



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

### Lenten Calendar 2026

#### 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



### Family Game event

March 8<sup>th</sup> is a day to set aside for fun and community building here at Bethlehem. Plan to stay after worship in the Fellowship Hall for games of all sorts – for kids, teenagers, and even grown-ups. If you have a game your family likes, bring it along!



### Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat

#### March 13-15

Grandparents: a chance to enjoy your grandkids, while having FLBC lead them in Bible study, play time, crafts, games, worship, hiking, snow fun, and more! Maybe even a polar plunge... (and no, Grandparents, you do not HAVE to jump in the lake!)

The retreat is designed for 5–12 years-old youth... but you as Grandparents can bring whatever age grandkids you want. You will be housed in a cabin with your grandkids.

Some sessions will be spent with just Grandparents, with our guest Pastor, while the FLBC staff take the kids for learning and fun! Contact FLBC for more information.



FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



Hey everyone...

First, let me say how much I appreciate everything everyone does for our church. I see so many of you helping and participating and signing up to make it all happen. And we are seeing the results – lots of new faces among us – there’s definitely an energetic vibe around everything we do as a congregation. Thank you for being all that you are.

I want to gently push you into just a bit more involvement, though – particularly where it has to do with signing up for roles on Sunday mornings – Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Communion Helpers, etc.

And as I’ve said before – I know there are certain limitations that some of you have which make you less able to do some things. That’s ok. I don’t expect everyone to help with everything. In addition, lots of you are almost constant helpers – always stepping up every week to serve in multiple roles. I don’t want you to think I don’t appreciate you... I do! (but, I also don’t want you to always be the only assistants.)

The crux of it all is that there’s a sort of log-jam that happens at the beginning of each week when we don’t have all the slots filled for the coming Sunday. You may have noticed in my Weekly Update that even by Thursday, we’re still looking for volunteers. It would be most helpful if we were able to have things ready to go by a couple weeks ahead of time.

So, I’m asking **2 things of all of you...** again, most humbly.

**First, if you are not a person who signs up to be a helper on Sunday Mornings – please consider giving one or more of the opportunities a try.** Being a Greeter, Usher, or Communion Assistant are really pretty easy. Reading the lessons isn’t too hard. Singing the Psalm isn’t for everyone, but I bet more of you than you think could do it... Claudius and I will help! If you have kids that want to be acolytes, we’d love to have them join the crew!

**Second, please look at the schedule and sign up for a couple (two or three) times into the future.** We post 2 or 3 months ahead of time so you can get on the schedule weeks ahead. Knowing that we have things ready to go for the couple of weeks ahead will ease our stress. And it will make it easier for us to switch things around if and when someone needs to bail out at the last minute. (and, by the way, if you have to change to a different date, that’s fine!)

Thank you for your graciousness in considering these requests. I know that together we can work to make our schedules work together with ease and efficiency.

To make this easy, I've put a super convenient link to the sign-up sites on our church website. **Just go to [www.bethluth.org](http://www.bethluth.org) and click on the button that says, "Go to Worship Assistants Page."** And thanks in advance!

Pastor Scott

PS... A HUGE thank you to Charlene for coordinating all of these things... She's a champ!!!

## **February 2026 Council Notes**

### **Treasurer's Report-** Budget Reports/Balance Statement

- Income- \$29,467 Expenses- \$38,729 Ending January- \$66,071

### **Pastor's Report-**

- February Brewed Theology is "Sabbath: God's Underrated Gift"
- Shrove Sunday Pancakes- Feb 15<sup>th</sup> after worship
- Lent is nearly here- Theme is "Blest are They: Live that Still Speak". Soup Supper and Evening Prayers will be shared with ELC and NLC. Offerings will go to FLBC
- March 15<sup>th</sup> Billings Youth Choir performing at BLC
- Family Game Event- March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm (?)
- Confirmation Sunday- May 17 at BLC and ELC
- Grad Recognition- May 17
- Sabbatical Plans- Last Sunday will be June 7. Return, Aug 31.

