

The Bethlehem Star January 2026



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.

BLC January Blood Drive

Our next blood drive at Bethlehem will be Sunday and Monday, 01/25 and 01/26. Sunday's drawing will be in the Bethlehem basement from 1:30 – 4:00, and Monday's drawing will be in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church across Main Street from Bethlehem at 540 S. Main Street and will be from 10:30 – 1:15. Your donation is needed. Please call either Glenda Skeim at 406-250-1890 or me, Gary Aasheim at 406-698-4138 for your appointment.



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!





What is the Trust Fund at Bethlehem? Well, some years ago the church decided to put some money aside for special purposes. It was determined that the money would be invested and that the interest from those investments would be given out for things like education scholarships, mission funding and care for our church property. They decided that this money should be kept separate from the regular church budget and managed by a group of BLC members that were not part of the church council. Over the years, people could give directly to the Trust Fund, the principle would increase, and more interest would be available for mission and benevolence. The Trust Fund at Bethlehem is very similar to an endowment fund.

Since it's inception, many of our faithful members here at Bethlehem have volunteered to be a part of the Trust Committee which has tended to the investments and determined how and when money is given away. One of the places you've probably seen the Trust Fund in action is on Sundays in May when we honor High School graduates. Each year the Trust Fund gives scholarships to those who apply. These are students who have been part of the Youth Ministry here at Bethlehem. It's always a joy to hear how and where these graduates plan to use their scholarships to further their education.

In recent years the Trust Fund has been able to contribute directly to the "mission partners" that Bethlehem has designated – places like the Food Bank, Heart Locker, FLBC, Immanuel Living, Serious Juju and more. Bethlehem gives away about \$30,000 (sometimes more) to these partners in our community each year. The Trust Fund makes that generosity possible.

And you can help that generosity grow! You can make a donation to the Trust Fund. This money is still kept in accounts separate from the regular church budget and is dispersed according to the guidelines of the Trust Fund. You can make large and small donations – and you can even designate that the Bethlehem Trust Fund receive a contribution from your estate when you pass. This is an excellent way to avoid paying capital gains taxes.

At our last Annual Meeting here at Bethlehem, we elected new and renewing officers to the Trust Committee. They have already begun meeting and have been making plans to both encourage giving to the Trust Fund and also letting the congregation and community know how and when monies are distributed. These are wonderful stories of how God is active among and through us for the sake of sharing the gospel in our world. Watch and listen for these stories to be told! As this new year begins, let us commit ourselves more and more to the God who makes blessings upon blessings happen in our community and the world.

Through the work of your church people's lives are transformed. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Scott



Business Manager Update, November 2025

We had average general fund (GF) contributions in October (just over \$25,000) but expenses exceeded income by about \$3,500 for the month so our ending fund balance declined about that same amount to about \$29,450. We had a quarterly property insurance payment of about \$6,500 that contributed to the deficit for the month. This was in line with expectations, and we anticipate continuing to eat into the month end 'reserve' fund as time goes on.

As a reminder, we have redefined our fiscal year to match the calendar year starting in 2026 and the Mission Plan for the year that was passed at the October meeting forecasts an 'ending balance' of basically \$0. Over the past number of years, we've had the luxury of fiscal situation where we always ended up with a healthy year-end balance (carryover) to help us jump-start the next year. While our GF giving has remained relatively constant over the past 5 years or so, our non-discretionary expenses escalate every year, leading to a budget deficit that we've made up for by increasing the contributions from our real estate income and decreasing our Mission Partner giving. We are now at a point where we've probably maxed out the amount we take from real estate income and given that the rental market is softening in Kalispell, we may actually have to decrease that amount in future years.

What this means is that if GF giving remains static or declines over the year, we will be forced to make additional cuts in our Mission Partner donations, which is our main discretionary expense. While we are grateful for ongoing financial support, we are asking everyone to prayerfully consider a 3-5% increase in their regular giving for 2026. A modest 5% increase in giving would result in a \$10-\$15,000 carryover balance at the end of 2026 and allow us to maintain our Mission Partner giving as proposed. Please consider this as part of your support for BLC's mission as we move forward.

If you have any questions regarding BLC's business matters, contact me at duane.a.anderson@outlook.com.

Sincerely, Duane Anderson, BLC Business Manager

FLBC Men's Retreat

Jan 23-25



- **Theme:** Transformation
- **Dates:** January 23-25, 2026
- **Ages:** Freshman in High School to 110 years old
- **Facilitators:** Pr. Keith Weatherford, Pr. Jason Asselstine, and Pr. Paul Anderson.
- **Study:** The retreat will be guided by the book, *"On the Threshold of Transformation"* by Richard Rohr *Daily Meditation for Men*.

Activities Include: A variety of activities are available such as hikes, service projects, music around the campfire, and more. The weekend will feature morning and afternoon devotions, small group activities, a bonfire letting go ritual, and will conclude with Sunday worship.

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 forté? 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.



Congregation Matters

Feb 1st 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 on February 1st to bring you those details and so much more. All are encouraged to attend.



