

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, June 25, 2023

4th Sunday after Pentecost

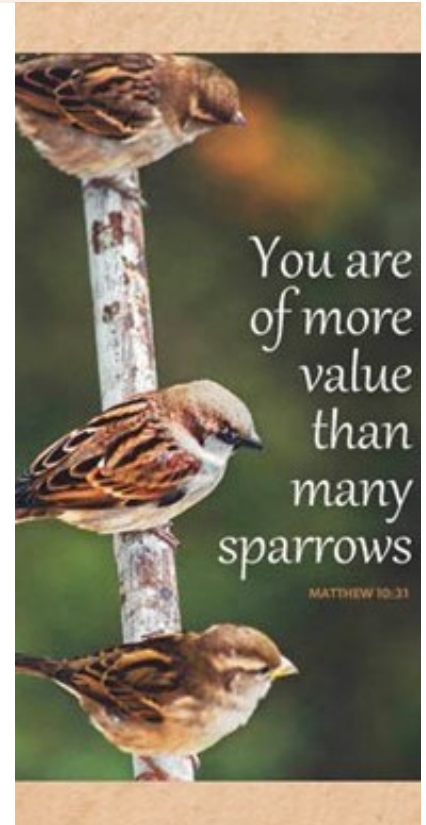
God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-10; 16-18

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39



Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Walt Nuessle

Usher:

Laurie Turner

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Tyler Grosenick

Allison Marr

Counters:

Tim Lightbourne

Laurie Turner

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos

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

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **4th Sunday after Pentecost.**

Welcome and thank **Dave Scholten, LPA**, who, with authorization by the Bishop of the Montana Synod is providing pastoral services at Bethel this Sunday.

Thank you to **Sharon Mueller and the Bethel Handbell Choir** for the beautiful music.

Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **the family and friends of Susan Lemelin** as they mourn her passing.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **the family and friends of Tom Rosenbaum** as they mourn his passing.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **the family and friends of Cindy Doughty, Patty Braget's sister**, as they mourn her passing.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **Dorothy Krueger, Greg Grosenick's grandmother**, who is being moved to nursing care.
- ✝ 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 **Cathy Rankin, Jeanne Rankin's sister-in-law**, as she begins treatment for stage 1 breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Thelma Seyfert** as she heals after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin, Bobbie Bowen's daughter**, as she manages a new cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues with chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Holly Lode, daughter of Bernice Johnson**, who continues with rehabbing her shoulder after surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** continues to work on regaining strength.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ 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 **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.





Greetings Bethel!

This last Sunday I had the opportunity to preach at the Great Falls Ministerial Association's Pride Worship at Central Christian. At this worship we talked about many of the challenges that LGBTQ folks have faced in the last year, mourned the hatred that oftentimes gets spewed at that community, and prayed that we might be grounded in our identity as Christians who believe in life even in the midst of times that feel much like death.

I don't often talk about these realities in my everyday life, because like many folks, at the end of the day I yearn to seem "normal" and "like everyone else", and identifying as a part of the LGBTQ community tends to "other" me more than anything else. As I sat in worship that evening though, I realized something incredibly important about this life of faith that we lead that has really given me hope in the last several months. That important piece was the promise from God to build relationships in places we never thought relationship could be possible. Namely, Christ built a relationship in the midst of betrayal, failure, and sinfulness through the Cross. A symbol of hatred and brokenness that was transformed into a symbol of love, redemption, and **eternal** relationship. As we walk this journey of faith, each and every one of us are vastly different from one another. We are different physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, just to name a few. We come together to worship a God that names us and claims us as God's own not **in spite** of that diversity, but rather **in celebration of** it! Many of my favorite memories of church are the ones where I had the opportunity to enter into relationship with folks who would never **ever** have been considered "normal" or "like everyone else" to me at some given point in life. They are the memories of a 10-year old with a 80-year old best friend at church every Sunday, they are memories of a lifelong farmer from Fairfield having a cup of coffee with a PhD theologian from South Africa, they are memories of a vegetarian with blue hair from California becoming close friends with a cattle rancher from North Dakota. In this place where we worship a God who is far more powerful and far more loving than we could ever understand there is a place for you, whoever you are, wherever you come from, whoever you love, and however "normal" or "not normal" you are. Our task in the midst of such an incredible community is to keep building relationships with one another. To keep yearning to better understand one another, and the one who created us. I truly believe those relationships and that genuine curiosity about one another and about God will bolster us forward into the future and empower us to build the Kingdom of God here and now. We cannot do it alone, we must walk together, and we must know that God walks with us as well.

I am overwhelmingly thankful for the ways that the relationships that have been built here at Bethel Lutheran Church have empowered and lifted up so many folks over the years. We are in this together, and although the road may not always be easy, God will guide us on this journey and we will hold one another all along the way.

-Pastor Jessie

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.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

If you or someone you know will be a freshman to graduated senior the fall of 2024, then you are eligible to go to the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer.

Experience 40,000 youth from around the country worshipping together, learning together and serving together. Past participants have remarked that it is a life changing experience.

