

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, February 12, 2023

### Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

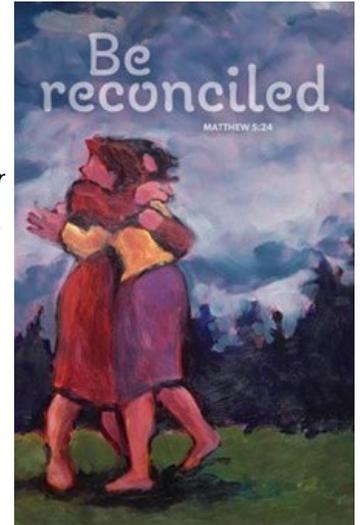
*In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.*

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

**Psalm 119:1-8**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37**



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

## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Connie Titcomb - piano  
Sara Graft- djembe

### Lay Assistant:

Walt Nuessle

### Usher:

Donna Vinnedge

### Tech:

Adam Elkin

### Children's Church:

Julia Elkin  
Maya Stringer

### Counters:

Stephanie Cummings  
Jeanne Rankin

### Hospitality:

Judy Johnson  
Sonja Baumgardner

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

As we celebrate the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany we also lift up ELCA World Hunger Ministry. We will receive an additional offering in the wicker baskets to support this vital outreach around the world to bring food, clean water, and Christian education to those in need.

We also will welcome new members Tyler and Nicole Frieling and Mindy Leach to our Bethel family.

We also want to thank Jeff Skogley as he leads the Jubilate Choir in their anthem this Sunday, *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*.

Don't forget after worship next week, we will be welcoming Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom, Chaplin at Peace Hospice who begins a three part series on grief.



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Grant Smith** recovering from a detached retina.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnsten** who is recovering at home from a recent hospitalization.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Heather Beck**, *Kathy Johnson's daughter*, as she prepares for brain surgery to have a shunt put in on February 13th.
- ✠ 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 **Dorothy Krueger**, *Greg Grosenick's grandmother*, as she recovers after a fall.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for **Jude Myhre**, *Shelly Murphy's sister*, who is in hospice.
- ✠ 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 faith and strength for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Rev. Inge Williams**, *friend of Pastor Jessie*, as she battles 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.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, *brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson*, who is managing kidney disease.

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



## The Season of Love

Greetings Bethel!

As we dive into the beginning of February it seems like around town in storefronts and in schools I see hearts and sentiments of love floating all around. Memories of making Valentine's boxes and eating delicious treats over the years come back to me, and I can't help but feel a bit warm and fuzzy about it all. I also understand the reality that Valentine's Day seems like a bit of an easy opportunity for consumerism and one more card to buy or chocolate to send. As we dive into this week though, I'm really thinking about the greatest love that we have the opportunity of receiving, which is God's love!

As Lutherans we put a huge emphasis on God's unconditional love and incredible grace for us. We recognize that God doesn't love us because of the things we do or what we deserve, but that this love that God shares is a pure gift. There will be days in this journey of faith and life that we don't feel like we deserve God's love, or that we feel we have fallen from God's favor. In response to these days we have a God who continues to insist that this love is enduring and all-encompassing more than we could ever imagine.

This week we will hear a message from the Gospel of Matthew about "the law and commandments" it will talk about the importance of that law and that we as God's people are commanded to keep and uphold that law. It will mention hell, sin, and evil. Quite the message for the "Season of Love" you might think! As we read these passages though, I believe that there is a message that God loves us enough to have high expectations. God loves us enough to communicate how we might live in a way that allows us not just to survive, but to thrive! God loves us enough to teach us how to create opportunities not just for us to thrive, but for our neighbors and our entire community to thrive as well. So maybe this law and these commandments are not what hold us back, but rather what shoot us forward into building the Kingdom of God amongst us. Maybe this love that God has for us isn't just a heart on a storefront or a delicious sugary treat, but the belief that each and every one of us was created for something more incredible than we could imagine. So this week don't forget how deeply loved you are by the God who created you. Don't forget to embody that love as you step out into the world each day. And finally, don't forget that there is nothing you or anyone else can do to lose this enduring love that God has promised.

