

The Bethlehem Star May 2026



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

FLBC Youth Summer Camp Registration is Open

All programs at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp are designed to be a fun highlight of the summer, while providing opportunities for growth in faith, leadership, and friendship. Campers experience these gifts through a wide range of carefully crafted programs and activities, while maintaining safety as a #1 priority. There are Cooking camps, Choir camps, Theatre Camps, Basketball Camps, Art Camps, and much more! If you are interested in finding out more about what FLBC has to offer, go to their website at FLBC.net or call 406-752-6602. Ask about financial help from Bethlehem if needed!



Volunteers Needed!

Are you passionate about organizing meals and serving others?



We need volunteers to assist with meal planning and to lead a team of cooks once a month for Feeding the Flathead. This meaningful ministry provides 50 to 70 hot meals each evening to community members in need. For more details, please reach out to Julie Miller at (703) 862-3490 or mrsmarkr@gmail.com.

SPRING

IS IN THE AIR





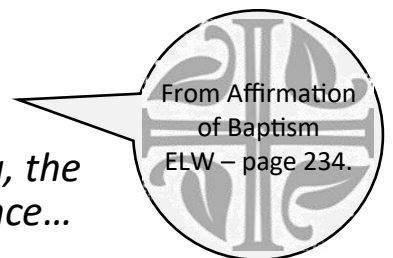
Confirmation Sunday is this month – May 17th. We have 4 teenagers who will be taking part in the Affirmation of Baptism. As many of you know, it's a special time for these kids, their families and the whole community of faith as we continue to live and grow as the Body of Christ.

Baptism is the center of our faith. It's the ongoing creation of God in us that puts to death the brokenness of this world and raises us with Christ to new life as only God can give it. More than just a good way to start life – and certainly more than “fire insurance” or a “get-out-of-jail-free card,” baptism is the river of life that carries us to the promises of God that overflow with goodness.

We bring infants and children to the waters of baptism because they are part of us – part of this Body of Christ from the moment of their birthing cry. Not because of something they say or do, but because of the love that surrounds them. They are with us as we discover every blessing of God – as we explore every opportunity to love and serve others in our world. We teach them all that we know about our faith in God... and they end up teaching us some things, too!

And because it's already sort of a transitional time in the life of a kid, we choose this end-of-8th-grade/before-high-school time to give them an opportunity to express for themselves what their faith is all about. We ask them to share a brief message about how and when God has “shown up” in their lives. We ask them to pick out a Bible verse that is special to them. And we participate with them in the rite of Affirmation of Baptism:

- *Do you renounce the forces of evil? I do.*
- *Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit? I believe...*
- *Stir up in <name> the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of joy in your presence...*



It's worth noting that there are many times in life when an affirmation of our baptism would be appropriate... times when any of us might need to have that Spirit stirred up in us. Baptism was never meant to be a one-and-done sort of thing... but a daily dying and rising with Christ. And every time we gather to worship, we are renewed in the gift of baptism as we hear words of forgiveness, sing the praise of our God, and share in the meal of Jesus' everlasting life.

Celebrate the life of faith – for the sake of our 4 teenage confirmands on May 17th – and for the glory of God that lives in you and in this congregation here at Bethlehem. As we declare at the end of the Affirmation of Baptism rite: **We rejoice in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world. Amen!**

April 2026 Council Notes

Treasurer's Report- Budget Reports/Balance Statement

- Income- \$45,548 Expenses- \$66,863 Ending March- \$51,008

Pastor's Report-

- Holy Week and Easter worship/ Brunch/Egg Hunt was a success. A big thank you to all who worked hard to make everything come together
- PS has been working on a chart for who will fill in for him in the summer during sabbatical
- Julie Miller will go to the Synod Assembly in Billings May 29th and 30th. Looking for one more person to accompany her.

Old Business-

Lola Vulles Gift Update-

- Paperwork submitted to the court. Process is still ongoing.
- Discussed when to hold a congregation meeting announcing the finalization of the process. The money will be held in an account until the congregation decides how, when and what to use the funds for.

Council Retreat April 18th

- April 18th is Council Retreat at FLBC.

New Business

May Congregational Matters

- May 3rd is next Congregational Matters meeting. Capital Improvements and the plan for Pastor Scott's Sabbatical will be the topics.

Kalispell Community Learning Together

Zionism 101

May 3rd

Central Christian Church

11:30am Refreshments

11:45am Lecture

Antisemitism 101

May 10th

Epworth Methodist Church

11:30am Refreshments

11:45am Lecture

RSVP HERE



Business Manager Update, April 2026

Happy Eastertide! Eastertide is the 50-day season of Easter between Easter Sunday and the beginning of Pentecost. Often known as the "great fifty days," this season is a single, joyous festival period celebrating the Christ's resurrection with themes of new life, baptismal identity, and resurrection joy.

March giving was well above average with general fund offerings of about \$45,500. Our expenses were higher than normal too, however, as we made our annual Mission Partner donations in March. In spite of the higher expenses, we still had a strong ending fund balance of just over \$51,000 for the month. Thanks, as usual, for all for your generous financial gifts.

Our next Congregation Matters presentation is coming up on May 3rd. The topics for this session will include Pastor Scott sharing some background on Pastoral sabbaticals. On the finance side, I will be sharing some information about recent year capital expenditures we've made on the property as well as some perspective on the larger fixed property costs that we incur annually. Our building is quite old as you know, so we thought it would be interesting and useful to share some information on what it takes to keep the facility going.

