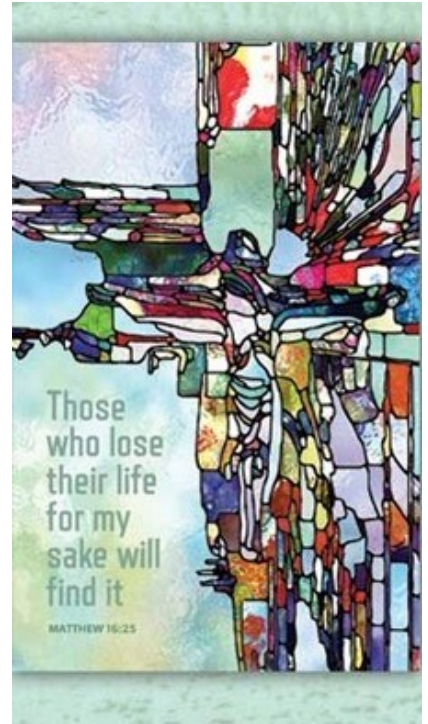


Bethel Notes



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Sunday, September 3, 2023

14th Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-8

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Mary Seim, piano

Lay Assistant:

John Blank

Usher:

Sandy Pepos

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

No Children's Church

Hospitality:

Tom and Jan Robitaille

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **14th Sunday after Pentecost**.

Thank you to **Jim Carlson, LPA** who has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

There is **NO Children's Church** this Sunday. We will resume next Sunday, September 10th.

Don't forget to check out the narthex for **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday** project sheets and hygiene kit shopping lists. Patty Braget picked up some **yellow tee shirts** for anyone who would like wear it next Sunday during our service projects. If you like to help cover the cost, \$3.00 per tee shirt and checks can be made out to Patty Braget. Donations can be placed in the wicker basket next to the shirts.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **the family and friends of DeLores Tubbs**, *Thelma Seyfert's sister-in-law*, as they mourn her passing.
- ✝ Prayers of celebration for Alex Olson and Zach Albert and the Olson and Blank families on the birth of **Hudson Timothy James Albert**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** recovering at home after a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, who is recovering at home after surgery from an accident.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **Jayda Paul**, *friend of Sandy Pepos*, on the loss of her baby.
- ✝ 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 **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law*, as he continues to monitor his health.
- ✝ 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 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.



LORD IN YOUR MERCY,

Hear Our Prayer



Hello Bethel,

I want to begin by thanking you from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and support these last several weeks. Last time I wrote to you we were still in the hospital trying to get answers and making sure that Jade would be alright. At this time, we are home, working with counselors, support groups, friends, and family. We are still looking for answers on what happened to Jade and Kai, how to avoid it in the future, and why we couldn't stop any of it. Many of my days are filled with phone calls with hospital systems, insurance companies, and medical professionals who know far more than I do.

As you may have already heard from the Council, I will be taking some time away in the coming months. This time is not because I do not want to be there or because I wish to be far from you, but because I take my work very seriously and I want to be fully present for you and our community when I come back. The work of a Pastor is to care for the congregation, to teach and to preach, to visit and to hold folks' grief and joy during the ups and downs of life. At this time, I need to take some time to heal before I can do those things in the ways that fulfill my call. With that in mind, I will return to you at the beginning of November, with my first Sunday back being November 6th.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out via e-mail, text, or writing (the office has my info). While Jade and I asked for privacy in those very beginning days, we are hoping to begin to slowly reintegrate into the world in the coming weeks and work our way back into regular communication. I will not be able to answer your church questions or provide Pastoral care at this time, but I promise you do not have to be afraid to touch base or say hi as we walk through this time. Again, thank you for your love and your support, they truly mean the world to us during this immensely difficult time.

-Pastor Jessie



The Bethel Office will be closed
Monday, September 4th

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10
2023

Service Projects that Bethel is providing. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex or call the Bethel Office for more information.

At Bethel:

- ◆ On the patio, paint the benches around the tree and clean up the leaves and debris—4 to 5 people
- ◆ Assemble Hygiene kits
- ◆ Make cards for Assisted living centers here in Great Falls.

Cameron Center/Rescue Mission/Women’s Shelter

- ◆ They are asking for 6-8 people for each facility.

Angel Center, services the homeless population, by providing, meals, showers, laundry service

- ◆ Prepare meal at Bethel: Spaghetti, Bread, dessert, salad; Deliver and set up - 6

Family Promise, Promise Place Shelter

- ◆ Yard clean up. Pick up debris, leaves, etc., pull a few weeds, tidy lawn—4 people

FISH! -

- ◆ Stocking shelves—2 people

After our service projects are finished about Noon, we will meet back at Bethel for a pot luck.

