Palm Sunday

March 21, 2024

BETHEL NOTES

THIS SUNDAY

Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm:

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Reading:

Mark 11:1-11



Serving Sunday

Accompanist

Connie Titcomb, piano;

Lay Assistant

Randy Gilbertson

Usher

Patty Braget

Tech

Gabe Smith

Projection

Warren Johnson

Children's Church

Addi Carlson

TBD

Hospitality

Sandy Pepos

Counters

Greg Grosenick Kelsey Johnson

This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate Palm Sunday.

We welcome and thank Dave Scholten,

LPA for preaching and presiding in worship this morning. Dave has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our **Adult Forum** of The Chosen Season 2.

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

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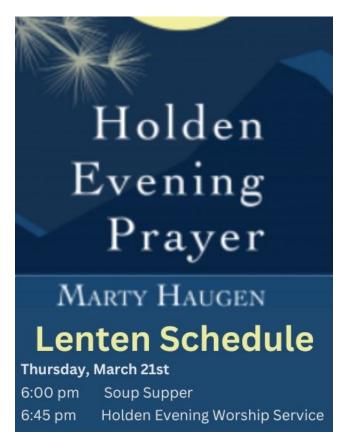
Bethel



- Prayers of healing for Kathleen, friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen, as she is in the hospital and awaiting next steps.
- ₱ Prayers of healing for Broc Cole, child of a friend of Ali Morris, as he battles lymphoma.
- → Prayers of healing for Cindy Considine as she recovers in the rehab unit from a car accident.
- → Prayers of healing for Sue Hesse as she is in the hospital and preparing for a medical procedure on Friday.
- Prayers of healing for Shelly Murphy who is in ICU and is slowly making positive progress.
- Prayers of healing and health for Seth Boucher who has been diagnosed with cancer and preparing for upcoming surgery.
- ♣ Prayers of healing for Corey Korpela who is going through treatment for prostate cancer.
- ♣ Prayers of continued healing for Beverly Finnegan as she recovers after a recent illness and hospitalization.
- Prayers of support and fast recovery for Leona Ost who will be having a procedure on her eye the end of March.
- ₱ Prayers of positive results for Tim Olson, as he has one follow up medical test, post cancer treatment.
- Prayers of healing for Shannon Obrecht, family friend of Karen Lord, as she manages a new cancer diagnosis.
- Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** as she meets with her doctor on a cancer treatment plan.

- Prayers healing of Quentin Kubas as he recovers at home after an auto accident.
- Prayers of healing for Kristin, Bobbie Bowen's daughter, as she continues treatment for cancer.
- Prayers of healing and strength to continue to fight for Eric Peterson as he continues can-cer treatment.
- ♣ Prayers of strength and support for **Don Bis**gard as he continues to manage his health.
- 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 for Georgia Miller, cousin of Amber Erickson's, as she has been diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.
- ♣ 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.







New Congregational Care Ministry

What is the Congregational Care Ministry?

This new ministry is an extension of our pastoral care and any member of our Bethel Family are welcome to join us.

This ministry will be keeping in contact with those members of our church family that are not able to make it to worship on

Sundays, are homebound, in assisted living facilities, hospitals or rehab centers, etc.

Contacting people by phone, in-person visits, emails, etc. This will be set up with our Bethel Members being visited. We will also be scheduling communion visits as well for those who wish.

If you are interested in being a part of this caring ministry, contact Tami in the Bethel Office or Patty Braget, President of the Church Council.

We have a good list started of those members of our church family that may want to be visited by our Congregational Care Ministry, but if you or someone you know would like to be on our outreach list, please contact Tami in the Bethel Office 406-761 -1543. More information to come and a meeting for those interested in participating will be set up soon.



Spring is in the air and not far around the corner, and we at Family Promise Great Falls couldn't be more excited. Not only will the daylight begin to linger a bit longer, but hopefully we've seen the end of the bitterly cold nights. We are so grateful to the local area organizations that have provided warming rooms and shelter to the unhoused during the winter months, the services you provide are so necessary in our community. Family Promise Great Falls provides shelter for up to two families at a time in our Promise Place Shelter and families we serve may also use our Day Room to meet and work on goals. It is our goal to be able to locate an additional shelter site so that we may serve even more families with shelter services.