As we prepared last month, we have a 2nd installment of the 'Mission Partner Highlights' section highlighting 3 more of the Mission Partners we support. If you have any questions or comments regarding BLC's business matters, please contact me at duane.a.anderson@outlook.com.

Sincerely, Duane Anderson, BLC Business Manager

Feeding the Flathead

We are looking for volunteers for Feeding the Flathead on May 18, June 15 and June 22 to help with cooking, serving, cleaning up, and baking. No previous experience is necessary! This meaningful ministry provides around 50 - 70 hot meals each evening, so we welcome as many helping hands as possible. You can sign up in the Commons or contact Julie Miller at (703) 862-3490 for more information.



Memorial Day Work Weekend & Family Retreat

May 22-25

You are invited to help transform camp for the summer season. All ages are welcome for this FREE retreat which includes Fun, Fires (campfires, that is), great Food and Fellowship, and bible study/ worship. This retreat is a great way to experience camp for the first time! Contact Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for more information—
406-752-6602.



May Blood Drive

May 30th

This month's blood drawing will again be in the basement of *First Presbyterian Church*, across Main Street from Bethlehem from 1:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Your donations are very much needed. Please call either Glenda Skeim at 406-250-1890 or me, Gary Aasheim, at 406-698-4138 for your appointment.



Fabric and Sheets Needed

The quilters are requesting any fabric and/or flat sheets you may be willing to part with. They are low on fabric and can always use sheets to use as backing for their quilts. Please consider looking in your linen closet for any extras you might be able to donate and drop off at the church or church office. Thank you!



Mother's Day on the Lake

FLBC will be hosting 3 seatings for their famous Mother's Day Brunch. Contact the camp by May 3rd to secure a spot. 406-752-6602.



Annual CASA For Kids Gala

May 27th

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate.

I have served as an advocate for 6 children in 5 cases, over the past four years. An Advocate is a trained volunteer, appointed by the courts, who stands by a child with friendship and support during a difficult time when they have been removed from their home because of abuse, and/ or neglect. The children and their broken families are hurting and need assistance. It can be a difficult but also uplifting experience advocating for a child while their parents wrestle to make life changes. The GALA is CASA's big fundraiser for the year. Check out the QR Code if you are interested in attending, or contact Jana Pursell for more information about becoming an Advocate. 406-262-1162. We hope to see you at the Gala!

—Jana Pursell



Flathead Respite Care Community Night

May 5th Mackenzie River– Kalispell

Mackenzie River and Flathead Respite Care invite you to dine with them to help raise funds for their initiatives. 20% of food sales will be donated to Flathead Respite Care. All are welcome!



2026 Mission Partner Highlights

BLC has a long tradition and strong reputation for being a generous giver to mission programs outside of its walls. In addition to a regular tithe that is devoted to the Montana Synod of the ELCA, BLC supports local and state mission partners that are supported annually with cash gifts. The local and state mission partner donations total \$30,000 allocated across 14 groups. Funding for the local/state partners in 2026 is \$5,000 from the general fund and \$25,000 from the Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund (managed by the Trust Committee). This is the second installment of our Mission Partner series.

- **Immanuel Foundation**- \$3,000 was provided to the Immanuel Foundation that supports seniors and staff at Immanuel Living (formerly Immanuel Lutheran). Support for seniors in need, hospice care, and chaplaincy are provided by the Foundation as well as employee support in the form of employee development and training, and safety net funds to staff who might fall on hard times. If you want to learn more, or explore other ways you can support this mission, please visit <https://immanuelfoundation.org>.



- **NW MT Veteran's Food Panty** - \$3,000 was provided to this mission partner. The NW MT Veterans Stand Down & Food Pantry is dedicated to extending a helping hand-up to homeless, low-income and at-risk veterans and their families. Services include laundry and free clothing for homeless veterans, provision of nutritional food boxes, outreach and assistance with Veterans Affairs benefits, and peer counseling services. For more information, please see <https://veteransfoodpantry.org>.



- **Samaritan House** - \$3,000 was provided to the Samaritan House which is a homeless shelter and transitional living program in Kalispell. Their mission is to provide shelter and basic needs for homeless people, while fostering self-respect and human dignity. On a typical night, the Samaritan House hosts nearly 100 clients in their shelter program or transitional apartments. They are currently in the midst of a 'Building Stability' expansion program. The first phase of construction is underway as crews build 18 permanent apartments priced at fixed affordable rates. For more information on the please visit <https://samaritanhousemt.com>.



May Calendar 2026

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

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.





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 June
 newsletter is
 May 18th.
 Thank you!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | | |
|----------|------------|------|
| Brandon | Bernard | 5/2 |
| Annette | Gunderson | 5/7 |
| Jennifer | Cronk | 5/8 |
| Zachary | Davlin | 5/9 |
| Logan | Dorrington | 5/10 |
| Mary | Thompson | 5/17 |
| Karen | Rumage | 5/18 |
| Bryan | Gilbertson | 5/20 |
| Greg | Adkins | 5/23 |
| Gaylynn | Nelson | 5/23 |
| Sandy | Lindlief | 5/24 |
| Marsha | Lee | 5/27 |
| Jane | Mildren | 5/29 |

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