

The Bethlehem Star

October 2026



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

5TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

- When: Sunday, 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!**



Remembering Beloved Saints

All Saints Sunday is November 1st. 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 2025), 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.**

FROM THE PASTOR

There used to be a band called Kool & the Gang. One of their hit songs was, *Celebration* and it included the line, “Celebrate good times. Come on!”

Every day is a celebration of the life that God has given us. Even when times are tough and we think that the troubles of the world are stacked against us, there are reasons to celebrate – maybe it’s a comforting voice or a precious memory. God’s blessings come in the form of sunshine and storms – sometimes to revel in the joy of life and other times to huddle close with people we love.

We gather as church to celebrate all that God has done for us – and the people around us. We have a building on the corner of 6th St. and Main in Kalispell so that we can gather for praise and worship – but also to be a testimony in our community of God’s outpouring of love. Think of the people who come to our building for a portion of God’s love – hungry people on Monday evenings, those with dementia on Mondays and Wednesdays, kids who attend pre-school on weekdays, and folks who are seeking support for mental health issues on Wednesday evenings. Plus, there are those who play music in the Community Orchestra, those who spin and weave fibers in The Guild, Bible Camp leaders and administrators, and blood donors every couple of months. And all this not to mention the people who wander in and the neighbors you invite to participate in all the church activities we host.

You – the people connected to and dedicated to the mission of Bethlehem – you do all of this and more. You are the hands of God’s work in big and small ways. There is a celebration in heaven every time you give of your heart and soul whether that’s through prayer, service, or financial giving.

We join in that celebration as we give thanks to God this Reformation Season – our commemoration of the work that was started when Martin Luther said “NO” to the powers of greed and corruption and “YES” to the free gift of God in Christ. We are given that gift to lavishly share with others. **On Reformation Sunday this year we will celebrate all the ways that God has blessed us and sent us to continue to be a blessing.** We’ll celebrate strong and faithful financial giving by this congregation, we’ll celebrate the programs that we support for one another’s enjoyment and learning, we’ll celebrate the people who are loved and served because Bethlehem exists – at 6th & Main, and in the lives of each of you.

Come to church on October 25 – Reformation Sunday. Wear RED to celebrate the Holy Spirit’s fire that burns with grace and love in our community. *Celebrate good times. Come on!!!* Celebrate the best of times for our church and the celebration of life that is God’s work of joy and hope among us. There’s a party going on!!! See you there! —Pastor Scott

Council Minutes September 2026



Treasurer's Report- Budget Reports/Balance Statement

- Income- \$34,853 Expenses- \$31,810 Ending August- \$37,462

Pastor's Report-

- Sabbatical time was restful and encouraging. Was glad to have extra time to read, work on projects and care for the needs of myself and my family.
- Thank you for the financial bonus and anonymous donor gift
- Has been asked by Bishop Quanbeck to participate in the ELCA Systems Academy— the purpose is to engage leaders in each Synod for pursuing relationships and activities across the church that deepen conversations around hard or divisive issues, enable thoughtful listening, and increase the capacity of deepening faith and life together.

Old Business-

Committee Responsibilities Review

- Need to continue the conversations this fall.

Upcoming Council Elections

- Council elections are this Fall. Will use a hybrid approach for those that want to be chair head but not on council and vice versa. Still recruiting several candidates.

Catch Up Sunday Approach

- Pastor Scott suggested calling it 'Celebration Sunday' to both celebrate the gifts we have but remind our members of the importance of their financial stewardship. It will be held on Reformation Sunday with newsletter and bulletin announcements.

Congregation Matters

- The next Congregation Matters meeting will be held Sept 20 after church. The focus will be on our education programs with Katie, Tony, and Bill presenting.

New Business-

Review 1st Draft of 2027 Mission Plan

- Duane presented the 1st draft of the 2027 Mission Plan that Exec Committee prepared. Discussed variables and options and the Council agreed to have a special meeting on October 4th, to review. Will consider final draft in Oct. and forward to congregation at the upcoming annual meeting.

Approve Accompanist Contract

- Charlene reported that Clementa Cazan has agreed to take on the choir accompanist duties starting in September. Charlene made a motion and Bill 2nd. It passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Date, November 8th

- Cindy made a motion to hold the Annual Meeting after church on November 8th. Bill 2nd. It was approved unanimously.

