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

Volunteers Needed for Feeding the Flathead!

Join us in planning, cooking, serving, baking, and cleaning up for Feeding the Flathead on November 16 and 23 and/or December 21. No experience is needed. We serve about 50 hot meals, so all helping hands are welcome. Sign up in the Commons or contact Julie Miller at (703) 862-3490 for more information.

FLBC Yoga Spirituality Retreat

Nov. 13-15th

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! Enjoy a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible camp with Fellowship, Relaxation, Fun, Good Food, Worship, Yoga, and Inspiring Sessions with Pastor Kelsey. Contact FLBC for more information.

We are a puzzle.
Pieced together by God's grace.
Forming Christ's body.

I saw this little poem recently and thought it was both cute and profound. It simply states the reality of what has been proclaimed by the church… but it allows us to see in a new way how we fit into that truth – something that is not always easy to comprehend.

If you think about a puzzle – a jigsaw puzzle – especially one with lots of pieces, as you open the box to see all the individual pieces, you can imagine what seems like a vast sea of complexity – mixed up colors, the top side of some pieces, the bottom side of others. In some ways the pieces are all similar – about the same size, with tabs and blanks on each one – but each one is unique – destined to fit in only one spot in the grand visual display that is promised.

The poem says that we are the puzzle. We are packaged together in the box and part of the whole, but also carefully crafted so that our unique shape fits perfectly into place.

Often, puzzle builders will pick out the edge pieces first and find where they fit to create a border, the basic shape of the picture that contains the rest. It may seem like these pieces that are chosen first are the most important – and they do play a particular role – but if every piece was an edge piece, there would be no fullness, no depth of beauty and delight.

Some pieces help to form the image of what seems to be the heart of the final image – they may bear the most striking colors or the most detailed lines. These pieces often get assembled early in the building process, too – since they can be picked out of the milieu and matched easily with their companions. But even when an image begins to emerge out of these pieces the associations to the rest of the picture are incomplete and disconnected.

There may be an abundance of a certain color amidst the puzzle pieces – lots of blue for the sky or greens that eventually become a field of spring grass, perhaps. These pieces that form the background of the puzzle get left to the end, often. They also may be the hardest to assemble because of the way they blend together and cover larger areas. But they are essential to the fullness of the final portrait. They fill the in-between spaces and allow the more specific elements of the picture to stand out. It's often one of these pieces that goes in last – completing the work and allowing it to shine forth in spectacular glory.

The body of Christ is a puzzle carefully and lovingly pieced together by God's grace. Each of us, in our uniqueness, has a place and purpose. And together we shine forth in the world the glory of God's goodness, hope, and determination to bring all the pieces of our world together. Everyone has a place in the puzzle… everyone is needed to reveal the final picture!

Pastor Scott

October 2026 Council Notes

Treasurer's Report- Budget Reports/Balance Statement

- Income- $32,903 Expenses- $37,067 Ending September- $33,298

Pastor's Report-

- PS traveled to Chicago for the Systems Academy at the ELCA Churchwide offices. Learned and discussed family/organization dynamics with the goal of assisting congregations in the MT Synod to become as healthy as possible.
- Attended his last meeting as an FLBC board member. Many good things to come at FLBC. Pledges are on track to bring in money to begin phase 1 of the Master Plan as early as next summer. Phase 1 includes building a new guest housing unit adjacent to the Cockrel Center – 2400 sq. ft. and room for 32 guests.
- Confirmation classes have begun. 6 students. Theme is "God's Love is the basis for everything God does, including God's call on our lives". Planning an event- Crumbs and Community- a low-key gathering for families & friends of confirmation students and anyone else. It'll include a short time of song, scripture and prayer followed by dessert
- Mark Bible Study (2 days in Oct and Nov) is meeting at Wheat Montana
- Celebration Sunday- planned for Reformation Sunday as a time to celebrate and encourage giving

Old Business-

Review and Approve Final Proposal for 2027 Mission Plan

- Reviewed 2027 Mission Plan to propose to the Congregation. **MOTION PASSES.**

Upcoming Council Elections

- Candidates still discerning.

Celebration Sunday Approach

- Will be held on Reformation Sunday. PS reviewed his approach for the spirit-led celebration and encouragement of giving.

New Business-

Upcoming Annual Meeting Preparation

- All committees need to produce a report. 1/3-page due Oct 26th

Proposal for AC/Electrical Updates in FH- Funding

- A/C for Fellowship Hall/kitchen? Proposals presented for adding AC to existing furnace. Also, considering a mini-split for kitchen and additional outlets throughout the FH. Bids to come.

Business Manager Update, October 2026

Fall in northwest Montana is one of my favorite times of the year. From the beautiful fall tree display to less crowded lakes and trails and the annual chores of preparing for winter, I find the season cathartic as we let go of the busy outdoor activities of summer, clean out our gardens, put away the lawn furniture, and prepare for the transition to winter. While letting go of many things fall is also a time when we 'start anew' our normal school year routines, reacquainting with friends we have not seen in a while and anticipating the upcoming holiday season. I hope you are all having a wonderful fall in the beautiful Flathead Valley.

