

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, May 7, 2023

*Fifth Sunday in Easter /
Confirmation Sunday*

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14

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

*Confirmation
Sunday*



Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, Piano,
Mac Carlson, violin

Lay Assistant:

Sandy Pepos

Readers:

Ethan Kupfner
Josie Delorit
Austin Kupfner

Acolyte:

Kolton Kupfner

Usher:

Jo Ann Dullum

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Ava Fossen
Julia Elkin

Counters:

Patty Braget
Kelsey Johnson

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

It is **Confirmation Sunday**, congratulations to our confirmands **Addi Carlson, Ryan Gilbertson, Tyler Grosenick, Drake Lange, Jack Pinski, Rylee Virts, and Emily Woods**. Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall or on the Patio (weather permitting) a reception in their honor.

**THE JEDI IN ME SAYS
"MAY THE 4th BE WITH YOU"**



**THE LUTHERAN IN ME SAYS
"AND ALSO WITH YOU"**



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Holly Lode**, granddaughter of *Bernice Johnson*, recovering from surgery on her arm after an injury.
- ✝ Prayers of peace for the **People of Sudan** and an end to the fighting.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sam Salois**, friend of *Jack Pinski*, recovering from a car accident.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and guidance for **Janet Hussli**, *Greg Grosenick's aunt*, has been diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic cancer.
- ✝ 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 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 **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.



Confirmation Sunday



Sunday, May 7th

9:30 am

Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a reception in celebration of our confirmands.

BLESSING OF THE MAY DAY BASKETS



Jim Carlson, LPA blesses the baskets before handing them out.

We have had wonderful feedback from our May Day Baskets this year. AnneRose Rogers shared this, *"If anyone wonders if they have an impact: One woman told me that with all the bad things happening in the world, getting the basket was a moment of surprise and joy and brought tears to her eyes."*



SPRINGING INTO CLEAN UP

KEEPING BETHEL BEAUTIFUL

Debbie McCarty ordered perfect weather with plenty of sunshine and no wind for last Saturday's clean up at Bethel. The group of volunteers tackled the front of the building cleaning out dead leaves and weeds and cutting back for fresh growth. Colter McCarty and Tyler Grosenick got up on the roof and cleaned out the gutters and debris from the top. Thank you to Debbie McCarty for organizing, volunteers Terry Korpela, Patty Godtel, Laura Kupfner, Greg and Tyler Grosenick, and Colter McCarty.

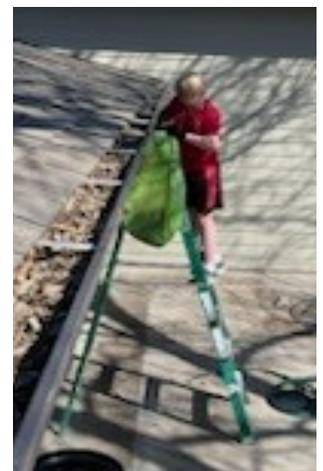
There are still a few projects to go and to keep things looking amazing we would love to put together a Summer Maintenance Team. Once we get volunteers we will put together a schedule for the summer. During your week, you would come by and water the planters and pull any weeds or grass that pop up in the flower beds and pick up any debris. This would be a great job for a couple of friends or a family. If you are interested contact Debbie McCarty at djcmccarty@gmail.com or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.



Debbie McCarty
Leads the Charge!



Teamwork makes the dream work! Terry Korpela, Patty Godtel, and Tami Grosenick tackle the big flower bed.



Tyler Grosenick braves the ladder to clean out the gutters.



Greg Grosenick makes bagging breeze!



Terry Korpela leaves no weed unpulled!



Laura Kupfner displays her pruning skills on Bethel's foliage.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 7, 2023,

Fifth Sunday in Easter

Are You New Here?

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells his followers (John 14:4), but they aren’t so sure. So he goes on, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), but they’re still confused. Finally, he asks, “Have I been with you all this time . . . and you still do not know me?” (John 14:9). It’s as if he’s asking them, “Are you new here?”

They’ve had him all this time. They’ve watched him and listened to him and learned from him. But, suddenly faced with the idea that he won’t always be there in quite the same way, it’s as if they remember nothing.

