



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.

4TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

- When:** Saturday, October 25th 3:00pm-5:00pm
Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parking Lot
What: Car Trunks decorated with various themes or stories, and filled with lots of candy and other treats!
Who: Children of all ages dressed in creative and non-scary costumes!
Cost: FREE!



**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR AN
AFTERNOON FULL OF FUN!**

Bethlehem October Blood Drive

Our next blood drive at Bethlehem will be Sunday and Monday, 10/5&6. Sunday's drawing will be in the Bethlehem basement from 1:30 – 4:30, 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.





Recently the Men's Breakfast and Bible Study group had the opportunity to hear a bit about how and why the Church uses Creeds – the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed. Our discussion came about as a result of a summer series we were engaged regarding the early history of the church. The creeds stem from early beliefs and declarations about God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ – who Jesus is – what the role of the Holy Spirit is – and how God comes to us.

Most Christian scholars recognize that in the New Testament, the earliest profession of faith in Jesus was simply "Jesus is Lord." The Apostle Paul uses that statement in both his letter to the Romans (Rom. 10:9) and to the Corinthians (1st Cor. 12:3). But, over the early centuries of the church (about 300 years), Christians defined and refined their statements to develop what we now know as the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed.

But why do we still use these creeds – and what purpose do they serve?

In the Large Catechism, Martin Luther explains that while the commandments are given so that we might know what is expected of us by God, the Creed exists "in order to help us [know how to] do what the [commandments] require of us" specifically by relying on the God who has already done all things for us. So, the creed is a gift of grace from God.

In addition, we say the creed in church because ours is a communal faith even as it is also experienced by us and benefits us individually. We believe together – we are, foremost, a community of believers.

Finally, the creed joins us to people of different denominations and with people of our faith in generations going all the way back to the time of Jesus. The creed is sort of like the Force in Star Wars – "it surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds [us] together." It gives us a common bond that transcends race, nationality, culture and doctrine.

As you know, we usually say the Apostles Creed in church – mostly because it's shorter and easier to say. But it's also good to use the Nicene Creed, which is about twice as long, and goes into greater detail. So don't be surprised if, on a given Sunday sometime soon, we change up the words that you see in your program and on the screens!

Ultimately, I would encourage all of you to be able to recite both the Apostles and the Nicene Creed as they are the root of our faith together (along with the Commandments and the Lord's Prayer). But also, work out for yourself a short description of what you hold to be sure and true. My personal creed is this: "God loves all the world – love is embodied in Jesus – the Holy Spirit calls me to share love with others." Perhaps your creed will be similar – or different. Either way is good!

Pastor Scott

September 2025 Council Notes

Treasurer's Report- Budget Reports/Balance Statement

- Income- \$31,597 Expenses- \$32,264 Ending August- \$37,100
- Preschool now has insurance carrier
- Working with Kone for our elevator maintenance- Duane is working with them on clarification on what our maintenance program includes

Pastor's Report-

- ABS after church starts 9/14- 22 signed up for conversation groups, including 2 leaders
- Confirmation starts on 10/7 at 7pm- PS and PL will teach together- 6 students
- Respite is one month in- reporting good participation and volunteers
- Sabbatical for next summer- Lily Foundation declined application. Will still take the sabbatical and has asked Ex Comm to put some money in budget for Pastoral Care and Preaching coverage
- FLBC Annual Meeting- 10/11 do we have or need to select delegates?
- Advent Mid-Week Suppers- Pastors Carol and Lucy would like to share Wed's again- 1 at each location- thoughts?

Old Business-

Repair update at 632 1st Ave-

- Still waiting for quotes

Trust Committee Update

- Julie and Duane met with Larry Simpson (chair of the Trust Committee) and expressed interest in holding elections. Larry was fine with that and expressed interest in running. There are 3 other members who are also interested in running again. In addition to those 4, we are looking for 2 more people to run for committee positions. Council discussed possible candidates who might be willing. Council members to let Duane or Julie know if there is anyone they can recommend. Will also run add in Sunday bulletins.

Parking lot Repairs

- Completed

Building Repairs from Car Wreck

- Completed

New Business

Bylaws Phase 1 updates- approve draft for Annual Meeting

- Update recommendations discussed. **MOTION PASSED** to approve Bylaws Phase 1 updates as written and forward to Semi Annual Meeting for congregational approval.

Mission Plan Review- 24/25 extension, 2026 Plan

- 24/25 extension and 2026 Mission Plan discussed. **MOTION PASSED** to approve 24/25 extension as written and forward to Semi Annual Meeting for congregational approval. **MOTION PASSED** to approve the 2026 Mission Plan as written and forward to Semi Annual Meeting for congregational approval.

Discuss a Proposal for Quarterly (or otherwise) Council/Congregation Update Sessions

- Charlene Singly introduces the possibility of periodic council/congregation update sessions during the Sunday coffee hour in the absence of a 2nd Semi Annual meeting. The purpose of these sessions is to update the congregation as to what each committee is working on and encourage congregational participation and input.



Business Manager Update, September 2025

Our finances remain healthy at the end of August with an ending fund balance of about \$37,000. General fund offerings were strong in August and our cumulative giving for this FY is about \$10k higher than at this same time last year. Thank you to all for your faithful giving! With one month remaining in this FY, we are anticipating a September ending fund balance between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

The repairs from the car accident in July were completed in August. In addition, we got a fresh seal coating on the parking lot.

