

The Bethlehem Star



April 2021

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.

Holy Week at Bethlehem – 2021

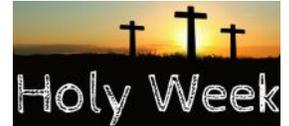
04/01 Maundy Thursday- 6:30pm Worship

04/02 Good Friday– 6:30pm Worship

04/04 Easter Sunday– 7:00am Sunrise Easter Celebration Drive-In Worship

9:00am Online Easter Vigil and KOFI Radio Only Worship,

www.bethluth.org/live.



Easter

A marvelous opportunity to celebrate Christ's resurrection and God's limitless grace has come before us! We will gather **outside** – in the BLC Parking Lot for a **Sunrise Easter Celebration**. Plan to drive in and either stay in your car – or – (weather permitting) bring a chair and enjoy the fresh morning air as we sing and pray and shout, "Alleluia!" It all starts at **7 AM on Easter Sunday, April 4**. Invite your neighbors and friends!



Also, Easter Sunday – a Live-stream and Radio ONLY service will happen at 9 AM broadcast from the BLC Sanctuary with Organ, Piano, and Brass music. This will NOT be an in-person service, but you can watch and/or listen either on KOFI radio or at www.bethluth.org/live. Holy Week worship opportunities will include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services both in-person and live-streamed. Both start at 6:30 PM.

Give your Easter Lily to Girls in Tanzania this year!

Flowers for Teachers

Rather than purchasing Easter Lilies this year, we'll be collecting offerings for the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) in Tanzania. Through the work of Operation Bootstrap Africa, our partners in Tanzania are planning to build on-campus housing at MGLSS for teachers, some of whom walk one and a half miles just to get to work each day. Our donations this year can help raise the \$40,000 needed for the housing project. Make your donation online at www.bethluth.org/give or bring or send a check to church. You can designate in whose memory/honor your donation is given and we'll publish that list at Easter. For more info go to www.bethluth.org.



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The quote, “God loves a cheerful giver” comes from 2nd Corinthians where Paul is commending the church in Corinth for their promised financial donation. Paul is collecting money during his travels through the Roman provinces, and he plans to deliver the offering to leaders in Jerusalem where the church is struggling. His message is this: no one should feel compelled or coerced to give, for generosity is a gift only when conducted from a willing heart. Paul also seeks to remind the church that their gifts come from God’s abundant generosity, and it is God who will continue to provide for their daily needs as well as ongoing opportunities to give.

In 2020 and early this year Bethlehem Lutheran received 4 generous donations from 3 individuals and families – including Lola Vulles, and Thelma & Vern Johnson’s estate. The total amount of these gifts was \$290,000. As a result, council was able to give \$29,000 to about twenty different local partners. (I shared with you the partners and the amounts given to each in earlier messages.) In the ensuing months, we’ve received numerous cards and notes expressing profound gratitude for our sharing. Some of the comments in those notes have been:

- *These funds will help us support our students in many ways (such as) a pair of boots for an elementary student!* - HEART Program
- *Your gift will save lives by providing a warm safe place for people.*
- Flathead Warming Center
- *Your kindness is supporting many children and parents in our community.*
- Nurturing Center
- *Your current and past support has been and is essential to our feeding program.*
- Community Kitchen, Feeding the Flathead

And the list goes on and on!!!

We also received gratitude from our partners in the Montana Synod. A note from Pastor Peggy Paugh-Leuzinger said, in part:

Thank you for sharing the abundance you have received in gifts.. Your model of generosity is inspiring. We give thanks to God for you.

Pastor Paugh-Leuzinger goes on to say that Synod leaders plan to use our giving model to encourage generosity in others. And Bishop Laurie Jungling recently expressed her thanks and gratitude via a video. I hope to share her message in church soon, but you can get a preview at our website – www.bethluth.org.

