family and share the joy we feel at this time of the year. The schedule will flow as follows:

Wed, Dec 3rd

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hosting

5:30pm Supper

6:30pm Evening Prayer

Wed, Dec 10th

Eidsvold Lutheran Church Hosting

5:30pm Supper

6:30pm Evening Prayer

Wed, Dec 17th

Northridge Lutheran Church Hosting

5:30pm Supper

6:30pm Evening Prayer

All are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you!!



Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve Worship schedule is as follows:

5:00pm Worship at Eidsvold

5:00pm Worship at BLC

8:00pm Worship at BLC

All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!



FHS Christmas Concert

The ladies of First Presbyterian Church have again invited us to join them in a Christmas Concert presented by the Flathead High School Choir followed by a luncheon. It is Thursday, **December 4th** at 11:00am followed by the luncheon. Bethlehem is asked to bring 12 dozen cookies (Christmas cookies would be great). The choir is always wonderful and the luncheon is delicious so hopefully many of you can attend.



Warming Center

During these cold winter nights, it's important that we remember those most vulnerable. Please consider helping as you are able to provide a meal at the Warming Center once a month. If you are concerned about the cost, all ingredients will be supplied. Meal Coordinators, Jeff (732-453-4208) and Savannah (845-857-8973) have sauces, beans, spaghetti products, etc. Just give them a call and pick up what you need to make a soup or casserole. Let them know that you are from BLC. Sign up sheets are on the table in the Commons. For questions, please contact Sherry Korthase at 770-639-6621. Thank you!



A Free Holiday Concert!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **Dec 27th** at 4pm. Cazan and Friends, featuring our very own Claudius Cazan and Marlene Anderson will present a free concert here at Bethlehem. They'll share with you an evening of Classical and Sacred music including some Christmas selections! Continue the joy of the holiday season with this special event. Invite everyone you know!



Feeding the Flathead

BLC is hosting feeding the flathead twice in December -- December 15 and 22. We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, setting-up, serving, and cleaning-up. No experience required! If you are able to help, please sign-up on the sheets in the Commons or contact Julie Miller at (703) 862-3490.



Tree of Sharing

The Fellowship Committee has chosen three worthy causes for our Tree of Sharing: The Heart Locker, Food Bank, and The Warming Center. This year we are asking for monetary gifts that will be given to each organization so that they can purchase items that are the most beneficial for them. December 22nd is the last opportunity to make your donation.



The beauty of the Sanctuary will be enhanced by a display of poinsettias during the Christmas season. You are invited to participate by contributing \$25 in memory or in honor of someone special. Fill out this form, include payment (make checks payable to BLC) and place in the offering plate, take to the church office, or go to our website and pay by December 31st.

Name (s) _____

Phone number _____

Given in memory/honor of: _____

Please print clearly!

Tree of Sharing

Each year the Fellowship Committee chooses 3-4 organizations that we want to highlight for our Tree of Sharing. There are always so many worthwhile groups but this year with the cutbacks in food assistance, we felt that we wanted to focus our mission on the following groups. We will again be asking for cash or check donations (made payable to Bethlehem Lutheran) and would like those gifts to be turned into the church by December 22nd. Please put your envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

1. **The Heart Locker** - This organization assists school age children that may be homeless, living in campers, cars or couch surfing and who do not have the resources to purchase clothing, personal hygiene products or food. Your monetary gift will be given directly to the Heart Locker so they can purchase items that are most needed at this time.
2. **Food Bank** - Although donations of food items are wonderful, cash gifts are even more useful as the Food Bank has the ability to purchase food items at reduced prices.
3. **The Warming Center** - Bethlehem has been wonderful, committing to providing a meal to feed 50 people the last Saturday of each month. We would love to have more people sign up to help with that wonderful ministry. There will be a sign up sheet by the Tree of Sharing during Advent to highlight what is needed. (The signup sheet is in the Commons also each Sunday). In addition to that, we will have envelopes on the Tree of Sharing so that cash donations can be given directly to the Warming Center so that they can purchase items that are most needed.

We are so grateful to each of you that give of your time, money and service to reach out to the most vulnerable in our community. Thank you, thank you!

The Fellowship Committee



Flathead Respite Care
**COMMUNITY
 NIGHT**



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 4-10PM

MacKenzie River and Flathead Respite Care invite you to dine with us in Kalispell to help raise funds for their initiatives. Simply present this flyer to your Mack Riv server on specified date above and 20% of your food sales will be donated back to Flathead Respite Care.

.....

MACKENZIE RIVER - KALISPELL

45 Treeline Rd. • Kalispell, MT
 406-756-3030

Tag Us! 
 @MackRiverPizza

Flyer distribution on MacKenzie River property is prohibited and will result in the forfeiture of your organization's entire donation. Donation amount is not calculated on alcohol and gift card sales. Donations will not be made on past purchases. MacKenzie River donations cannot be combined with coupons or other offers.

