

Bethel Notes

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Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Mark Kohoutek

Usher:

Shannon Marr

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Julia Elkin

Tyler Grosenick

Counters:

Tim Lightbourne

Shannon Marr

Hospitality:

Walt and Leone Nuessle

Sunday, August 13, 2023

11th Sunday after Pentecost

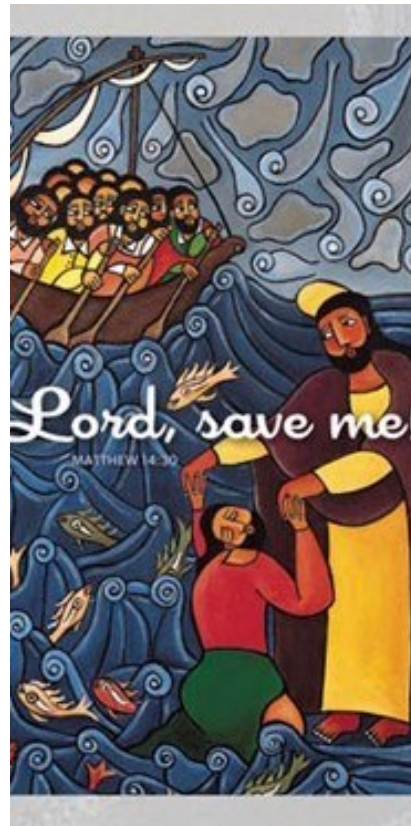
Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:-9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33



World Hunger



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM
in person or online at
bethelmt.org**

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the 11th **Sunday after Pentecost.**

Today is **World Hunger Sunday**, we will be receiving an additional offering in the wicker basket.

We welcome and thank **Pastor Sara Branom** for preaching and presiding while Pastor Jessie is out.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pastor Jessie and Jade** as they mourn the loss of their precious baby boy, **Kai Wilder Metzler**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rebecca and Anna Boucher** as Rebecca recovers from pink eye and Anna receiving medical treatment for recurrence of seizures.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rachel Bertelson**, *daughter of Pastor Steve and Colleen Walker-Nelson*, as she recovers from a recent surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law*, as he continues to monitor his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cathy Rankin**, *Jeanne Rankin's sister-in-law*, as she recovers from surgery and begins treatment for stage 1 breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, who has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues with chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** continues to work on regaining strength.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, *sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturf*, as she continues to slowly make progress as she recovers at home from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, friend of *LaRae Veitch*, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.

Mark Your Calendars!

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

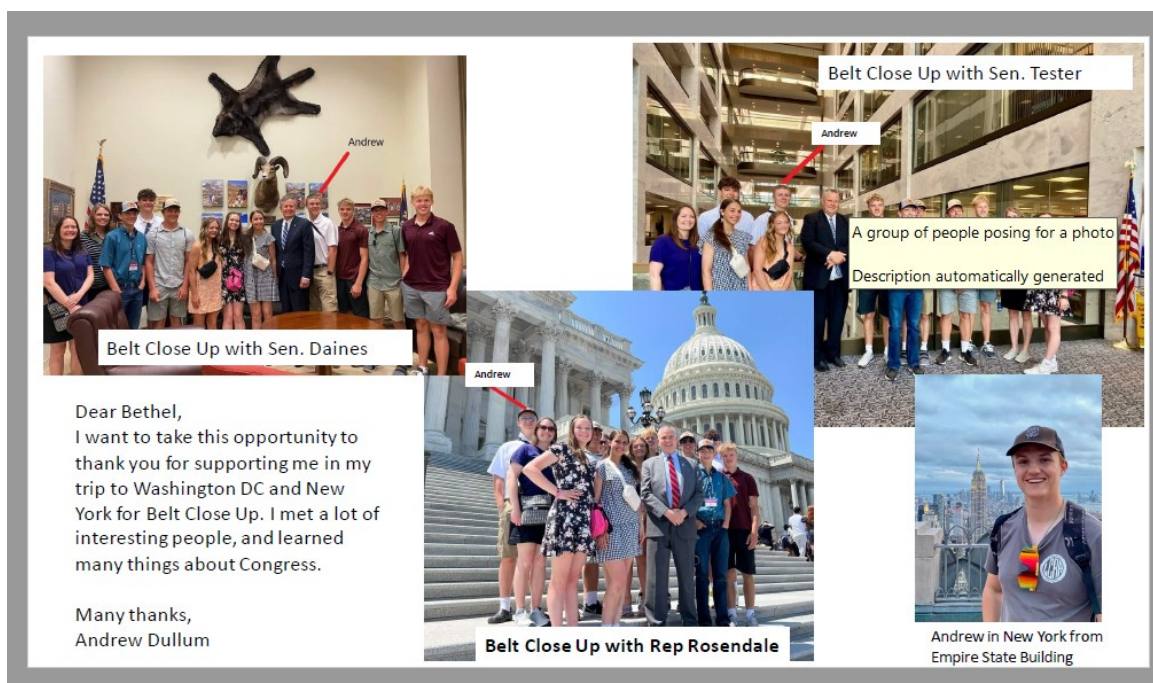


Bethel Lutheran Church is excited to participate with other churches in our community for this day of service. We will be gathering at Bethel at our regular worship time of 9:30 am. We will have a short worship service and then select service projects both here at Bethel and around Great Falls. We will return to Bethel at about noon for a potluck at the church and share our experiences.