Perhaps you’ve considered a special donation to the mission of our congregation. It doesn’t have to be a “large” gift... any amount will do. Donations made through BLC – both regular tithes and special gifts – are used to serve people in Jesus’ name here in Kalispell and throughout the world. Donations are, of course, tax deductible, and there are particular tax benefits for setting aside gifts that will be distributed from your estate after you pass into the arms of Jesus. This is how Thelma and Vern made their donation, and Debbie, Brenda and others in their family will tell you how proud they are of their parents’ generosity.

Giving is an act of love in the name of the God who loves us and provides abundantly. I add my own thanks to the myriad of those already expressed. And I look forward to the ways that God will continue to bless us through opportunities to give, serve, love, and share the gospel for years to come.

Joy in the journey,
Pastor Scott

BLC COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
 (Meeting conducted via Zoom)
 March 9, 2021

Treasurer's Report (Duane Anderson)

- February Income \$30,694; expenditures \$34,883. Ending balance February 28th: \$33,943.

Music Ministry Report (Marshall Jones)

- Hymn sing on March 24th after midweek Lenten service.
- The virtual choir was a success; hoping to do again in April.
- No in-person choir planned until fall.
- Hymn histories continuing on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.
- Posting on Facebook some of music in new hymnal supplement All Creation Sings.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Scott Thompson)

- In person worship has a few more returning people. Would like to keep 2-group model for now. On-line worship has strong numbers regularly checking in; between 100 and over 300 views
- Introduced 'Flowers for Teachers' – donations to Maasae Girl's School instead of sanctuary lilies.
- Adding Holy Saturday to Easter schedule – an on-line Easter Vigil prerecorded and made available via website/facebook.
- Adding Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 am. Will be drive-in and/or outside seating.
- Easter worship 9 am will be radio and live stream only from the sanctuary with organ/brass/communion.

Old Business

- Duane Anderson will publish proposed Bylaw changes 60 days prior to Semi Annual Meeting.
- President Holmgren and Pastor Thompson will put together Nominating Committee for the next Council term. Committee directors need to turn in committee members staying and prospective new members.
- Pastor Thompson and Peggy Aagenes-Janzer report on Strategic Planning Team. Team learning to listen and hear things not being said. Will be opening conversation with the larger community; listening for 'what is God doing in our midst?'
- Pastor Thompson presented proposed 'Policy for Groups Gathering at BLC under COVID circumstances. Council amended proposal so that 'Groups for Teenagers' could start meeting March 10th; all other groups on April 1st.
- President Holmgren will lead small group to come up with ideas for Common Area improvements.

New Business

- Semi-Annual Meeting date was set for May 23, 2021 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary with masks. Committee reports due before May 1st.



Virtual Choir

Thank you to those who participated in the virtual choir for “The Meditations of My Heart” . We will sing “The Lord Is My Shepherd” from Light Shines in the Darkness (which we sang a couple of years ago for Good Friday) for April 25th. I will send out recordings to use for practice as well as the base track (accompaniment) for you to listen to through headphones as you record yourself singing your part to it. The deadline to submit your entries is April 11th.



Handbell News

I sent something to the 8 handbell ringers who had been ringing in the 2 quartets briefly in the fall about the possibility of starting those quartets again in April to ring once more in May and about whether you would be interested in continuing quartets in addition to GosBells in the fall. Only 4 of you have responded. If you have not responded, please be sure to do so. GosBells, I will send something early in the summer to find out how many ringers we would have for GosBells if we start in the fall, so that I can plan accordingly.



Choir Update

I know that some of you are fortunate to already have had your vaccines and are eager to start choir. But before we can start choir we have to think about those who are in group 2 and might not have their second dose until well into the summer. Choir will not start until fall. I will send something early this summer to ascertain how many people we will likely have on any part if we start choir and be able to plan accordingly.



OUR THOUGHTS *and* PRAYERS *are with* YOU

Louise Gullick, Beverly Hubbard, Gracie Jones, Linda Burkett, Dorothy Alstad, Georgia Saverud, Jim Karlin and daughter, Kinsie, and Nancy Martinson .

