



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

March 2026 Newsletter



Bible Readings for March 2026

Festival	First Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Mar. 1	Genesis 12 1-4	Psalm 121	Romans 4: 1-5 & 13-17	John 3: 1-17
March 8	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-42
March 15	I Samuel 16: 1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5: 8-4	John 9: 1-41
March 22	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8: 6-11	John 11: 1-45
March 29	Matthew 21: 1-11	Isaiah 50: 4-9	Philippians 2: 5-11	Matthew 26: 14-27: 66



Greeters and Ushers:

The call person for March is **Bonnie Berglind**

Phone (406) 266- 3043

- March 1 Rick & Deb Arnold
- March 8 Gretchen Carrels
- March 15 Erick & Jackie Sorenson
- March 22 Jim & Darlene Beck
- March 29 Chuck Smith, Diana Berglind, Bonnie Berglind

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- March 1 Pastor Jason Asselstine, Flathead Bible Camp; preaching (Potluck to follow)
- March 4 Soup Supper– 6:00 p.m. at the church
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time begins—Spring forward one hour; Church Council Mtg. following the service
- March 10 Choir Practice, 12:00 noon, WELCA meets at 4:00 p.m. (Easter egg project)
- March 11 Soup Supper– 6:00 p.m. at the church
- March 12 Choir Practice 12:00 noon
- March 15 Choir Practice 8:30 a.m.
- March 18 Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. at the church
- March 25 Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. at the church
- March 29 Palm Sunday
- April 2 Maunday Thursday– no service
- April 3 Good Friday– 7:00 church service
- April 5 Easter Sunday, 9:30 church service, Easter Egg hunt for children to follow

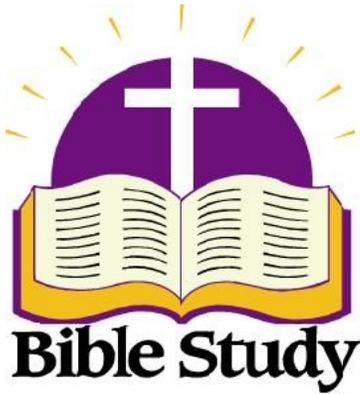


If you would like to assist with soup or bread, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church kitchen.



Holy Week

Educational Opportunities and Service—There's a Place for Everyone!



Scriptures Study– Thursday morning 9:00 a.m. @ church

- *Christ in Our Home*- Daily readings-available at the church

Afternoon Bible Study, Wednesday 1 p.m. @ the church

- The study of *The 12 Disciples*-sign-up sheet at the back of the church

WE WELCOME NEW FACES! Come for fellowship in Christ!

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Please sign up to teach one Sunday.

There is a list at the back of the church.

March Sunday School Schedule and the Lessons

March 1— Sunday School Jesus is born! Luke 2:1-20

March 8— Sunday School Wise Men Matthew 2:1-12

March 15- No Sunday School

March 22 Sunday School- The Disciples Matt. 4: 12-23

March 29 Sunday School— Palm Sunday Lord's Prayer

April 5—Easter Sunday! Easter Egg Hunt



Choir Rehearsal Tuesday March 10 12:00 noon

Choir Rehearsal Thursday March 12 12:00 noon

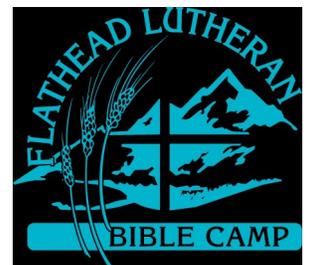
Choir Rehearsal Sunday March 15 8:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY 9:00 a.m.—11:00 Downstairs,

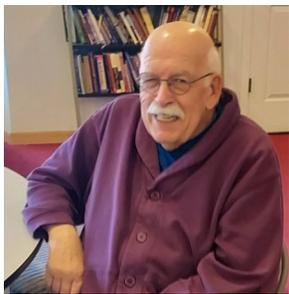
Join us for:

- ♦ Quilting & Working on Baby and Personal Care kits
- ♦ Devotions & Fellowship & Treats

During church on March 1st we will have the privilege of hearing Pastor Jason Asselstine who has just accepted a call as Executive Director of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Rev. Asselstine has served for over two decades in the ELCA including his call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Choteau, and his service as Associate to the Bishop of the Montana Synod, where he guided congregations through pastoral transitions, developed lay ministry training programs, and coordinated youth ministry events.