In preparation for this event, we are looking for any service projects that our older members of our church family may need. Examples would be cleaning windows, simple repairs, lawn clean up or pulling weeds, etc. If you volunteer for any organization who may have a service project we can help with, we would love to know that information as well.

For those who do not wish or are unable to do a lot of physical labor, we will be filling hygiene kits for Family Promise of Great Falls. We have a goal of making 100 kits and in the upcoming weeks, we will be asking for donations for those kits. To make sure we have the items we need, we will have “shopping cards” with type of item needed, size, and how many. You may pick up a card, purchase the items (The Dollar Tree stores are ideal for these items) and return the items to Bethel by September 10th. If you would like to donate any dollar amount for purchase of items not donated, you may make an additional donation online or during our weekly offering noting hygiene kits in the memo line.

For more information or if you have a service project to submit, contact Patty Braget 406-868-7641 or Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or 406-788-9587.



Dear Bethel,
I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting me in my trip to Washington DC and New York for Belt Close Up. I met a lot of interesting people, and learned many things about Congress.

Many thanks,
Andrew Dullum

Belt Close Up with Sen. Tester

Andrew

A group of people posing for a photo
Description automatically generated

Belt Close Up with Sen. Daines

Andrew

Belt Close Up with Rep Rosendale

Andrew in New York from
Empire State Building



Volunteers are still needed for this Back To School Blast Event

Volunteers needed:

- **Vendor Support (2.5 hours):** Backbone support and acts of service. Volunteers will help organize traffic flow in the Hairstylist Zone and acts as supportive agents for other vendors providing booth relief for bathroom breaks, delivering water/lunches/snacks, etc. Position will require mobility, problem solving, minor lifting and a friendly demeanor.
- **Information Booth (2.0 hours):** Answer questions and direct people to the proper area.
- **Event Greeter (3.0 hours):** The MOST IMPORTANT JOB!!! Volunteers are the first faces to greet attendees. They will help welcome families, answer basic questions, bring cheer and patience to those waiting in line, help advance registration, and act as support to the registration table volunteers. Position requires friendly/outgoing demeanor, some walking and problem solving.

There are still plenty of places to serve. If you have any questions please give us a call at 406-761-2653 or go to <https://volunteer.gfrm.org>

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR



Friday, August 18, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Mansfield Convention Center
2 Park Drive S

Please bring donated supplies to Great Falls Rescue Mission Cameron Family Center (at 408 2nd Ave. S.) East Entrance. Call Lynne Staigmillier (406) 217-8489 to volunteer to fill backpacks August 7-11. To help on the day of the event, August 18, call Jason Meredith (406) 761-2653, EXT 115 or visit our website www.volunteer.gfrm.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- 1. SOLID COLOR BACKPACKS
- 2. 3-RING ZIPPERED BINDERS
- 3. COLLEGE RULED SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS
- 4. COLLEGE RULED LOOSE LEAF PAPER
- 5. COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS
- 6. POCKET FOLDERS
- 7. DRY ERASE MARKERS (BLACK)
- 8. HIGHLIGHTERS
- 9. #2 PENCILS
- 10. COLORED PENCILS
- 11. GLUE STICKS
- 12. PENCIL BOXES
- 13. PENCIL POUCHES-PLASTIC FOR BINDERS
- 14. SCISSORS
- 15. GIFT CARDS TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES NOT DONATED



Calling All Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, August 20th. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, May 19th from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon Mueller at oboeclear@gmail.com by Tuesday, August 16th.



Congratulations to our Bethel Family Who Have Been Recognized as Distinguished Scholars and Educators.

Student: **Morgen Hewitt-Holbein**
Teachers: **Christi Virts and Theresa Busch**

Parents: Anna Hewitt and Brian Holbein

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experiences happened while traveling to Nashville, TN, for a National HOSA competition. We went zip lining, line dancing, toured the Grand Ole Opry, and interacted with HOSA members from around the country. It was a great opportunity filled with new experiences that I could check off my bucket list.