Yet, Jesus isn’t one of those teachers who says, “Do as I say, not as I do.” He lived his very life here on earth as a model for us, even now. Our road map to the place where he is going is to understand his words and actions, not only as *his* way, truth, and life, but as *our own* as well.

It’s as complicated as that, but it’s also that simple. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1), Jesus tells them. Indeed, road maps are meant to reassure us, by giving us direction and setting us on the right course.

He didn’t say it would be easy. He also didn’t tell this to any of them alone, and his words are intended for us to hear in community today as well. Living out our understandings of Jesus as the way, truth, and life is a collective act, not an individual one. We do this every time we gather in community, whether that’s a congregation, a parent-teacher organization, an extended family, or a neighborhood Buy Nothing group.

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells us. We might feel new here, but it turns out we’ve had the road map all along.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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A Month of Sundays In May!

Sunday, May 7th
Confirmation

Sunday, May 14th
Mother’s Day with Tea on the Patio

Sunday, May 21st
Graduate Blessing

May 28th
First Communion

Celebrate this whole month with us!
All are welcome.

Calling All Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, May 14th. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, May 13th from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon Mueller at oboecclar@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 9th



A Note From Kathi Bisgard...

Dear Friends,

In addition to joining you every Sunday in worship via live streaming, it is with sincere gratitude in close friendship with our most thoughtful Family of Faith at Bethel that we express to each of you how very blessed and thankful we are to have you in our lives. We feel your presence and prayers every day, in addition to the wide variety of heart-felt correspondence you share often and indeed thoughtfully. We know well we wouldn't be where we are without you.

It has been quite some time now that we reached out for your support and prayers for Abby and Don. Due to the complexity of Abby's cancer diagnosis at Mayo Clinic, her complete recovery has not as yet been reached; but she is presently doing well, was back at work very soon, and is participating in family and community life in Missoula. She is indeed grateful to each of you.

Don is presently residing at Park Place Health Care Centre as of early April, when Kathi could no longer care for his many needs. This move has clearly proven to be a true blessing for our family. Don has professional care in a wide variety of ways from a dedicated staff, while enjoying daily activities that are provided with thoughtful input. We are grateful, as well, that our home is less than five minutes from Park Place, and we enjoy times together at home often.

We were pleasantly surprised, blessed, and grateful, this time, for the sweet and thoughtful May Day basket that we found at our door last Sunday :-)

Once again, we thank you profoundly for being with us on our journey, in your support of love, concern, prayers, and MUCH MORE!

May God hold you in his arms as we hold you in our hearts.



ELCA World Hunger Giving 2022

Some of you may have noticed that we left the total giving for ELCA Good Gifts and World Hunger out of the Annual Report. It is with great excitement that we share with you the total giving for 2022...

World Hunger \$15,229.27
Good Gifts \$765.00



Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14th, 2023

**Celebrate Mother's Day on the lake at
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp!**

550 Lutheran Camp Rd., Lakeside MT 59922

Three seatings available: 9:30 AM, 11:00, and 12:30

~ Buffet Style Service! ~

\$30 per person ages 12+ | \$18/ages 4-11 | Free/3 & under
Please call 406-752-6602 or send in the registration form to reserve your spot by May 8th!

Memorial Day Work Weekend

May 26-29, 2023 (Fri - Mon)

Cost: By donation, registration required ☺
Register by May 12th!

You are invited to help transform camp for the summer season. All ages are welcome for this FREE retreat which includes Fun, Fires (campfires, that is), great Food, and Fellowship, and bible study and worship. This retreat is a great way to experience camp for the first time!

Consider applying for your own Thrivent Action Team grant and join us! Contact the FLBC office for project ideas.



Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends with a sack lunch on Monday

2023 REGISTRATION

Memorial Day Work Weekend / May 26-29 2023

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!

