



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.

Supper/Evening Prayer 2025

The Advent season is here again 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!! there!

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!



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!



Big News from the Thompson Family... Jana and I are going to be grandparents! We were recently informed that our son and daughter-in-law are expecting in June of next year. We're excited and still a little bit cautious because there is a long way to go, but so far everything looks good... at least that's what I'm told!

I want to take the opportunity here to share some info about all of the ways we put our offerings and financial assets to work. We are a generous church. Over the past several years, Bethlehem has given away, literally, millions of dollars. Each year we commit something in the neighborhood of \$25,000 to \$30,000 to send directly to ELCA Mission Support. This is money that is used by our Synod (the Montana Synod) and the ELCA (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) for local and worldwide ministry. More about ELCA mission support can be found at <https://www.elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/stewardship/mission-support>.

In addition, BLC gives annually another \$30,000 to a wide range of local mission partners. For 2026 that list of organizations is this:

- The Abby Shelter
- Feeding the Flathead
- Flathead Food Bank
- Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
- Flathead Warming Center
- Immanuel Foundation
- NW MT Veterans Food Pantry
- Samaritan House
- Sparrows Nest
- Valley Neighbors

And all of this still doesn't count the various gifts we make when we hear a particular group or organization is in need or the extra donations you make through Food on the 4th Sunday, Souper Bowl, Tree of Sharing and more. For instance, a few months ago, when Serious Juju Skateworks shared that they needed to raise about \$30,000 to keep its doors open, Bethlehem stepped in with a gift of \$3000. And, Tree of Sharing will, again, this year contribute to three groups, The Warming Center, The Flathead Food Bank, and the Heart Locker. I also know how generous you are in your individual giving.

Bethlehem donates through the offerings you give on Sunday Mornings, funds that are held in our Trust Accounts, and by way of funds that we have reserved for just this purpose. It is, in my opinion, one of the most significant ways this congregation proclaims God's love for all people.

Perhaps we don't brag enough about this generosity that God encourages through us – after all, it's not about how awesome we are. But it deserves celebrating – this grace that we share with our community and the world. God blesses us – and we bless others. Thanks be to God! —Pastor Scott



November 2025 Council Notes

Treasurer's Report- Budget Reports/Balance Statement

- Income- \$34,009 Expenses- \$37,693 Ending September- \$29,452

Pastor Scott BLC Report-

- Christmas Sing-along – BLC will host a sing-along/caroling event on 12/21 at 3pm led by members of the Community Orchestra.
- Christmas Concert – by Claudius, Marlene Anderson, and guests – Classical selections plus Christmas carols – 12/27 at 4p
- Advent Sundays – Theme: Insisting on Hope. 4 Sundays. Using alternative Bible Readings (not lectionary).
- Mission Review – good participation last Sunday.
- Brewed Theology – good attendance at both. Will resume in Jan.

Pastor Lucy ELC Report-

- ELC has had steady attendance
- Will be replacing their sound system
- 12/21 will host a Blue Christmas worship service
- Christmas Eve 5:00pm worship service

Old Business-

Lola Vulles Gift-

- Email was sent out to congregation. Process is ongoing

Trust Committee

- Working with new members to get them up to speed on what committee is working on, processes, and procedures

Congregational Matters

- Discussed the idea of Council having quarterly meetings with the congregation to engage on different topics i.e. End of Year Financial, Giving, Fellowship, etc. February 1st for the first meeting.

New Business

Discussion on Future Council Structure

- Discussed process of how to potentially restructure Council/Committees. What is the right size for Council (how many members)? Should council members be heads of standing Committees? Should Council only be about actionable items with a few people for decision-making and who engage with committee heads for updates? Discussions will continue throughout the year.



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

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

BLC December Blood Drive

Our next blood drive at Bethlehem will be Sunday and Monday, 11/30 and 12/1. 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.



FHS Christmas Concert

The ladies of First Presbyterian Church have again invited the ladies from Bethlehem Lutheran 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.



Feeding the Flathead

We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, serving, cleaning-up, and baking for Feeding the Flathead on December 15 and December 22. No experience is required! This rewarding ministry serves approximately 70 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.



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!



FLBC Advent Retreat

Dec 5-7th

Come to camp to prepare for Christmas! All are welcome to join us for a cozy winter getaway with crafts, delicious food, and an opportunity to find & take home your perfect Christmas tree! Make gingerbread houses and Advent wreaths, eat plenty of cookies, sing seasonal favorites, and much more: take a weekend at camp for a deep breath at the start of the Advent (and Christmas) season.



FLBC Cookie Making Day

Dec 6th

If you don't have the chance to join us for the Advent Retreat, please consider joining us for the day to make Christmas cookies. \$35 per person (any age) and you get to take home LOTS of cookies (min 8 dozen)! Contact FLBC for more information.



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.

