

# Bethlehem Lutheran & St. Stephen's Episcopal



Baptism of our Lord

## **Announcements**

**Welcome to all who came to Bethlehem Lutheran Church today!**

Holy Communion may be received at the altar with individual cups of wine/juice and bread; or if you choose to remain seated, individual cups of wine/juice and wafer are available in the narthex. Those at home, we welcome you to the table with your own bread and wine/juice.

**We welcome Johnna Voto as our worship leader today. Father Stephen Day will preach. Johnna Voto, a Lay Pastoral Associate, has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in our congregation this Sunday.**

**Flowers for the alter are given by Sharon U to wish everyone a Happy New Year.**

### **Special Offering for January is Christikon**

**Please remember in your prayers: Sharon K, Connie A, Rob E, Jeanne W, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri W, Eva, and Josh.**  
Special note: Prayer requests will be listed for one month with the understanding that prayers will be extended beyond that with notification.

**If you are in need of pastoral leadership or spiritual counsel, please leave a message at the church (406)248-6427 or email [bethlehembillings@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembillings@gmail.com).**

Please look for the new flower calendar for 2026. Sign up to donate flowers for your special occasions or memorials. Altar Guild will supply the flowers for two weeks. All donations and special requests can be placed in the globe in the back with a note.

**The link for the service is: [www.facebook.com/BethlehemBillings](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemBillings)**

**Showers for our unhoused neighbors** –We at Bethlehem, in cooperation with St Vincent DePaul and the Salvation Army, provide showers for our unhoused neighbors on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are willing to help, call Chelsea at 360-915-2762 or Terri Wilker at 406-425-3713

# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

## St Stephen's Episcopal Church

40 10<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Baptism of our Lord  
9:30 Worship

Billings, MT 59102  
January 11, 2026  
Setting 8

### **Introduction**

*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one  
God, the fountain of living water, the  
rock who gave us birth, our light and  
our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are  
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the  
waters and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy  
Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making  
us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Song:** *ELW #302 As With Gladness Men of Old*

**Greeting**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**



# Kyrie

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



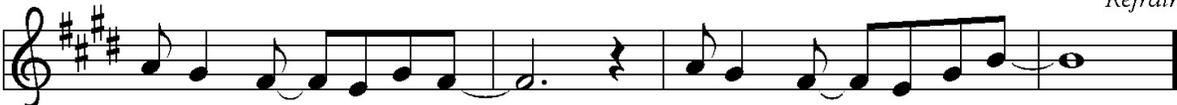
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

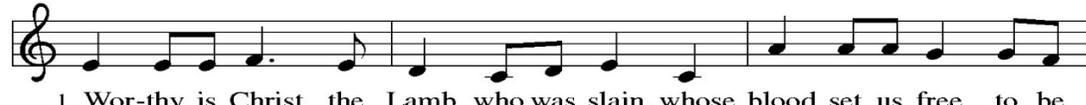


This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

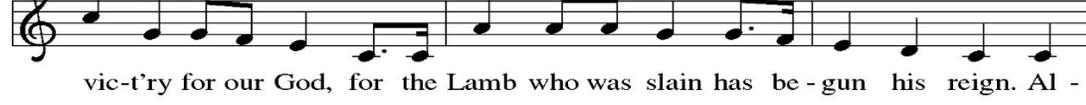
*Refrain*



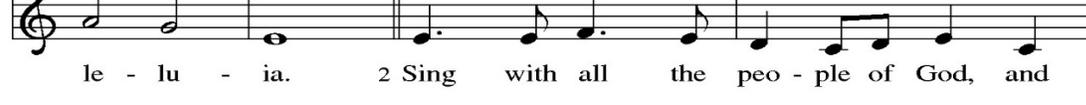
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



