

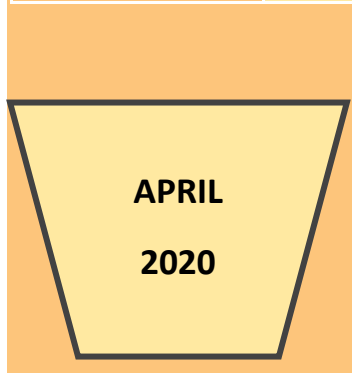


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“So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your  
God. I will strengthen you and  
help you; I will uphold you with my  
righteous right hand.”

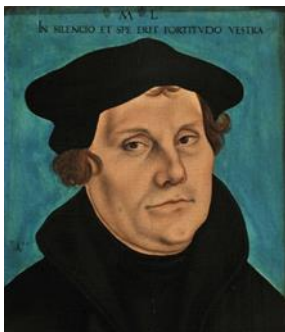
Isaiah 41:10



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.



Some inspiration and some humor... Enjoy!



Martin Luther had some great advice for dealing with a pandemic. In 1527, a deadly plague hit Martin Luther's town of Wittenberg. He wrote a letter to a friend explaining how he would respond to such complicated circumstances.

*"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."*

Ours is a faith that trusts in the providence and promise of God - in this life and into the next. And, because of that, it is a faith that drives us toward our neighbors with compassion and generosity.

I trust God...and I wear my seat belt.

I trust God...and I wear a motorcycle helmet.

I trust God...and there are enough life jackets in my boat for everyone on board.

I trust God...and I use oven mitts with really hot dishes.

I trust God...and I lock my house at night.

I trust God...and I have smoke detectors in my house.

I trust God...and I take my prescribed medicines.

I trust God...and I will follow the best guidelines to share the task of flattening the curve.

Acting with caution and wisdom does not indicate a lack of trust in God.





Dear Friends,

It is with great joy and celebration that we announce the retirement of Pastor Larry Stappler. After over 30 years of parish ministry, sharing both joys and sorrows with the people of Leer Lutheran Church, Leer, MI, Zion Lutheran Church, Roundup, MT, Christ Lutheran Church, Fairbanks, AK, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kalispell, MT, King of Glory Lutheran, Boise, ID and Immanuel Lutheran Communities, Kalispell, MT, it is time to retire. His retirement is effective March 26, 2020.

We give thanks and glory to God for the opportunity to share God's work among the people of each of these communities.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Larry and Charmaine Stappler

Flathead Cluster Women Spring Fling  
April 25, 2020  
9:00 AM at Flathead Bible Camp

The guest speaker will be Pastor Seth Nelson. His topic is **"Millennials and the Rural Church"**. Learn ways to help today's churches remain strong and relevant. Please come and enjoy the fellowship, fun, fantastic views, and great food. The cost: \$24 which includes food and the ambiance of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. They will also have a free will offering for "Helping Hands" a program for the Mission Valley. The business will include election of officers. If you have anything to add to the agenda please contact Cheri Rowbury. Please RSVP by April 20th to Cheri Rowbury 406-260-7265.

# BLC and the Coronavirus

## What, at Bethlehem, are we doing?

- keeping things clean!
- assuring we have enough cleaning supplies to meet our needs
- keeping soap and hand sanitizer available
- if we have public worship services, using wafers and individual cups for communion
- if we have public worship services, providing hand sanitizer for communion servers
- if we have public worship services, asking you to limit (or cease) hand-shaking and hugging when we greet one another or share the peace
- staying in touch with local health departments
- listening within our community for ways we can help
- suspend worship and other gatherings if the authorities advise us to
- stay in touch via email and/or phone
- share important updates on Facebook and our website
- broadcast worship via radio and possibly internet live stream on Facebook
- allow staff to work from home
- provide coverage if one of our staff gets sick
- coordinate with local agencies to assist (safely) neighbors who are sick or in need of food or goods
- continue to listen and be ready to serve as God leads us

## What might we do (depending on need and resources)?

- provide meals to members, friends and neighbors
- open the church building to be a place where health professionals can see and treat people
- coordinate with local agencies to provide ways for regular people to volunteer and serve

## Treasurer's Report March 2020

This written report is to accompany Our Church's Financial Health chart shown below. The figures in the chart are through February 2020, since as of the writing of this report, it is the third week in the month of March 2020. In my reports, I want to reflect the information that church council reviews at each month's council meeting.

As we are in the midst of uncertainty with the world's health concerns and all the domino effects that come with that, I find that I need to be even more aware of God's presence in my life. I have been through trials in the past, with the same feelings of fear, sorrow, questioning, and difficult decision-making.

