

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

We are called by God to follow Christ in
love and service to all.



February 1, 2026

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ and forgives your sin in Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Oh, Praise the Gracious Power"

ELW# 651

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

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, ev'-ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Kyrie Eleison, Larry Olson
 © 1989 Dakota Road Music*

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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you..

And also with you.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

(be seated)

Baptism of Archibald John Jerry Ahles

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?
 Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?
² **Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
 who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;**
³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
 they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.
⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear the
 LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹
 gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us
 who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of
 this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the
 wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided,
 through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For
 Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a
 stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the
 called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵
 For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is strong-
 er than human strength.

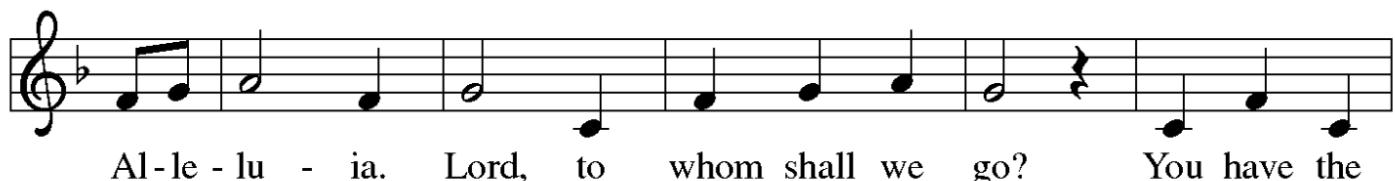
²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

ACS# 977



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
 dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con- verge a -
 breaks it - truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947

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Music © 2000 Michael Corzine, admin. Augsburg Fortress

(please stand)

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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.



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 him thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, Holy, Is the Lord, Jay Beech

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Lord's Prayer

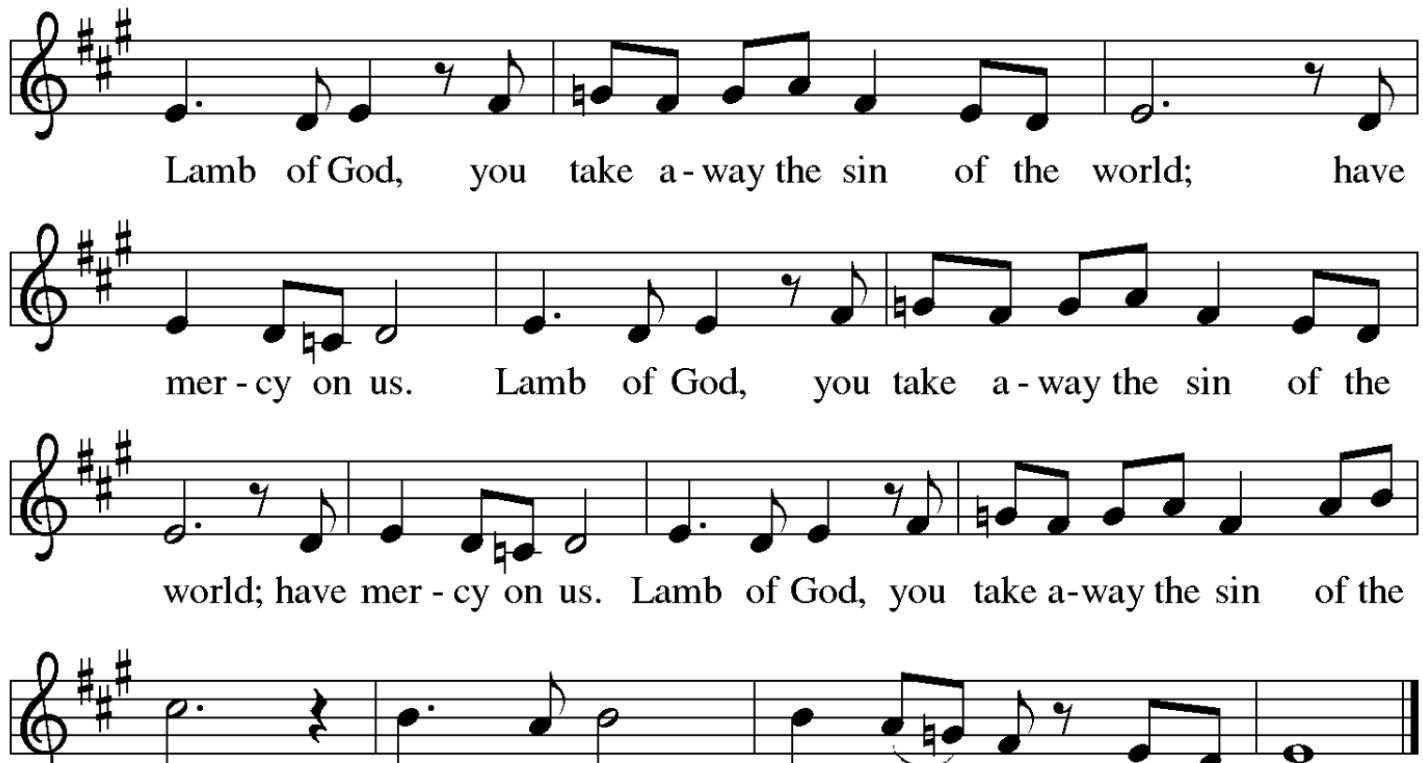
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