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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

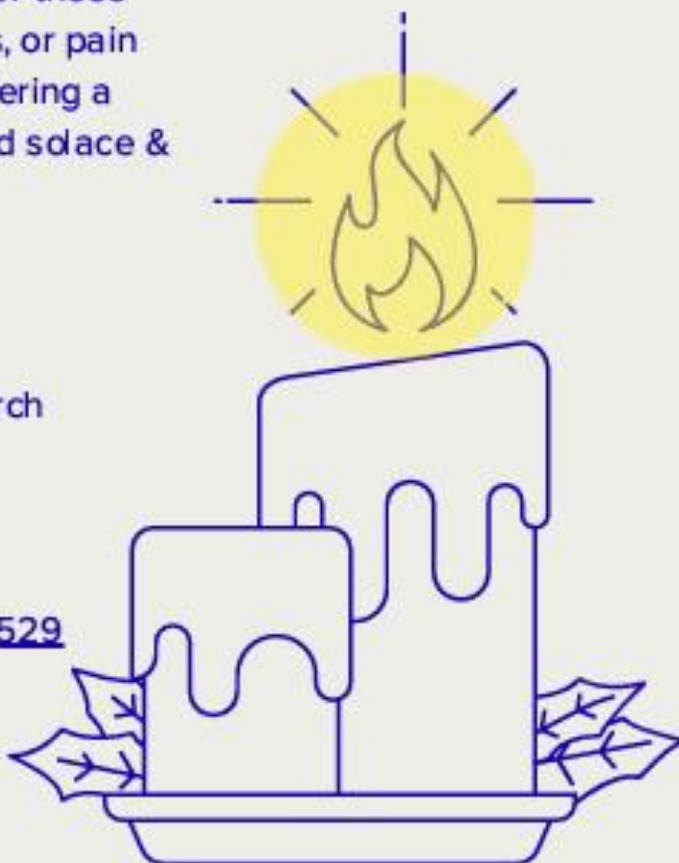
A contemplative worship experience designed for those experiencing grief, loss, or pain during the holidays, offering a supportive space to find solace & hope amidst sadness.

December 21st, 2025

3pm - 4pm

Eidsvold Lutheran Church
5935 Hwy 93 South
Somers, MT 59932

For more information
please call [\(406\) 857-3529](tel:4068573529)





December Calendar 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH</p>	<p>2 <u>1:00pm</u> Fellowship Committee, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Confirmation</p>	<p>3 <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 <u>5:30pm</u> Supper, BLC <u>6:30pm</u> Evening Prayer, BLC <u>7:30pm</u> Choir Practice</p>	<p>4 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>11:00am</u> Presbyterian Ladies/FHS Concert & Luncheon <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH</p>	5	6
<p>7 <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>8 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH</p>	<p>9 <u>9:45am</u> Dorcas Ruth, FH</p>	<p>10 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>5:30pm</u> Supper, ELC <u>6:30pm</u> Evening Prayer, ELC</p>	<p>11 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice</p>	12	13
<p>14 <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>15 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH <i>Newsletter deadline</i></p>	<p>16 <u>7:00pm</u> Confirmation</p>	<p>17 <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 <u>5:30pm</u> Supper, NLC <u>6:30pm</u> Evening Prayer, NLC</p>	<p>18 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice</p>	19	20
<p>21 <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice <u>3:00pm</u> Sing Along & Cookie Reception, BLC <u>3:00pm</u> Blue Christmas Worship, ELC</p>	<p>22 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH–BLC Serving</p>	23	<p>24 Christmas Eve <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>5:00pm</u> Worship, ELC <u>5:00pm</u> Worship, BLC <u>8:00pm</u> Worship, BLC</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Office Closed</p>	26	27 <u>4:00pm</u> Cazan Christmas Concert, BLC
<p>28 Food on the 4th Sunday <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>29 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>12:00pm</u> Women on the Go <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH</p>	30	<p>31 New Year's Eve <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH</p>		<p>Locations: CM-Commons FH -Fellowship Hall FR-Fireside Room HB-Hjortland Bld.</p>	





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

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**The deadline for
 the January
 newsletter is
 December 15th.
 Thank you!**



Janan	Beller	12/2
Donna	Tice	12/3
Bev	Aronson	12/3
Helen	Dollan	12/4
Carol	Eckholt	12/11
Kelly	Bernard	12/12
Lorrie	Grosfield	12/17
Erin	Gunderson	12/19
Julie	Miller	12/20
Michele	Hadley	12/20
Brin	Grosfield	12/21
Glenda	Skeim	12/26
Georgia	Saverud	12/27
Char	Kaber	12/30



Church Council
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 Julie Miller
Vice Presidents:
 Tony Nelson
 VACANT
Treasurer:
 VACANT
Recording Secretary:
 Kellie Nelson

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 Katie Havens
Fellowship:
 Peggy Aagenes-Janzer
Outreach:
 Cindy Galvin
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