Proverbs 3: 5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." NRSV

James 1: 2-4 says: "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and compete, lacking in nothing." NRSV

My prayer for our congregation is that we continue to trust in our Lord, listen for his guidance and find his joy that continues to lead us forward. Please remember to support the work and mission of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in your gifts of offering and acts of service, even as we navigate through the challenges we are facing in our community, nation and world.

May God bless and keep you in faith, hope, love and good health!

Blessings,  
Anne Taylor, Treasurer



### Income/Expenses for February

Income		Expenses	
February	\$27,230	February	\$32,567
year to date	\$192,245	year to date	\$178,976
Total budget		\$432,517	
Needed per month		\$36,043	

BLC COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS  
March 10, 2020

**Treasurer's Report (Anne Taylor)**

- February Income \$27,230; expenditures \$32,567; ending balance February 29th \$34,857.
- Suggestion that Exec Committee put out mid-year summary in newsletter or at May Semi-Annual meeting.

**Music Director's Report (Marshall Jones)**

- Strings/soloists lined up for Good Friday's The Suffering Servant.
- All brass lined up for Easter worship.
- Extended thank you for prayers, cards, and gifts

**Pastor's Report (Pastor Scott Thompson)**

- New website up and running
- Peeps Diorama Extravaganza (use Peeps to make your favorite Bible story) – April 5th.
- BLC will be joining with other ELCA churches for joint Holy Week/Easter ads.
- "Welcome to Bethlehem" again on May 3rd at 11:45 am (sign up after Easter).
- Palm Sunday – April 5th.
- Maunday Thursday – April 9th, 7 pm.
- Good Friday – April 10th, 7 pm.
- Easter – April 12th, 8 & 10:30 am.
- Chico Pastors' Retreat – April 14-17th.
- Camp Sunday – May 3rd.
- Confirmation Sunday – May 17th. Begin one service now through summer.

**Old Business**

- Kids space in Sanctuary discussed. Note that it is not moving nursery into the space. Is a space for making families more comfortable with space for kids to squirm and wiggle.
- John Erfle reported that Property Planning Committee has not yet convened. To focus on what 'God is calling us to use this space for'. Pastor to talk with Synod about leading congregation in discernment.

**New Business**

- Semi Annual Meeting scheduled for May 3rd, between services.
- Council Retreat on Mission Planning set for October 3rd.
- Fall Semi Annual Meeting scheduled for October 4th.
- Duane Anderson – hand out for discussion on Mission Endowment/Mission Partnerships –
- Re: unanticipated gifts, transparency to Mission Endowment, overall goals & objectives for all Endowment funds.
- Pastor Scott in contact with Health Dept. re: guidelines on coronavirus. Plan to continue using individual cups for serving Communion.

Next meeting is April 14th. Vicky Nytes to host the meal; Janet Veidt to give devotions.

## April Calendar 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 20px;"> <b>Locations:</b>                      CM-Commons                      FH -Fellowship Hall                      FR-Fireside Room                      HB-Hjortland Bld.                      KB- Kalispell Brewing                 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Abbreviations</b>                      Jr. &amp; Sr. High– Youth groups                      FTF– Feed the Flathead                 </div>		1	2	3	4	
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b>  <u>10:30</u> Worship (KOFI)	6	7  <u>TBD</u> Committee Directors, FR <u>TBD</u> Committees, FH <u>TBD</u> Executive Committee	8	9 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	10 <b>Good Friday</b>  Online Worship at <a href="http://www.bethluth.org">www.bethluth.org</a>	11
12 <b>Easter Sunday</b>  <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:15am</u> Easter Brunch <u>10:30am</u> Worship	13  <u>6:00pm</u> , <b>FTF, FH-BLC Hosting</b>	14  <u>10:00am</u> Dorcas Circle, FH  <u>5:30pm</u> Irish Dancers, HB <u>5:30pm</u> Council, FH	15  <u>6:00am</u> Fitness Class, HB <u>6:45am</u> Men’s Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff <u>10:30am</u> Spinner’s & Weavers Guild, FH <u>5:30pm</u> Dinner <u>6:00pm</u> Youth Programs <u>7:00pm</u> Choir	16  <u>9:00am</u> Prayer Shawl, FR <u>1:00pm</u> East River Circle, FR <u>4:00pm</u> GosBells <u>6:30pm</u> Cub Scouts	17  <u>4:00pm</u> Book Club, FR	18
19  <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:15am</u> Adult Ed/ Sunday School <u>10:30 am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Sr. High	20  <b>Newsletter deadline</b>  <u>6:00pm</u> , FTF, FH	21  <u>5:30pm</u> Irish Dancers, HB	22  <u>6:00am</u> Fitness Class, HB <u>6:45am</u> Men’s Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff <u>5:30pm</u> Dinner <u>6:00pm</u> Youth Programs <u>7:00pm</u> Choir	23  <u>9:00am</u> Prayer Shawl, FR <u>9:00am</u> Quilting, FH <u>4:00pm</u> GosBells	24	25
26  <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:15am</u> Adult Ed/ Sunday School <u>10:30am</u> Worship	27  <u>12:00pm</u> Women on the Go, Wheat Montana	28  <u>5:30pm</u> Irish Dancers, HB	29  <u>6:00am</u> Fitness Class, HB <u>6:45am</u> Men’s Bible Study, FH <u>10:00am</u> Staff <u>5:30pm</u> Dinner <u>6:00pm</u> Youth Programs	30  <u>9:00am</u> Prayer Shawl, FR <u>9:00am</u> Quilting, FH <u>4:00pm</u> GosBells		