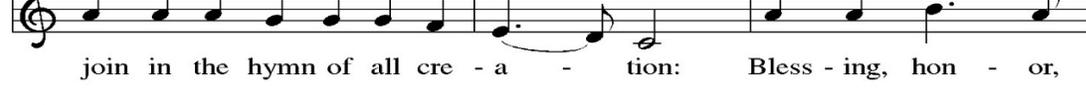
vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

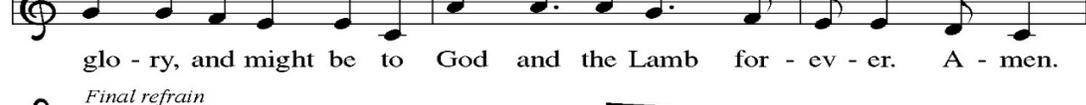


join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

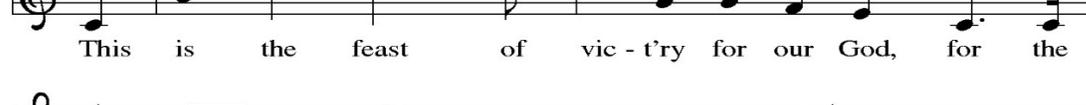


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God Speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

*God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

- <sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;
- <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- <sup>6</sup> I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,
- <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

### Psalm: Psalm 29

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the <sup>l</sup> mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a <sup>l</sup> voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in <sup>l</sup> lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

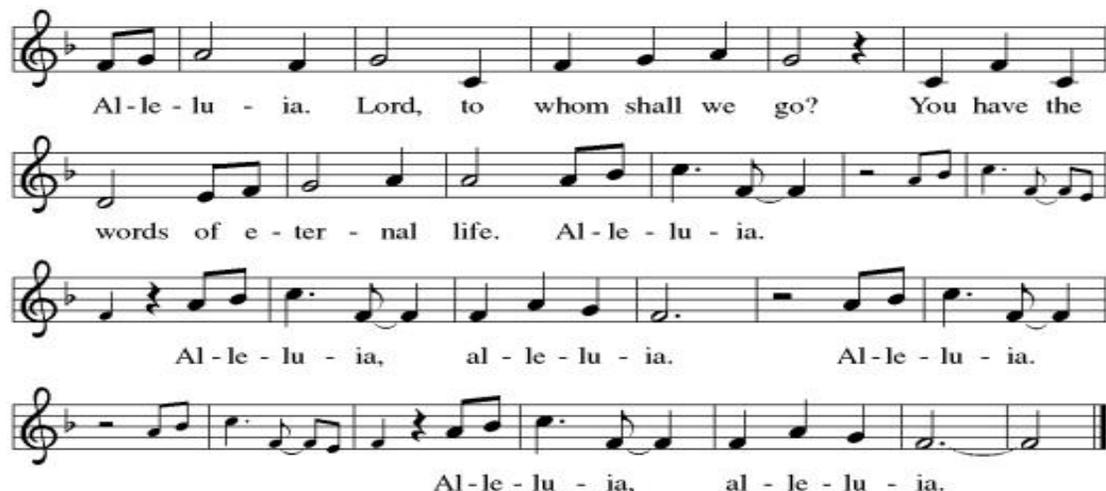
## Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia.* A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." *Alleluia.* (Matt. 3:17)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

**Sermon**    Father Stephen Day

**Hymn of the Day**    *ELW #459    Wade in the Water*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (*local water sources may be named*). Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.

Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers.

Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, *especially* Sharon K, Connie A, Rob E, Jeanne W, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri W, Eva, and Josh.

Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.

Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace.

Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Share a sign of peace with your neighbors.**

## **Offering Prayer**

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right.....

.... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus (Holy)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and dynamic markings.