Contact Pastor Jessie for more information or to be but on our contact list. Bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com or 406-945-2977. All Are Welcome!

July 16-20, 2024
New Orleans, LA

GOSPEL MESSAGE

June 25, 2023

Evil? I Renounce It!

The service of Holy Baptism asks baptismal candidates, parents, and sponsors to reject sin in a series of renunciations:

- ◆ Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- ◆ Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- ◆ Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Those assembled respond: "I renounce them!"

In today's gospel, Jesus warns the disciples about what sorts of evil, risks, and divisions may be ahead for them. Discipleship has already cost them their intended vocations, and the road ahead includes conflicts that will split families and may cost them their lives. Such was the reality in ancient days when taking on Roman authority.

Today, risks for living out faith still exist, especially in countries without freedom of religion. But most of us have difficulty imagining what resistance to our faith would look like. One look at the morning news reminds us that evil is rampant in our world. We resist evil when we raise our voices against violence, when we march against inequality, when we welcome and house the stranger new to our country and community, and when we fight for the rights of Black and brown and LGBTQ+ siblings. Some among us tackle systemic racism and corruption in workplaces and institutions—often at great risk.

This passage from Matthew is difficult and disturbing, yet there is gospel in it. Jesus tells those who follow him not to fear, and that we undertake this mission of mercy with vulnerability and dependence on a most gracious God. Amid the risks, despite the uncertainty, the gospel is to be proclaimed "in the light" and "from the housetops" (Matthew 10:27), for it is the most powerful tool we have against the evil of this world.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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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 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!!

1ST MONDAY NIGHT

QUILTERS TO MEET

The 1st Monday Night Quilters will meet Monday, July 10, 2023, (the second Monday) at 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran, 3125 5th Ave. So. Please park in the alley. The quilts will be tied before the last step of binding is done.

If you'd like to help from home, there are many squares kits ready to be sewn into tops, and also fabric to be cut into squares. Please call 799-0100 if you have questions.

Adopt A Chair

We are excited to announce the beginning of our "Adopt a Chair" Campaign. This campaign will run through August 1st, and will be used to purchase a portion of our new chairs for the sanctuary. The requested donation per chair is \$75.00, however donations of any amount are welcome! The total cost of these new chairs is around \$12,000, so we would love to raise at least \$6,000, with the remaining amount coming from our Memorial Account. We hope that you will consider being a part of this exciting effort to beautiful our worship space for years to come!



YAGM Announcement

Dear friends,

I'm happy to share some updates about the [Young Adults in Global Mission \(YAGM\) program](#), which invites young adults into a transformative year of service and fellowship. Over the past few years, the YAGM team have had conversations with program partners, participants and alums and explored ways to enrich the YAGM experience for all involved.

Now, we are excited to announce two changes to the YAGM application process:

- 1) Young adults ages 21-35 are welcome to apply for YAGM. This expands the previous age range of 21-29 to align more closely with [ELCA Young Adult Ministry](#).
- 2) Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, year-round. The timeline for decisions and the period of service for program participants will remain the same as in previous years:
 - Jan. 15 — Priority deadline for the upcoming service year.
 - Feb. 1 — Final deadline for the upcoming service year.
 - August — YAGM participants depart for service.

Through YAGM young adults learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk alongside global church companions. They become immersed in new communities and form deep relationships. And they confront issues of poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

We hope these changes will make YAGM more accessible across our church community, giving more young adults the opportunity to step out into the world. If you have questions about these updates or would like to chat about anything YAGM-related, please reach out to me at MaeHelen.Jackson@ELCA.org.

Thank you for your support and partnership!

Mae Helen Jackson, Interim Program Director, Young Adults in Global Mission

Just for *YOUTH*

Signs of God's love

God shows love in many ways.

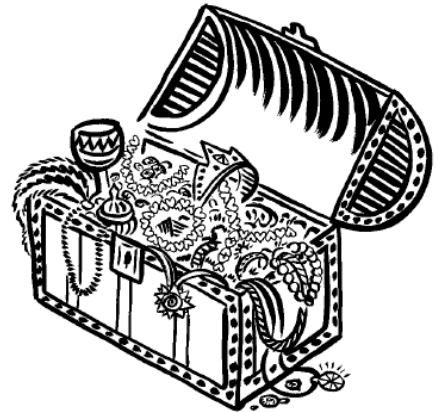
Find signs of God's love hidden in this picture. Find and circle a church, an apple, a pair of pants, a person, and a house.



God, help me remember that you treasure me. Amen

This Week...

Show people you love that you treasure them.



Look around you.

What objects, pictures, or symbols do you see that remind you that God loves and treasures you.

Draw them in the picture frame.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 6/27

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

Wednesday 6/28

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Friday 6/30

- Bethel office is closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 7/2

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

Monday 7/3

- Bethel Office closed for Independence Day holiday

Tuesday 7/4

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Happy Independence Day!
Bethel Office is closed

Wednesday 7/5

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Thursday 7/6

- Exec Board Zoom Meeting 5:30 pm

Friday 7/7

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 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 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.