FLBC WOMEN'S RETREAT

June 11-13, 2021

Full Weekend: \$165/person

Saturday Only: \$125/person

\$75 deposit & registration due by May 28th

Join us for a weekend of relaxation, yoga, massages, boating, great food, & more! Pastor Miriam Schmidt will lead us in Bible Study around the theme **“Saying No, Saying Yes— A Spiritual Practice”**

Retreat begins with dinner at 6 :15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6 and ends at 11am on Sunday.

CEU credits available through Northern Rockies Institute of Theology (NRTI).
Sorry, no childcare provided.

Call our office at 406-752-6602 if you have any questions.

2021 REGISTRATION

Women's Retreat // June 11-13, 2021

Name: _____ Attending full weekend? ____ Sat. Only? ____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

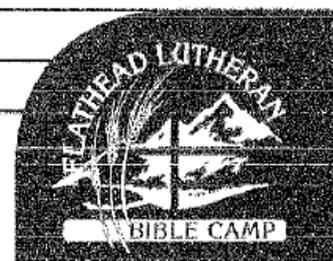
Email: _____ Roommate Request: _____

Please list any dietary restrictions, severe allergies or housing needs: _____

Registration & \$75 non-refundable deposit due by May 28th, 2021

Register online at flbc.net, email office@flbc.net, or mail to FLBC 603 S Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901

A list of what to bring, a schedule and additional documents will be sent to you prior to the retreat.



406.752.6602 • 603 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901 • office@flbc.net • www.flbc.net



Pr. Miriam Schmidt has served as Pastor/Priest of All Saints in Big Sky, a shared ministry of the Episcopal and Lutheran (ELCA) churches, since 2016. Previously, she pastored congregations in Plains, MT, & Bratislava, Slovakia. She loves hiking, running, Nordic skiing, reading to her daughters, and sharing good meals with friends and family.

FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

Summer 2021

NAVIGATORS = Entering Grades 1 & 2

EXPLORERS = Entering Grade 3

PIONEERS = Entering Grades 4 & 5

PATHFINDERS = Entering Grades 6 & 7

TRAILBLAZERS = Entering Grades 8 & 9

SENIOR HIGH = Entering Grades 10 to 2021 HS Grads

FAMILY CAMPS & INTERGENERATIONAL opportunities

- JUNE 20-25** Ranch Camp (**PIONEERS, PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS**); Staff in Training (**SENIOR HIGH**)
- JUNE 27-JULY 2** Traditional On-site Camp (**PIONEERS, PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS**); Basketball Camp (**PIONEERS, PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS**); Sailing (**SENIOR HIGH**); GrandCamp (**All ages**); Bring a Big Person to Camp 1/2 Week: June 27 - 29 (4-5 year olds & an adult 21+)
- JULY 2-4** Family Camp Weekend with leaders Pastor Barb Gwynn & Pastor Scott Hedegaard
- JULY 4-9** Family Camp (**All ages**) with artist Pr. Paul Oman & Pr. Brad Ulgenes; Outback Camp (**PIONEERS, PATHFINDERS**) Week-long family camp is full!
- JULY 11-16** Traditional On-site Camp (**EXPLORERS, PIONEERS, PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS**); 1/2 Week Camp July 11 -13, July 14-16 (**NAVIGATORS**); Cross Country Camp (**PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS, SENIOR HIGH**); North Fork Raft (**SENIOR HIGH**); Sailing (**SENIOR HIGH**)
- JULY 16-18** Family Camp Weekend (2021 summer staff families are free) with leader Pr. Ben Morris from University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse
- JULY 18-23** Custom Family & Small Group Camps
- On-site Day Camp Mon - Fri 9am - 3pm (**NAVIGATORS, EXPLORERS, & PIONEERS**); Treehouse Camp (**PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS**)
- JULY 25-30** Traditional On-site Camp (**EXPLORERS, PIONEERS, PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS, SENIOR HIGH**); 1/2 Week Camp July 25 - 27, July 28 - 30 (**NAVIGATORS**)
- AUGUST 1-6** Custom Family & Small Group Camps
- On-site Day Camp Mon - Fri 9am - 3pm (**PIONEERS, PATHFINDERS**); Adventure Camp (**PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS**); Wild Water Week (**PATHFINDERS, TRAILBLAZERS**); North Fork Raft (**SENIOR HIGH**); Pack N Raft (**SENIOR HIGH**)
- AUGUST 1-10** Tanzania Trip (**AGES 15+**)

Check with your local Lutheran congregation about an FLBC day camp in your community throughout the summer!