Plans after high school: I plan to attend the University of Montana to pursue a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science. After this, I will complete the exam required to become a certified scientist.

Distinguished Educator: Christi Virts, Health Science
School: CMR High School

Why: Mrs. Virts was my Connections teacher since freshmen year. The positivity and kindness she spread during these brief meetings were enough to convince me that I wanted to be in her classes and the club she advises. She incorporates life lessons into her teaching and pushes her students to find the good things that happen in our lives. She made me feel welcomed at school and in class.

Distinguished Educator: Theresa Busch, Counseling
School: Sacajawea Elementary

Why: Mrs. Busch was the counselor at my elementary school and taught me important life lessons from a young age. She was one of the people I wanted to be like growing up because of the kindness she expressed. Even though I did not keep in touch with her after elementary school, she sent me a card my freshmen year after my Grandpa had died, and I will always remember her thoughtfulness.



Christie Virts

Adam Elkin

Student: **Adam Elkin**
Teachers: **Steve Skaer and Russ Kellogg**

Parents: Carrie Ann and Chad Elkin

Memorable experiences: One memorable experience was joining the swim team on a whim my senior year. It was a lot of work, but it was so much fun.


Plans after high school: I will pursue a music degree at the University of Montana.

Distinguished Educator: Steve Skaer, Math
School: CMR High School

Why: I took calculus from Mr. Skaer and the class was extremely challenging. He truly helped me learn and succeed at my studies.

Distinguished Educator: Russ Kellogg, Band (retired)
School: North Middle School

Why: Mr. Kellogg cared so much about everything and everyone, and he was a really special instructor to me. He created a space that allowed us middle schoolers to feel like real accomplished musicians.



Joel Carlson

Student: **James Onstad**
Teachers: **Burke Allen and Joel Carlson**

Parents: Tara and Lyle Onstad

Memorable experiences: At Sacajawea Elementary School I created a paper town and earned my math credits by keeping track of each town's structures or vehicle's volumes. My high school memories are of playing with my fellow musicians in the orchestra pit for the play Beauty and the Beast, playing for CMR's boys soccer team and creating many friendships, and I made a great decision to join the choir as a junior and participated in All-State Choir and all Northwest Choir. I enjoyed four years in Mr. Olson's orchestra.


Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University in the Fall semester of 2023 to study pre-med and further explore the medical fields I wish to pursue for myself in the future.

Distinguished Educator: Burke Allen, AP U.S. History
School: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Allen is a phenomenal teacher, and I had the pleasure of having him as my teacher in AP U.S. History my junior year. He relates current events to past events in history. He helped me the most in my writing abilities, and I have become a far better writer than I was before I entered his classroom.

Distinguished Educator: Joel Carlson, ECS
School: Sacajawea Elementary

Why: Mr. Carlson is Sacajawea's ECS teacher. We spent a good portion of our class learning how to program robots and using math in a realistic setting. I know that this greatly helped me through my high school math experiences.



GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 13, 2023, 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Here and Now

“Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30). Right now! Right here! Right away! Peter was desperate. Neither Peter nor Jesus was thinking of heaven. The cry cracking through the storm at sea had nothing to do with a hoped-for future in a realm beyond earth in a time to come when the days of this life, here, are no more. In the tumult, in the deep-water chaos and fright, “Lord, save me!” is an urgent cry for Jesus to reach “here”—not to take me “there.”

Christians can become so bent on “being saved” as an afterlife promise that they go along, living with little discovery of Jesus present in the world, saving the world here and now.

“Lord, save” is a refrain repeated throughout all of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. In the first chapter of Matthew’s gospel is the prophetic “Wow!” that Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us” (Matt. 1:23). From the moment he begins his ministry, Jesus makes visible and touchable the kingdom of heaven that “has come near” (Matt. 4:17). He gathers a community of disciples, announces and creates good news, cures, teaches the way of blessedness, does mercy, insists on forgiveness, encourages faith, remembers the forgotten, sees the unseen, chooses the rejected, gives courage, offers hope . . . all to save *here and now*.

“Lord, save me!” The saving takes place even before Jesus dies on the cross. The reason for his parables: to save. The meaning of the miracles: to save. The purpose of his teaching: to save.

“Lord, save me!” What a courageous appeal those words are, trusting Jesus to be Lord—master not only of a gated spiritual territory, but master on windy seas where we tremble and gasp and sink into the deep waters of a turbulent world that roils our lives. Courageous Peter, with little faith and little doubt, dares us to make his words our own: “Lord, save me!”