Food on the 4th Sunday

On a table in the Commons you will find blue bags which you can take home and/or to the store to fill with food during the month and return to the church on the 4th Sunday of the month and we will take the donated food to the food bank. If you would rather donate money, you will also find "Food on the Fourth Sunday" envelopes on the table to put your donations in and you can place them in the offering plates or take to the church office. Thank you for the unending support you show to our community. **Together we are making a big difference!**



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Paul and Mary Thompson	In honor of all our family
Lynette Lorenzen	In honor of the choir
Scott & Kimberly Caruso	In honor of ALL the prayer warriors near and fare that prayed for Scott and his recovery
Larry & Margie Simpson	In memory of our parents
Terry Brosten	In memory of my wife, Nancy Brosten
Jinn & Gabe Mariman	In honor of the Mariman & Harold Families. In honor of the Jeresek & Fanslow Families.
John & Linda Erfle	In honor of our kids and grandkids
The Mohl Family	In memory of Arnie Mohl
Bill & Lauri Erickson	In memory of our grandparents: William & Gladys, Ken & Versa, Lyle & Inez, Helen & Paul. In memory of our parents: Allen & Linda Erickson, Bill & Kathy Adams, and Luke & Carolyn Couch
Rick & Jan Ulvin	In memory of our parents & brother. In honor of our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
Dale & Georgia Saverud	In honor or our children: Erik and Kim and our grandchildren: Jackson, Jace, Brooks, and Lily
Marsha Solak	In memory of Walter Solak. In memory of Buzz & Jane Minter and Walter & Mille Solak. In honor of Meghan and Ashleigh
Greg & Lori Adkins	In honor of our children Brock, Natalie, and Mac
Julie & Mark Miller	In memory of Ron & Betty Haas
Dawn & Ron Sicard	In memory of our parents: Ruth, Ed, Mildred, and Rolly
Vickie Cunningham	In memory of my friend, Reba Wilson
Brigitte Okamoto	In memory and honor of the Fuhrmann & Lindner family, especially Reinhold & Hannelore
Sherry Korthase	In memory of Bill & Jean Korthase
Paula Little	In memory of our parents. In honor of our children & grandchildren.
Sandy Lindlief	In honor of my grandchildren: Sierra & Logan Siblingud and Morgan, Madison, & Megan Markle
Dick and Carolyn Hardel	In honor of our children: Sharon & Kent Hardel and Rick & Angie Chew
Linda Fredenberg	In honor of our grandchildren: Carmen, George, and Lillian. In memory of Claire and Jerry Kasala
Kristin Fisher	In memory of Norma and Dick Fretheim
Charlene and Gary Singley	In honor of Kaye McCreedy
The Matheros Family	In memory of Adam Mathison
Carol Eckholt	In memory of Dale Shawhan
Debbie Snyder	In loving memory of my husband Dan Snyder. In loving memory of my parents: Vernon & Thelma Johnson
Dan and Jean Paschke	In memory of our parents: Gordon & Gladys and Don & Mary. In honor of our kids, grandkids, and Macie
Jeannie Baldwin	In memory of my husband, Merle Baldwin

New Year's Word Search

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

BABY
 BALL
 CALENDAR
 CELEBRATION
 CLOCK
 CONFETTI
 COUNTDOWN
 EVE

FAMILY
 FRIENDS
 HAPPY
 JANUARY
 MIDNIGHT
 NEW YEAR
 NOISEMAKER
 PARTY

RESOLUTION
 TOAST





January Calendar 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day Office Closed	2	3
	Locations: CM-Commons FH -Fellowship Hall FR-Fireside Room HB-Hjortland Bld.					
4 <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	5 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	6 <u>10:00pm</u> Fellowship Committee, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Confirmation	7 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>10:30am</u> Spinners, CM <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice	8 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>12:30pm</u> Ukelele Practice, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	9	10
11 <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	12 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	13 <u>9:45am</u> Dorcas Ruth, FH <u>5:30pm</u> Council, FH	14 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>10:30am</u> Weavers, CM <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice	15 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	16	17
18 <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	19 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH-BLC Serving <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	20 <u>7:00pm</u> Confirmation	21 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>10:30am</u> Spinners and Weavers Guild, CM <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice	22 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	23	24
25 Food on the 4th Sunday <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice <u>1:30pm</u> Blood Drive, FH	26 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>12:00pm</u> Women on the Go <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	27	28 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice	29 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	30	31





Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 603 South Main Street, Kalispell, Montana 59901
office@bethluth.org / www.bethluth.org
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 406/752-6140 - 406/752-6145 FAX
 KOFI 1180AM at 9:00am Sundays

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 Permit #11

Electronic service requested



**The deadline for
 the February
 newsletter is
 January 19th.
 Thank you!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Oscar	Jones	1/8
Dawn	Sicard	1/8
Brian	Croucher	1/9
Paul	Wachholz	1/9
Marianne	Gielow	1/17
John	Stene	1/23
Luke	Rumage	1/24
Kellie	Nelson	1/27
Maggie	Mohl	1/31
Jennifer	Fisher	1/31

Church Council

President:

Julie Miller

Vice Presidents:

Tony Nelson

VACANT

Treasurer:

VACANT

Recording Secretary:

Kellie Nelson

Committee Chairs

Christian Education:

Katie Havens

Fellowship:

Peggy Aagenes-Janzer

Outreach:

Cindy Galvin

Property:

VACANT

Stewardship:

Terry Brosten

Worship and Music:

Charlene Singley

Youth:

Bill Erickson