

# Bethel Notes

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## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

### Lay Assistant:

Josie Delorit

### Usher:

Mary Gernaat

### Tech:

Gabe Smith

### Children's Church:

Addi Carlson

TBD

### Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Laurie Turner

### Hospitality:

Mike and Joyce Harding

## Sunday, November 19, 2023

### 25th Sunday after Pentecost

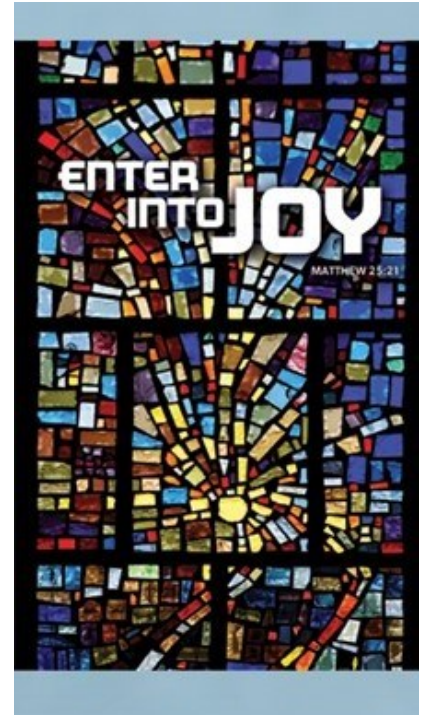
*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

**Psalms:** 90:1-8, 12

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM in person or  
online at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate **the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**

We are excited to have the **Jubilate Choir led by Jeff Skogley** singing in worship today.

**Worship Planning Committee** meets after worship today in the Sunshine room.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship as we continue our **Adult Education** on the first season of *The Chosen*.

BE THANKFUL  
BE GRATEFUL  
BE BLESSED



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing and answers for **Anna Boucher** as they determine a cause and treatment for seizures.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and support for **Diane Young**, *Sandy Pepos' aunt*, recovering at home after a stroke.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Renate Weldele**, *Christy Virts' mother*, who is home recovering after a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ 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** his response to cancer treatment has been positive, however some complications has developed as a result of the treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, who is undergoing medical testing and awaiting results.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** who is home recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Eric Peterson**, former *Bethel member*, who has been going through cancer treatment and has experienced a set back with his diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of continued support for **Carmen Goodhart**, *Bernice Johnson's granddaughter*, and **Bernice Johnson** that they continue to work to find safe and affordable housing for Carmen and support for her health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Anita Short**, *Thelma Seyfert's niece*, as she rehabbing in the hospital from a bilateral brain hematoma.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Kathi Bisgard** who is recovering at home from surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, receiving chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who home recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pastor Jessie and Jade** as they mourn the loss of their precious baby boy, **Kai Wilder Metzler**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ 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 from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ 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.

# Christmas Bazar Fundraiser December 10th

Looking for crafters and bakers to donate items for our Holiday Bazar after worship on December 10th. This is a fundraiser for VBS 2024.

For more information talk with Laurie Turner or Tami Grosenick.

## Daily Text

## 2024

## Now Available

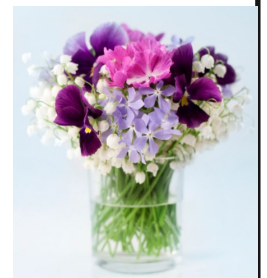


2024 Daily Texts are available in the Narthex.

Please take a copy for free. If you would like to pick up additional copies, a suggested donation of \$10.00 per copy is appreciated to help cover the cost of the text, but it is **NOT** expected.

## 2024 Sign Ups are in the Books!!

### Altar Flowers



### Hospitality

### Usher and Greeter



## Signup sheets for 2024 are in the binders in the Narthex.

## Christmas Gift Wrap Fundraiser

Get your Christmas gifts wrapped and support St. Ann's Soup Kitchen. 100% of your free will donation supports feeding the hungry at lunch on Fridays.