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Photo by Isi Parente on Unsplash

Bethel Council met Tuesday evening, August 8, by Zoom

- We discussed the generosity of our congregation in the fundraising for our new chairs, approximately \$7500, which is over our anticipated estimate of \$6000.
- Warren Johnson and Mick Davis will start replacing the fluorescent lights in the fellowship hall with LED lights this fall, as the trend appears to be discontinuing fluorescents. The Gathering Place will need to have them replaced as well, but we still have a few replacement fluorescents for that.
- Our VBS Summer Celebration went well. Due to the cost for a family to get dinner from a food truck, it was suggested that we possibly try a potluck next year - with the Frosty truck, of course!
- There are plans in the works for a “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, September 10. We’ll start worship as usual at 9:30, then head out for various work projects (to be determined) for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, returning to the church for a potluck meal. There will be some kind of project at the church for those that don’t want to go out.
- We’ll have bells again at our August 20th service. Sharon says she’s still recruiting and to call or text her at 406-788-3417 if you’re interested.
- Pastor Sara Branom will preach August 13th and 20th, while Pastor Jessie is on bereavement leave.

Next meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on September 12th.
Laurie Turner, Council Secretary

Just for *YOUTH*

Walking with Jesus

Matthew 14:22-33

One day, Jesus' disciples were in a boat. Suddenly, they saw Jesus walking on top of the water toward them! The disciples thought he was a ghost, and were afraid. Jesus told them not to be afraid.

Peter said, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to walk out to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." Peter started walking on the water toward Jesus. The wind was strong, and Peter became frightened. He cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus reached out and caught Peter. Jesus and Peter got into the boat. The disciples were amazed!

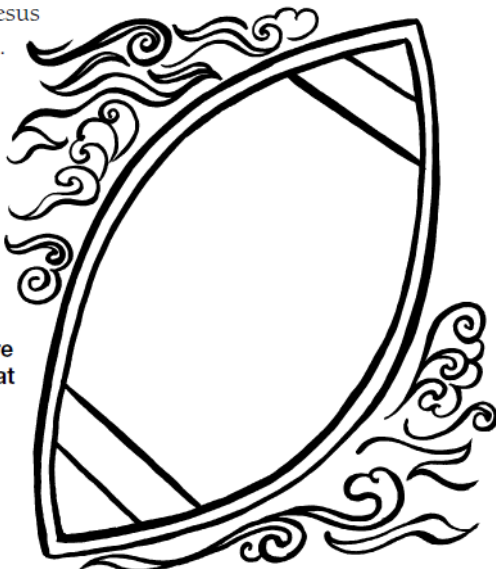
Draw a rainbow over the stormy water as you hear this story today.



Welcome to worship. The room where people meet to worship is called a sanctuary. This word also means a safe place—where you can go when you are afraid.

Today you will hear about a time when Jesus' disciples were afraid. Jesus came to them. Everyone has times when they feel afraid. Jesus is with us, too.

Draw a picture inside the boat of a time you were afraid.



Some people wear or carry crosses in their pockets to remind them Jesus is always with them—whether they are afraid, happy, sad, or angry. How many crosses can you find in your worship space?

Draw some of them here.



*Thank you
Jesus, for
always
being with
me.
Amen*

*Jesus hears our
prayers.*

*We can pray
about anything.
Try writing your
own prayers!*

This Week...

Talk about fears that arise in your family and pray about them together.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 8/15

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Wednesday 8/16

- Bible Study on hold until further notice.

Friday 8/18

- Bethel office is closed.

Saturday 8/19

- Leonard and Shelly Murphy's anniversary celebration in the Gathering Place 2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 8/20

- Worship led by Pastor Sara Branom in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Baptism of Charlie Link

Monday 8/21

- Bethel Office Closed

Tuesday 8/22

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Wednesday 8/23

- Bible Study on hold until further notice

Friday 8/25

- Bethel office is closed.
- High School LOGOs service project at with Family Promise at the GF Voyag-

Fellowship Ministries

Electric City Bible Study—online

What a great way to connect with one another! Join our bible study via Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting.

Men's Breakfast Meets in-person

Join us for a fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of each week's lectionary texts as we meet in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for more information. **ON HOLD UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

Hope Circle—in person

This group meets once a month usually on Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact Terry Korpela to be on the group email for meetings and prayer requests terry.korpela@gmail.com.

On hold until the fall.

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie—online—On Hold Until Further Notice

Wednesdays, 10:00 am via Zoom, Pastor Jessie will be leading discussion on the text readings for the upcoming Sunday. Dig deeper in the interpretation of the readings and discuss ways they give us guidance in our daily lives. If you would like to join this meeting, email bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

HOUSE AND PET SITTER NEEDED



Looking for someone who is comfortable with both dogs and cats. One 3 year-old golden retriever and two indoor cats. Individual will also need to be able to stay overnight at the home.

The frequency and duration of the job will vary. Will negotiate a daily rate.

If you are interested or know someone who may be contact Marie Stoddard (541) 817-3167