

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

Advent Supper/Evening Prayer

Once again we will be sharing Advent season with our friends at Eidsvold and Northridge Lutheran Churches. Join us for three evenings of fellowship and worship. The schedule is as follows:

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

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

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



Christmas Concert and Lunch

Dec 3rd @ 11am

Our friends at First Presbyterian have invited us to join them in a Christmas Concert presented by the Flathead High School choir followed by a luncheon. It will be held on Thursday, December 3rd at 11am. The choir is always wonderful and the luncheon is delicious so hopefully many of you will plan to attend. It should be a fantastic show!



Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve worship is as follows:

5:00pm Worship at Eidsvold
5:00pm Worship at Bethlehem
8:00pm Worship at Bethlehem

All are welcome!!



Do you know about Santa Lucia?



Santa Lucia, or Saint Lucy, has been honored for more than 1,700 years for her compassion and generosity toward those in need. Her feast day, December 13th, falls on the winter solstice – the longest night of the year in the northern hemisphere, under the Julian calendar. That date was likely chosen because the name Lucy comes from the Latin word for light, lux.

Lucy lived in Syracuse, Sicily (the island off the southern tip of Italy), in the late 3rd century CE, when it was part of the Roman Empire. Born into a noble, wealthy family, she devoted herself to caring for the poor. Besides giving away her wealth, she is said to have risked her life bringing food to persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs. She is said to have worn a "crown of candles" so she could carry more food in her hands. Lucy was martyred for refusing to marry and for her charity. Some accounts say her eyes were gouged out before her death but were miraculously restored when her loved ones came to bury her. This is why some images of St. Lucy show her eyes on a platter (in addition to the ones in her head!).

The legend of St. Lucy spread across Europe in the Middle Ages and reached the far north, where Christians were drawn to a saint whose feast day fell on the winter solstice. Scandinavians embraced her example of generosity as a way to show love for their neighbors during the coldest, darkest months. They came to picture St. Lucy as a young woman arriving by the glow of her crown of candles, bringing breads, cookies, and other sweets. Children and adults alike followed her lead, learning to share their joy and love.

Bethlehem has celebrated Santa Lucia before, and we're gonna do it again on Sunday, December 13th, during and after worship. Our children are excited to don the traditional white robes and red sashes and to carry candles (one will even wear the crown!). There will be sweet breads and cookies, and after worship we will continue with the Ring Dance around the Christmas Tree set to Christmas music. It will be a full day of light and life! Advent will be special throughout, but Santa Lucia Day on December 13th promises to be extra glorious. You won't want to miss it!

November Council Notes

The Bethlehem Church Council met on Nov. 10. The Treasurer's Report was given by Duane Anderson: October Income was $31,925; Expenses, $30,731; and the ending GF Balance was $34,942.

Pastor Scott was not in attendance, so no report from him, and there was no Old Business.

There were two property proposals brought for consideration.

- The first was to add AC to the FH and Kitchen by installing equipment to the existing furnace and a mini-split in the kitchen. Also in the bid were new power outlets in the FH and a 200-amp panel. Cost - $31,985.

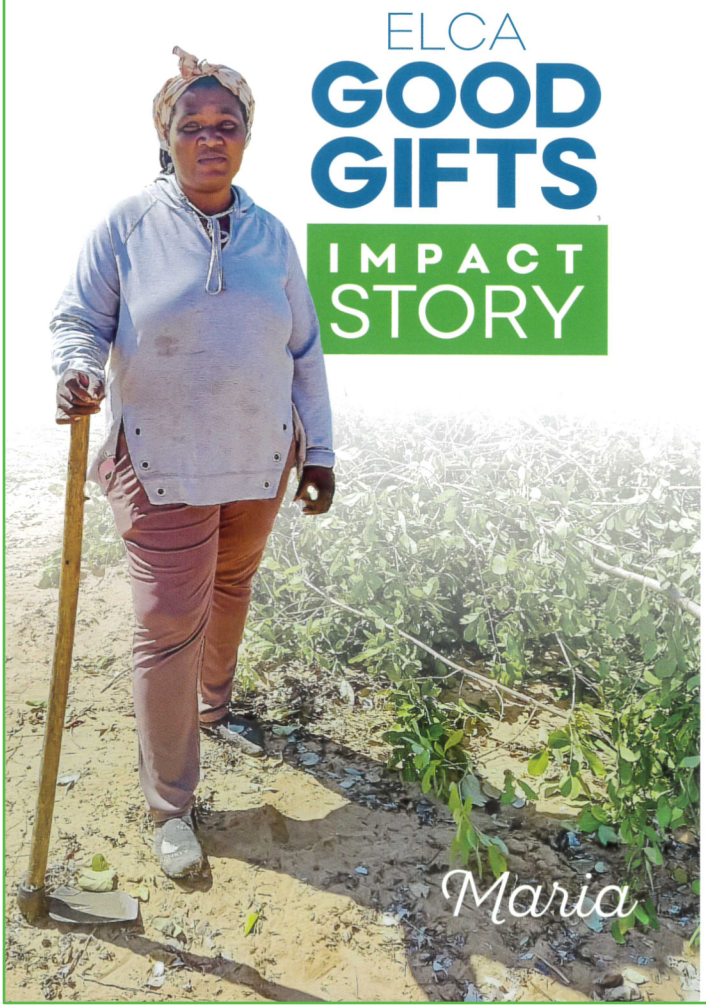
- Second was a new key system for the three main doors to buildings on campus. Using a key-fob/smartphone app that is customizable for church members and guests, ease of entry, increased security, and access tracking can be gained. Cost $8,580.96.
- Total cost for the two projects is $40,565.95. It was suggested that the Property Development Fund be used. The motion was made, 2nd, and passed.

