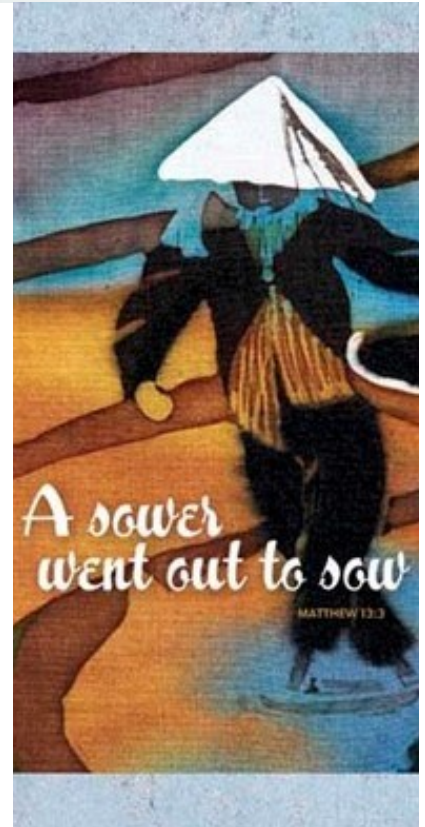


Bethel Notes



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Sunday, July 16, 2023

7th Sunday after Pentecost

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:9-13

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

**Bethel Office Hours
Monday, July 17th to
Friday July 21st
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Mary Seim, piano

Lay Assistant:

Stephanie Cummings

Usher:

Sue Hesse

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

No Children's Church

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Laurie Turner

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **7th Sunday after Pentecost.**

The **Bethel Office hours** week of July 17th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Thank you to all who have volunteered and donated items for this week of **Vacation Bible School**. We will be stacking the chairs in the sanctuary after worship today as we prepare for the arrival of our FLBC Counselors.

Don't forget to come to our **2nd Annual Summer Celebration** on Thursday, July 20th from 6-8 pm. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Brian's Top-Notch Café and Mr. Frosty Ice Cream Truck will be on-site!



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Melody Skogley** as she recovers after surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** continues to work on regaining strength.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **family and friends of Phyllis Wesche**, *friend of Leona Ost*, who passed away peacefully at Peace Hospice.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Scotty**, *father of Nicole and Madison who work for TLC Day-care*, who has been admitted to Peace Hospice after heart surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and support for **Earl Terwilliger** as he is scheduled for medical testing for his heart.
- ✝ 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 **Holly Lode**, *daughter of Bernice Johnson*, who has developed pneumonia after shoulder surgery.
- ✝ 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 and strength for **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law* managing adverse reactions to medication after surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cathy Rankin**, *Jeanne Rankin's sister-in-law*, as she begins treatment for stage 1 breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, *friend of LaRae Veitch*, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Thelma Seyfert** as continues to regain her health after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues with chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.



**ADOPT
A
CHAIR**
donate today!
**\$75.00 PER
CHAIR**

Suggested donation amount.
Make checks payable to Bethel with
Chair drive on the memo line, online at
bethelmt.org/onlinegiving/Adopt-A-
Chair or scan the QR code below.
taking donations until August 1, 2023



They Have Arrived!!!!

And we are half way to our goal of \$6000.00. Thank you to all the generous people who have donated to help pay for these beautiful chairs.

They arrived Monday afternoon with little notice that they were coming. We had a small army of people who we reached out to and answered the call to help unpack and move them into the church.

Thank you to Jim and Marilyn Carlson, Jim and Laurie Turner, Adam Elkin, Patrick and Kian Ryan, and Warren Johnson.



Marilyn and Laurie pick up packing materials.



Sharing stories after the work is done.



Warren makes one of many trips into the Fellowship Hall.

Bethel Church Council Highlights

Bethel Church Council met via Zoom on Tuesday, July 11th.

Our new chairs are here! We decided to set them out at a later date—certainly after VBS. We'll need a work party to move the old chairs and set out the new ones, and we didn't decide on a definite date yet. Donations toward the chairs are still coming in, getting closer to our goal.

We thank Kim Barnes of Always Clean Carpet and Restoration for donating his services to clean the carpet in the Gathering Place.

VBS is next week, sounds like all systems are a go, thanks to Tami and the planning committee.

Planning has started for "God's Work, Our Hands" on September 10th. It will be a community volunteer service infused with the regular Sunday service. More details to come

Next meeting will be August 8th on Zoom.

Laurie Turner, council secretary

Vacation Bible School

July 17th—21st 9:00 am to 1:30 pm



It's time to register for Vacation Bible School for grades (entering) Pre-Kindergarten to 6th. Junior Counselors (entering) 7th grade and up.

