



The Bethlehem Star

September 2026

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

Ice Cream Social and Sunday School Sign Up!

September 13th

Hey parents and kids! Summer is almost over, so it's nearly time for Sunday School. **September 13th**, come have an ice cream and socialize after service! We will have registration forms for Sunday school and a build-your-own sundae buffet. Hear what we have planned this year as we dive into the story of Moses and learn our way to a movie party.



Rally Day is Coming...!

September 20th

First day back to Sunday School will be Sunday September 20th! Our yearly tradition of a marshmallow fight will be happening for the first day. We will also be doing an ice cream social and registration. New end time for Sunday School is 10:15am. Parents please enjoy a bit of fellowship time before coming to get your kids so they get an hour of fun.



New Directories Available!

The new 2026 directories are complete! You can pick up your copy in The Commons. One copy is named for everyone who participated. The directories cost \$11.50 each to print and have been paid for by the church. If you'd like to donate to help defray the cost (not required, but appreciated), you can do so in the offering basket here or with a designated offering.



Business Manager Report

Mid-Year BLC Financial Summary, FY 2026

Duane Anderson, August 2026

This is the mid-year financial status report FY 2026 (Jan-Jun of 2026).

Year to Date Performance

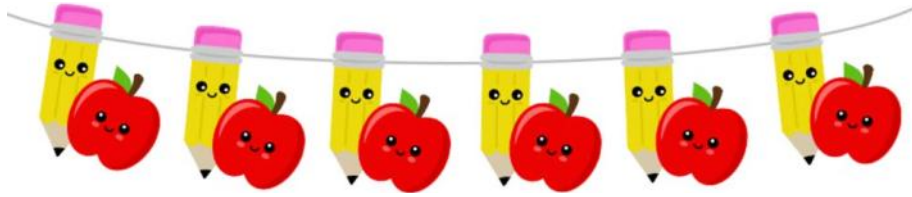
Our average General Fund (GF) giving for the first six months of 2026 was **\$27,332** per month, up from **\$24,794** per month in the same period last year. Our budgeted GF income is **\$25,000/month**. Our average expenses were **\$36,723** per month compared to **\$36,462** in the same period last year. Income of all kinds was **\$215,030** for the first half of 2026 versus **\$198,024** in the same period last year. Total expenses in the period were **\$220,350** compared to **\$224,775** in the same period in 2025.



We had a considerable starting balance this year of about \$50,400; this has decreased to about \$34,400 as of the end of June 2026. The cumulative general fund giving from Jan-Jun 2026 was up about \$15,000 from the same period last year. Many thanks to our faithful givers for their support of BLC's mission.

Status / Action Items

All in all, we are maintaining our current Mission Plan satisfactorily but are experiencing a declining month-over-month fund balance. As you can see from the chart above, our monthly expenditure routinely exceeds our general fund offerings (by an average of \$9,400/month so far this year). We've made up this difference by tapping the real estate (rental) proceeds, (up \$10,000 to \$95,000 total this year) and decreasing ELCA benevolence from 7.5% to 7.2%. We are at the upper limit of what we can draw from the real estate funds so unless we have some increases in General Fund offerings, we will have to make some more difficult budget decisions (cuts) for the next fiscal year. Most of our General Fund mission plans consist of non-discretionary expenses including; Salary and Benefits (68%), Operating and Office costs (16%), and Committees (8%). This leaves only about 8% for Mission Giving which, unfortunately, is usually the first target for funding cuts. We could close this anticipated funding gap next year with a 10-15% increase in General Fund offerings. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your general fund offerings and thanks again, for your steadfast support and stewardship!



Council Minutes August, 2026

Treasurer's Report- Budget Reports/Balance Statement

- Income- \$27,119 Expenses- \$31,555 Ending July- \$34,419

Old Business-

Lola Vulles Gift Update/Edward Jones Update-

- Legal process is still ongoing.

