

BETHEL NOTES

THIS SUNDAY

Readings:

First Reading:
Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm:
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Second Reading:
Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel Reading:
John 3:14-21



Serving Sunday

Accompanist

Connie Titcomb, piano;

Lay Assistant

Stephanie Cummings

Usher

Walt Nuessle

Tech

Gabe Smith

Projection

TBD

Children's Church

Ava Fossen
Addi Carlson

Hospitality

AnneRose Rogers

Counters

Stephanie Cummings
Jeanne Rankin

This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **Fourth Sunday in Lent**.

We welcome and **thank Pastor Jessica Crist** for preaching and presiding in worship this morning.

Today we lift up **ELCA World Hunger Sunday** and receive an additional offering in the wicker baskets.

Adult Forum discussion of the Chosen Season 2 in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Join us Thursday, March 14th 6:00 pm for **Lenten Soup Supper. Holden Evening Prayer** service will follow in the sanctuary. Colter McCarty will be cantering and speaking on the Love of God.

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 healing for **Tim Olson**, as he waits for results of more medical testing and possible new procedures.
- ✝ Prayers of **support for Glenn and Anne Vannatta** as they transition their membership from Bethel to their home church. Though a very difficult decision for them, God has directed them on this change. They are grateful and truly love their Bethel Family and know they are always in our prayers.
- ✝ 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 recovers from surgery and determines treatment for recurrence of cancer.
- ✝ 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 comfort and healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, who is under hospice care.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and strength to continue to fight for **Eric Peterson** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of strength and support for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of strength and healing for **Kiera Howard**, *niece of Dave Scholten*, as she prepares for upcoming surgery and treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, *sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturf*, as she is moved to a long term care facility.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ 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 continued healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues to manage health issues following cancer treatment.
- ✝ 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.

First Step of Call Process Done



The first step in the call process to find our new pastor is gathering a Call Committee. The Bethel Call Committee has been selected, and they have had their first meeting. They will be meeting with Pastor Brenda Frelsi, Associate to the Bishop from the Montana Synod office to begin the call process in the coming weeks. If anybody has any questions or input, please contact one of the Call committee members, and they would be happy to answer any questions you have or direct your questions to the Bethel Office, bethelgf.church@gmail.com and we will forward your inquiries to the Call Committee for further information.

The Call Committee Members are:

- Dan Morris: co-chair
- Jenny Will: co-chair
- Laura Kupfner: secretary
- Patrick Ryan
- LaRae Veitch
- Carrie Ann Elkin
- Ainsley Kubas: youth representative



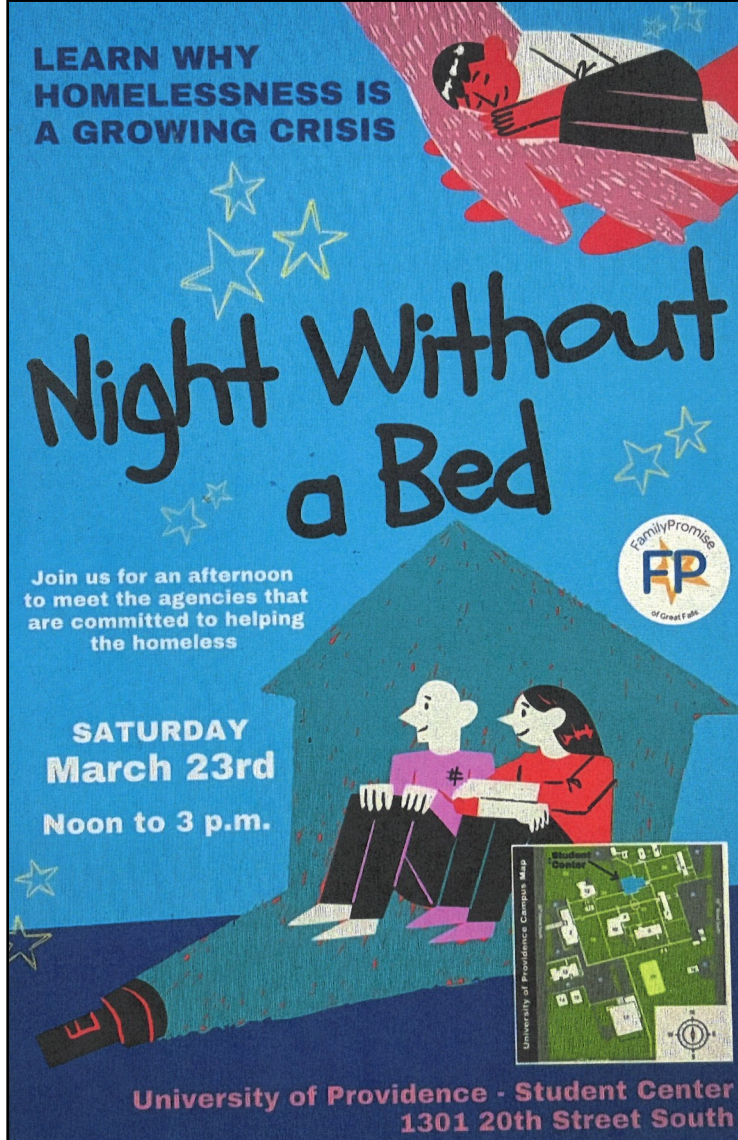
Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 24th -
Palm Sunday, worship led by
Dave Scholten LPA