(be seated)

Distribution of Holy Communion

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

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn

“Build a Longer Table”

ACS# 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel-come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David BJORLIN, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ELW# 650

(please stand)

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

ELW# 545

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Claudius Cazan

Congregation Matters

Today 10:30am

Are you curious to know what your church council committees are working on? Would you like more information on what each committee is in charge of and where you could possibly volunteer your talents? BLC will be holding our very first Congregation Matters meeting after worship today to bring you those details and so much more. All are encouraged to attend.



Calling All Cooks!

Midweek Lenten Worship is approaching quickly and we need your help. We are looking for anyone who is able to bring soups or desserts for Wednesday evenings throughout lent. If cooking is not your forte', but you would still like to contribute, please consider helping with set up or clean up on these evenings as well. You can sign up using the form in The Commons or you can get in touch with Linda Erfle or Peggy Agenes-Janzer. Together we can make Lent filled with great food and amazing fellowship as we share in this sacred season of the church year!



Lenten Calendar 2026

Feb 18, 25, & March 4th BLC Hosting

5:30pm Lenten Supper
6:30pm Evening Prayer

March 11th ELC Hosting

5:30pm Lenten Supper
6:30pm Evening Prayer

March 18th & 25th NLC Hosting

5:30pm Lenten Supper
6:30pm Evening Prayer

*More details regarding
Holy Week to come.....*



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!





SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

'SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY'

BLC IS JOINING CHURCHES ACROSS AMERICA COLLECTING FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS.

YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS OF CASH, CANS OF SOUP AND OTHER NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

LET'S BEAT OUR COLLECTION AMOUNT FROM LAST YEAR AND SCORE BIG IN 2026!

FLBC Ski & Snowboard Retreat

Feb 13-16

For Junior & Senior High School Youth Groups & Families

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow games, worship and FUN! Let FLBC be your homebase as you spend your days skiing or snowboarding at Whitefish Mountain Resort or Blacktail Mountain Resort with your youth group. Downhill snow sports not your forte? Some of the best cross-country ski trails in the Flathead Valley are a few miles from camp, or spend the day at camp relaxing and enjoying the view of Flathead Lake. Post skiing activities include hot chocolate by the fire, group games, time to relax with new friends, and worship.



Feeding the Flathead

We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, serving, cleaning-up, and baking for Feeding the Flathead on February 16. No experience is required! This rewarding ministry serves approximately 50 hot meals an evening so lots of helping hands are needed! There are sign-up sheets in the Commons or contact Julie Miller for info - (703) 862-3490.



Like to Bake?

Share the calories with Sunday Coffee Hour! Bake a loaf or two of your favorite quick bread and share at Sunday coffee hour. Call Peggy by Saturday afternoon. Thanks to all that have helped and will.



Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

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

HUNGER AND THIRST
 PURE IN HEART
 PEACEMAKERS
 CHILDREN
 SEE GOD
 MERCY

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
 RIGHTEOUSNESS
 PERSECUTED
 MERCIFUL
 BLESSED
 MOURN

POOR IN SPIRIT
 INHERIT EARTH
 COMFORTED
 MOUNTAIN
 FILLED
 MEEK



Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:
Erika Hauser, Brad Holmgren, Gaye Bech, Beth Knutson, and Janan Beller.

Thank you to all of our assisting ministers for volunteering to help with worship this morning.

This Week at Bethlehem

SUNDAY

9:00am
10:30am
10:30am

02/01

Worship/ Sunday School
Bell Choir Practice
Congregation Matters, FH

MONDAY

10:00am
6:00pm

02/02

Respite Care, FH
Feeding the Flathead, FH

TUESDAY

10:00pm
7:00pm

02/03

Fellowship Committee, FH
Confirmation

WEDNESDAY

6:45am
10:00am
10:00am
10:30am
7:00pm

02/04

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH
Respite Care, FH
Staff Meeting
Spinners, CM
Choir

THURSDAY

9:00am
9:00am
5:30pm

02/05

Knitters, FR
Quilters, FH
Flathead Valley Community Orchestra, FH

SUNDAY

9:00am
10:30am

02/08 Souper Bowl of Caring

Worship/ Sunday School
Bell Choir Practice



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