

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

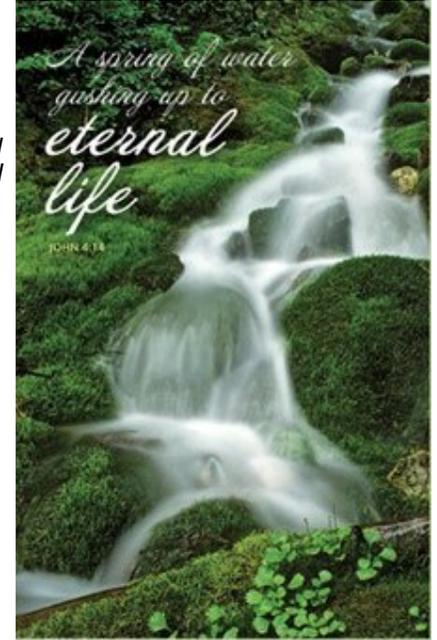
During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel: John 4:5-42



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM
In-person or live stream
at bethelmt.org**



Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Mary Seim, piano
Sara Graft, djembe

Lay Assistant:

Stephanie Cummings

Usher:

Sara Sexe

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Tyler Grosenick
Olivia Violet

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings
and Sara Sexe

Hospitality:

Judy Johnson
Terry Korpela

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

World Hunger Sunday. We lift up this ministry and support those in need around the world. We will be receiving an additional offering in the wicker basket.

We will be blessed with the melodious

sounds of the Bethel Bell Choir. Thank you to Sharon Mueller for directing.

We would like to apologize to those who have signed up for Altar Flowers in March. The March Page was removed from the book and we are unsure who had signed up. If you signed up for Altar Flowers in March, please email or call the Office so we can note in our bulletins this month.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Mike Seyfert**, *Thelma Seyfert's nephew*, who is recovering at home after gallbladder surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **family and friends of Bob Walker**, *brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson*, as they mourn his passing.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Anne Vannatta** as recovers at home from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sterling Stubbs**, *son of Bronson and Rachel Stubbs, grandson of Daren and Patty Braget*, who is recovering from an appendectomy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she continues treatment for pneumonia.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnsten** who continues treatment as she manages an illness.
- ✝ 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 **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- ✝ 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.

Celebration of Life
Doug Kickbusch
Bethel Lutheran Church
Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 pm
Reception to follow at Bethel.

Soup Supper Discussion Prompt

Have a hot bowl of soup and warm conversation!

TONIGHT, March 9th

How would you describe your relationship with God? Are there pieces of the relationship that are easy? Pieces that are hard?

What are ways that you have developed or built up your relationship with God? When do you feel far away from God?

What does living in "right relationship with God" look like to you? How does this relate to the earlier questions you discussed together?

NEXT WEEK, March 16th

What are the relationships that you see as role models in your life? Not just romantic relationships, but friendships or collegial relationships as well.

What makes you admire or respect these relationships?

As a community, country, and world, what are the communal relationships you think we do well? What are some relationships on a communal basis that simply don't seem to work, and why do you think that is?

Why is living in right relationship with certain groups or people seemingly one of the hardest things for us to do when it comes to "righteousness"?

2023 Mid - Week Lenten Schedule

March 9 –

Supper Host: Bethel Church Council Cantors: Patrick Ryan and Ava Fossen

March 16 –

Supper Host: Altar Guild Cantors: Ensemble Choir

March 23 –

Supper Host: Men's Breakfast Cantors: Warren Johnson and Rev. Steve Nelson

March 30th –

Supper Host: Hope Circle Cantors: Pastor Jessie and Colter McCarty

Holy Week Schedule

April 2nd – Palm Sunday, Pancake Breakfast before and after worship, free will donation to benefit Vacation Bible School

April 6th - Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM

April 7th - Good Friday 7:00 PM - performed by the Jubilate Choir

April 9th - Easter Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am in the sanctuary



'A View From The Pew'

What Does Lent Mean To Me

by Udo Wozny

"But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that you fasting may be seen not by others but your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:17-18, NRSV)

"Do you have any Lent practices?" After that question was asked during a Bible study, there was a long moment of silence! (*Reflect on Matthew 6:17-18 above.*) Then, one answer related to the preparation for Good Friday and Easter. Another answer related to skipping some food items. I was silent because I don't have any specific Lent practices. But there is more ...

Reflecting on my upbringing in West-Germany, my Protestant church community did not have many Lent practices that I knew of. The exceptions were the Lent readings and Confirmation.

The time between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, the 40 Days of Lent, should be a time of reflection.