### **Old Business-**

#### **Lola Vulles Gift-**

- Process is ongoing

#### **Council Structure Ongoing Conversation**

- Continued discussions regarding how/if to restructure council. Suggested a retreat to flesh out ideas. PS has been speaking to an experienced third party, Dennis Trotter, who is willing to mediate the discussions at the retreat. He would like to introduce himself via Zoom at March Council meeting with potential for March 14<sup>th</sup> for the retreat.

### **New Business**

#### **Review and Approve 2026 Mission Partner Plan**

- Will discuss at March Council meeting

#### **Review and Approve Proposal for Drop Box Safe for Offering Management**

- Audit recommendation for a small drop box safe to deposit the Sunday offerings was discussed. Will send out vote by email for Council's approval.

#### **Review and Approve Revised Large Gift Policy**

- Discussed current large gift policy. Will continue discussions at March Council meeting.

## Business Manager Update, February 2026

As we journey through Lent this year, I hope you have time for reflection, prayer, and thankfulness for Christ's incredible gift of redemption to us. Easter Sunday is early this year (April 5). The observation of Easter is determined by the lunar calendar in relation to the Spring Equinox (March 21). To guarantee Easter falls in the season of spring, Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon that occurs on or after the Spring Equinox. This year the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox is on April 1, April 5 is the first Sunday after that, hence Easter Sunday is observed on April 5, 2026.

The ending fund balance I reported last month for Dec 2025 of \$23,000, was incorrect, it was about \$50,000 because of the very strong month we had in December. January giving was about average and we had some large expenses, so we had an ending fund balance of about \$41,000 on January 31st. This is still a healthy balance; thank you all for your generous financial stewardship.

As shared before, other priorities for 2026 will be to complete a 'Phase 2' revision of our Bylaws (primarily concerning Council and Committee structures/duties). The Council has scheduled a retreat in March and with the help of an outside facilitator, hopes to come to some decisions about proposed changes. These changes, along with an update to our Constitution, will be presented for review and approval of a Congregational vote at our annual meeting this fall.

If you have any questions or comments regarding BLC's business matters, please contact me at [duane.a.anderson@outlook.com](mailto:duane.a.anderson@outlook.com).

Sincerely, Duane Anderson, BLC Business Manager

## Wounded But Wanted

### March 1st after worship

A **new Bible Study** focusing on the idea that although all of us are wounded in some way, God still has a plan for us. We'll walk in the footsteps of God's people described in scripture, and see that God does not avoid wounded people. Rather, he seeks them, heals them, and gives them a place in the story. This gathering will be a space of acceptance, comfort, and growth for anyone who wonders if God could really want them. Led by Bryan Knutson, wounded veteran, whole and loved child of God.



## Tree of Sharing

The Tree of Sharing for 2025 was a huge success! We collected far more than we anticipated:

Heart Locker:	\$1545
Warming Center:	\$1402
Food Bank:	\$1260



Thank you so much for your generosity and helping those most vulnerable in our community!

## Feeding the Flathead

We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, serving, cleaning-up, and baking for Feeding the Flathead on March 16 and March 23. 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.



## FLBC Adult Spirituality Retreat 2026– Word Play!

**April 12-14**

Come play with words with Pastor Holly Johnson, an ELCA pastor serving at Spirit Garage in Minneapolis. Pastor Holly spent her recent sabbatical reclaiming a creative writing voice, and has some ideas to share if you also love to write (or think you might love to write) but can't always come up with the time, energy or anything to write about. Our sessions will be spent exploring different ways to play with writing, mostly focused on poetry and memoir, using ideas gleaned from Maggie Smith, Julia Cameron, Jeff Tweety, and more. In addition to sessions with Pastor Holly, explore God's creation at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, with worship, devotions, Sauna, labyrinth, and time to relax in your own ways. A great retreat for church council members to explore their call to serve in their daily life and mission and their role in the church. Contact FLBC for more information.