Thursday, March 28th
Maundy Thursday,
worship led by
Pastor Jessica Crist

Friday, March 29th -
Good Friday, worship led by the
Jubilate Choir

Sunday, March 31st -
Easter Sunday
9:00 am and 11:00 am,
both services led by
Pastor Jessica Crist



LEARN WHY HOMELESSNESS IS A GROWING CRISIS

Night Without a Bed

Join us for an afternoon to meet the agencies that are committed to helping the homeless

**SATURDAY
March 23rd
Noon to 3 p.m.**

University of Providence - Student Center
1301 20th Street South

Family Promise of Great Falls

University of Providence Campus Map

High School LOGOs Service Project Needs Your Help!!

We only have a few sessions of LOGOs left this school year. Once we return after Holy Week, April 3rd, we will be having a service project night.

LOGOs ages Pre K through 8th grade will be assembling hygiene kits with supplies purchased through Thrivent Action Team donated by Rebekah French.

High School LOGOs will be assembling Linus Blankets. A Linus Blanket is a no-sew fleece blanket. Each blanket has two different patterned pieces of fabric with the edges cut in a fringe-like pattern around the edges. The two pieces of fabric are tied together using these fringe pieces and when done, voila! You have a soft and comfy blanket.

Here is where we need your help. Linus Blanket kits are available at Joanne's Fabric store here in Great Falls. There are different sizes to choose from and we would love a variety. Our goal is to make at least 10 blankets that night. We are looking for anyone who might be willing to purchase and donate the kits for the service project night on April 3rd. The blankets will then be donated. We are going to let the High School LOGOs choose the charity they would like to donate the blankets to and there are many to choose from in Great Falls.

If you would like to help supply this project you may pick up the kits and drop them off at the church before or on April 3rd. We will make as many kits as we get! If you would like to donate money and we will shop for the kits, you may note on the memo line of your check or on an envelope for cash. Linus Blankets,

We thank you in advance for your generosity in helping the kids with this project. And anyone who would like to come that night April 3rd at 7:00 pm and help, we would love to have you meet our awesome High School LOGOs group!





