

# BETHEL NOTES

## THIS SUNDAY

### Readings:

*First Reading:*  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

*Psalm:*  
Psalm 62:5-12

*Second Reading:*  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31

*Gospel Reading:*  
Mark 1:14-20



### Musicians:

*Lynn Ryan, piano*

### Lay Assistant:

*Sandy Pepos*

### Usher:

*Laurie Turner*

### Tech:

*Gabe Smith*

### Children's Church:

*Ava Fossen*

*Tyler Grosenick*

### Hospitality:

*Judy Johnson*

### Counters:

*Pam Dougherty*

*Laurie Turner*



### *This Sunday at Bethel...*

We celebrate the **Third Sunday after Epiphany**.

We are blessed with the melodic sounds of the **Bethel Handbell Choir led by Sharon Mueller**.

Immediately following our worship service today is our **Budget meeting**. Please stay and review the 2024 budget to be voted on next Sunday at our Annual Meeting.

**Annual Meeting announcement: January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting**, taking place after worship. Voting members of Bethel are asked to make every effort to attend. We will be voting on new council members, church representatives for FLBC and Synod Assembly, nominating committee members and 2024 budget. We need a quorum for our Annual Meeting.

**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 strength and healing for **Kiera Howard**, *niece of Dave Scholten*, as she prepares for upcoming surgery and treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving for **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, who received chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma and has been declared cancer free.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, as her health has declined during cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers healing of **Quentin Kubas** as he recovers in rehab after an auto accident.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, *sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturf*, as she is moving to a long term care facility.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and strength for **Eric Peterson and his family** as his cancer has spread and treatment has not been successful.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, as he recovers from surgery and begins radiation 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.
- ✠ .
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✠ 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.



January 21, 2024 Budget Meeting and **January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting**, both take place after worship. Voting members of Bethel are asked to make every effort to attend these meetings. We will be voting on new council members, church representatives for FLBC and Synod Assembly, nominating committee members and 2024 budget. We need a quorum for our Annual Meeting.

# Annual Report and Giving Statements

We are putting the finishing touches on the Annual Report. This report will be emailed before our budget meeting **THIS SUNDAY!** We will also have hardcopies available for you to pick up Sunday if you would like a hard copy.

2023 Giving Statements will be available for pick up on our Annual Meeting day Sunday, January 28th. All statements not picked up on that date will be mailed the following Monday.



## January News

Family Promise Great Falls hope that you all had a safe and happy new year. We're looking forward to serving our community and continuing our mission of ending childhood homelessness, one family at a time. We are excited about starting two new programs this year for the families we serve (dates of program launch to be determined), including a matched savings program and a good grades program for kids. Programs and services are all made possible because of the generous donations we receive from donors and funders. We thank you all for your ongoing support and belief in the idea that together, we can end the invisible crisis that is childhood homelessness.

### [An evening at P. Gibson's](#)

Please join us on January 23rd from 5-8 p.m. at P. Gibson's for some great food for a great cause! 10% of sales during the event will benefit Family Promise Great Falls and our mission to end childhood homelessness. We will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the work we are doing within our community, and of course, enjoying some great food as well. Come by and say hello, enjoy some delicious food (I can't wait to try the pretzel bites) and know that your support helps children in need within our community.

### [No plans for Valentine's Day?](#)

Join us on February 13th at MacKenzie River Pizza Company for an evening to benefit Family Promise Great Falls. A portion of sales (hours to be determined) will benefit homeless children within our community. Staff will be on hand to speak about childhood homelessness, or to hear your thoughts on ways we can take action together to end the invisible crisis. Bring your sweetheart or the whole family, have some amazing pizza (I hear the lodgepoles are a must have as well), and know that your support helps us continue our mission to end childhood homelessness. Look for more information in next month's newsletter, on Facebook, or on our website at [www.familypromisegf.org](http://www.familypromisegf.org).

### [Onward and Upward](#)

After an extended stay in Promise Place Shelter, we are so happy to announce that one of our shelter families has achieved their goal of attaining housing! We are so proud of their hard work and determination and want to wish them all the best as they settle into their new home. We will continue to support their progress and be available for them if they need our services, and we look forward to having a new family move in soon.