Night Without a Bed

Join us at The University of Providence Student Center (1301 20th Street South) on Saturday, March 23rd from noon until 3 p.m. for our "Night Without a Bed" family homelessness awareness event. Several partner organizations have agreed to join us to provide information about what services their organizations offer to those who are experiencing homelessness within our community. The event is open to all age groups, and there will be interactive scenarios and a poverty simulator game so that visitors can view the world through the lens of someone facing homelessness. We have been so blessed with an amazing group of student volunteers from local area high schools that have helped us to organize this event and would like to thank them for their insight and assistance. It is our belief that children who are educated about homelessness will be better equipped as adults to tackle this crisis.

2nd annual SOC HOP

The SOC HOP is just around the corner, have you purchased your tickets yet? Our 2nd annual dinner, fundraiser, and auction will be held on Saturday, April 27th at The Elks Lodge in downtown Great Falls. Tickets are \$50 each and are available now on our website at www.familypromisegf.org or through our office at 1019 Central Avenue (within Central Christian Church). We also have table sponsorship available starting at \$500 for a table for 8. If you are interested in sponsoring a table, or know someone who is, please contact Greg at (406)590-2610 or stop by our office during normal business hours. We

would also like to share some of the amazing items that have been so generously donated for us to auction off at the SOC HOP. First, we would like to thank **Scheels Great Falls** for their donation of a \$500 gift card. Also, we would like to thank **Pacific Steel** for their donation of a gorgeous fire ring that is valued at

\$275. Are you a hardcore Griz fan? The wonderful staff at **The Carpet Garage** has also donated an amazing Griz area rug that is valued at \$500. For the latest information on items available for auction during the SOC HOP, like and follow our Facebook page

"Family Promise Great Falls" or visit our website at <u>www.familypromisegf.org.</u> We will continue to gather amazing items to have available, and don't forget about the incredible dessert auction!

All hands-on deck!

We need volunteers to fulfill various roles for the SOC HOP. You could donate as much or as little time as you have available, just let us know what works for you! We have posters printed in our office at 1019 Central Avenue that need to be taken to local area businesses and organizations and put up. If that sounds like something you might be interested in, please contact Tiffany at (406)868-3026. We will also need several volunteers for the event day, to assist with everything from set-up to take-down after. If that sounds like something you might be able to help with, please contact Tiffany for more information.

The Work We Do

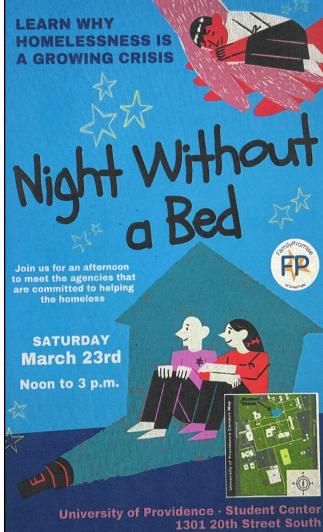
Currently both of our shelter units are full, and the families we are serving are doing well. Both families are work-

ing towards the goals of stable housing, employment, education, and health care with our family advocate (Maggie). The children are all thriving in local schools and getting excited for the Spring holidays. It is our hope that with our continued support, we can help these families become successful in their efforts towards stability. We will continue to track their progress and be available for whatever needs they may have while they're working on their individual goals.

Outreach Opportunities Available

Our Outreach and Operations Specialist has been a busy bee the last few weeks with all the exciting events we have coming up. During this time, Tiffany has been working on reaching out to local congregations to see if any are interested in having Family Promise staff come and speak about the services we are offering homeless families in our community, and ways they can help in our mission to end childhood homelessness. If your congregation would like to schedule with our staff for such a presentation, please contact Tiffany Wilkson at (406)868-3026 or via email at Tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org. In addition, Executive Director Greg and Tiffany have been busy visiting partner organizations to discuss ways that we may come together as a community to address the crisis that is family homelessness. Recently they visited with the directors of The Great Falls Rescue Mission and with the Young Parents Education Center (located with Paris Gibson Education Center). If your organization would like to visit with Greg and Tiffany and speak about the services Family Promise Great Falls offers, please contact Tiffany to schedule a time to meet.