Contact the FLBC office at 406-752-6602 or visit flbc.net to find registration directions for Family Camp Weekend(s), Grand Camp, and Bring A Big Person to Camp, or to design a family or small group adventure during designated weeks.

Registration for **YOUTH CAMP** opens on February 1st! To register, go to flbc.net, call 406-752-6602, or mail in a registration form. **Registration opens early on January 29th for campers who rolled over their 2020 deposit - check your email!**



April Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>6:30pm</u> Worship	2 Good Friday <u>6:30pm</u> Worship	3
4 Easter <u>7:00am</u> Sunrise Drive-In Worship <u>9:00am</u> KOFI and Live-Stream Only <u>5:00pm</u> HS Youth Group	5	6 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Committees, TBD	7 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>10:00am</u> Staff	8 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Strategic Planning Committee Mtg, TBD	9	10
11 <u>9:00am</u> Worship N-Z <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>3:00pm</u> Confirmation <u>5:00pm</u> HS Youth Group	12	13 <u>10:00am</u> Dorcas Circle <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Council, TBD	14 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>10:00am</u> Staff	15 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom	16	17
18 <u>9:00am</u> Worship A-M <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>5:00pm</u> HS Youth Group	19 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	20 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom	21 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>10:00am</u> Staff	22 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Strategic Planning Committee Mtg, TBD	23	24
25 <u>9:00am</u> Worship N-Z <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>3:00pm</u> Confirmation <u>5:00pm</u> HS Youth Group	26 <u>1:00pm</u> Women on the Go via Zoom	27 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom	28 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study, FH <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>9:00am</u> Knitters, FR <u>10:00am</u> Staff	29 <u>9:00am</u> Quilters, FH <u>1:00pm</u> Bible Study with Pastor Scott via Zoom	30	

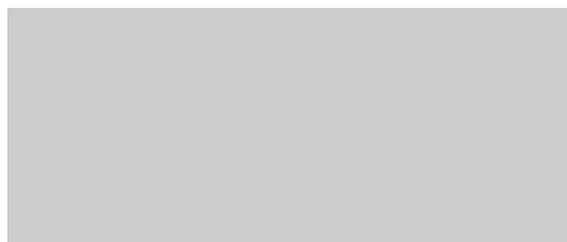


Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 603 South Main Street, Kalispell, Montana 59901
office@bethluth.org / www.bethluth.org
 Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Kalispell
 406/752-6140 - 406/752-6145 FAX
 KOFI 1180AM at 9:00am Sundays

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Electronic service requested



John	Erfl	4/3	Margie	Simpson	4/16
Judith	Nelson	4/3	Clyde	Pederson	4/20
Libby	Zimmerman	4/4	Susan	Schmid	4/22
Victoria	Nytes	4/5	Carlene	Peters	4/26
Jocelyn	Gerbozy	4/7	Faye	Hegland	4/27
Bunny	Wilder	4/8	Jan	Ulvin	4/27
Suzanne	Thompson	4/8	Quintin	Gerbozy	4/27
Matthew	Marshall	4/8	Chuck	Mcco	4/29
Connor	Zimmerman	4/9			
Joyce	Corbett	4/9			
Marshall	Jones	4/11			
Cheri	Brown	4/11			
Debbie	Struck	4/14			
Paul	Holmgren	4/15			
Rhonda	Kalvig	4/15			
Jean	Harter	4/16			

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

Church Council

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Amber Brohn

Duane Anderson

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Duane Anderson-
 acting

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Christian Education

Linda Jones

Fellowship:

Peggy Aagenes-Janzer

Outreach:

Karen Fisher

Property:

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John Erfl

Worship and Music:

Judie Cundy

Youth:

Tony Nelson