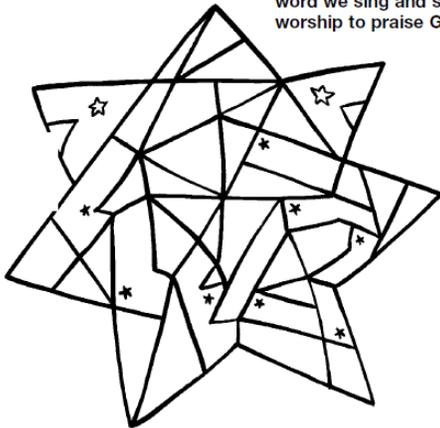
Enjoy a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp full of fellowship, fun, great food, and relaxation. Experience insightful sessions on Telling Our Faith Stories with Pastor Meggan Manlove, and enjoy time for worship, pottery, nature walks, yoga on the docks, and more.

About the retreat theme: Together, we will undertake the practice of story-linking, originated by Anne Streaty 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.

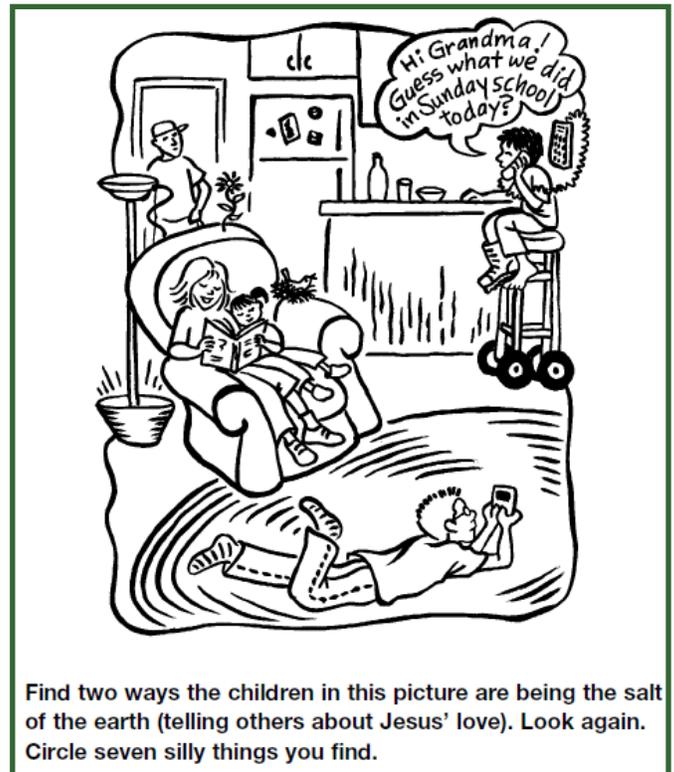
Just for *YOU*th

We give glory to our Father in heaven each time we worship.

Color in the spaces with stars to find one special word we sing and say in worship to praise God.



What is one special word you can use to praise God?

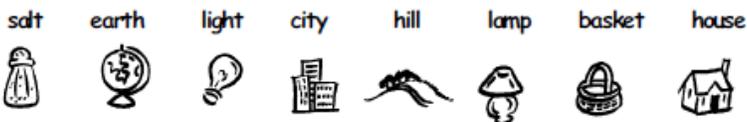


Find two ways the children in this picture are being the salt of the earth (telling others about Jesus' love). Look again. Circle seven silly things you find.

Salt and light

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus was a teacher. He taught about God's love. Use the pictures to help you read one of Jesus' message.



U R the of the ; but if has lost its taste, how can its iness restored? It is no longer good for anything.

U R the of the . A built on a cannot hid. No after ing a puts it under the bushel , but on the stand and it gives in all the . In the same way, let your shine before others, so that they may your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



Dear Lord,
 Thank you for filling me with lots of salt (Your love). Help me shake out lots of salt (Your love) on the people I meet every day.
 Amen.

This Week...

Taste some food without salt. Then try adding a little salt. How does the taste change? Be a "saltier" person for God by inviting a friend to come to worship with you next Sunday.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 5/9

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

Wednesday 5/10

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Thursday 5/11

- TLC Daycare Spring Concert

Friday 5/12

- Bethel office is closed.
- TLC Daycare graduation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 5/14

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Mother's Day Tea on the Patio after worship

Tuesday 5/16

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

Wednesday 5/17

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am
- First Communion Class

Friday 5/19

- 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 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:

May 23 at Terry Korpela'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.