1 Peter 4:10-11. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.



Thank you, Chuck Smith, for providing an afternoon of Trivia!

We had such a good time with Trivia & Snacks! We replaced our Mid-Winter game day about six years ago, and thanks to Chuck Smith, we have had lots of fun trivia categories to make us think. We had many ah-ha moments and quite a few laughs! Thanks again Chuck for spending the time preparing this event, and thank you WELCA for keeping the fellowship alive in our church.



Highlights of the February WELCA meeting:

- WELCA donated \$500. to Broadwater Social Services for the Kids Count program. This provides kids with needed clothing or school essentials.
- WELCA supported the Creative Closet's Pillow Project for the Christmas Connection. Thrivent provided a \$250 grant, and WELCA provided \$150 to purchase 100 pillows and the quilters sew pillow cases for all of the new pillows project!
- Two new coffee pots were purchased for use in the SVLC kitchen.
- The members voted to donate \$500 to the Helping Hands store that is moving to the old Jeannie Steele building. (Lundy) This non-profit not only supports our mission projects, but it provides an opportunity to recycle, reuse, and repurpose for our community. All profits go back into the community.
- Deb Arnold is the new WELCA president; we are seeking a new secretary for WELCA.

Women of the **ELCA** 



With a new year, Thrivent members have an opportunity to apply for two \$250 grants that benefit communities, churches, or schools. This seed money helps people expand their time, talents and support for many varied endeavors. For years, the grants were never used; but Susan Ramsey prompted others to look into writing grants. So many projects have come to fruition because there is support from Thrivent Financial. Talk to Susan or Margie Urich if you would like to get started writing your grant.

- ◆ Thank you Margie Urich for writing the pillow project to support the Christmas Connection.
- ◆ Thank you Deb Arnold for providing shelving and the coffee cart for fellowship.



WELCA Women's Spring Retreat

April 24-26, 2026

Sponsored by:
Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)
Five Valleys Women and Great Divide Clusters

A Rest Stop Along our Path "Walking with Jesus"— This is a weekend of relaxation, fellowship and inspiration with guest speaker Lois Olmstead. The location is Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Lakeside For more information about the retreat visit: www.Impluchurch.org/womens-retreat Early bird registration: April 1st. Hard copies of registration forms are on the bulletin board at church and we can discuss this further at the March 10th WELCA meeting.



Thank you to those who participated in the Valentine exchange sponsored by the Visitation Committee. Several people remarked that it is always fun to draw a valentine and make someone else smile. The smiles never have to stop. We can remember our church family in prayer during this season of Lent.

*Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful*

Colossians 4:2



- ◆ The Call Committee has scheduled an interview with a perspective pastor, Adam Barnhart on March 5. Further details will follow.



Happy Birthday!

Ed Watson	March 2
Aubra Lewis	March 6
Greyson Hoppe	March 14
Jackie Kynett	March 19
Ava Watne	March 27



May 16th Annual Church Yard Sale

- ◆ Save your good sellable items for our church yard sale.
- ◆ More information will follow in the next newsletter!



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday February 15, 2026

Members: Clint Watson, Margie Urich, Dave Rowell, Aiden Mosher, Diane Johnson, Rick Arnold.

Member absent: Julie Mikula

Others attending: Lisa Rowell, treasurer; Jim Beck, secretary (via telephone); Daryl Blumhagen; and Marcia Bieber.

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 am by President Rick Arnold. Steve Ward led the group in prayer.

Church member comments: No correspondence from or members present to comment.

Meeting minutes: Dave Rowell made a motion, Diane Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting dated January 11, 2026. Motion passed.

Election/Appointment of 2026 Officers:

President: Steve Ward nominated Rick Arnold, Diane seconded, there being no other nominees, nominations ceased and Rick was elected President.

Vice President: Steve Ward nominated Margie Urich, Diane Johnson seconded, there being no other nominees, nominations ceased and Margie was elected Vice President.

