



We are a Christian community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ that gathers to worship, learn and share, and reaches out to welcome, witness and serve.

## Thank You! Thank You!

It takes a tremendous amount of time, dedication, manpower, thoughtfulness, and effort to create a successful Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter Day. This year was no exception. There were many people, seen and unseen, who contributed their gifts to make sure we enjoyed meals, worship, fellowship, and fun. We want to give gratitude to everyone who took their time to help out this year. We could not have done it without you and are grateful to have such an amazing group of volunteers! We are truly a blessed to have you here at Bethlehem!



## FLBC Memorial Day Work Weekend & Family Retreat

**May 23-May 26th**

You are invited to help transform the camp for the season. All ages are welcome for this FREE retreat which includes fun, campfires, great food, fellowship, and bible study/worship. This retreat is a great way to experience camp for the first time! Contact FLBC for details- 0406-752-6602 or [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)



## FLBC Mother's Day Brunch

**May 11th**

Celebrate Mother's Day on the lake at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp! May is such a lovely time of year on Flathead Lake to come together to honor the women in our lives. FLBC is offering 3 separate seatings to accommodate families for Mother's Day. Please contact the camp to reserve your spot by May 6th. 406-752-6602 or [flbc.net](http://flbc.net).





On Easter Sunday morning, I gave each of the kids at Children's Sermon a "Happy Jesus." Actually, I was surprised by an over-abundance of kids, so actually almost ran out! Some of them had to share with their brother or sister – not a popular notion for kids, but an important biblical encouragement none-the-less! But, since God is good and gives lavishly to God's people, I ordered a bunch more Happy Jesus – so in the weeks to come if anyone doesn't have one (kids or grownups), and wants one, they can have it!

I mentioned to the kids and everyone on Easter Sunday that it'd be really cool if you could take their Happy Jesus out into the world with them in order to enact the blessings that Jesus takes to the whole world. The arms of Happy Jesus bend so it looks like Jesus is giving someone a hug. And that's the message of Easter – that Jesus is out there in the world ready to share good things – including hugs – with all the world. I suggested that the kids' parents could help them take a picture of where Happy Jesus was blessing and sharing hugs with the world, and then post the pictures with #JesusHug.

Sometimes we imagine that we come to church to find Jesus – that we experience the blessing of Jesus in the holy places of our world – places like sanctuaries and beautiful locations. But we all know that Jesus is just as much in the wider world... and it's important to remember, though it's easy to forget, that Jesus is especially in the places of hurt and trouble. It's in those places as much as the beautiful ones where people need a Jesus Hug.



And so, our work as the church is set in motion. There is none but you and me who will bring the peace and hope of the risen Christ into the world for the sake of all people. Whoever wants a Happy Jesus can have one if you promise to share with all of us the places and people to whom Happy Jesus brings a #JesusHug and a message of love.

Whether you take a Happy Jesus with you or use the #JesusHug or not... remember that you are the message of resurrection hope and joy – you are the one to deliver the new life God has to give – through smiles, hugs, generosity, enacting justice, sharing the abundance God has given you, and in countless additional ways.

Bless the Lord for the Happy Jesus we bear throughout our lives – for the #JesusHug God has called us to share with the world!

Pastor Scott Thompson



## April 2025 Council Notes

### **Treasurer's Report-**

- Income- \$31,841 Expenses- \$32,815 Ending March- \$61,829

### **Pastor's Report-**

- **Drawn to the Word-** Great success. Need to decide what to do with paintings.
- **Flathead Respite Care-** gathering volunteers and planning sessions. First day might need to be pushed back. Need to discuss use of space for storage.
- **Sabbatical-** Grant application submitted. Should hear back by August.

### **Old Business-**

- **FH/Sanctuary Updates-Chairs/Tables, Entryway TV, PA System in Sanctuary**  
-AV upgrades ongoing this week
- **Nominating Committee Update**  
-Julie Miller agreed to Presidential nomination. Tony will step to Vice President. Still investigating potential candidates.

### **New Business**

- **Introduce and Discuss Proposal for New Part-Time Position at BLC**  
-Exec Committee is proposing a Business Manager position. 10 hours per week. Will oversee business and financial functions of the church. Job description handed out. Council to take it home and come back next month with questions, suggestions, etc.
- **Choose date for semi-annual meeting**  
-June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am



## FLBC Women's Retreat

June 6-8th

What difference does it make in our daily lives, knowing that God loves us so much that Jesus was sent to suffer and die for our sinfulness so that we don't have to pay the price? Is it all for that security of knowing that we will someday spend eternity with God in heaven or does it make a difference each day of our lives? Come for in-depth discussions with Pastor Brenda Frelsi and enjoy time for worship, fellowship, pottery, nature walks, yoga on the docks, and more.



## Bethlehem June Blood Drive

Our next blood drive at Bethlehem will be Sunday and Monday, 6/1-2. Sunday's drawing will be in the Bethlehem basement from 1:30 – 4:30, and Monday's drawing will be in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church across Main Street from Bethlehem at 540 S. Main Street and will be from 10:30 – 2:15. Your donation is needed. Please call either Glenda Skeim at 406-250-1890 or Gary Aasheim at 406-698-4138 for your appointment.



## Graduate Recognition

May 18th is Graduate Recognition Sunday at Bethlehem. We have two high school seniors who are graduating this year: Andrew and Jacob Johnson. We would like to congratulate them both as they celebrate this wonderful milestone on their journey. We are very proud of you and wish you nothing but success in the future.



*"Thank you all for coming. Starting next year, Mother's Days will find me at the Desert Palm Spa."*

## BLC Scholarships

It's that time of year again when high school seniors are looking towards their future college plans. Did you know that BLC awards scholarships to qualifying students to help with their college expenses? If you are interested in finding out more information, head to our website—[www.bethluth.org](http://www.bethluth.org) to access an application packet to see if you are eligible.