Yellow Tee Shirts Available for God’s Work Sunday

If you would like to wear a yellow shirt for our service projects, Patty Braget picked up some yellow tee shirts and they are available on the table in the narthex. If you would like to help cover the cost, they are \$3.00 per shirt and checks can be made out to Patty Braget. Donations can be put in the basket next to the shirts.



DID YOU KNOW
THE BENEFITS OF
VOLUNTEERING!!!!

Volunteering provides physical and mental rewards.

It Reduces Stress:

Experts report that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns.

It Makes You Healthier:

Moods and emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system.



Logos Youth Ministry

Wednesdays

Pre-K through 8th Grade 5:30—7:30 pm

High School 9th – 12th grade 6:30—8:30 pm

for youth in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

LOGOS is the fun, mid-week youth ministry program which aims to nurture young people into faith and discipleship through Christian relationships.

- LOGOS means “The Word” and this ministry is theology (Word) in practice. LOGOS helps churches like Bethel bring the Word to youth.
- LOGOS is a unique, intergenerational program where people of all ages from our church and community actively participate.
- LOGOS consists of bible study, a shared meal, games and worship.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

LOGOS begins in September

First night September 13, 2023

Cost of program per child \$70.00/year

Scholarships available. Contact the Bethel Office for more information.



1009 18th Ave SW

406-761-1543

bethelmt.org

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 3, 2023,

14th Sunday after Pentecost

More Than a Logo

If the church has a universally recognized logo, it is probably the cross. But branding was probably not what Jesus was thinking about when he invited Peter and those who would come after him to take up their cross and follow. The cross that Jesus calls us to carry alongside him is instead the means by which God chooses to reveal grace in the midst of death.

Rather than follow in the way of Jesus, sometimes the church can simply get in the way. We want to be good followers. We want more people to experience what we have. But sometimes in our desire to draw larger crowds, we end up putting ourselves—our music, our ministries, our outreach—at the center and subtly leaving God aside. In the midst of a world that drives us to always want more, Jesus invites us to deny ourselves. The denial to which Jesus calls us is not about putting ourselves down or neglecting our own needs. But it is about centering the cross of Christ in our lives so that our desires and dreams begin to arc ever more in the direction of God’s love and mercy at work in the world.

The cross that Jesus took up didn’t just belong to him. Two bandits were crucified with him, one on either side, and the Romans crucified many more. The cross is more than a logo; it is a symbol that joins us to a suffering world. The cross is not an individual burden to carry; it is the whole church’s work. Crosses adorn our steeples and worship spaces, but worship also empowers us to take up the issues of the day that are matters of life and death for so many, such as war and violence, housing and food security, racism and climate change. When we shoulder these “crosses” together, the church doesn’t make its own way; we follow the way of Jesus.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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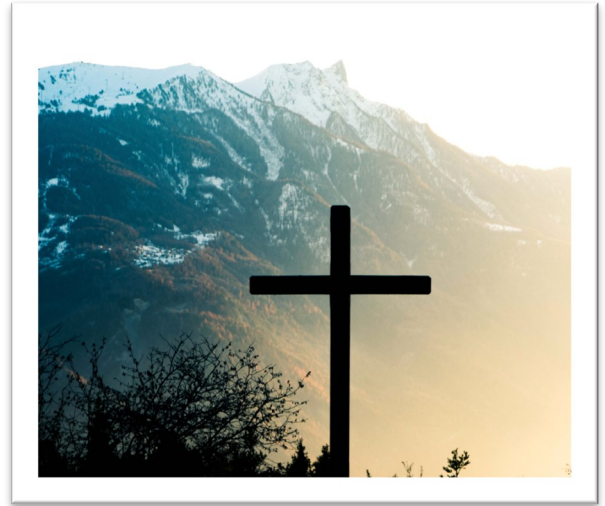


Photo by [il vano on Unsplash](https://www.unsplash.com)



Dr. Thomas Walter Rosenbaum

A Memorial Service is planned for Friday September 8, 2023 at 1:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula, MT.

For those unable to travel to Missoula, Bethel Lutheran Church will connect to the livestream with refreshments to follow as we remember our beloved friend and brother in Christ.

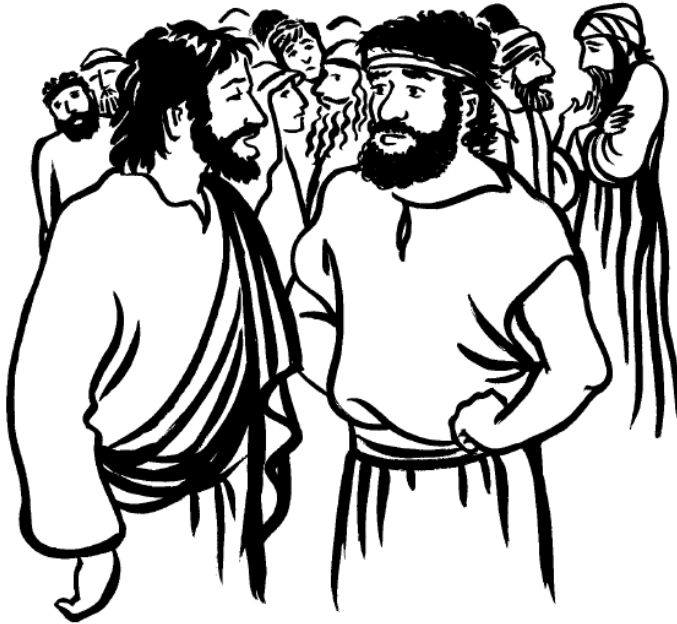
The service will also be recorded and able to be viewed on the Immanuel Church website for future viewing.