One time, Lent was for me that time of reflection. My church community used that Lent time for confirmation candidates, including myself, to have the pre-confirmation testing one Sunday afternoon, followed or week or two later with the Confirmation worship service. That was topped with the first Holy Communion service for us confirmands on Maundy Thursday. Yes - at that time one had to be confirmed to receive communion.

For the earliest Christians, Lent was the time of preparation to be accepted as members of the Christian communities. The acceptance of new members happened during the Easter Vigil (Easter Eve) worship service. The service also included the Baptism of the new members. As a learned person told me, acceptance was NOT an easy process. Prospective members were frequently asked to reflect some more and come back next year! To be a Christian could be dangerous at that time!

I don't like rigid schedules. A time of reflection should be a year around process and not solely based on a liturgical calendar. Here is an advertising for reflection opportunities:

Join a Bible study or any other type of study offered by Bethel or the Montana Synod.

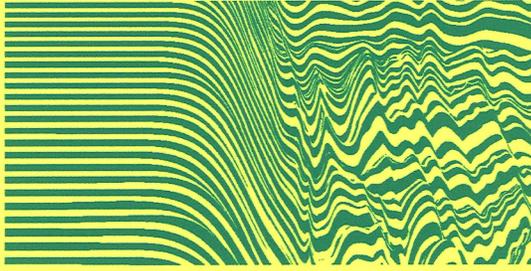
Read books relating to your reflection needs.

These opportunities do not equate to a "confirmation testing" that asked for the "correct" answers to questions about the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Bible verses, hymns, etc. One should be encouraged to ask questions, or "Living the Question" (a course that I took in Texas).

Many opportunities are offered year-round. Worship services by definition do not always allow for dialogs or questions.

I applaud all who have Lent practices. You honor the crucified AND risen LORD!

Flowing Water



New Music ~ Great Falls

Flowing Water | New Music | Great Falls, Montana

Wednesday Afternoons | 12:05 pm

Series One

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| February 22, 2023 | Alan Johnson, Trombone |
| March 1, 2023 | Joan Brandvold Schmidt, Organ |
| March 8, 2023 | Barbara Ovitt, Flute, Valerie Winfield, Viola |
| March 15, 2023 | Gaynell Tempel, Lyric Soprano |
| March 22, 2023 | Ron Coons, Soprano Saxophone |
| March 29, 2023 | Cynthia Stevens, Contralto |
| April 5, 2023 | Dusty Molyneaux, Trumpet |

New Hope Lutheran Church

3125 5th Avenue South • Great Falls, Montana

For Further Information

406-315-1203 • 406-768-8023

Bring a Lunch – Tea, Coffee, Water, Dessert Provided

Montana Composers' Alliance Protocols

New Compositions are Performed Twice with a Q & A Between

Support Contributions to: New Hope – Concert Series

St. Patrick's Day Dinner!

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
\$15 - Adults
\$5 - Ages 6-10
Under 5 free
*40-Family

Silent Auction
5:00 - 8:00
Live Auction
at 7:00 pm

Friday, March 17th
5:00 Social Hour
5:30 - 8 Dinner

Raynesford Community Center

2023

Estate Sale

1505 9th St NW #116
Thursday, March 23rd

Friday March 24th

9:00 am to 6:00 pm both days

Name the Bell Choir Contest!

We have been trying to come up with a name for our Bell Choir so if you have a creative idea, there is a box on the table in the narthex as you enter the church. Just drop your idea in the box with your name on it and if the Bell Choir selects your idea, you will win a \$10.00 gift card to Wheat Montana!

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 12, 2023

Third SUNDAY IN LENT

Gushing with Grace

The word *gush* has nuances of meaning. On the one hand, it can speak to large amounts of a liquid flowing forth. A geyser gushing water is quite different than a leaky faucet letting water through a drop at a time. On the other hand, *gush* can speak to our enthusiasm about a person, place, or experience. A person gushing about a new movie to a friend carries different energy than someone saying, "Eh, it was okay."

In today's gospel we get the first sense of this word as Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about the water he will give, which will become a spring that gushes up to eternal life. The word *gush* is not used again in the story, but the second part of the narrative gathers up the spirit of the other sense of *gush* as the woman goes back to the city and shares her experience of Jesus. Many in the city come to believe because of her witness; she must have been gushing forth energy and excitement about her encounter with Jesus.

As the church takes on the ministry of Jesus after the resurrection, we find other people springing forth in the same way Jesus talks about water gushing. Peter heals someone in Acts 3:8 who jumps up and leaps (gushes) in praise. Paul also heals someone in Acts 14:10 who springs up (gushes) and walks.