Secretary: Jim Beck was available via telephone and stated he would be willing to remain Secretary. Diane Johnson made a motion, seconded by Steve Ward to retain Jim as Secretary; motion carried.

Treasurer: Margie Urich made a motion, seconded by Diane Johnson to retain Lisa Rowell as treasurer. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report:

Offering for January was \$6020 and other income was \$740

Church expenses for the month were \$5241

The rental income for January was \$1720 with expenses of \$350

The end of January checking balance was \$5026

The money market balance was \$36,133, with \$3000 of that encumbered

The CD balance was \$250,000 with \$30,000 of that in a plumbing reserve

Margie moved; Steve seconded to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion has passed.

Report: SAM, Steve Ward, reported that Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday service February 18, 2026 at 7 pm. Soup suppers will be held on the following five Wednesdays at 6 pm with a short service to conclude each evening.

Committee Reports:

It was noted that all committees had been filled, except for the Stewardship committee. Diane made a motion not to pursue filling the vacancies at this time, seconded by Clint; motion carried.

Property and Maintenance: Jim Beck reported furnace filters have been replaced recently. The filter that services the new addition has a 2-inch space for a filter. Jim would like to shim the area down to a one-inch size as these filters are more economical and readily available. There was no objection from the council, and permission was granted to proceed.

Clint and Aiden are in the process of making a new conference room table and a Hymn # stand; the space for the numbers is 3 inches. They should be completed next week.

Call Committee: Jim reported a candidate has become available for a short-term contract type call 6-12 months. The call committees will meet to draft a contract next week, and possible interview the candidate in the last week of February.

Rental Committee: Rick informed the council of an issue with an additional resident at the rental at 307 N. Cherry. The resident is no longer residing there, and the current lease states any additional residents may only stay 30 days. Rick is meeting with legal counsel regarding this language as we may wish to have a shorter term listed for additional residents. The rent is due on the 10th of each month with a 10-day grace period. Lisa will be the liaison to collect the rent going forward. She will inform the renter via letter.

Rental Advisory Committee: Marcia Bieber and Daryl Blumhagen were present to inform the council of the results of the recent meeting on February 1st, 2026, of the Rental Committee, formed at the annual meeting. Marcia reported and presented a bid had been received from Jeremy Lessley for the concrete work at the parsonage. Discussion continued about several projects for the parsonage i.e.: Carpet replacement, electrical, exterior entrance stairs to the basement, exterior paint. Daryl presented figures to the council to demonstrate rent/profit for the current rents and advocated lowering the rent as we would still make a profit, albeit less so than the current amount charged. Marcia and Daryl were thanked for their work on this committee, then exited the meeting. After discussion, Steve made the motion to end both Rental Committee and the Rental Advisory Committee as they had achieved their goals of meeting and making recommendations to the council. Diane seconded; motion carried. A new Rental Committee was constructed of council members: Dave Rowell, Steve Ward and Diane Johnson. Margie made a motion to have a separate checking account for the rentals; Lisa said it would be a little more to manage but was agreeable to it. After some discussion, no second was made; motion failed. Rick asked Steve to review Liability insurance for the Church and both rentals. Rick will check with legal on wording on the rental lease, item #13 regarding rental insurance needing to be required or not. Diane will obtain a bid on egress window at the parsonage; Dave will examine the external stairs leading to the basement of the parsonage, also the electrical. Dave will obtain an estimate for carpet replacement. Diane made a motion, seconded by Dave to keep the rents at the current rate and review yearly; motion carried.

Old Business: An audit will be completed by Ross Johnson after April 1st, 2026.

New Business: It was suggested at the annual meeting of the congregation to send the annual report before the meeting for the congregation to review. Steve moved; Diane seconded that we send the reports via email one week prior to the annual meeting. The meeting will need to be on the last Sunday of January in the future so all the information can be included. Motion carried.

Council member concerns: Dave requested approval from the council to spend \$55.00 on exterior stain for the spindles for the ramp at the southeast sanctuary exit. Diane moved to approve the expense; Clint seconded, motion carried.

There being no other business, it was moved by Steve, seconded by Diane, to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 pm. Motion carried. The meeting's attendees recited the Lord's Prayer.

Margie Urich, Vice President (for Jim Beck, Secretary)

Rick Arnold, President