## **Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **Lord's Prayer**

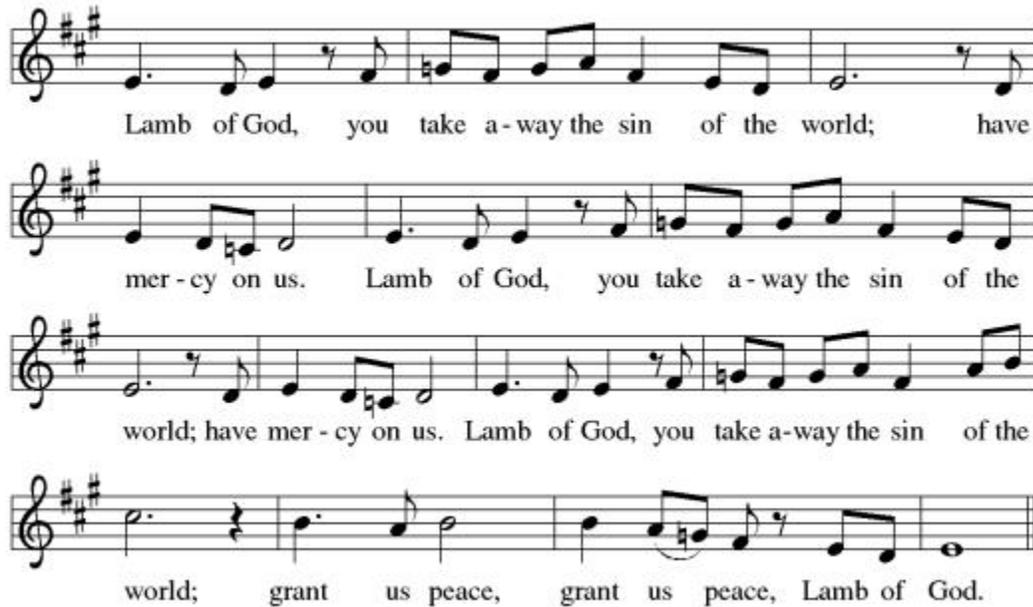
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## Distribution

The Body of Christ given for you  
The Blood of Christ given for you

Communion Hymn: ELW #396 *Spirit of Gentleness (refrain)*

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness  
Blow through the wilderness  
Calling and free  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness  
Stir me from placidness, wind  
Wind on the sea

## Prayer after Communion

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

P: May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your  
mouth and tuned your heart for  
praise bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song** *ELW# 551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

---

## **Upcoming Commemoration    Martin Luther King, Jr Day Monday, Jan 19**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a time to honor the life, vision, and courage of a leader who dedicated himself to justice, equality, and peace. It's more than just a day off—it's a call to reflect on the values Dr. King championed and to carry them forward in our own lives. Whether through acts of service, learning about civil rights history, or engaging in conversations that promote understanding, this day reminds us that each of us has the power to make a difference. By standing up for fairness, showing compassion to others, and working toward unity, we keep Dr. King's dream alive for generations to come.

## All Are Welcome

Christian community should be a place of absolute welcome. Christ has welcomed us, whoever we are. Because of this, we at Bethlehem Lutheran Church are glad to welcome you. None of the distinctions that seem to divide our world apply here!

We welcome you if you are:

- \* young, old or in between;
- \* white, black, native, Hispanic, or whatever your ancestry;
- \* married, single, divorced, a single parent, or whatever your family of choice;
- \* rich, poor, middle class, employed or unemployed;
- \* a lifelong Christian, just now seeking faith, or not really sure;
- \* straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, or any other identity;
- \* healthy of mind and body, living with mental illness, disabled or sick;
- \* struggling with addiction, in recovery, or if you love those who are;
- \* liberal, conservative, or ambivalent;
- \* homeless, a former convict, or in any way someone longing for acceptance.

At Bethlehem, we offer safety, love and the ministry of Word and Sacrament to everyone who seeks it. Come and be part of this welcome, as an equal, as a free and beloved child of God!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
40 10th Street West  
Billings, Mt 59102  
Office: (406) 248-6427  
[bethlehembillings@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembillings@gmail.com)  
Web: [bethlehembillings.com](http://bethlehembillings.com)  
Facebook: BethlehemBillings