## April Service Groups 2020

Captains	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
<b>Greeters</b>				
8:00am Mary Harris	Gary & Margerette Dahlgren	Brian & Becky Croucher	Sandy Lindlief Margie Dornfeld	Lorrie Grossfield
10:30am Lorna Hauser	Brooke, Calvin, & Emmery Schmidt	Alan & Patti Young	Cheri Brown	TBD
<b>Ushers</b>				
8:00am Dan Paschke	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
10:30am Bev Taylor	Don & Janan Beller	Bill & Jana Pursell	Linda Burkett	Ross & Amy Johnson
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>				
8:00am Marshall	AM-Glenda Skeim C-Bridgett Meskis R-Anne Taylor	AM-Bridgett Meskis C-Bridgett Meskis R-Glenda Skeim	AM-Kathy Branson C-Anne Taylor R-Margie Fielder	AM-Don Beller C-Bridgett Meskis R-John Erfle
10:30am Marshall	AM-Kathy Branson C-Don & Janan Beller R-Karen Brown	AM-Christie Deck C-Solveig Munson R-Patsy Cloud	AM-Pauline Sjoldal C-Jana Thompson R-Bill Erickson	AM-Becky Croucher C-TBD R-Paul Holmgren
<b>Communion</b>				
8:00am Margie Simpson	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
10:30am Judie Cundy	TBD	Patsy Cloud Becky Croucher	Bill & Lauri Erickson	Don & Janan Beller
<b>Acolytes</b>				
8:00am	Susan Mueller Cindy Galvin	Jennifer Fisher Teagen Flint	TBD	TBD
10:30am	TBD	Solveig Munson Julia Munson	Bill & Jana Pursell	Tony Nelson Hannah Klassy
<b>Coffee Servers</b>				
8:00am Linda Erfle	Debbie Powell	Easter Brunch	Cindy & Mike Galvin	Marianne Gielow Micky Nytes
<b>Altar Guild</b>				
Glenda Skeim	Cindy Galvin Judie Cundy	Cindy Galvin Judie Cundy	Cindy Galvin Judie Cundy	Cindy Galvin Judie Cundy

**Thank you for your service!**

# April Birthdays



Libby Zimmerman	04/03
Debbie Struck	04/03
Quintin Gerbozy	04/04
Judith Nelson	04/04
Connor Zimmerman	04/05
Clyde Pederson	04/05
Carlene Peters	04/07
Mark Johnson	04/08
Margie Simpson	04/08
Faye Hegland	04/08
Shirley Anderson	04/09
Joyce Corbett	04/09
Rhonda Kalvig	04/11
Jean Harter	04/11
Paul Holmgren	04/14
John Erfle	04/14
Joe Haugestuen	04/15
Cheri Brown	04/15
Marshall Jones	04/16
Suzanne Thompson	04/16
Dianne Wilder	04/16
Victoria Nytes	04/20
Jan Ulvin	04/22
Jocelyn Gerbozy	04/26
Matthew Marshall	04/27
Susan Schmid	04/27
H.L. Helgeson	04/27
Charles Mccoy	04/29

Louise Gullick, Dan Seelye, Mary Jane, Don E., Stacci Filla, Joyce Schmutz, Bull Moore, Barb Burgess, and Shari Sullivan.

**The deadline for the May newsletter is April 20th. Thank you! - Kellie**

<u>Church Council</u>	
<b>President:</b> Paul Holmgren  <b>Vice Presidents:</b> Amber Brohn Duane Anderson  <b>Treasurer:</b> Anne Taylor  <b>Secretary:</b> Janet Veidt	<b>Committee Chairs</b>  <b>Christian Education:</b> Vicki Nytes  <b>Fellowship:</b> Peggy Aagenes-Janzer  <b>Outreach:</b> Karen Fisher  <b>Property:</b> Bill Pursell  <b>Stewardship:</b> John Erfle  <b>Worship and Music:</b> Judie Cundy  <b>Youth:</b> Tony Nelson







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Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Kalispell  
406/752-6140 - 406/752-6145 FAX  
KOFI 1180AM at 10:30am Sundays

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