Blue Christmas Service

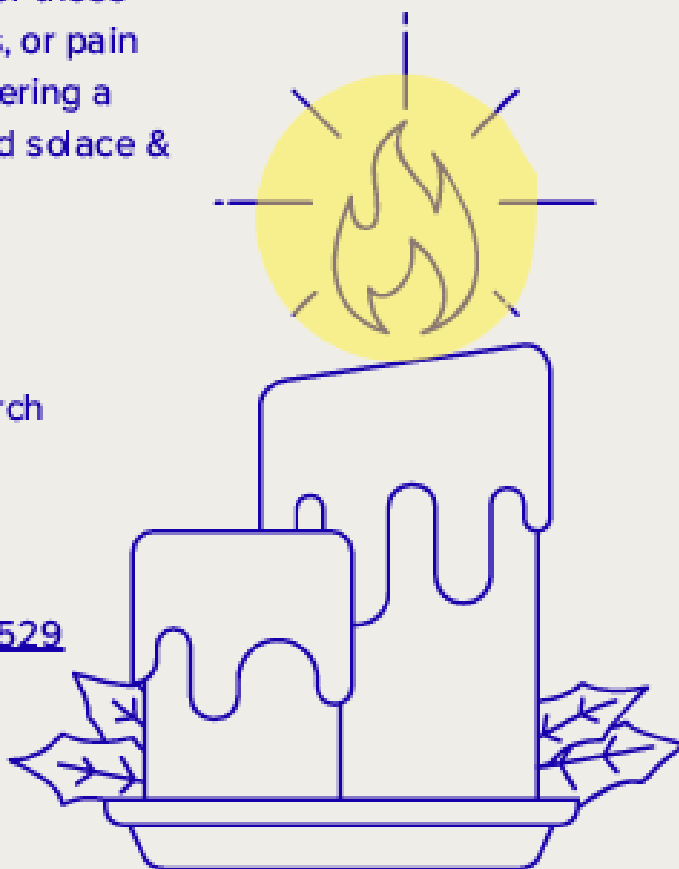
A contemplative worship experience designed for those experiencing grief, loss, or pain during the holidays, offering a supportive space to find solace & hope amidst sadness.

December 21st, 2025

3pm - 4pm

Eidsvold Lutheran Church
5935 Hwy 93 South
Somers, MT 59932

For more information
please call [\(406\) 857-3529](tel:406.857.3529)





THE STORY OF ELIZABETH

Discover the hidden words.



N	P	V	H	Q	N	Z	Q	K	S	F	Z	I	K	E
L	E	Y	C	T	Q	L	G	G	E	D	R	Y	R	H
E	M	N	J	N	E	J	O	H	N	M	W	U	B	G
G	A	R	I	R	X	B	O	H	C	C	D	L	A	G
N	R	X	I	M	N	F	A	E	E	X	O	B	F	Y
A	Y	L	R	D	T	I	I	Z	K	L	R	H	B	J
H	A	I	R	A	H	C	E	Z	I	I	P	V	V	L
Y	U	H	L	P	J	P	R	Q	E	L	F	M	M	E
F	B	R	X	S	M	M	T	L	M	K	E	S	E	E
P	R	A	D	P	S	B	Q	A	P	G	U	X	C	T
H	U	U	B	H	N	W	O	M	B	S	K	R	T	P
B	G	M	H	K	R	B	V	G	E	Y	G	X	F	P
Z	U	K	Q	H	O	D	A	J	O	A	A	P	X	A
C	G	R	C	D	B	T	L	Q	V	B	U	E	J	G
W	E	Z	T	K	P	X	V	O	H	B	H	O	P	T

Word Bank

JESUS

ZECHARIAH

TEMPLE

MARY

ELIZABETH

JOHN

BABY

OLD

GABRIEL

ANGEL

BORN

WOMB



Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:

Celeste Hauser, Erika Hauser, Steve Seilhymer, Jill Black, and John Devine.

A Special Thank You To Our Assisting Ministers:

<u>Assisting Mnstr/Reader:</u>	Don Beller
<u>Cantor:</u>	Janan Beller
<u>Greeters:</u>	Don Beller,
<u>Communion Setup:</u>	Karen Fisher
<u>Communion Asst:</u>	Dan Halvorsen
<u>Usher:</u>	Sherry Korthase, Karen Green, Terry Brosten, Dan Halvorsen
<u>Power Point:</u>	Julia Munson
<u>Acolytes:</u>	

This Week at Bethlehem

SUNDAY

9:00am Worship
 10:30am Bell Choir Practice
 1:30pm Blood Drive. FH
 3:00pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Concert

MONDAY

10:00am Respite Care, FH
 6:00pm Feeding the Flathead, FH

TUESDAY

1:00pm Fellowship Committee, FH
 7:00pm Confirmation

WEDNESDAY

6:45am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH
 10:00am Staff Meeting
 10:00am Respite Care, FH
 10:30am Spinners, CM
 5:30pm Supper, FH
 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer, BLC
 7:00pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

9:00am Quilters, FH
 9:00am Knitters, FR
 11:00am FHS Concert and Luncheon, First Presbyterian Church
 5:30pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH

SUNDAY

9:00am Worship / Sunday School
 10:30am Bell Choir Practice



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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office@bethluth.org / www.bethluth.org
 Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Kalispell
 406/752-6140