More information and online registration at https://www.bethelmt.org/junior_counselors_vbs.html - this camp is FREE for all participants.

*junior
counselors*

*adult
volunteers*

If you are interested in attending Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp at Lakeside this year, Jean Humphrey Camperships are available. Send a copy of your invoice from FLBC (they send you once you register and pay your deposit) to Bethel and we will pay \$250 directly to FLBC.



Logos Youth Ministry

If you are looking for a way to get involved in ministries at Bethel and you love working with children, Bethel has a wonderful opportunity for you! Prayerfully consider volunteering for our Logos Youth Ministry. We are in need of youth teachers ages Pre K—Kinder through 6th grade, kitchen help, rec/game leaders.

We are extremely flexible to match you with the amount of time and talents that you have to help with this ministry. You can team teach, volunteer once a month, or any variation you can think of.

LOGOs Year starts mid September and ends mid April. We take a few weeks off around Christmas.

This is a fun way to be involved with Bethel. If you want more information or would like to volunteer, talk with Pastor Jessie or Tami Grosenick. We NEED You!!!

GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 16, 2023

No Seeds Wasted

Throughout history, people have looked at the growth of plants from seed to seed and seen that as an illustration of God's work in the world. Everything else comes in limited supply, but it's fairly easy to observe that from just one seed, you can get dozens of seeds—or even more. Who but God could make so much out of so little? Even if we understand the mechanisms of growing plants and know that those extra seeds aren't really coming from nowhere, we still don't have total control of the process.

Jesus compares the different ways seeds might develop to the various ways people might respond to hearing the good news. Just as many different factors can affect seeds, many factors affect people.

It's easy to assume that the ideal scenario is the one that produces the biggest harvest. But God also cares for the birds that eat the seeds. God can use the short-lived plants in rocky soil to enrich the earth, slowly making it more suitable for growth. Is it possible that none of the seeds was really wasted?

What if the same thing is true whenever people hear the good news? What if an obvious harvest of large numbers isn't always the best sign that God is working? What if we assumed that, no matter what results we see, God is always working in the world? How would that change the way we gather, the way we share good news, the way we care about one another?

What if the seeds of God's word cannot be wasted? God's word cannot be limited, or used up, or shut out, or shut in. Even if we somehow manage to throw away all of God's word in the world, God is always sending more. God is always sending Jesus!

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Photo by [Nikola Jovanovic](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Worship Techs Needed

Do you love working with technology? Then we would love you to join our Sunday Worship team and become a Worship Tech. Our Techs run our live stream and in-person worship on Sunday mornings and for special services at Bethel.

This is a paid position at Bethel.

If you are interested and would like to see a full job description. Contact Tami in the Bethel Office or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com and we will send you a copy of the job description. There is an urgent need to train in qualified people as our primary Worship Tech, Adam Elkin, will be leaving for college in the fall. If you are interested or know someone who would be, reach out today!!

July News

We here at Family Promise Great Falls hope that everyone had a spectacular 4th of July! Summer is heating up and the sun is shining but much work is still being done in our office. We are gearing up for our August 25th night with The Voyagers, we hope you are all able to come out and enjoy the game! In September we will be having a "Raise a Pint Night" at The Mighty Mo, so see us from 5-8 p.m. on September 11th to join in.

Exciting News from Promise Place Shelter

We are overjoyed to announce there have been some exciting developments for one of our shelter families! Our single mom of three has just announced her engagement to be married next year! We are so happy to celebrate their love and commitment to each other, but wait, there is more! In addition to the engagement the happy couple has been approved for a home loan! That is right, this family will be leaving our shelter to move into a home of their own! So exciting, and we are all so proud of them! We hope that the blessings continue for this family, and we will be here for them to provide any additional support needed.

A blessing from the community

A few weeks ago, we were contacted by a local couple who wished to make an in-kind donation. With the help of Maggie's coordination skills, Tiffany was able to meet with this couple and go shopping with them for supplies. During the shopping trip they picked up cleaning supplies, diapers and wipes, garbage bags, toilet paper, laundry soap, and some food that will be dispersed to families in need. The total donation was just under \$250! This came just in time as our supplies were starting to dwindle in the office. All of us at Family Promise Great Falls would like to thank the generous couple for their contributions, it is very much appreciated.

Coming together for a brighter future

Recently Greg had a chance to visit with Dean Snow, the director of The Sober Life, to discuss what each program offers to the community. In addition, Greg was welcomed at The Indian Family Health Clinic to discuss the programs and services they provide. At our office we welcomed a group from the public defender's office to discuss what services we provide to families in crisis. We were also paid a visit from a representative of a Family Promise affiliate in Washington. During these meetings Greg discusses what we have to offer the community, and what these other programs have to offer our clients. By coming together and discussing services we can offer more options to our clients to meet their needs.