Lenten Schedule

Holden Evening Prayer

MARTY HAUGEN

Thursday, March 7th

6:00 pm Soup Supper

6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Thursday, March 14th

6:00 pm Soup Supper

6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Thursday, March 21st

6:00 pm Soup Supper

6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service



3125 5th Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana
59405
406-315-1203
*Sharing our faith in Christ by serving all
with respectful compassion.*

WEDNESDAY

MUSIC

AT

NOON (16th)

Doors Open at 11:45

Bring a Bag Lunch; Coffee, Tea, Water, Cookies Provided

Concerts begin at 12:05 pm and conclude at 12:55 pm

PREMIERE SERIES

March 13

March 20

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Lifted Up for Us

"So must the Son of Man be lifted up," Jesus says. There is a double meaning to this. Just as God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole to effect healing for the Israelites (Numbers 21:4-9), Jesus will be lifted on the pole of the cross. The image of Jesus crucified reveals how human power tries to dehumanize those who threaten the status quo or violate the norms decreed by those at the top of society's ladder. It is a horror to consider this happening to anyone, but so much more when the victim is the perfect Holy One, God in the flesh. It confronts us with humanity's rejection of God, in how we treat other human beings and in how we dehumanize ourselves by following our sinful impulses—what Ephesians calls "the passions of our flesh" (2:3).

This, though, is not the only meaning of Jesus being "lifted up," for "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." The cross is more than the humiliation of Jesus; it is also his glorious exaltation. The crucifixion of Jesus is his coronation as Lord of all, who rules by grace and mercy. By defeating death in the resurrection, he will indeed disrupt the status quo of shame, violence, and greed through the power of love, truth, and peace.

This was prefigured in the story of poisonous serpents. When the people looked on the emblem of their sin, a bronze model of the snakes that poisoned them after they grumbled against the Lord, they were healed. So, too, when we turn to the Crucified One, we do not find condemnation but salvation. Beholding the Savior lifted up on the cross by our sin, we receive mercy and healing. In the death of Jesus, God forgives and embraces us with eternal life. In the proclamation, prayer, song, and sacraments of our assembly, we remember and affirm that the crucified yet exalted Christ extends saving love to us and to the world.

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Women's Spring Retreat April 26-28, 2024 For over 50 (or maybe 60?) years, the WELCA women of the Great Divide and Five Valleys Clusters have been hosting a Women's Spring Retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Each year we look forward to meeting together in this beautiful place with an inspirational speaker, a service project to benefit a non-profit and lots of time for hikes, conversation, worship, and fellowship with women of faith. Join us this year **April 26-28, 2024**.

Registration will open February 1st at www.imluchurch.org/womensretreat All are Welcome! Bring a friend, a daughter, a sister! Come spend some time together! Hope to see you there! Questions- contact Nancy Solum at WomensSpringRetreat@gmail.com

“I realized I was not alone”

Ana lived with her husband and four children in a safe, secure village in Sinjar, a town in northern Iraq. But then an ISIS attack changed everything. Ana lost several family members in the attack, including her father, mother, brother and sister.

Trying to figure out what might be next for their family, Ana and her husband survived tough conditions, without food or water, before moving into a temporary camp. Eventually they returned to Sinjar, but it had been destroyed.

The ISIS attack traumatized Ana. Overwhelmed and unsure where to turn, she decided to seek medical treatment. When her friends and neighbors heard about her situation, they recommended that she visit a women’s center in Sinjar for support.

The women’s center is part of a larger project, supported by ELCA World Hunger, that empowers women and youth from marginalized communities to claim their fundamental rights in Iraq. The project builds on relationships that ELCA World Hunger has established through prior work with local communities supported by ELCA World Hunger in Sinjar and Sumel, and works with local neighbors to build sustainable livelihoods.

“I visited the center and explained my situation to the staff, who were very helpful and kind,” Ana said. The staff recommended that she participate in individual and group sessions aimed at supporting people such as Ana as they struggle to cope with traumatic experiences in their everyday lives.



“I realized I was not alone and that many other women were facing similar struggles.”

—ANA

“During my participation in those sessions, I realized

I was not alone and that many other women were facing similar struggles,” said Ana. “We were able to openly discuss our problems with each other and learn from each other. These sessions really increased our awareness and helped us manage and overcome our problems and stress, allowing us to feel positive and alive again.”

With the center’s support, Ana and other women facing similar challenges are better equipped to cope with the stress of rebuilding their lives after such significant loss. Such support is critical in equipping neighbors to overcome the poverty and hunger that often result from violence and vulnerability. With the support of ELCA World Hunger, Ana can envision and begin to claim a hopeful future for herself and her family.



