

Bethel Notes

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

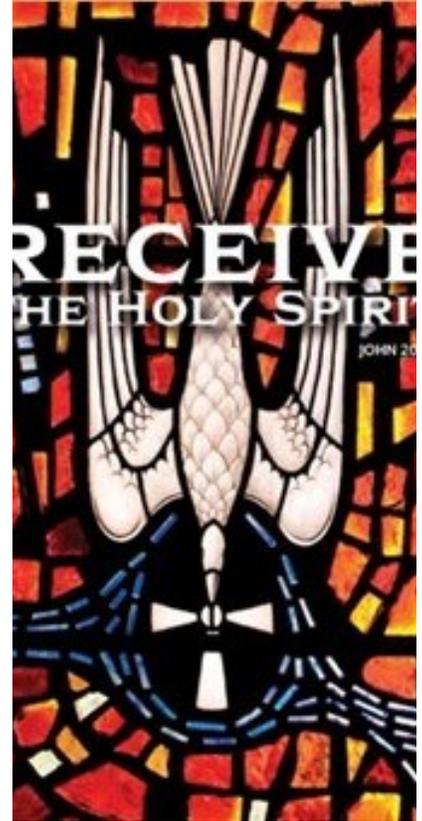
Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34,35b

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23



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



Myla Hadleigh Frieling was born May 21st at 11:46 pm. She is 8 lbs 5oz and 20 1/4 inches long. We are all home now and doing well. She has completely flipped our world upside down. God is good!

It may be a few weeks before we are able to physically be in church but we want to thank all for the love, support and prayers.

-Tyler, Nicole and Myla Frieling

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Mary Seim, Piano,
Mac Carlson, violin

Lay Assistant:

John Blank

Usher:

Patty Braget

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Addi Carlson

Julia Elkin

Counters:

Patty Braget

Greg Grosenick

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the Day of Pentecost.

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion for **Renee Delorit and Samantha Seidel**. May this life-giving Bread always feed your soul and nourish your spirit. As you receive your First Holy Communion, embrace the joy that comes from knowing Jesus.

Mark your calendars for a **special Congregation Meeting June 11, 2023** after worship to discuss and vote on replacing the chairs in the sanctuary.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of thanksgiving, joy, and blessings for **Nicole and Tyler Friehling** on the birth of **Myla Hadleigh**. Congratulations!
- ✝ 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 works toward regaining strength and balance.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sam Salois**, *friend of Jack Pinski*, recovering at home after a car accident.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a new cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he begins chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnsten** who continues to recover from an illness.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Holly Lode**, *granddaughter of Bernice Johnson*, recovering from surgery one her arm after an injury.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and support for **Janet Hussli**, *Greg Grosenick's aunt*, managing a stage 4 metastatic cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is at home, regaining strength.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ 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.

New Chairs for the Sanctuary?

The property committee has put many hours into finding the best prices and products for our future chairs in the sanctuary! According to our Constitution, whenever the Council wishes to spend money on things that are not in the budget, and cost above 2% of the annual expenses for the church, there must be a congregational vote. Therefore, the Council is calling a Congregational Meeting on June 11 at 10:45am (or directly following worship) to take a vote approving the purchase of 150 new chairs and the reupholstery of ten chairs. The ten chairs are ones that have arms, and are needed for several members in the congregation, but are not able to be ordered with the rest of the chairs. The total cost of this project is \$11,032.23 (including shipping). We will be having a "Sponsor a Chair" drive to pay for a portion of the chairs, and any remainder will be paid out of the Memorials Account. We need a quorum of at least 32 people there, so please join us in person or on Zoom so that we can make this important decision and move forward!

Congregational Meeting

We will be holding a meeting to discuss and vote on new chairs for the sanctuary (see bullet point in above Council Meeting Highlights.)

June 11, 2023

following worship,

estimated start at 10:45 am. We will be offering an online Zoom Meeting option as we need a 32 voting member quorum to be able to vote.



Auditor Needed

Do you have a background in bookkeeping? Are you familiar with tax and payroll practices? Bethel Needs You! We need to have an annual audit done, as soon as possible. The volunteer who has done this for us in the past has stepped down. If you are interested or have questions about this audit please contact Kelsey Johnson
bethelgf.council.treasurer@gmail.com

FIRST COMMUNION

TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD. PSALM 34:8

This Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion for Renee Delorit and Samantha Seidel. Renee and Samantha, May this life-giving Bread always feed your soul and nourish your spirit. As you receive your First Holy Communion, embrace the joy that comes from knowing Jesus.



Vacation Bible School

July 17th—21st 9:00 am to 1:30 pm



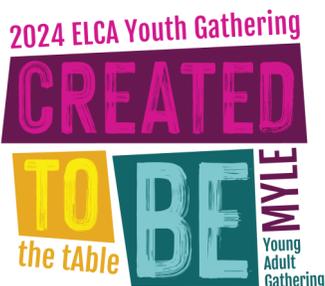
It's time to register for Vacation Bible School for grades (entering) Pre-Kindergarten to 6th. Junior Counselors (entering) 7th grade and up.

More information and online registration at https://www.bethelmt.org/junior_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.



Youth Gathering Information Night June 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM Bethel Sanctuary

The 2024 Youth Gathering will be in New Orleans, Louisiana. Any youth who will be in High School in 2024 is eligible to go. We will also need chaperones.

We would like to see who might be interested and have set this time aside for Great Falls area youth and their parents/guardians to come learn about the Gathering and ask questions.

Attending this event does not obligate you or your youth to attend the Youth Gathering.

Spread the word! All are welcome!