### [SOC HOP 2024](#)

Do you have your calendars marked for our annual SOC HOP fundraiser and dinner? No? Well Saturday, April 27th is the date, and the place is The Elks Lodge in the heart of downtown. We are so excited about this year's event; we think it'll be an evening to remember! Information about ticket prices and availability coming soon.

### [New Year, New Opportunities](#)

We are always on the lookout for new opportunities to expand our reach within the community, and one of our biggest goals is to secure additional shelter space for the families we serve. The need for our services is greater than ever as housing prices have skyrocketed, and the average worker continues to struggle to make ends meet. We will continue seeking partnerships within the community to grow and expand our services to those in need.

To stay current on Family Promise Great Falls news, you can follow our Facebook page "Family Promise Great Falls" or visit our website at [www.familypromisegf.org](http://www.familypromisegf.org).

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

### Each Call Unique

Aside from the proclamation that “the kingdom of God has come near,” Mark records no introduction on Jesus’ part about who he is or what he is about. He simply invites people, “Follow me.” Simon and Andrew, James and John make it look so easy: they just follow—no questions asked! If this is what true discipleship looks like, how can we ever measure up? But that’s not the point.

Jesus calls people in countless ways. Even these four fishers were likely not all moved by the same things. Perhaps Simon was frustrated by Roman dominance over his country, and the news of a new kingdom caught his ear; maybe Andrew was itching to do something different and inspiring. Did James and John sense a call other than inheriting their father’s business? Jesus would go on to invite dozens of others to join him—surely each discerning the call in a unique way. Their responses were also likely not as fast and easy as it appears

from the outside. The four fishers might have been wrestling with matters of spirituality for months before Jesus showed up. Others who joined Jesus may have long prayed for solutions to injustice in society. The Gospel of Mark gives a summary, a tightened-up version, of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Many details are lost to time; others were only ever known by an individual and the one they came to call Messiah.

What we learn from these brief call narratives—and others in scripture—is that God reaches out in as many ways as there are people. God may get your attention in worship on a Sunday morning, at your work on a weekday, or in the night as you comfort a child in your care.

Or—one never knows—God might just call from the shore when you are out in a fishing boat. Jesus’ “Follow me” might lead you somewhere you’ve never been, maybe away from friends and family and the career you planned. Or his invitation might nudge you right back home, taking up familiar routines in a new way, seeing loved ones with fresh vision.



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE  
the table Young Adult Gathering



**Parent and Participant meeting Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:00 pm  
in the sanctuary at Bethel.**

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

*– Isaiah 55:10-11*



### **Confirmation Retreat**

March 15 @ 8:00 am - March 16 @ 5:00 pm  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 550 Lutheran Camp Rd, Lakeside, MT, United States  
Join us for a retreat at FLBC for confirmation students... "Guides for the Way: Three Biblical figures and what their stories can teach us about God, Life and Everything!"  
This...  
\$110

### **Adult Spirituality Retreat**

April 14 @ 8:00 am - April 16 @ 5:00 pm  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 550 Lutheran Camp Rd, Lakeside, MT, United States  
Join Us This Spring! Join Rev. Jeff Barrow and all of us at FLBC to explore the topic of "Call" and what it means to be called in our vocation....  
\$195

### **Mother's Day Brunch**

May 12 @ 9:30 am - 2:00 pm  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 550 Lutheran Camp Rd, Lakeside, MT, United States  
Celebrate Mother's Day on the Lake at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp! WHERE: 550 Lutheran Camp Rd., Lakeside MT 59922  
WHEN: SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 TIMES: THREE SEATINGS AVAILABLE 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM and 12:03 PM. \$30 per person ages 12+, \$18 per person ages 4-11, free ages 3 and under.