## 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!





# St. Patrick's Day Word Search



CLOVER	IRELAND	PARADE
COINS	IRISH	PATRICK
CORNED BEEF	LEPRECHAUN	POT OF GOLD
TRADITION	LUCK	RAINBOW
GREEN	MARCH	SHAMROCK



# March Calendar 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1  <u>9:00am</u> Worship/            Sunday School  <u>9:00am</u> KOFI  <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir            Practice</p>	<p>2  <u>10:00am</u> Respite            Care, FH  <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH</p>	<p>3  <u>10:00pm</u> Fellowship            Committee, FH  <u>7:00pm</u>            Confirmation</p>	<p>4  <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>5:30pm</u> Soup Supper, <b>BLC</b>  <u>6:30pm</u> Worship, <b>BLC</b>  <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice</p>	<p>5  <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH  <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR  <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead            Valley Community            Orchestra Practice, FH</p>	6	7
<p>8 <b>Daylight Savings            Time Begins</b>  <u>9:00am</u> Worship/            Sunday School  <u>9:00am</u> KOFI  <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir            Practice  <u>10:30am</u> Family            Game Event, FH</p>	<p>9  <u>10:00am</u> Respite            Care, FH  <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH</p>	<p>10  <u>9:45am</u> Dorcas            Ruth, FH    <u>5:30pm</u> Council, FH</p>	<p>11  <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible            Study, FH  <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care,            FH  <u>5:30pm</u> Soup Supper, <b>ELC</b>  <u>6:30pm</u> Worship, <b>ELC</b></p>	<p>12  <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  <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Practice</p>	13	14
<p>15  <u>9:00am</u> Worship/            Sunday School  <u>9:00am</u> KOFI  <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir            Practice  <u>5:00pm</u> Billings            High School Choir            Concert</p>	<p>16  <u>10:00am</u> Respite            Care, FH  <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH–  <b>BLC Serving</b>    <i>Newsletter            deadline</i></p>	<p>17 <b>St Patrick's Day</b>  <u>7:00pm</u>            Confirmation</p>	<p>18  <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>5:30pm</u> Soup Supper, <b>NLC</b>  <u>6:30pm</u> Worship, <b>NLC</b></p>	<p>19  <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>	20	21
<p>22 <b>Food on the 4th            Sunday</b>  <u>9:00am</u> Worship/            Sunday School  <u>9:00am</u> KOFI  <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir            Practice</p>	<p>23  <u>10:00am</u> Respite            Care, FH  <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH</p>	24	<p>25  <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible            Study, FH  <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH  <u>5:30pm</u> Soup Supper, <b>NLC</b>  <u>6:30pm</u> Worship, <b>NLC</b></p>	<p>26  <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>	27	28
<p>29 <b>Palm Sunday</b>  <u>9:00am</u> Worship  <u>9:00am</u> KOFI  <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir            Practice</p>	<p>30  <u>10:00am</u> Respite            Care, FH  <u>12:00pm</u> Women            on the Go  <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH</p>	31			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Locations:</b>            CM-Commons            FH -Fellowship Hall            FR-Fireside Room            HB-Hjortland Bld.</p> </div>	



## 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.

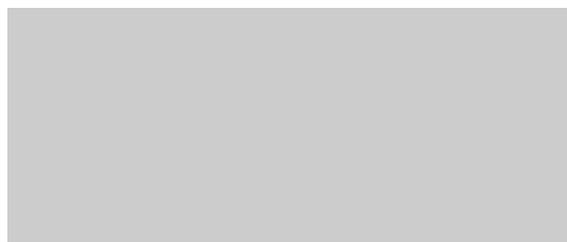




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 KOFI 1180AM at 9:00am Sundays

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**The deadline for  
 the April  
 newsletter is  
 March 16th.  
 Thank you!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Dolores	Aadsen	3/12
Gary	Aasheim	3/12
Margie	Fiedler	3/14
Mike	Galvin	3/18
Kathi	Ebert	3/18
Judi	Fenton	3/24

**Church Council**

**President:**

Julie Miller

**Vice Presidents:**

Tony Nelson

VACANT

**Treasurer:**

VACANT

**Recording Secretary:**

Kellie Nelson

**Committee Chairs**

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Terry Brosten

**Worship and Music:**

Charlene Singley

**Youth:**

Bill Erickson