The 1st Monday

Night Quilters will meet June 5, 2023, 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran, 3125 5th Avenue So. Please park in the alley. The quilts are made for Lutheran World Relief and shipped to their shipping center in November and then distributed to needy areas in the US and around the world. Thanks to all who have been cutting squares, sewing tops and preparing backs. Questions? Call 799-0100

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 28, 2023

Day of Pentecost

Spirit of Unexpected Peace

Jesus, crucified and risen Lord of mercy, had a mission for his disciples: share the forgiveness they have received with all those longing to know God. He even had the promised gift of the Spirit to empower them. But first, he had to figure out how to get them out from behind locked doors. Jesus' disciples were afraid that what had happened to Jesus would also happen to them, so they locked themselves away and hid.

You could picture Jesus standing outside the door of their room, calling: *Come on out! It's okay! Don't worry! It's time to start sharing the good news!* And the disciples would just say: *No! We're too afraid to open the door!*

Instead of getting them out from behind their locked door, Jesus comes on in. Instead of yelling through the door to stop being such cowards, Jesus slips past their fear and their locked-up lives and brings them unexpected peace. His own Spirit of peace moves out of him as breath, as the wind of God that creates new things, and creates in them a new calming faith. Then the mission of mercy begins. This Spirit from Jesus is a pure gift that creates peace, and peace creates mission.

Fear often keeps us locked up, anxious, unable to live the life God has given us. Thankfully, Jesus knows the way past our locked doors and our fearful hiding. Instead of making us feel small for hiding when we are afraid, he breaks through whatever barriers we put up and gets right past our locked doors. Jesus' own Spirit comes to us through the word, through bread and wine, through silence, through the one next to us, slipping past whatever barriers we put up. The Spirit comes as a gift of peace—peace we can't create for ourselves, peace that is deeper than our own understanding of it, peace that creates new energy for mission.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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A View From the Pew ...June

"Church outside our walls, God's Work Our Hands"

It has been awhile since we have heard from our readers. Our June topic gives us a glimpse into how we live God's Word outside of the walls of Bethel. We would love to have you submit an article to bethelgf.church@gmail.com, throughout June and share your stories how you do God's Work.





Candlelight Vigil

There will be a candlelight vigil at Bethel Lutheran Church on Thursday, June 1, at 8 pm, honoring and remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Montanans. The Vigil is sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force of the Montana Synod, and takes place the night before the Synod Assembly begins at the Heritage Inn. All are welcome.



We pray for guidance and strength as we fight for justice on their behalf. We will not forget those who have lost their lives or the love that remains in their wake. Today, we honor their memory in prayer grateful for the hope you provide in times of heartache and injustice. Hear us as we offer our prayers and plea for justice. Amen



Women's Retreat

"TELLING OUR FAITH STORIES"

With Pastor Meggan Manlove

Friday, June 9 - Sunday, June 11, 2023

\$250/person || Saturday only: \$150

Registration & \$100 deposit due by May 26th, 2023

Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation!

Enjoy a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp full of fellowship, fun, great food, and relaxation. Experience insightful sessions on Telling Our Faith Stories with Pastor Meggan Manlove, and enjoy time for worship, pottery, nature walks, yoga on the docks, and more.

About the retreat theme: Together, we will undertake the practice of story-linking, originated by Anne Streety Wimberly, with the goal of being able to speak more confidently about our own lived Christian faith. We will engage memoirs of the Mountain West, the Biblical narrative, faith stories from the American Christian tradition, and finally our own decision making. Through it all we will tell and listen to one another's stories—stories of childhood, stories of faith, stories of mentors, milestone stories, stories of hardship, and stories of joy.



Blessing of the Class of 2023

Chris Kubas, Isabelle Grosenick, Olivia Violet, Allison Marr, Abbie Virts, Adam Elkin and Pastor Jessie.



The Elkin Family

The only family I know who can make it into the CMR Yearbook!

Just for *YOUth*



**Thank you, God for
being with us
wherever we go.
Amen.**

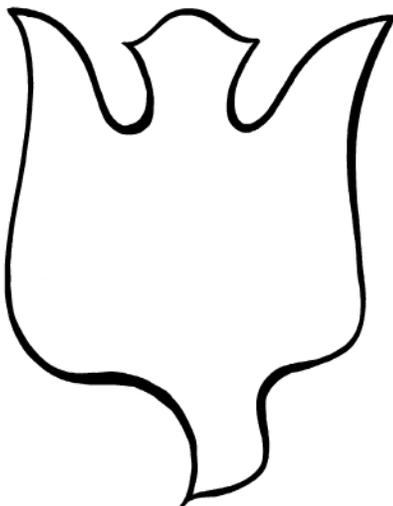
blue white RED purple GREEN

A symbol for Pentecost is a flame.



It has been 50 days since Easter Sunday.

Draw 50 flames inside the dove.



Celebrating gifts

Acts 2:1-21

Happy birthday! Pentecost is called the birthday of the church. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, helping them share God's story with people in many different languages. We all have different gifts, but not the kind wrapped up at a birthday party. Gifts are things we can do to share God's story. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to each person.



All around the world

In John 20:19-23 Jesus gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit and a command.

Use the compass directions on the globe to finish Jesus' command.



“ _____ ”
South North East West

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

This Week...

Summer will be here soon. Look at an atlas, globe, or map to take an imaginary trip to a place far away: God is with you wherever you go.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 5/29

- Memorial Day, Bethel Office closed.

Tuesday 5/30

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

Wednesday 5/31

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Friday 6/2

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 6/4

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

Tuesday 6/6

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- ELCA Youth Gathering information meeting in the sanctuary 7:00 pm

Wednesday 6/7

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Thursday 6/8

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

Friday 6/9

- Bethel office is closed.
- Tami out until 6/13

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.

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.