Friday, November 24th

Noon until 6:00 PM

The Stadium Sports Bar -1121 5th St S





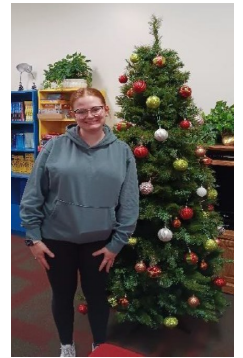
# November Newsletter

We've made it to November and the holiday season is right around the corner. Here at Family Promise Great Falls we are gearing up for the holidays with our "Thank You" party on November 16th from 4-7 p.m. The party will be held in our day center, located within our office at 1019 Central Avenue. The party is to show appreciation for all our fabulous volunteers, supporters, donors, and funders. We'd love to have you come and meet our staff and tour the day center, enjoy some cookies, and punch, and see how we've decorated for the holiday season.

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

We are growing as an organization, and that means we're experiencing some growing pains. We have been blessed to have a student from The University of Providence with us for the last few weeks. Her name is Kaylyn Gallagher, and she is a Business Administration major at the university. Kaylyn has been very helpful around the office, doing some light administrative work and helping us to decorate for the holiday season. We're so thankful for your time Kaylyn, and we appreciate the great work that you do.

Additional volunteers are needed, so if you have extra time on your hands, please reach out to Tiffany at [tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org](mailto:tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org). We are seeking volunteers who can fill the following needs:



- 1.) In-office supportive services-** (skills required: data entry, Microsoft Office, organization, time management) Volunteers are needed to assist with writing and sending thank you notes, organizing information for referrals, gathering community partner organization information, and assisting Outreach & Operations Specialist in creating innovative solutions to organizational needs.
- 2.) Event Volunteer Manager:** (skills required: Previous management experience, motivating and coordinating volunteer efforts, data tracking, and a high level of organizational skills/professionalism) Volunteer Manager will assist Outreach & Operations Specialist with creating and implementing Volunteer Program Management System. Once the Volunteer Program Management System is in place, the Volunteer Manager will assist with recruitment, training, data tracking, organizing, and assisting volunteers. Volunteer Manager will attend various functions/events/fundraisers throughout the calendar year. This position will be directly responsible for assisting the Outreach & Operations Specialist with creating innovative solutions to organizational needs.
- 3.) Specialized Volunteers:** (various skills required) Volunteers are needed to assist with day-to-day operations at Family Promise Great Falls. These Specialized Volunteers will assist in creating solutions to common office problems. This will include the creation of a data tracking system to be used to track clients, their needs, services provided, and number of office visits/time spent with Family Advocate. These volunteers must have extreme organizational skills, excellent time management skills, and the ability to operate all the software used in the office (primarily Microsoft Office/Google programs) with an emphasis on volunteers who possess a high level of knowledge with Salesforce and Excel spreadsheets.
- 4.) Furniture Acquisition/Distribution:** (skills required include the ability to stand/walk for extended periods, lift, carry, and organize heavy pieces of furniture) Volunteers in this position will report directly to the Executive Director, and assist the director with all furniture exchanges. These volunteers will be needed in an "On-Call" capacity, to assist the director at various and infrequent times.

*Continued on page 5...*

5.) **Community Support Volunteers:** (skills required include owning and operating a vehicle with insurance, outreach abilities, outgoing personality, extensive knowledge of program and services provided). Volunteers in this position will be our voice within our community. Duties will include distribution of materials within the community, making and recording community contacts, asking for donations, maintaining records of contacts/donations received, and will report directly to the Outreach and Operations Specialist. These volunteers will be responsible for educating community partners on the services Family Promise of Great Falls provides.

### THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR TWO FAMILIES

We are currently trying to put together two baskets for our shelter families for Thanksgiving. We are accepting donations of the makings of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. If you happen to have an unexpired can of cranberries or an extra box or two of stuffing, please consider dropping them off at our office. We will gather as much as we can and present the baskets to the two families the week of Thanksgiving. One family has three members, the other family has four. Every item donated is appreciated and will help these families to have a nice holiday in the shelter.

