

BETHEL NOTES

THIS SUNDAY

Readings:

First Reading:
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm:
Psalm 22:23-31

Second Reading:
Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Reading:
Mark 8:31-38



Serving Sunday

Accompanist

Connie Titcomb, piano;

Lay Assistant

Sue Hesse

Usher

Tammy Good
Laurie Turner

Tech

Gabe Smith

Projection

Dave Scholten

Children's Church

Ava Fossen
Tyler Grosenick

Hospitality

Sandy Pepos

Counters

Greg Grosenick
Laurie Turner

This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **Second Sunday in Lent**.

Free will offering Brunch fundraiser for the ELCA Youth Gathering in the Gathering Place following worship.

Welcome and thank you to the **Jubilate Choir led by Jeff Skogley** for enhancing our worship service this morning.

Adult Forum continues with Season 2 of the Chosen in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Lenten Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer worship service this Thursday, February 29th. Soup supper begins at 6:00 pm and Holden Evening Prayer begins at 6:45 pm. Offering for the evening is dedicated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

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

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*Lord,
in your mercy
hear our prayers.*

- ✠ Prayers of comfort for the friends and family of **Hilda Matheson of Conrad**, *friend of Bernice Johnson's*, who passed away on Tuesday.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for family and friends of **Bob Erickson** as he passed away Tuesday morning under hospice care.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** as she recovers from surgery and determines treatment for recurrence of cancer.
- ✠ Prayers healing of **Quentin Kubas** as he recovers at home after an auto accident.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, who is under hospice care.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and strength to continue to fight for **Eric Peterson** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of strength and support for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✠ Prayers of strength and healing for **Kiera Howard**, *niece of Dave Scholten*, as she prepares for upcoming surgery and treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, *sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturf*, as she is moved to a long term care facility.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Bonnie Barnes**, *Debbie McCarty's mother*, recovering after a fall.
- ✠ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pat Berkeley**.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he continues regaining his strength.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and answers for **Anna Boucher** as they determine a cause and treatment for seizures.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and support for **Diane Young**, *Sandy Pepos' aunt*, recovering at home after a stroke.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Georgia Miller**, *cousin of Amber Erickson's*, as she has been diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of continued healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues to manage health issues following cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✠ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.



Greetings Bethel!


Each time as I have faced transition in my time in ministry I have reflected on the story of the Road to Emmaus that is found in the twenty fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke. It is my favorite story in all of the Bible. It is the passage that Bishop Jessica Crist preached on on my ordination day, and it is the passage that was read the day I hopped on an airplane to Malaysia to spend a year as a Young Adult in Global Mission with the ELCA. In this passage two of Jesus' followers are walking down the road. They have recently been devastated by his death on the cross, and they are discussing this grief when a stranger joins them on the road. I have loved to call this stranger "sneaky Jesus" over the years. As sneaky Jesus joins them they don't realize who he is, but he asks what they are talking about, and they are offended that he doesn't already know! But nonetheless they tell him the story of Jesus, and he comes right back by calling them foolish and explaining the Scriptures and God's promises to them. They still don't understand who he is, but when they get to their home they invite him in for the evening. It is only as he breaks bread with them that they recognize him and are amazed at his presence. Their famous quote at this point is "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?".

As I reflect on the passage I view us as congregations and people of faith as the folks walking along the road together. We walk through hard days, celebratory days, mundane days, and everything in between together. As we do that though, undoubtedly, God shows up! Sneaky Jesus walks into our lives and reveals God's glory and some days we can't even believe it! As I prepare to leave you all in the coming week or so, I want to give thanks for the many instances that we have been walking together on this road of life and sneaky Jesus has joined us in incredible ways. I will never forget my first family worship, sitting in awe as our young ones led us bravely through Scripture and prayer. I will always remember the year where it seemed we had two funerals each month, and somehow you lifted one another up and continued to build up hope. I remember fondly the first time Teshar and Anna said yes to reading prayers and overcame their fears beautifully to proclaim the Word of God. I will always have a smile on my face when I remember baptizing little Myla Frieling, who slept peacefully through the entire ceremony until she was introduced to the congregation when she woke up wide eyed to greet us all. Finally, I will always be thankful for the conversations had over Bible Studies and Confirmation Classes that sometimes followed a straight through line, and other times found tangents that none of us could quite trace back, but graced us with revelation and understand regardless.