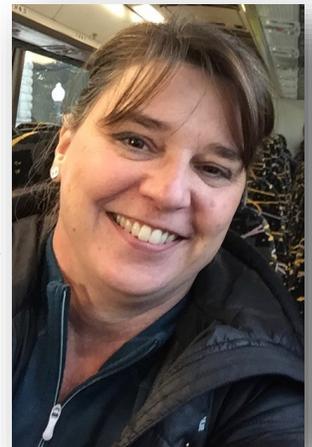
-Pastor Jessie

## Grief Workshop Begins February 19th

Join our guest speaker Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom, Chaplin 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.



## NEIGHBORWORKS GREAT FALLS AND FAMILY PROMISE PARTNER TO PROVIDE A HOME TO A FAMILY IN NEED.



NeighborWorks Great Falls (NWGF) and Family Promise of Great Falls (FPGF) have partnered together to provide a family of five facing eviction a place to call home. NWGF provided the renovated home, while Family Promise worked with a family who was struggling to find a place to live after their previous rental home was sold. NWGF has helped remove or renovate over 500 blighted properties in the community. This home needed extensive foundation repair which required NeighborWorks to do a complete renovation. Once completed, the small 3-bedroom 2-bath home was ideal to create an affordable rental opportunity. Now known affectionately as the “Promise House,” the collaboration with Family Promise will create an opportunity for a family struggling to rent a home they can afford. NWGF sees creating more opportunities for single-family residences as a step in the right direction when it comes to addressing some of the housing struggles in Great Falls. NWGF is looking for additional property to be able to create a similar opportunity for another local family.

“We were incredibly excited when NeighborWorks approached us with this opportunity,” said Greg Grosenick, Executive Director for Family Promise Great Falls. “It had been a rough summer trying to find housing for our families, but in this case the timing worked out perfectly. This family was literally days away from facing homelessness. We look forward to continuing our partnership with NeighborWorks and finding affordable housing options for the struggling families of our community.”



### Board Secretary Beckie Frisbee

Born and raised in Great Falls and a proud GFHS Bison graduate, our Board Secretary Beckie Frisbee currently is the secondary curriculum coordinator for the Great Falls Public Schools. Prior to moving to this position, she taught math for 26 years at Great Falls High. In addition to her teaching career, she was an active Campfire volunteer for most of her life and was the Youth Group Leader at First United Methodist Church for many years. When her son’s Robotics Team coach resigned, Beckie took over coaching the GFHS team with her husband. She and her family enjoy traveling, seeing

new sights, visiting friends, attending concerts, and especially love anything that Disney has to offer. Her husband, John, is the information technology/network manager for First Interstate Bank. Their son, Marcus, is a software engineer for Schweitzer Engineering Labs (SEL) in Pullman, Washington. They also have two kitties named Smoky and Sox. Beckie bravely stepped up to chair the Soc Hop fundraiser that will be held on April 22. Thank you Beckie for your dedication to Family Promise!

Family Promise is **Montana Estate Lawyers’** 2023 nonprofit designee. With this commitment, the staff takes turns spending two hours per month volunteering in our office. What a valuable resource their team has been for us! Thank you to Montana Estate Lawyers team!



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



# CANstruction 2023!!



Thank you to all of our congregation and LOGOs families who donated to our CANstruction this year. We collected 580 pounds of food for FISH!!



## Third Graders Receive Their Bibles



Pastor Jessie gives third graders a quick lesson on using their new bibles.

Left to right: Neil Sletten, Ethan Kupfner, Pastor Jessie, Jackson Duff, Teshor Reidle, Kari Ryan, Ellie Kosanda.



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 12, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

A New Community

Anyone who has ever lived or worked with other humans likely knows that community is messy. We hurt each other, sometimes intentionally but often by accident. We say things we regret. We stay silent when we should speak up, or we impose our own beliefs on others when we should start by listening instead. We act rashly out of fear or ignorance or exhaustion. We trample over one another in an attempt to achieve, to win, to earn, or to protect what we assume is rightfully ours.

Jesus knows this side of humanity, and today he invites us to imagine another way. Today's gospel sounds harsh to our ears, but it might actually be an invitation into a community that looks more like the kingdom of God: a community of radical inclusivity, compassion, and care for one another. In this type of community, no one can be simply thrown aside or left behind. Honesty and integrity are the foundation of communication. People are seen in their full, beloved humanity, not as objects to be consumed or cast aside for the sake of others.