Committee Responsibilities Review

- Terry feels Stewardship should be dissolved. Katie feels that Chirstian Education Committee should merge with Youth Committee maybe under the guise of Faith Formation. Peggy wonders if Fellowship should merge with Outreach with some duties going to W&M. Discussed options. Julie encouraged conversations between the committees to discuss whether merging would be beneficial.

Upcoming Council Elections

- Council elections are this Fall. Looking for a hybrid approach for those that want to be chair head but not on council and vice versa. Tony, Cindy, and Terry are stepping away. Charlene is willing to step into a Vice President roll as well as retaining a W&M roll. Katie does not wish to stay on Council but wants to be a chair head for Christian Ed. Ideally, there needs to be 7 members on Council. Get names to Tony and Julie and they will approach to discuss interest.

New Business-

Review 1st Draft of Investment Policy Statement

- Handed out Policy statement on recommendations on how to invest BLC funds. It recommends keeping the status quo for now. **APPROVED.**

Approve Distribution of \$10,000 Mission Fund Donation

- BLC received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 for mission partners. Donator requested \$3000 ELCA disaster Spokane for fire and rescue, \$1000 for NWMT Veterans Pantry, \$2000 for Heart Locker, \$2000 for Respite, and \$2000 for Serious Juju. **APPROVED.**

Catch Up Sunday-Needed? When/Who Leads

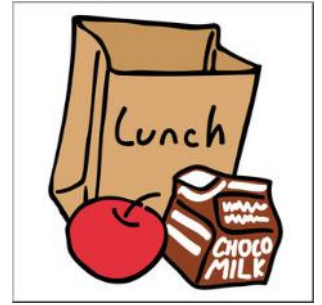
- Decided to table the initiative for now and reevaluate in the Fall.

Congregation Matters- When Should We Have Next One? Topics?

- Try for Rally Sunday. Will speak to Katie when she returns from holiday to discern if it will work.

Backpack Program Drive!

The Flathead Food Bank's Backpack Program provides local students bags filled with child-friendly, non-perishable food that can be easily prepared at home. Prepared bags are discreetly distributed to children on the last day before the weekend or school holiday to ensure that children have enough to eat when school-provided meals are unavailable. Each Backpack Program bag contains enough food for one child to enjoy breakfast and lunch on each day that the student is out of school in addition to juice, milk, and a treat. Please drop off food items in the designated box in The Commons through the month of September. Suggested items are: granola bars, ramen noodles, jerky, fruit pouches, applesauce, oatmeal packets, juice boxes, and canned pasta rings. Any questions, please see Vickie Cunningham.



FLBC Labor Day Family & Work Retreat

Sept. 4th-6th

Join us this Labor Day weekend for one last summer celebration with your family! Enjoy all that FLBC has to offer during this great family retreat: swimming, stand up paddle boarding, crafts in the Art Barn, sailing, and much more! Come to help us with some work projects or join us for a weekend of relaxation, or both! Either way, there will be fun, worship, and more for all. There will be Bible Study for adults and camp staff will lead children and youth in classic camp activities such as Bible study, worship, games, hikes and more. All join together for worship, fellowship, and games! Contact FLBC for more details.



FLBC Women's Retreat

Sept. 11th-13th

Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation! Enjoy a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp full of fellowship, fun, great food, and relaxation. Experience insightful sessions with our speaker and enjoy time for worship, pottery, nature walks, yoga on the docks, and more.

Contact FLBC for more details.



Help Kids Around the World with School Supplies!!

It's that time of year when school supplies are on sale for great prices. As you are shopping please consider picking up supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Items needed are:

- 70 page count spiral notebooks
- rulers
- blunt tip scissors, unsharpened
- Box of crayons
- black or blue ballpoint pens
- Donations are always welcome to buy any needed supplies as well.



A collection box will be in the Commons or bring your donation to the church office.