Outreach in Action

This Christmas season our committee is putting forth a challenge to all. Would you help us to raise money in creating a donation to build an "Abundant Community"? With your gifts we could support a community in another part of the world, like Maria's community in Namibia, highlighted below.

I found the story uplifting and I found another use for my Christmas donations. We would like you to help us build one or more "Abundant Communities." Through ELCA Good Gifts, one "Abundant Community" is $1020. Extra money given will be able to buy additional resources- maybe even a whole herd of goats for $300. Make your checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and we'll send the funds on their way! I hope you'll join us in helping our drive toward that goal.

For more information, see our display and pick up an envelope in the BLC Commons and put those envelopes in the offering plate. Have a blessed Christmas season. --Cindy Galvin and the Outreach Committee



Namibia

Your ELCA Good Gifts share hope with neighbors like Maria, who learned to recognize and trust in her own resilience.

Maria Nangalo's life revolves around crops — she is a small-scale farmer and part of a community garden in Sauyemwa, Namibia. Sudden changes in weather can make or break her harvest for the year. So when her area was inundated by flooding after a severe drought, her livelihood was in danger. Because of the unusually heavy rainfall, Maria and her neighbors couldn't plant in their garden for six months. **"Many of us were discouraged and worried about how we would feed our families,"** she said.

In response to this crisis, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, supported by your generosity, developed a program on disaster resilience. When it arrived in her community, Maria became deeply invested. The project team helped local farmers understand how changes in the weather — especially droughts and flooding — impact their crops and how those effects could be mitigated.

Program leaders listened to Maria's concerns and her description of the barriers she faced because of the flooding. "We received counseling, practical guidance on how to prepare the soil again, and training on how to protect our crops better in the future," she said.

Business Manager Update, November 2026

Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year in the Christian faith. The term *Advent* is derived from the Latin *adventus* ("coming" or "arrival") and focuses on waiting and anticipation of Christ's birth. This is a blessed time in our annual Church year but can also be a rather hectic time in our day to day lives as we move through December. My hope to you is a time of reflection and peace, as we celebrate the gift of Christ's birth.

Our general fund offerings were a little below average in October at about $22,700. Expenditures were down for the month, however, so our ending fund balance increased to about $34,500. Early November offerings are coming in quite strong, so it appears we'll have a strong close out of the year regarding general fund gifts. THANK YOU to all for your ongoing and generous support for the Mission of BLC.

At our annual meeting on November 8th the congregation approved the Council proposal for a 2027 Mission Plan of about $477,000, an increase of about $12,000 over the 2026 plan. 2026 general fund offerings are forecast at around $337,000 which is an 8% increase over what was in the 2026 plan; again, thanks to everyone for their support this year!

In other news, the Council approved 2 capital projects at the November meeting that will be underway soon. The first is related to the Fellowship Hall where we will be adding air conditioning to the existing forced air heating system and a dedicated 'mini split' cooler in the kitchen. Additionally, 10 new electrical receptacles will be added in the main hall. The second project is to replace the keyed locks on the main entry doors to the Sanctuary, Hjortland building, and Office with 'proximity based' devices that can be controlled and monitored centrally. Individuals who need access to one or more of these building will be able to do this either with their smartphone (preferred option) or a key fob. With either of these, you will simply touch your device to the reader mounted on the door frame and the door will unlock. Access can be customized by user for the buildings (and even time slots) for which they should have access. The doors can be programmed to automatically open for events as well such as worship service, events like Feed the Flathead or Respite Care, etc. This will be a much more secure system when deployed as we've lost many keys to the facility in the past few years. Additionally, adding or removing access permissions can be done nearly instantaneously from a cloud-based system. We will share more details and instructions as we get closer to the final deployment. The total cost for these 2 projects is about $42,000 and will be funded with earning from the Property Development Fund (none of the original principal will be used).

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

Tree of Sharing



The Fellowship Committee has chosen three organizations to support this Advent Season for the Tree of Sharing. The Tree will be in the Commons beginning November 29th and will have envelopes on it that you can take and put in a check or cash then put it in the offering plate the next Sunday. Please return the envelopes by December 21st.

The Heart Locker - The Heart Locker is a facility that acts as a store and is open to all students grades K-12 who need food, clothing, hygiene products, bedding and school supplies at no cost to them.

The Warming Center - The Warming Center provides a warm, safe overnight shelter along with a meal to individuals who may have no other option.