## VBS is Coming....

Summer is right around the corner and that means fun in the sun! BLC will be hosting our annual Vacation Bible School filled with games, stories, adventures, crafts, and much more. VBS will run from June 23rd through the 27th here at Bethlehem. Watch for more information about the program and how to sign up in May and June. Can't wait to see you there!



## Four Inspiring Mothers of the Bible

### Eve, Mother of All Humanity

Eve was the first woman, the first wife, and the first mother. Though she was not without her flaws and failings, she also experienced many firsts, both joyful and heartbreaking: She was the first to experience childbirth, the first to see her children at odds with one another, the first to experience the grief of losing a child and of seeing one of her offspring commit violence.



### Sarah, Mother of Isaac

Many couples can identify with the sorrows of Sarah and her husband, Abraham. They longed to have a child together, but they were still childless long after they might reasonably have hoped to conceive. But God sent three angels to assure Abraham that he would be blessed with a son by Sarah. As promised, Sarah soon gave birth to Isaac and thereby was anointed the mother of all Israel.

### Jochebed, Mother of Moses



Having given birth to a son at a time when the Pharaoh was threatening to have all male Hebrew babies killed, Jochebed hid her baby among the reeds in a waterproofed basket. He was discovered there by a royal maidservant and brought to the Pharaoh's daughter. Jochebed's daughter, Miriam, witnessed this and convinced the Pharaoh's daughter to allow a Hebrew woman to nurse the child.

That woman was Jochebed. Having nursed him and raised him, Jochebed brought her son back to the Pharaoh's daughter to insure that he would be safe. God would eventually use Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery.

### Mary, Mother of Jesus



Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the most beloved and revered woman in the Bible. An angel appeared to her and said, "Hail, thou who art full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." Nervous as she may have been, she willingly accepted her role, to give birth to Jesus. "He shall be great, and men will know him for the Son of the most High; the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob eternally," the angel told her. She remained stalwart in her faith. As she said after she learned she would give birth to Jesus, "Behold, from this day forward all generations will count me blessed."

# Happy Mother's Day!

It's Mom's special day. Here are some hidden words that make us think of her.  
The words can be up, down, forward, backward, or diagonal.

A	H	U	G	S	E	N	U	T	T	C	R
K	E	N	H	Y	K	M	O	M	U	H	O
N	S	A	R	N	O	I	I	O	I	S	G
T	R	R	N	T	U	J	S	T	S	R	R
E	S	G	H	J	U	A	N	S	R	E	H
L	T	E	T	E	A	U	U	A	E	J	C
E	R	A	B	F	I	O	R	F	W	S	A
P	O	C	K	E	I	U	T	K	O	E	N
H	F	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	L	U	D
O	M	L	O	V	E	T	R	E	F	I	Y
N	O	I	T	A	I	C	E	R	P	P	A
E	C	N	A	D	I	U	G	B	F	K	E

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APPRECIATION  
BREAKFAST  
CANDY  
COMFORT  
FLOWERS  
GIFT

GUIDANCE  
HUGS  
JOY  
KISSES  
LAUGHTER  
LOVE

MOM  
MOTHER  
NURTURE  
SHARE  
TELEPHONE  
THE BEST



## May Calendar 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Locations:</b> CM-Commons FH -Fellowship Hall FR-Fireside Room HB-Hjortland Bld.				1 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR	2	3
4 <b>Quilt and Prayer Shawl Blessing</b> <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	5 <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	6 <u>10:00am</u> Fellowship Committee	7 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>10:30am</u> Spinners <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	8 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR	9	10
11 <b>Mother's Day</b> <u>9:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	12 <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	13 <u>9:45am</u> Dorcas Ruth, FH  <u>5:30pm</u> Council, FH	14 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	15 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR	16	17
18 <b>Graduate Recognition Sunday</b> <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	19 <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH— <b>BLC Serving</b>  <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	20	21 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting Study, FH <u>10:30am</u> Spinners and Weavers Guild <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	22 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR	23	24
25 <b>Food on the 4th Sunday</b> <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>10:30am</u> Bell Choir Practice	26 <b>Office Closed</b> <u>6:00pm</u> FTF, FH	27	28 <u>6:45am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting <u>7:00pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	29 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR	30	31

### Thank You Quilters!

For 80 years, compassionate people just like you have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts — nearly 28 MILLION QUILTS! Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. These gifts of love make life brighter, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with chronic poverty, natural disaster and conflict. This year alone, BLC will be dedicating over 450 new quilts on May 4th! Thank you to our quilters for your love, dedication, and hard work.







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

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 U.S. Postage  
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 Kalispell, MT 59901  
 Permit #11

Electronic service requested



The deadline for  
 the June  
 newsletter is  
 May 19th.  
 Thank you!

#### Church Council

##### **President:**

Tony Nelson

##### **Vice Presidents:**

Julie Miller

John Erfle

##### **Treasurer:**

Duane Anderson

##### **Recording Secretary:**

Kellie Nelson

#### Committee Chairs

##### **Christian Education:**

Katie Havens

##### **Fellowship:**

Peggy Aagenes-Janzer

##### **Outreach:**

Cindy Galvin

##### **Property:**

Bill Pursell

##### **Stewardship:**

Terry Brosten

##### **Worship and Music:**

Charlene Singley

##### **Youth:**

Bill Erickson

Brandon	Bernard	5/2
Jennifer	Cronk	5/8
Logan	Dorrington	5/10
Bryan	Gilbertson	5/20
Greg	Adkins	5/23
Gaylynn	Nelson	5/23
Sandra	Lindlief	5/24
Marsha	Lee	5/27
Jane	Mildren	5/29