Jesus has shown up in some incredible ways in the past few years my friends, and I give thanks that our hearts got to burn together as we greeted him along the road. I hope that you continue to keep your eyes open for Jesus amongst you. Love one another deeply. Care for each other on the hard days, and celebrate with one another on the good ones. I know that big things will continue to happen in this place and through you all, so keep pointing to Christ and learning from his love, just as you have all along.

-Pastor Jessie

Lenten Schedule



Thursday, February 29th
 6:00 pm Soup Supper
 6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Thursday, March 7th
 6:00 pm Soup Supper
 6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Thursday, March 14th
 6:00 pm Soup Supper
 6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Thursday, March 21st
 6:00 pm Soup Supper
 6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Holden Evening Prayer

MARTY HAUGEN

Join Us For Brunch Sunday, February 25th After Worship

free will donation for ELCA Youth Gathering





NRIT Coming Spring Events

Zoom: Thursday, April 18th from 6pm to 7:30pm

Lazarus Bound: Ministry to the Margins

Pastor Marlow Carrels will lead this class on welcoming our neighbors who are leaving the prison system and re-entering society outside that system. Marlow Carrels is Pastoral Leader for the Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry
 Cost: Free but pre-registration is required
 1.5 Contact Hours





Zoom: Thursday, May 2nd 9am to Noon

When Bad Theology Happens to Good Christians

Law and Gospel. Theology of the Cross versus Theology of Glory. Works-righteousness. The Lutheran theological buzzwords can get overwhelming. We know the basics of what we believe, but sometimes our domesticated concepts seem to shrivel when faced with the wild ideas floating around these days. What's a Lutheran to do when bearing witness to God's grace in a crowded marketplace of ideas?

Led by Julia Seymour, Pastor at Big Timber Lutheran
 Cost \$40
 3 Contact Hours Continuing Ed

<https://www.montanasynod.org/nrit.html>

Jesus said,
 "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me."
 Lent is really a season of LOVE that is expressed through sacrifice.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Hope against Hope

Paul tells us that Abraham hoped “against hope” (Romans 4:18). Many of us know this feeling. The injustices in our world, the damage we see in the environment, and the wounds we bear in our own souls can all seem like too much. The promises of redemption poured out in baptism sometimes seem so far away.

Amid this reality, we hear Jesus teach that he “must” suffer, die, and rise again. To Peter this sounded like foolishness. If the Messiah were rejected, how could the salvation they longed for ever come? But Jesus insists that to deny this is to reject “the things of God.” Why must it be so?

Because of God’s great love. Jesus must suffer because he will do everything that needs to be done to rescue God’s world from sin and death. He will endure rejection, torture, and even death. He “must” do this because the world’s brokenness is that deep. We don’t need better teaching or stronger motivation. We need rescue from powers greater than ourselves. He will bear the burden of sin and death in his body to release us from their grasp. Love drives him to this full extent of mercy.

And in the mystery of God’s grace, Jesus will die. But he will be raised again. And his death and resurrection set us free from sin and death’s power. We can hope, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, because Jesus has passed through all the evils that threaten us and emerged triumphant. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, the world’s injustices will not last forever, and everything broken will be made gloriously new. Until then, he gathers us around the life-giving word and gives himself to us in a holy meal. He leads us on our cross-shaped journeys of dying to sin to discover true life. And he sends us forth to share the good news of God’s mercy with a world longing for hope.

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*Sharing our faith in Christ by serving all
with respectful compassion.*

**WEDNESDAY
MUSIC
AT
NOON (ISH)**

Doors Open at 11:45

Bring a Bag Lunch; Coffee,
Tea, Water, Cookies
Provided

Concerts begin at 12:05 pm
and conclude at 12:55 pm

PREMIERE SERIES

February 28th

March 6

March 13

March 20



Experience one of America's finest choirs seen nationwide on public television and heard in Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and across the country.

The Concordia Choir will perform at:
St. Paul Lutheran Church
202 Brooks Street
Missoula, Montana 59801

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 7 p.m.

All tickets are general admission

- \$25 for adults (non-refundable)
- **FREE** for students of all ages
- All attendees **must register**.

Use the link below to register/purchase tickets.

The Concordia Choir in Missoula, MT Tickets, Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite

More information is available at www.TheConcordiaChoir.org



Summer registration is OPEN! – send us an email or call the office if you would like a copy of the brochure sent to you. Adults of former campers can watch their email for a message with reminders of your login information and notes on registering for a new year of camp. Please feel free to contact the camp office with any questions.

