

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, February 26, 2023

### *First Sunday in Lent*

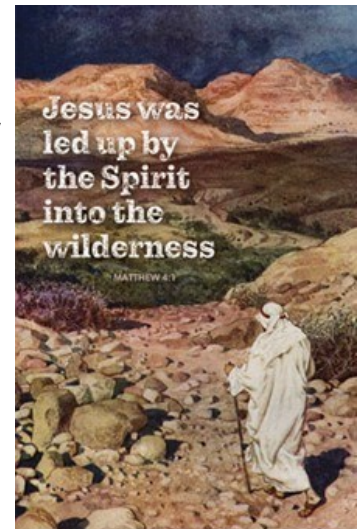
Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

*First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

*Psalm 32*

*Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19*

*Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11*



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM  
In-person or live stream  
at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

## Serving This Sunday

### **Musicians:**

Lynn Ryan - piano  
Sara Graft- djembe

### **Lay Assistant:**

Sandy Pepos

### **Usher:**

Marilyn Carlson

### **Tech:**

Adam Elkin

### **Children's Church:**

Allison Marr  
Abbie Virts

### **Counters:**

Tim Lightbourne  
Patty Braget

### **Hospitality:**

Sandy Pepos

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We welcome and thank Jim Carlson, LPA for filling in for Pastor Jessie.

We are so excited to have the Jubilate Choir led by Jeff Skogley to enhance our worship service.

After worship, we continue our three-part series on grief with Rev. Sara Mac-Gilvra Branom, Chaplin at

Peace Hospice. We have handouts available from last week's session. If you would like a set mailed or emailed to you, let Tami in the Bethel Office know and she will get them to you.



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of comfort and support for **Bob Walker**, brother of *Colleen Walker-Nelson*, as he ceases receiving dialysis. We also pray for **the Walker Family** as they are with him during this difficult time.
- ✝ Prayers of thanksgiving for **Rev. Inge Williams**, friend of *Pastor Jessie*, as she has received good results after cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she has pneumonia.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Heather Beck**, *Kathy Johnson's daughter*, as she recovers from brain surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnsten** who continues treatment as she manages an illness.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Glen Vannatta** as he recovers after receiving a pacemaker.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Payton Carle**, friend of *Karrie Pepos*, who is recovering from a car accident.
- ✝ 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 **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Abby Bisgard-Clegg**, daughter of *Don and Kathi Bisgard*, continues to manage health issues, but feeling and doing very well.
- ✝ 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.

Celebration of Life  
Doug Kickbusch  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 pm  
Reception to follow at Bethel.



Greetings Bethel!

This week we begin the season of Lent, and next week we will begin our Lenten Soup Suppers and Thursday evening worship services. The suppers this year will begin at 6:00pm, and our worship will begin at 6:45pm. As we eat and worship together, we will focus on the topic of righteousness. What is righteousness? Who is involved in righteousness? And what do we hear about righteousness in the world and in the Bible? Each week we will have questions that will be posted in the Bethel Notes the week before, and then discussed around the table during our dinner together. Then, during the traditional reflection time of our worship we will talk together about our conversations and thoughts around that week's questions. I hope that this conversation will carry out into your weekly lives, and enliven some of your thoughts as we walk this path towards the Cross together.

For the first week our conversation prompt is this:

**Part 1**

*What is righteousness? Where have you heard this term used, and in what ways? What kind of emotions does the term righteousness evoke in you or in people you know and why do you think that is?*

**Part 2**

*Righteousness is defined by many theologians as "living in right relationship with God". How is this different or similar to some of the definitions you may have heard while discussing part 1? What are ways that you or people you know have lived righteously? What are some ways that maybe you or folks you know have struggled with this?*

I look forward to walking through this season of Lent with you all, and continuing to dive into this larger conversation of righteousness together!

-Pastor Jessie

**2023 Mid - Week Lenten Schedule**

**March 2 –**

Supper Host: LOGOs Youth Ministry      Cantors: Dave and Tamy Scholten

**March 9 –**

Supper Host: Bethel Church Council      Cantors: Patrick Ryan and Ava Fossen

**March 16 –**

Supper Host: Altar Guild      Cantors: TBD

**March 23 –**

Supper Host: Men's Breakfast      Cantors: Warren Johnson and Rev. Steve Nelson

**March 30th –**

Supper Host: Hope Circle      Cantors: Pastor Jessie and Colter McCarty

**Holy Week Schedule**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Palm Sunday**, Pancake Breakfast before and after worship, free will donation to benefit Vacation Bible School

**April 6<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday 7:00 PM** - performed by the Jubilate Choir

**April 9<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am** in the sanctuary

# Grief Workshop Begins February 19th

Grief is **the anguish experienced after significant loss, usually the death of a beloved person.** Grief often includes physiological distress, separation anxiety, confusion, yearning, obsessive dwelling on the past, and apprehension about the future. Join our guest speaker Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom, Chaplain at Peace Hospice in Great Falls, as she leads us in discussion about how we, as people of faith, talk about and manage grief.