Just for *YOUth*

God's promises

Matthew 16:21-28

In today's reading, Jesus tries to tell his disciples about hard times to come. They can't understand and don't want to hear about it.



Think about a time when you have not wanted to hear the truth.

The Bible is a book of God's promises. A promise doesn't mean everything will be easy or fun. This is true for God's promises too. We can trust God's promise to be with us no matter what.

Unscramble the words and write God's promises on the lines provided.

God promises:

...to **ovle** us **rovfeer**

...to **yats** with us **laaysw**

...to **tenlis** to our **rpyraes**

...that we will **evli** with God in **vhenae**



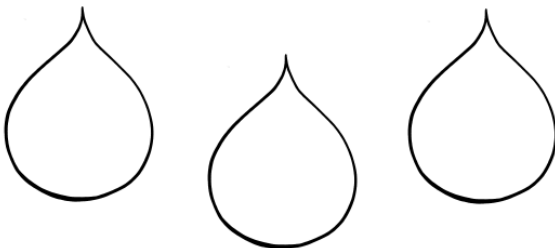
Thank you, God, for always keeping your promises. Amen.

The promise of love

A shell helps us remember God's promise of love in baptism.



Draw something in the water drops to remind you of a promise you make to God, to yourself, to others.

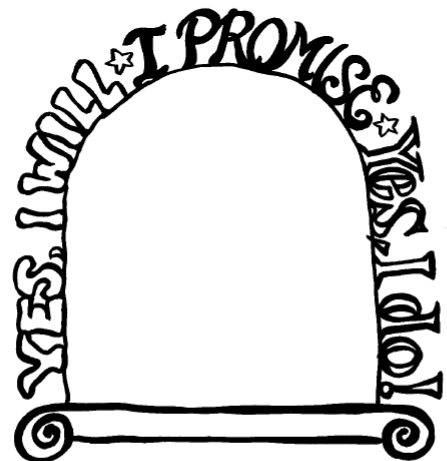


Welcome to worship! A promise is a vow or a pledge. Have you ever made a promise? Did you keep it?

Draw what happened here.

This Week...

Be aware of promises you make and keep them.



When we keep promises, people know we mean what we say and can trust us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 9/4

- Labor Day, Bethel Office is closed.

Tuesday 9/5

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

Wednesday 9/6

- Bible Study on hold until further notice

Thursday 9/7

- Exec Board meeting on Zoom 5:30 pm.

Friday 9/8

- Bethel office is closed.
- Memorial Service for Tom Rosenbaum 1:00 pm livestream from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 9/10

- Worship led by Bethel church Council in-person only 9:30 am,
- God's Work, Our Hands Service Projects 10:00 am
- Potluck at Bethel 12:00 noon

Tuesday 9/12

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast resumes 7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday 9/13

- Bible Study on hold until further notice
- 5:30 LOGOs Youth Ministry begins

Thursday 9/14

- Community Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday 9/15

- Bethel office is closed.
- Rosh Hashanah begins 6:30 pm

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.

Resumes September 12th 7:00 AM

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.

Thursday, September 21st 7:00 pm LaRae Veitch's

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

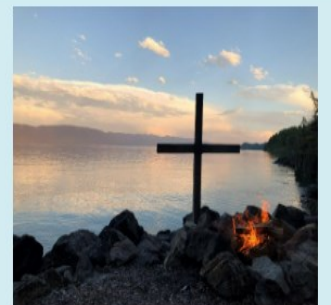


*Fall Harvest
Festival & Auction*
OCTOBER 14, 2023 4:00-7:00PM
ONLINE AUCTION: OCTOBER 1-15, 2023

Click this picture to link
to purchase tickets.

Harvest Festival and Auction at FLBC

Buy your tickets now for the Semi Annual Fall Harvest Fest and Auction, Oct 14th, benefitting Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. A single ticket is \$50 or you can get a whole table (8 tickets) for \$350. This event helps make camp a reality for every single kid or family by offsetting the cost per camper.



Pastor Jessie Obrecht Contact information Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com Phone: 406-761-1543 ext. 202