Current Needs List:

Fruit cups	Bottled water	Bleach, small bottles
mac n' cheese microwave cups	Paper Towels/toilet paper	Kitchen garbage bags
coffee pods	Laundry detergent pods	Diapers (all sizes)
Chunky soup	Glass cleaner in spray bottles	Clorox wipes
Saltine crackers	Baby wipes	Pillows (must be new)
Chef Boyardee (pull top lid)	Bathroom cleaning supplies	Plastic or melamine plates,
Soup (pull top lid)	Dish soap liquid	bowls, and cups-reusable

All in-kind donations may be dropped off at The Hub Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. We provide a donation receipt upon request and all donated items are dispersed to families in need.

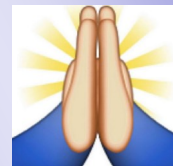
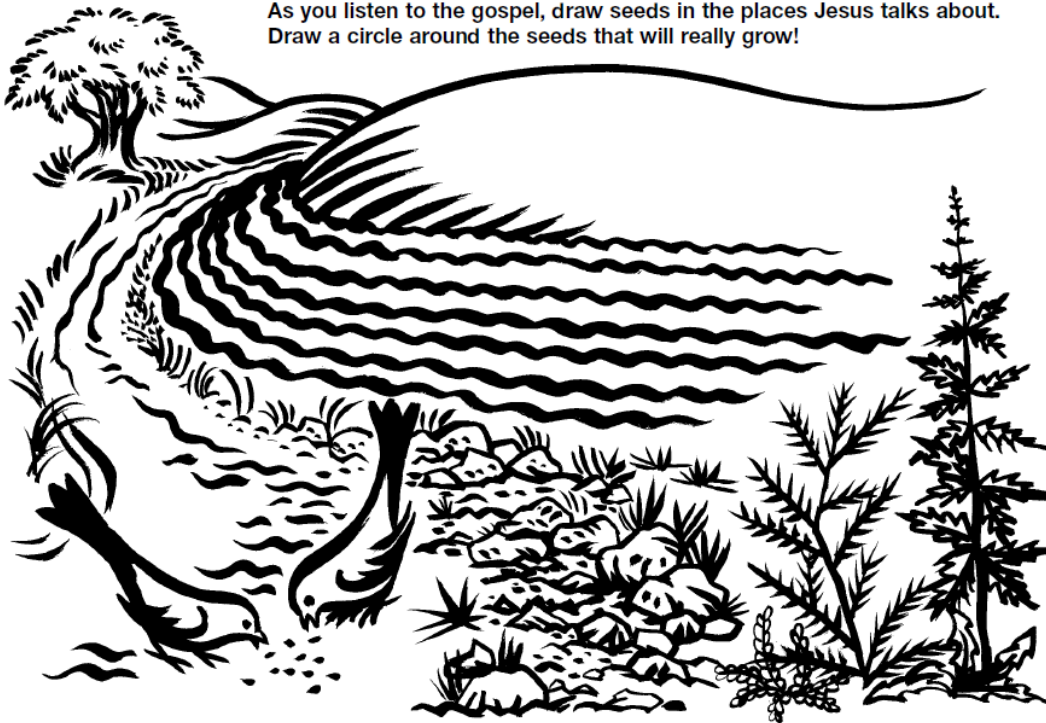
Just for *YOUTH*

Finding good soil

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus told a story about seeds growing into grain.

As you listen to the gospel, draw seeds in the places Jesus talks about.
Draw a circle around the seeds that will really grow!



*Dear God,
please help
me sew the
seeds of love
wherever I
go. Amen*



Where can you plant the seeds of God's love? What do they need to grow?

Bearing good fruit

Inside the fruit, draw how you can share God's love.

Welcome to worship. Isn't it amazing what can come from one little seed? God made many kinds of plants. Each one has its own seed.

Draw a line matching the fruit to its seed. What is your favorite fruit? Does it have seeds inside?



This Week...

Share a piece of fruit with someone. While you eat, thank God for loving you both.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 7/17

- VBS 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Tuesday 7/18

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- VBS 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Counselor dinner with Pastor Jessie 6:00 pm

Wednesday 7/19

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am
- VBS 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Counselor/Junior Counselor team building and dinner with Colter McCarty 6:00 pm

Thursday 7/20

- VBS 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Summer Celebration 6 to 8 pm

Friday 7/21

- Bethel office is closed
- VBS 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 7/23

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.

Tuesday 7/25

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

Wednesday 7/26

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Friday 7/28

- 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 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.

ON HOLD UNTIL SEPTEMBER

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.

On hold until the fall.

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.



“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

– Proverbs 22:6