We experienced an elevator failure in August which was promptly repaired by our Kone service technicians. The expense for approximately four hours of technician time was over \$2,500 (\$600+/hr.). We have a maintenance agreement with Kone (about \$1,900/year) which only covers two maintenance visits per year, plus the regulatory reporting requirements the State requires (it does not cover unanticipated repairs). We paid nearly \$10,000 in 2022 to replace the bushings in the hydraulic system. The elevator is an vital resource to provide to the users of our facility, but it is increasingly expensive to maintain; from 2022-2025 we have incurred expenses of over \$18,000. We are exploring some options with our Kone sales rep to lower future maintenance contract costs. Given that the elevator is now 30 years old, we may need to contemplate some more expensive upgrades soon. We will keep you posted.

Our annual meeting will be October 19th after service. This is an important meeting where we will consider some updates to the BLC bylaws, as well as our Mission Plan (budget) for the upcoming year. One of the changes you will see in the updated bylaws is to change our fiscal year (currently 10/1-9/30) to the calendar year (1/1 – 12/31); this will be explained more thoroughly at the meeting. Finally, we will hold an election for members of our Trust Committee.

If you have any questions regarding BLC's business matters, don't hesitate to contact me at duane.a.anderson@outlook.com.

Sincerely, Duane Anderson, BLC Business Manager

Remembering Beloved Saints

All Saints Sunday is November 2nd. Once again we'll be remembering loved ones who have died and now rest in the promise of Jesus. If you have a photo of a loved one who passed in the last year (since November 2024), send it to office@bethluth.org along with their name and a SHORT thought or memory. We'll include them in our remembrance of All the Saints. **Photos due by Sunday, Oct. 26th.**



Feeding the Flathead

We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, serving, cleaning-up, and baking for Feeding the Flathead on October 20 and November 17. 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.



Trunk or Treat– Help Needed!

Fall is here and the Halloween costumes are coming out! Contact Katie Havens if you'd like to help out during our 4th Annual Trunk or Treat! Email at: katie.havens2014@gmail.com . Also, in preparation for trunk or treat the Education committee is looking for **full sized candy bar donations** to wrap youth ministry information around for handing out. We are hoping to reach 300 kids with this information. Any donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated for our super fun family friendly event.



Join the Trust Committee

The Council, after reviewing the Trust Committee Bylaws, recommended that the congregation select a Trust Committee from a slate of interested candidates at this year's annual meeting. The Committee can have up to five members, and so far, we have three interested parties and are recruiting for at least two more.



The Trust Committee has the important role of managing BLC's two main trust funds: our Mission Endowment Fund and the BLC Scholarship fund. In addition to the financial stewardship component, the Committee is also charged with communicating the status and vision of the Trust to the Congregation, and cultivating an active group of future donors through outreach, education, and sharing of this critical stewardship opportunity.

If you have a talent or passion in any of these areas and would like to run for the Committee, please contact Duane Anderson at duane.a.anderson@outlook.com or Julie Miller at mrsmarkr@gmail.com. They can discuss any questions you might have and add your name to the ballot.

Flathead Warming Center- “Warm and Safe Season”

It's that time of year again, when we help to provide our homeless neighbors with one nourishing meal each month. Last year, “over 6,950 meals were provided,” and YOU were part of that! Thank You!!



The Warming Center will open on Friday, October 10th (World Homeless Day) so please sign up on the forms in the Narthex for the 1st Saturdays of the month and helps as you are able. Thank you. For questions, please contact Sherry Korthase at 770-639-6621.

FLBC's Fall Harvest Festival and Auction

Oct. 11th

An event to help make camp financially accessible to all! Following the FLBC Annual Meeting at **2:30**, join us for the Fall Harvest Festival & Auction events! Go to flbc.net for tickets and more information.



FLBC Quilting/Crafts Retreat

Oct 30– Nov 2nd



Bring your quilt and craft projects and work alongside friends old and new on the west shore of Flathead Lake. FLBC will also be providing opportunities to learn new skills, such as learning how to make lefse! Evening devotions, worship and plenty of time for conversation with delicious meals and cozy accommodations will make for a relaxing weekend away.



FLBC Yoga Spirituality Retreat

Nov 14-16th

Join Pastor Kelsey Beebe and recenter your heart, soul, and body with a weekend full of prayerful movement! Throughout the weekend, yoga classes will be offered in a variety of styles and levels: gentle/restorative; chair yoga; vinyasa flow; and more! There will be opportunities for guided meditation and prayer, as well as dialogue around how we can use movement as a form of prayer. All levels of experience are welcome!





October Calendar 2025



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

Calling All Bakers!



The Fellowship Committee would like to invite anyone who would like to bring coffee cakes or quick breads (please no cookies or cakes) for after-worship fellowship to feel welcome to do so. If this is something you would be interested in from time to time, please contact Peggy Agenes-Janzer or Linda Erfle by the Saturday afternoon of the week you will be bringing a treat so they have time to alter the doughnut order for Sunday if needed. We thank you for your generosity and we look forward to enjoying your delicious creations!





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

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

Electronic service requested



**The deadline for
 the November
 newsletter is
 October 20th.
 Thank you!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Cyndie	Grace	10/3
Duane	Anderson	10/7
Trina	Stene	10/8
Paul	Thompson	10/06
Peggy	Aagenes-Janzer	10/11
Wally	Wilder	10/12
Tony	Nelson	10/12
Hannah	Phillips	10/15
Don	Beller	10/23
Carolyn	Hardel	10/26
Bill	Pursell	10/26
Kay	Linquist	10/26
Patti	Young	10/29
Bonnie	Pederson	10/29

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