Abbie Shelter - The Abbie Shelter provides a safe place for individuals of domestic abuse and contributions help support that ministry and especially at this time of year, assist in purchasing Christmas gifts for children who otherwise may not have any.

Thank you so much for your generosity each year to our community and neighbors.

Bring Out Your Soups!

Dec. 2nd

Wednesday, December 2nd, BLC will be hosting Supper and Evening Prayer and we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to make or buy soups, bread, and desserts. If you are able to help, please sign up in The Commons.



Volunteers Needed for Feeding the Flathead



Join us in planning, cooking, serving, baking, and cleaning up for Feeding the Flathead on 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.

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. The Warming Center opened on October 1st so please sign up on the forms in The Commons 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.

FLBC Family Advent Retreat



Dec. 4th-5th

Come to camp to prepare for Jesus' birth! Join us for a cozy winter getaway weekend of Advent crafts, food, an opportunity to find and take home your perfect Christmas tree, and faith-filled discussions for all ages. Make gingerbread houses and Advent wreaths, eat plenty of cookies, sing seasonal favorites, and much more: take a weekend at FLBC for a deep breath at the start of the Advent (and Christmas) season. Saturday Evening we will also have a special performance from Elizabeth Letourneau. Contact FLBC for for more details!

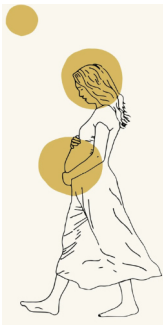
Resting with Angels- Advent Quiet Day



Christ Church Episcopal
Dec. 5th 10am-2pm

We will fill the day with reflections on angels at work in our lives and our world along with time for quiet contemplation and creative response. A soup lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Christ Church so they can prepare for the day. 406-257-6182.

Advent Art Show



Christ Church Episcopal
Nov. 29th-Jan. 6th

Christ Church Episcopal is holding an Advent Art Show by Scot Erickson. It will be held in the Christ Church courtyard at 215 3rd Ave. East. All are welcome!

honest advent



JINGLE BELLS
BOW
CANDY CANE
CAROLERS
CHRISTMAS TREE
DECORATIONS
ELVES

FIREPLACE
GARLAND
GINGERBREAD
HOLIDAY
JOLLY
SANTA
MISTLETOE

NORTH POLE
ORNAMENTS
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SNOWMAN
WREATH
WRAPPING PAPER





December 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00am Fellowship Committee, FH 6:30pm Confirmation Class	**2** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 10:30am Spinners, CM 5:30pm Supper, **BLC** 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer, **BLC** 7:00pm Choir	**3** 9:00am Quilters, FH 9:00am Knitters, FR 11:00am Christmas Concert and Luncheon, First Presbyterian 5:30pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH	**4**	**5**
6 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI	**7** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH	**8**	**9** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 10:30am Weavers, CM 5:30pm Supper, **ELC** 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer, **ELC**	**10** 9:00am Quilters, FH 9:00am Knitters, FR 12:30pm Ukelele Practice, FH 5:30pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH 7:00pm Choir	**11**	**12**
13 Santa Lucia 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Bell Choir Practice	**14** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH ***Newsletter Deadline***	**15** 6:30pm Confirmation Class	**16** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 10:00am Staff Mtg. 10:30am Spinners & Weavers, CM 5:30pm Supper, **NLC** 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer, **NLC**	**17** 9:00am Quilters, FH 9:00am Knitters, FR 5:30pm Flathead Valley Community Orchestra Practice, FH 7:00pm Choir	**18**	**19**
20 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Bell Choir Practice	**21** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH	**22**	**23** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 7:00pm Choir	**24 Christmas Eve** 5:00pm Worship at Eidsvold 5:00pm Worship at Bethlehem 8:00pm Worship at Bethlehem	**25 Christmas Day** **Office Closed**	**26**
27 9:00am Worship/Sunday School 9:00am KOFI 10:30am Bell Choir Practice	**28** 10:00am Respite Care, FH 6:00pm FTF, FH	**29** 12:00pm Women on the Go, FH	**30** 6:45am Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am Respite Care, FH 7:00pm Choir	**31 New Year's Eve**		



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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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406/752-6140 - 406/752-6145 FAX
KOFI 1180AM at 9:00am Sundays

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Electronic service requested

The deadline for the January newsletter is December 14th. Thank you!



Janan	Beller	12/2
Donna	Tice	12/3
Bev	Aronson	12/3
Helen	Dollan	12/4
Carol	Eckholt	12/11
Kelly	Bernard	12/12
Lorrie	Grosfield	12/17
Erin	Gunderson	12/19
Julie	Miller	12/20
Michele	Hadley	12/20
Brin	Grosfield	12/21
Glenda	Skeim	12/26
Georgia	Saverud	12/27
Charlotte	Kaber	12/30

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

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Christian Education:
Katie Havens
Fellowship:
Peggy Aagenes-Janzer
Outreach:
Cindy Galvin
Property:
VACANT
Stewardship:
Terry Brosten
Worship and Music:
Charlene Singley
Youth:
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