Our general fund offerings were a little below average in September at about $24,300. Expenditures were also up for the month, so our ending fund balance declined to about $33,300 (down about $3,000 from the September balance). As of the end of September, we are ¾ of the way through the current fiscal year and are hoping for a strong financial quarter taking us to the end of the year. We continue to be challenged by increasing costs year over year and the 2027 Mission Plan reflects that, so please consider increasing your fiscal support as we move into the new year. As always, thanks and gratitude to the keen sense of fiscal stewardship and commitment that you have demonstrated year after year!

Please mark November 8th on your calendar and plan to attend 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 members 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

Crumbs and Community

Tuesday, November 3, 6:30pm

The **Confirmation Class is inviting you** to an opportunity to sing, read scripture, discuss and pray together… but the best part is that there will also be **DESSERT!!!** That's right, the Jr. High kids will be preparing and hosting - it'll be some fun songs (like - camp songs, maybe?), hearing the Bible, discussion (not a sermon), and prayers. And after that, there will be a selection of desserts to share… YUM! The topic this time around is **Thankfulness**. Everyone is invited - even your neighbors and friends… what a great way to invite them to church - and don't forget to mention the desserts!
(Future Crumbs and Community will be on February 2 and April 20)

Advent Supper/Evening Prayer

We will be sharing this special Advent time with our friends at Eidsvold Lutheran Church and Northridge Lutheran Church again. There are three Wednesday's this Advent so it is the perfect time to gather together at each location to break bread and worship as a Lutheran family and share the joy we feel at this time of the year. The schedule will flow as follows:

Wed, Dec 2nd
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hosting
5:30pm Supper
6:30pm Evening Prayer

Wed, Dec 9th
Eidsvold Lutheran Church Hostin
5:30pm Supper
6:30pm Evening Prayer

Wed, Dec 16th
Northridge Lutheran Church Hosting
5:30pm Supper
6:30pm Evening Prayer

All are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you!! there!

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 opened 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.

FLATHEAD WARMING CENTER

Tree of Sharing

The Tree of Sharing will have envelopes for gifts to help the neighbors in the community. Please consider taking an envelope and sharing the joy this season. Gifts must be received by December 21st.

Greening of the Church

Sat., Nov. 28th 9:00am

We will be decorating the sanctuary on Saturday, November 28th at 9:00 am. Please come and join in the fun of getting the sanctuary adorned for the Advent Season. Please bring a tall ladder, family and friends and enjoy coffee and cookies supplied by the Fellowship Committee. We look forward to seeing you there!

Claudius Cazan Concert

Nov. 20th Eidsvold Lutheran Church

Join us for an afternoon of music and merriment in a concert from Caludius Cazan. All are welcome!

Chili Cookoff

Nov. 14th@ 1pm

Northridge Lutheran Church Gym

Bring your best pot of chili for a chance to win! Prizes will be awarded for best overall, traditional, spiciest, vegetarian, and most unique chili. After judging, we will enjoy our favorite chili with all the fixings and cornbread. All are welcome!

November Calendar 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Bell Choir Practice 1:00pm Pre-Election Prayer, NLC	**2** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH	**3** 10:00am Fellowship Committee, FH 6:30pm Crumbs and Community, FH	**4** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 10:30am Spinners, CM 7:00pm Choir	**5** 9:00am Quilters, FH 9:00am Knitters, FR 5:30pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	**6**	**7**
8 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Annual Congregational Mtg., FH	**9** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH	**10** 5:30pm Council	**11** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 10:30am Weavers, CM 12:30pm Mark Bible Study, Wheat MT 7:00pm Choir	**12** 9:00am Quilters, FH 9:00am Knitters, FR 12:30pm Ukelele Practice, FH 12:30pm Mark Bible Study, WT MT 5:30pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	**13**	**14**
15 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Bell Choir Practice	**16** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH ***Newsletter Deadline***	**17** 6:30pm Confirmation Class	**18** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 10:00am Staff Mtg. 10:30am Spinners & Weavers, CM 12:30pm Mark Bible Study, Wheat MT 7:00pm Choir	**19** 9:00am Quilters, FH 9:00am Knitters, FR 12:30pm Mark Bible Study, WT MT 5:30pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	**20**	**21** 4:00pm Claudius Cazan Concert, ELC
22 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Bell Choir Practice	**23** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH	**24** 12:00pm Women on the Go, FH	**25** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 7:00pm Choir	**26 Thanksgiving Office Closed**	**27 Office Closed**	**28** 9:00am Greening of the Church
29 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Bell Choir Practice 3:00pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Concert	**30** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH		**Locations:** CM-Commons FH -Fellowship Hall FR-Fireside Room HB-Hjortland Bld.			

November Blood Drive, Saturday, November 28th

Yes, Thanksgiving weekend

This month's blood drawing will again be in the basement of *First Presbyterian Church*, 540 S. Main Street, 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.

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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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Electronic service requested

The deadline for the December newsletter is November 16th. Thank you!

Linda	Fredenberg	11/3
Kaitlyn	Gunderson	11/4
Roe	Hatlen	11/6
Jack	Keith	11/8
Larry	Simpson	11/9
Grace	Wangerin	11/11
Lauri	Erickson	11/18
Jill	Black	11/19
Margerette	Dahlgren	11/19
Michael	Jones	11/19
June	Seelye	11/23

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Julie Miller
Vice Presidents:
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VACANT
Treasurer:
VACANT
Recording Secretary:
Kellie Nelson

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Charlene Singley
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