For more information or register for any of these events, go to [flbc.net](http://flbc.net)



## FULL TIME POSITIONS OPEN

**Maintenance Director and Administrative Assistant. Both are salaried, with benefits. If you or someone you know is interested, contact [Margie@flbc.net](mailto:Margie@flbc.net) or call 406-890-0662**

# JUST 4 YOUTH

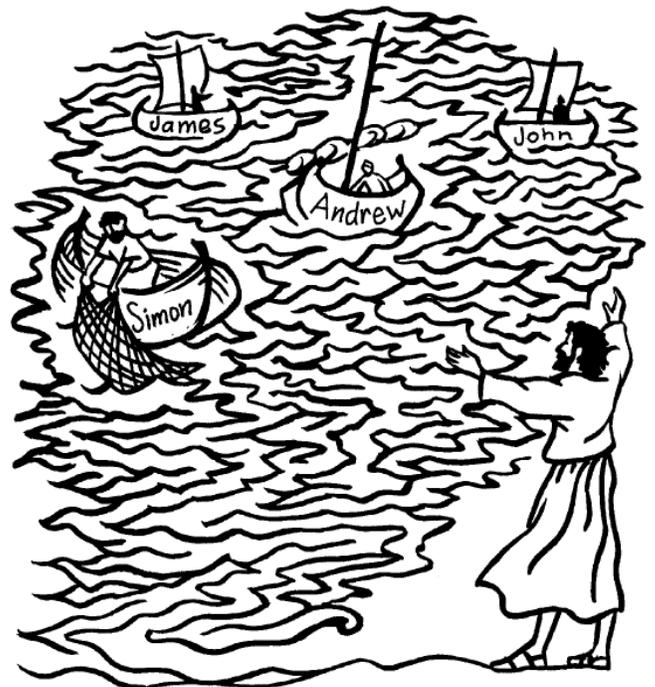
## Follow me!

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee when he noticed a few men out fishing. Simon and his brother Andrew were casting their nets along the shore and James and John were in a boat working with their dad, Zebedee. Jesus called to them saying, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." So, Simon, Andrew, James, and John all dropped their nets and followed Jesus. They became the very first disciples!

## Drop everything...

Jesus' first four disciples dropped everything to follow him. Help each of them find the way from their fishing spots on Lake Galilee to Jesus on the shore.



Draw a picture of Simon, Andrew, James, and John following Jesus.

Draw a picture of you following Jesus.

### Fish Trivia

The Bible is full of stories about fish and fishing because having a job as a fisherman was very common in biblical times.

Unscramble the letters and answer the "fishy" questions.

1. What are the two most common fish in the Sea of Galilee?

RPCA TCASIHF

2. In Bible times, what did fishermen usually use to catch fish?

TNES

3. How many fish did Jesus use to feed 5,000 people?

OTW

4. What is the name of the lake where Jesus called the disciples?

SAE FO EELIAGL

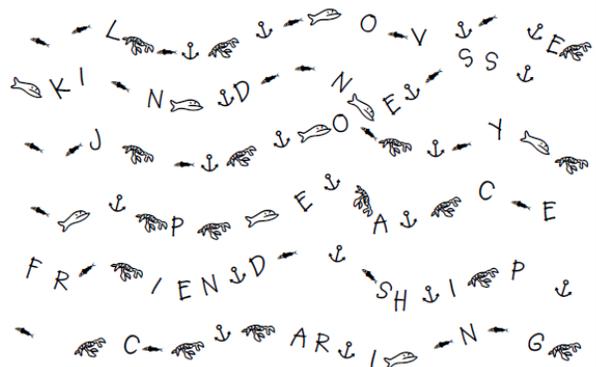
5. What does Jesus want us to fish for?

PPELOE

Answers: 1-CARP, CATFISH; 2-NETS; 3-TWO; 4-SEA OF GALILEE; 5-PEOPLE

Welcome to worship.

Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." What would a fishing net be made of if it was going to be used to catch people?



Each row of the net has a word that describes what a "fishing-for-people" net might be made of. Write the letters down as you find them and learn how to fish for people!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## THIS WEEK

### Tuesday 1/23

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- ELCA Youth Gathering Parent/Participant meeting in the sanctuary 6:00 pm

### Wednesday 1/24

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

### Friday 1/26

- Bethel office is closed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday 1/28

- Worship service led by Pastor Jessie in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- 2024 Annual Meeting

### Tuesday 1/30

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

### Wednesday 1/31

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

### Thursday 2/1

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary 7:00 pm

### Friday 2/2

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

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.

*January 18th at LaRae Veitch's Home*

### Weekly Text Study

#### with Pastor Jessie

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.