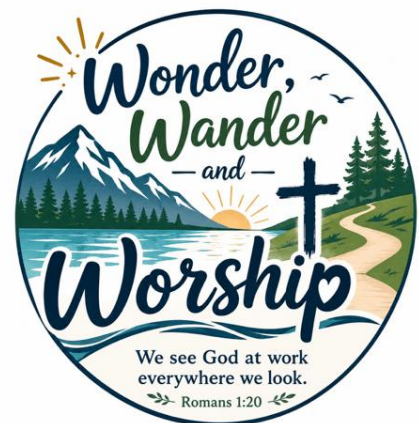
Celebrating 83 Years of Ministry at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Saturday, October 10

Come to the Annual Meeting at FLBC and then enjoy the rest of the day at camp! Lunch is at 12:15 p.m. (No charge) Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Let the Fun Begin from 1:30–4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come spend an afternoon filled with wonder, wandering, and worship as we celebrate the ministry of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp and the countless people who have been part of God's work here for the past 83 years. Rediscover the joy of being a camper again!

Enjoy an afternoon of:

- Games in the big field
- Boat rides on the lake
- Low and high ropes course adventures
- Creative fun in the Art Barn
- Fellowship, laughter, and worship
- Time to explore the beauty of camp
- Be a kid at camp again!



There is no cost to attend, but please call or email the camp office to let us know you're coming so we can prepare to welcome you.

Contact office@flbc.net or call (406) 752-6602 to RSVP

BACK TO SCHOOL

Word Search

CHALKBOARD

LIBRARY

WRITING

BACKPACK

ERASER

CRAYON

PLAYGROUND

SCIENCE

FRIENDS

PRINCIPAL

TEACHER

DESK

HALLWAY

RULER

HOMEWORK



I	G	V	V	M	P	L	R	L	T	X	I	C	P	X	U	H	J	S	Z
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September Calendar 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <u>10:00pm</u> Fellowship Committee, FH	2 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>10:30am</u> Spinner's, CM	3 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR	4	5
6 Pastor Scott Returns!! <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	7 Labor Day Office Closed <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	8 <u>5:30pm</u> Council, FH	9 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Choir	10 <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	11	12
13 Ice Cream Social <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:00am</u> Ice Cream Social & Sunday School Sign-Ups <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	14 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH Newsletter Deadline	15	16 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>10:30am</u> Spinners and Weavers Guild, CM <u>7:00pm</u> Choir	17 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	18	19
20 Rally Day!! <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	21 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	22	23 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Choir	24 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>5:30pm</u> Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	25	26
27 Food on the 4th Sunday <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	28 <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	29 <u>12:00pm</u> Women on the Go, FH	30 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Respite Care, FH <u>7:00pm</u> Choir	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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 Permit #11

Electronic service requested



**The deadline for
 the October
 newsletter is
 September 14th.
 Thank you!**



Kyle	Buckingham	9/1	Maya	Buckingham	9/23
Mitchell	Johnson	9/3	Karsten	Stene	9/24
Karen	Brown	9/3	Jason	Cronk	9/24
Marlene	Anderson	9/8	Linda	Augusta	9/24
Lorna	Hauser	9/8	Kimberly	Caruso	9/26
Sarah	Wangerin	9/9	Lynette	Lorenzen	9/26
Karen	Fisher	9/11	Beverly	Taylor	9/30
Chad	Wangerin	9/11			
Jason	Buckingham	9/11			
Brenda	Bernard	9/12			
Heidi	Ulbricht	9/12			
Teagen	Flint	9/14			
Cindy	Galvin	9/16			
Susan	Zakos	9/20			

Church Council

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Julie Miller

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Tony Nelson

VACANT

Treasurer:

VACANT

Recording Secretary:

Kellie Nelson

Committee Chairs

Christian Education:

Katie Havens

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Outreach:

Cindy Galvin

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Terry Brosten

Worship and Music:

Charlene Singley

Youth:

Bill Erickson