Women and girls around the world are more vulnerable to hunger and poverty than men are. Your support makes it possible for ELCA World Hunger to accompany ministries that equip women to create income streams, including through health care and human rights initiatives, to support themselves and their families.

JUST 4 YOUTH

Famous words

John 3:14-21

Jesus was talking with a religious man named Nicodemus when he spoke some of the most famous words in the Bible. What did Jesus say?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” John 3:16

Find and circle Jesus' famous words, in order, in the puzzle below.

FORPLKFJOELSGODPLLFKEOW ♡KWO
 QSODKKELSVLOVEDEKEZVMPWQTHE
 WORLDWERUQ ♡PLSDKOWOPQLWKEJQ
 THATLWKZHEDKOWLKEGAVEDKJFKW
 KOHISXOENLIWONLYDKLEISON ♡TT
 LESOTHATEVERYONEWHODKLEIODK
 LSKEBELIEVESWOIEOPINDHIMWOP
 EOROWEMAYNOTOEPWLPERISHDKBU
 LD ♡BUTSLKDLEISLKEKKAMAYD ♡LP
 TYHAVEELSESLDKWEBETERNALLIFE
 WOE ♡IJOHNTHREESIXTEENYTOPWO

Loving the world ♡

We can help spread Jesus' love all around the world by caring for other people. Circle some of the ways you care for others.



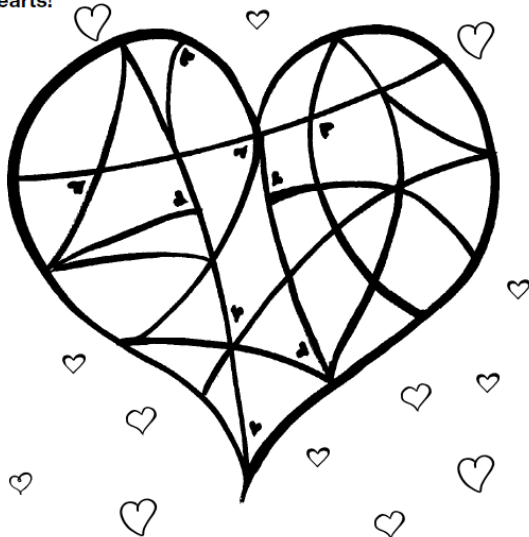
Thank you, God, for loving us so much. Amen

This week

Practice loving others by collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese for the food shelf.

Welcome to worship. Today is the fourth Sunday in Lent and we are reminded again of God's amazing love.

Color all the little hearts below and find a symbol of God's love for us, then search this bulletin for 40 hearts!



Getting the word out—today!

Jesus spoke his famous words a long time ago, in a different language. What if he visited your congregation today—what might his famous words sound like?

Use the code below and read John 3:16 in a language that's a little easier to understand.

CODE: = world = everyone = Jesus ♡ = loved

God ♡ the so much,
 that God gave us .
 who believes in
 will not die, but will live
 forever. John 3:16.

Try this: Look for John 3:16 in your Bible at home. Underline it with a pencil.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 3/12

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Wednesday 3/13

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

Thursday 3/14

- Lenten Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- Holden Evening Worship in the sanctuary 6:45 pm

Friday 3/15

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3/17

- Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Don't forget to wear green.
- Worship service led by Jim Carlson, LPA in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Adult Forum The Chosen Season 2 in the Fellowship Hall following worship

Tuesday 3/18

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

Wednesday 3/19

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

Thursday 3/20

- Lenten Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- Holden Evening Worship in the sanctuary 6:45 pm

Friday 3/21

- 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

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.

March

Preaching And Presiding at Bethel in March

March 10th	Pastor Jessica Crist
March 17th	Jim Carlson, LPA
March 24th	Dave Scholten, LPA
March 28th	Pastor Jessica Crist
March 29th	Jubilate Choir
March 31st	Pastor Jessica Crist