Business Manager Update, September 2026

This is an exciting time in our church year as we enter the regular fall season activities and welcome Pastor Scott back from his Sabbatical.

BUSINESS
UPDATE



Our offerings bounced back in August with general fund offerings of about \$27,000. Expenditures were down somewhat as well so our ending fund balance improved to about \$37,500 (up about \$3,000 from the July balance). We are planning a "Special Celebration" on Reformation Sunday (October 25) to celebrate all the many gifts that you, as members, contribute to Bethlehem. From the countless hours of volunteer time that make our services, outreach, and fellowship opportunities possible, to the expertise that many share with the church be it sewing, building maintenance, teaching, leadership or other skills, all of these forms of stewardship are vital to our congregation and a celebration is in order! In addition, our financial stewardship will also be recognized and celebrated with an opportunity to make a special gift if you choose or catch up with gifts from a summer break.

Finally, please mark November 8th on your calendar and plan on attending our annual meeting after church on that Sunday. We will be sharing key updates on various programs, reviewing and approving an annual Mission Plan for 2027, and selecting new leadership for the Council for the next 2 years. Please come if you can and participate in important matters in our church life.

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

After a very hot (sometimes smokey days!) and busy summer, the feeling of Fall is in the air. The knitters and crocheters have also had a busy summer. Our ministry is a visible way for us to nurture and care for members and friends of our church family when they are experiencing a health issue or crisis. A shawl is a sign that we love and care for each other!



Once again, prayer shawls were made and given to Good Grief Camp. The children 6-12 years old who have experienced the loss of a family member are able to wrap themselves in a shawl made with love and prayer.

If you or someone you know is in need of a shawl, please call the church office (406-752-6140) or Cheryl Keith (406-253-4030) and we'll get a shawl to you. If you are interested in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please come and join us Thursday mornings at 9:00am in the church Fireside Room for knitting, crocheting, and fellowship. We would like more ladies to come join us!!

Trunk or Treat– Help Needed!

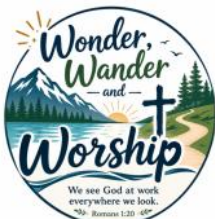
Fall is here and the Halloween costumes are coming out! Contact Katie Havens if you'd like to help out during our 5th Annual Trunk or Treat! Email at: katie.havens2014@gmail.com . Also, in preparation for trunk or treat the Education committee is looking for **full sized candy bar donations** to wrap 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.



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. Rediscover the joy of being a camper 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.



FLBC Faith, Fellowship, and Fishing Retreat

Oct. 29th-Nov 1st

Come away from the busyness of life and experience the peace of Flathead Lake while connecting with others through meaningful conversations, worship, great food, and plenty of fishing. We will enjoy guided and self-directed fishing opportunities, outstanding camp meals and fellowship around the table, campfires and evening conversations, morning and evening devotions, and time to relax and enjoy God's creation, and new friendships and encouragement for your faith journey. Contact FLBC for more information.



FLBC Quilting and Craft Retreat

Oct. 29th-Nov 1st

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.



A New Bible Study

Thursdays
Oct 8 & 29
Nov 12 & 19

THE GOSPEL OF MARK



meet at Wheat Montana at 12:30pm

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 Thursday, October 1st so please sign up on the forms in the Narthex for the last Saturdays of the month and help as you are able. Thank you. For questions, please contact Sherry Korthase at 770-639-6621.



Help for Funerals

BLC is in need of volunteers to assist with set up and clean up for those families who request a reception in addition to a funeral for their loved ones. If you are interested and willing to help, please contact the church office for more information.





October Calendar 2026



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



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

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

Electronic service requested



**The deadline for
 the November
 newsletter is
 October 19th.
 Thank you!**



Cyndie	Grace	10/3
Paul	Thompson	10/6
Duane	Anderson	10/7
Trina	Stene	10/8
Peggy	Aagenes-Janzer	10/11
Lena	Ofstad	10/11
Wally	Wilder	10/12
Tony	Nelson	10/12
Aiden	McNulty	10/14
Don	Beller	10/23
Carolyn	Hardel	10/26
Bill	Pursell	10/26
Kay	Linguist	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