This will be a three-part education series, you may come to one or all three. February 19th, 26th and March 5th in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

Reverend Sara MacGilvra Branom is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. (UCC) Her call is to chaplaincy, she currently serves as the chaplain for Benefis Peace Hospice. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from San Jose State University, a Master's in Human Services from the University of Great Falls, and her M.Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary with a concentration in chaplaincy. Chaplain Sara's basis for her ministry is a response to Jesus' words when the disciples failed to be with him in his greatest time of need the night before his crucifixion. "So could you not watch with me for one hour?" Matt 26:40. Chaplaincy is being with someone in their time of need. To sit with them, share that space invoking the presence of God for comfort, and understanding and perhaps find meaning in their lament, and despair by providing spiritual and/or emotional support to all who request it, regardless of their faith, beliefs, or traditions. loving them on their terms as the holy Creation they are.



**SAVE THE DATE**



**SOCK HOP FUNDRAISER FOR FAMILY PROMISE,  
APRIL 22, 2023 DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM  
BLACK EAGLE COMMUNITY CENTER DINNER, AUCTION, FUN!!  
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [FAMILYPROMISEGF.ORG](http://FAMILYPROMISEGF.ORG) OR  
AT KAUFMAN'S MENSWEAR DOWNTOWN**

## Worship Helpers Needed!!

We have lots of space in our **Usher/Greeter Sign Up** binder for ANYONE or TWO or FAMILY who would like to help on the Sunday of your choice.

We also have a lot of openings for **Hospitality Team** to bring treats to enjoy after worship.

**Altar Flower** sponsors are also available.

To sign up for one or all of these, look in the binders by the bulletin board as you enter the church to sign up. If you have any questions about any or all of these worship helpers, give Tami a call in the office 406-761-1543 or email [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)

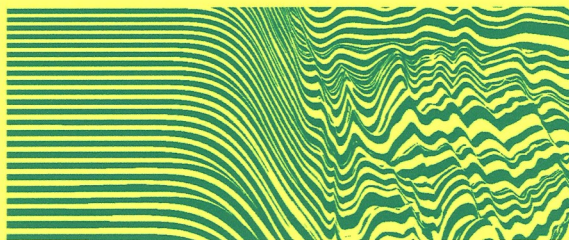


ELCA World Hunger's  
**40 Days OF GIVING**

**Lenten Devotionals Available. Pick one up on the table in the narthex or contact the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com) to have one mailed to you. Available in regular and large print.**

 ELCA World Hunger

## Flowing Water



New Music ~ Great Falls

### Flowing Water | New Music | Great Falls, Montana

Wednesday Afternoons | 12:05 pm

#### Series One

February 22, 2023	Alan Johnson, Trombone
March 1, 2023	Joan Brandvold Schmidt, Organ
March 8, 2023	Barbara Ovitt, Flute, Valerie Winfield, Viola
March 15, 2023	Gaynell Tempel, Lyric Soprano
March 22, 2023	Ron Coons, Soprano Saxophone
March 29, 2023	Cynthia Stevens, Contralto
April 5, 2023	Dusty Molyneaux, Trumpet

#### Series Two

November 29, 2023	To Be Announced
December 6, 2023	To Be Announced
December 13, 2023	Norman Menzales, Flute
December 20, 2023	Norman Menzales, Tyler Menzales, Flute

#### Composers

William Bolcom • Richard Felciano • Dave Heath • John Heins  
Marshall Jones • James F. Rickley • Joan Brandvold Schmidt  
Jean Baptiste Singelée • And Others To Be Announced

*New Hope Lutheran Church*

*3125 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South • Great Falls, Montana*

*For Further Information*

*406-315-1203 • 406-768-8023*

*Bring a Lunch – Tea, Coffee, Water, Dessert Provided*

*Montana Composers' Alliance Protocols*

*New Compositions are Performed Twice with a Q & A Between*

*Support Contributions to: New Hope – Concert Series*

## Name the Bell Choir Contest!

We have been trying to come up with a name for our Bell Choir so if you have a creative idea, there is a box on the table in the narthex as you enter the church. Just drop your idea in the box with your name on it and if the Bell Choir selects your idea, you will win a \$10.00 gift card to Wheat Montana!