In our world today, we might wonder if such a community is possible, but in worship, we get to practice living in a community of faith together every week. Through the reading of scripture, we are reminded of the larger story of God in which we find our meaning: a living story of love, grace, and mercy. We confess our sins before one another and receive forgiveness and a fresh start. We are given our identity as God's beloved through baptism, and we are fed with Christ's own body and united with one another in holy communion. It is Christ at work in us who makes true healing and reconciliation possible, both in our congregations and throughout the world.

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

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## 'A View From The Pew'



### February's topic – My favorite hymn and why by Kathy Johnson

After spending more than 50 years on either a piano bench or organ bench at church, it's difficult to pick one favorite hymn. Having said that, I would still choose the classic song "When Peace Like a River" or sometimes called "It Is Well With My Soul". It is beautiful sung by a choir or as a vocal or piano solo.

The words are especially meaningful to me as they inspire hope and courage during good times and especially during bad times. The story of the composer Horatio Spafford is a very touching one and worth looking into if you are interested.

## Calling All Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, February 19th. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, February 18th from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon Mueller at [oboecclar@gmail.com](mailto:oboecclar@gmail.com) by Tuesday, February 14th.



# Just for *YOUTH*



Dear Lord, please help us to grow strong in our faith in You. Amen.

## Growing strong in faith

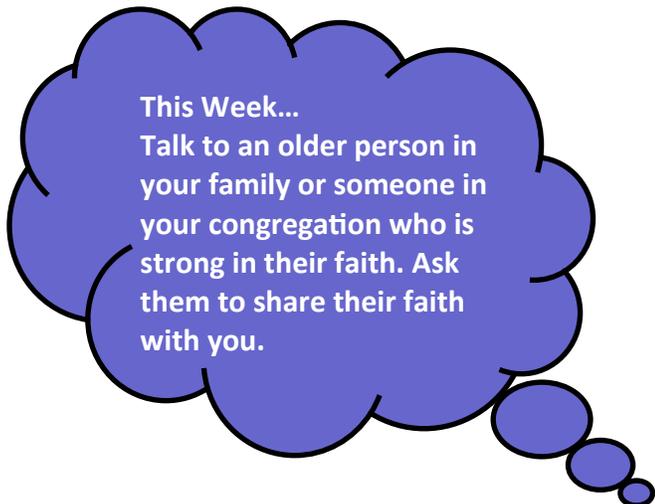
1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Paul was one of the first Christian teachers. One way Paul taught people about Jesus' love was by writing letters to the early Christian congregations. Many of Paul's letters are found in the New Testament. The second scripture reading for today comes from Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

To complete Paul's letter write an "s" inside each ☆ and a "g" inside each ☼.



**FUN FACT:** Paul's letters were written on paper made from papyrus or reeds. Baby Moses' basket was probably woven from papyrus.



## Psalm 119

Pick up a Bible. Can you find 1 Corinthians? This is one of Paul's letters. Now close the Bible. Place your fingers right in the middle of the pages and open it again. You are probably turned to the book of Psalms. Psalms are songs. Every Sunday in worship, we sing or say a psalm. The psalm for this Sunday is part of Psalm 119.

Add or subtract letters to find a verse from Psalm 119.

- < A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z > +

J-2 D-3 M+3 T-4 Z-1 E-4 Q+1 G+2

V-2 E+3 L-7 V+3 Y-2 A+7 P-1

S+4 C-2 G+5 M-2 M-4 M+1

P+4 K-3 A+4 N-2 H-7 O+8

P-1 J-4 Z-6 F+2 B+3 U-9 O-0 Q+1 H-4

**Logos Wednesday, February 15, 2023** Lesson: Matthew 5, 21-37

**Dinner:** Chicken Alfredo, Tossed Salad, Garlic Twists, Chocolate Sundae with Brownie Bites

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Monday 2/13**

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

### **Tuesday 2/14**

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

### **Wednesday 2/15**

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

### **Thursday, 2/9**

- Hope Circle meets at the Carlson's 7:00 pm

### **Friday 2/10**

- Bethel office closed

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 2/19**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- Adult Education on grief with Rev. Sara Mac-Gilvra Branom, Chaplin at Peace Hospice in Great Falls in the Fellowship Hall following worship

### **Monday 2/20**

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

### **Tuesday 2/21**

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

### **Wednesday 2/22**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Ash Wednesday worship service 7:00 pm
- No Logos Youth

### **Friday 2/24**

- 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 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.

### **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.

### **Next meeting:**

**Thursday, February 16th 7:00 pm at Marilyn Carlson's**

### **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 to be added to the mailing list.