The water in your baptismal font may be still, or it may be moving; it may be more reminiscent of a trickle than a gush. Yet we know that it is God's word that gives the plain water the power to shape us as God's people. Baptism is never a trickle; it is always a gush of grace poured out for us with the endless love and mercy of God. May we be blessed to gush along with the Samaritan woman about our experiences of Jesus among us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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SAVE THE DATE



**SOCK HOP FUNDRAISER FOR FAMILY PROMISE,
APRIL 22, 2023 DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM
BLACK EAGLE COMMUNITY CENTER DINNER, AUCTION, FUN!!
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT FAMILYPROMISEGF.ORG OR
AT KAUFMAN'S MENSWEAR DOWNTOWN**

Just for *YOUTH*

Wilderness wandering

Exodus 17:1-7

The Israelites followed Moses through the wilderness. They were very thirsty for  but they didn't trust God to provide what they needed. Instead they complained to Moses.



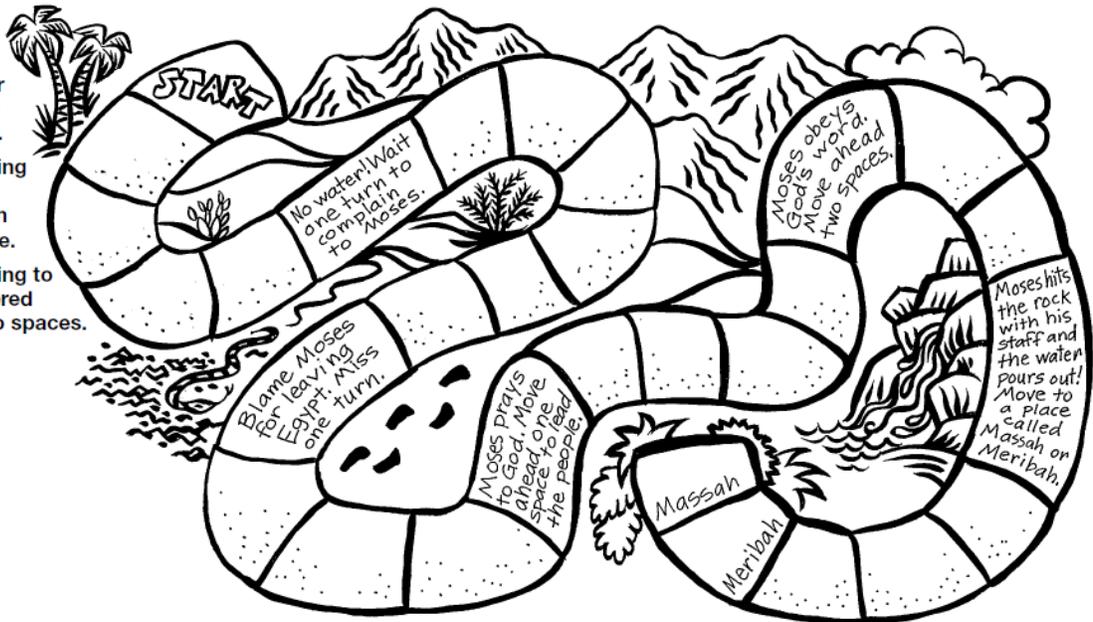
Are there songs or hymns about living water in today's worship? Write the page numbers here:

Find the end of the story by playing this wilderness wandering game.

Close your eyes, open your hymnbook, and point to a page.

If you are pointing to an odd-numbered hymn move one space.

If you are pointing to an even-numbered hymn move two spaces.



The water at baptism gives us new life. We are all sisters and brothers in God's family.

Draw crosses on foreheads or clothes to show that all of the people belong to God's family.

This week... notice how many times you use water each day. Use only as much as you need of this precious gift from God.



Dear Lord,
Thank you
for loving all
of us. Amen

LOGOs Wednesday, March 15:

Lesson: JOHN 4:5-42

Dinner: Spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, focaccia bread, pudding and Oreos.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 3/13

- Financial Peace University Class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Tuesday 3/14

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

Wednesday 3/15

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

Thursday, 3/16

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

Friday 3/17

- Bethel office closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3/19

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

Monday 3/20

- Financial Peace University Class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Tuesday 3/21

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

Wednesday 3/22

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

Thursday, 3/23

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

Friday 3/24

- Bethel office closed

Saturday 3/25

- Celebration of Life for Doug Kickbusch at Bethel 1:00 pm, dessert reception 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 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.

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.

Next meeting:

March 28th, 7:00 pm at Judy Johnson's

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.