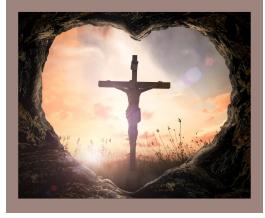




GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Heart of the Story

Martin Luther called the Psalms a "little Bible." He wrote that all the rest of the Holy Scriptures could be found in them. Luther went so far as to suggest that in the Psalms the church can glimpse the death and resurrection of Christ. In these ancient songs and prayers of the Hebrew people, every human emotion is laid bare: joy and contentment, anger and sorrow, hope and despair.



The Psalms give voice to the wide spectrum of experiences that mark our human lives. This is their power—they speak the heart's language, turbulent as our hearts may sometimes be.

In a similar way, Holy Week places us at the center of the whole story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. From the "hosannas" of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the seeming abandonment of the cross, emotions run high this week as the story of Christ's passion reaches into the depths of our human experience. The palm and passion stories are themselves a "little Bible" of salvation for the church within the wider story of God's saving love for all.

As we gather to hear the story of Christ's passion anew, the words and rituals of the church's worship life invite us to feel our way into this story from the inside out. We hear the shouts of blessing and come to the Passover in quiet hope. We follow to Gethsemane and to the cross, with mixed emotions. What does betrayal feel like in our bodies? What about amazement? Fear? How have we experienced ridicule or shame? How have we ourselves dismissed or derided others?

The palm and passion stories offer us a chance to contemplate Christ's sufferings and meditate on our salvation—to come side by side with Christ's passion and so to know and access our own. We are invited to honestly glimpse the workings of our own hearts. Nothing is off limits to God's grace. No human experience is untouched by the story of God's redemptive love.

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JUST 4 YOUTH

Jesus' last week

Mark 14:1-15:47

What did Jesus do during the last week of his life?

Listen as the gospel is read, then number the illustrations in order and use the phrases below as captions.



Jesus ate. Jesus sang. Jesus prayed. Jesus was arrested.

Jesus was asked many questions. Jesus was sentenced to die.

Jesus was nailed to a cross. Jesus died. Jesus was buried.

Holy week invitations

We are all invited to journey with Jesus during Holy Week. Find out when your congregation will worship in the days ahead. Write the times down in the blanks, decorate the invitation and give it to a friend or relative so they can worship with you.

Worship with Us!

Maundy Thursday

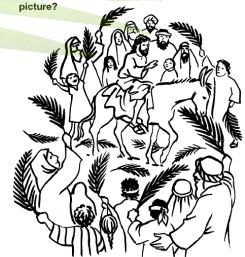
Good Friday

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)

Easter Sunday

Welcome to worship. Today is the Palm Sunday, a festival day! It is also the first day of Holy Week, the last week of Jesus' life. Was there a palm parade at your church today? Did you wave a palm branch?

Can you find and circle all 15 palm branches in this



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 3/26

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

Wednesday 3/27

- No LOGOs Youth Ministry
- Jubilate Choir Retreat for Holy Week 6:30 pm

Thursday 3/28

 Maundy Thursday worship service led by Pastor Jessica Crist 7:00 pm

Friday 3/29

- Bethel office is closed.
- Good Friday worship service led by the Jubilate Choir 7:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3/31

- Easter Sunday worship 9:00 am in person and livestream. Pastor Jessica Christ will be preaching and presiding and the Jubilate Choir will be providing special music.
- Easter Sunday worship 11:00 am in person only. Pastor Jessica Crist will be preaching and presiding and Karrie Pepos will be providing special music.

Monday 4/1

Easter Monday, Bethel Office is closed.

Tuesday 4/2

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

Wednesday 4/3

LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs
 6:30 pm

Thursday 4/4

Electric City Chorale rehearsal 7:00 pm

Friday 4/5

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

Saturday 4/6

 Celebration of Life for Karen Kubas 11:00 am with luncheon in the Gathering Place to follow.

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 Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. 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.

April

Preaching And Presiding at Bethel

March 24th Dave Scholten, LPA

March 28th Pastor Jessica Crist

March 29th Jubilate Choir

March 31st Pastor Jessica Crist

April 7th FLBC

April 14th Pastor Steve Nelson

April 21st Pastor Brenda Frelsi,

Associate to the Bishop