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 26, 2023

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

If You . . .

In today's gospel, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. This story recalls that of Job, whose righteousness God also allowed to be tested. Both Job and Jesus are urged to turn away from what they know to be true and faithful. In Job's case, it is his friends who are relentless in making this enticement.

Another commonality in these stories is the phrase "If you." Three times in today's gospel the tempter says to Jesus, "If you . . ." In Job's story, this phrase is hurled back and forth between him and his friends. These two little words are meant to test and are always conditional: If you do or do not meet the condition, some consequence or other will follow.

In a world full of conditions, it can be hard to believe that God's saving work is completely unconditional. Even we who proclaim God's free gift of grace might fall into saying it is free *if you* accept it. We cling to the work we might do to make ourselves right with God.

In his Small Catechism explanation of the sixth petition of the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther suggests that God does not tempt anyone, but that the devil, the world, and we ourselves provide plenty in the way of opportunities to be led astray. God does not need to provide conditions and tests—we excel at this all on our own. When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation," Luther says we are praying for God's protection. This is never conditional. We pray for God's protection so we might learn to see it in the world and in ourselves.

When you pray the Lord's Prayer today, regardless of the temptations you face, know that you are a beloved child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made to be an instrument of God's unconditional grace in and for the world.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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## ***'A View From The Pew'***

**March's Topic**

### **What Does Lent Mean To Me**

We are so thankful to those who have submitted thus far, and look forward to hearing from anyone in our congregation!



# Just for *YOUTH*

## The Lord's prayer

Matthew 4:1-11

Our ~~Father~~ in heaven, hallowed be your name.



Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done on earth



as in heaven.



Give us today  
our daily bread.



Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.



Save us from the time  
of trial.



And deliver us from evil.



For the kingdom,



the power,



and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.



Amen



Jesus was tempted by the devil. The devil said:

Change these  
stones to bread.

Jump  
from a high place  
to test God.

Worship me,  
not God.

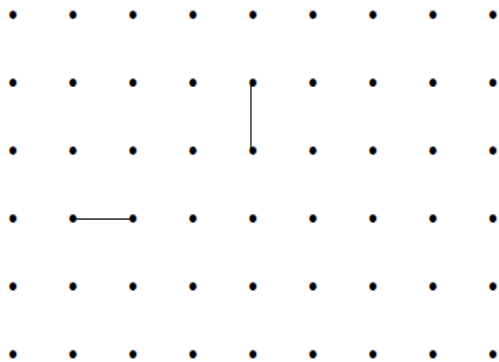
Which part of the Lord's Prayer are good answers for the devil's tempting words?

Draw a line to the prayer petition that would answer the devil's words.

Use your hands to learn the Lord's Prayer. Follow along when you hear the words and pray with your hands in worship.

### Forty days

This game will help you remember how many days are in the season of Lent.



You and one other person take turns connecting two dots that are next to each other. Two lines are drawn for you. If your line completes a square put your initial inside the square. How many boxes did you make?



Dear  
Lord,  
lead us  
from  
temptin  
g times.  
Amen.

Welcome to worship. This is the first Sunday in Lent—a journey to learn more about God. Sometimes people do something extra in Lent. Other people give up something they enjoy.

Walk the Lenten path, children of God! It's not always easy. But God is with us.



Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Adam and Eve were tempted away from God.

Find the right path from Adam and Eve to the children of God. Be careful. The way that seems easiest is sometimes the wrong path to follow!

## Logos Wednesday, March 1:

Lesson: **MATTHEW 4:1-11**

Dinner: Corn Dogs, Green Beans, Tater Tots

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Monday 2/27**

- Financial Peace University in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

### **Tuesday 2/28**

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

### **Wednesday 3/1**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 3/2**

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

### **Friday 3/3**

- Bethel office closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday Shabbat service 6:00 pm

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 3/5**

- Family Worship led by Pastor Jessie and LOGOs Youth Ministry in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- Grief Education conclusion in the Fellowship Hall 11:00 am

### **Monday 3/6**

- Financial Peace University Class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

### **Tuesday 3/7**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Exec Council Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

### **Wednesday 3/8**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

### **Thursday, 3/9**

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

### **Friday 3/10**

- Bethel office 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](mailto: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](mailto:dscholten@dlsconsulting.net) for more information.

### **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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

### **Next meeting:**

**March TBD**

### **Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie-online**

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](mailto:bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.