Volunteer Application is OPEN! Pastors and volunteers-get your first choice of weeks for summer 2024! Go to our website at www.flbc.net for the application. We are excited for this summer's theme "Created to Be," a curriculum based on the same verses as this summer's ELCA Youth Gathering.

FLBC's is offering a **Confirmation Retreat** on March 15-17, 2023 titled, "Guides for the Way: Three Biblical figures and what their stories can teach us about God, life, and everything!" This will be a kick-off for the "campfirmation" program that FLBC is forming, which will launch in September of 2024. Call the camp office for more information or to register.

For more information or register for any of these events, go to flbc.net

Women's Spring Retreat April 26-28, 2024

For over 50 (or maybe 60?) years, the WELCA women of the Great Divide and Five Valleys Clusters have been hosting a Women's Spring Retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Each year we look forward to meeting together in this beautiful place with an inspirational speaker, a service project to benefit a non-profit and lots of time for hikes, conversation, worship, and fellowship with women of faith. Join us this year **April 26-28, 2024**.

Registration will open February 1st at www.imluchurch.org/womensretreat All are Welcome! Bring a friend, a daughter, a sister! Come spend some time together! Hope to see you there! Questions- contact Nancy Solum at WomensSpringRetreat@gmail.com

JUST 4 YOUTH

Trust in God...always ✝

Mark 8:31-38, Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Abraham and Sarah trusted God and believed that God would keep the promise to give them lots of children and grandchildren, even though they were nearly 100 years old.

Jesus trusted and believed that God would always be with him, even when he knew he was going to die on the cross.

God always keeps promises!

Jesus asks us to trust God and to do one thing. Solve the puzzle below to discover what we can do.

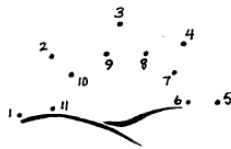
CODE: A = ✝ E = ☩ O = ⊕ U = ☩

T _ K _ P Y _ _ R CR _ SS
 ✝ ☩ ☩ ⊕ ☩ ⊕

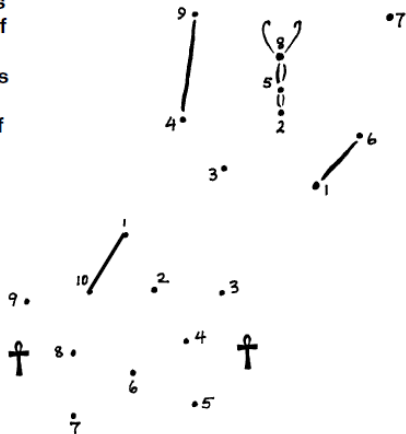
_ ND F _ LL _ W M _
 ✝ ⊕ ⊕ ☩

☩ *What do you think that means?* ☩

Welcome to worship. Today is the second Sunday in Lent.



The cross is one of many symbols that remind us of God's promises. Connect the dots and find three other symbols of God's promises.



Crosses everywhere...

Look around your worship space. How many crosses do you see? Where are they? Do they all look the same?

Draw a picture of all the crosses you can see in your worship space.



Do you have any crosses at home? Where are they?

Draw a picture of your at-home crosses. ☩



Look through this bulletin and find 40 crosses—one for each day in Lent.



✝ The Sign of the Cross ✝

At the end of worship, a pastor says a special blessing that often includes the words *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. Make the sign of the cross over your body any time your pastor says those words and remember God's promise to always be with us! ☩



Thank you, God, for your promises. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen ☩

✝ This week

✝ Make a Lenten cross by tying two sticks together with purple ribbon. Place it outside or on a windowsill.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 2/27

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

Wednesday 2/28

- Bible Study on Zoom led Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

Thursday 2/29

- Lenten Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- Holden Evening Worship in the sanctuary 6:45 pm

Friday 3/1

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3/3

- LOGOs Family Worship service led by Pastor Jessie and the LOGOs Youth Ministry in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Jessie following worship

Tuesday 3/5

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

Wednesday 3/6

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

Thursday 3/7

- Executive Board Zoom meeting time 4:20 pm
- Lenten Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- Holden Evening Worship in the sanctuary 6:45 pm

Friday 3/8

- Bethel office is closed.

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

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.

Hope Circle—in person

This group meets once a month usually on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. 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.

February 15th 2:00 pm, Laurie Turner's

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie

Last Day Wednesday February 28th

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.

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