**Calling all congregations** As part of our efforts to expand our reach, we are looking for congregations that would be willing to let Greg and Tiffany come and speak about the important work Family Promise Great Falls is doing. If you would like to have us come and speak to your congregation, please reach out to Tiffany at [tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org](mailto:tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org) and Tiffany would be happy to schedule a date and time with you. We feel that the faith community is so important in the work that we do and would love the opportunity to meet the members of your congregation.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In the office this month we were blessed by a visit from Major Michael Halverson from The Salvation Army. Major Halverson and his wife are new to the area and have replaced the Kings at The Salvation Army. Major Halverson is quite busy in his new role but took time out of his busy schedule to stop by our office to talk about the services The Salvation Army provides for our community. During our meeting Major Halverson shared that the formerly known “Family Services” building is undergoing a remodel. It is expected to reopen in the Spring, and they will be making some changes to the way that their food bank operates. The new program model hopes to reduce food waste and empower their clients to make their own choices when it comes to selecting what foods they do or don’t want. We spoke at length about the services Family Promise provides for the community and gave Major Halverson the tour of our day center. We are so grateful that the Halverson’s have accepted their new positions within the community and look forward to working with them in the future.

### SOC HOP 2024

The date for our annual fundraiser has been set! Mark your calendars for April 27, 2024, to attend our SOC HOP dinner, fundraiser, and silent auction. We have chosen to hold the event at The Elks Lodge in the heart of downtown Great Falls. More details and tickets will be available on our website at [www.familypromisegf.org](http://www.familypromisegf.org) in the coming months. We hope to see you there!



The Great Falls Municipal Band  
presents ...  
**Two Free Concerts!**

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**COMMUNITY JAZZ BAND**  
*under the direction of John Gemberling  
presents*  
**“Big Bands — The Second Tier”**  
**Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

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**COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND**  
*under the direction of Dennis Granlie*  
**Enjoy “Marches, Moods and Movie Music”**  
**performed by a 65-piece band**  
**Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

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**New Hope Lutheran Church**  
**3125 Fifth Ave. S., Great Falls**

*Admission by free-will offering to  
benefit New Hope Lutheran Church*



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

### Who's Got Talent?

Jon Bloom is a cofounder of the Desiring God organization. Speaking to the parable of the talents, he suggests that being given one talent can appear unfair, can wound our pride. He is regularly tempted, he says, to covet his neighbors' talents. And isn't that always the way? Discounting our own gifts, we envy the abilities of others. And yet, Bloom points out, such behavior is, at its core, the sin of pride.

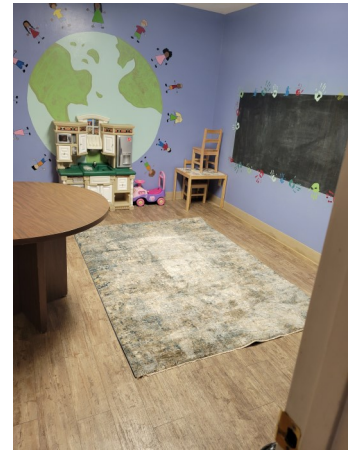


Our love of God can get eclipsed and our loving relationships with others can be damaged by such pride, which costs us any desire to be a good steward of the gifts God has given us. Hence the description of the last servant as "wicked" and "lazy" (Matthew 25:26). Being given a single talent means less of a chance to really impress the master and improve the servant's own position. Therefore, the servant believes, the master is harsh and unjust.

Pride infects all of us, no matter how many talents we have. In a number of parables, Jesus takes aim at people with a generous amount of prestige, wealth, and power. That's why this parable stings so much. Jesus is talking to all of us. We can and must be on the lookout for the sin of pride, which is at the root of so many unhealthy behaviors. Pride takes so many forms, including discouragement, self-pity, and hopelessness. Every single one of us is a cherished and deeply loved child of God—and God has blessed every single one of us, richly, with talents. Making the effort to be good stewards of the talents we have is a fine way to shut down self-pity and the sin of pride. God has reasons for giving us exactly the talents we have.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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A BIG Thank You to the Bethel Congregation  
for the recent CPS Family Visitation Room project.

The staff at Child Protective Services and families are enjoying the donations of toys, games and creative materials to support quality, interactive family visits. The area rugs have been a warm, welcome addition to the rooms, as well, and it has been exciting for staff to watch the families play together. What a terrific response to a local outreach project!

"We just can't thank you and your congregation enough!!" Megan, at CPS

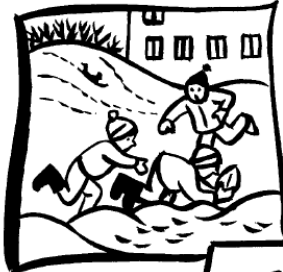
# Just for *YOU*th

## Everyday talents

Matthew 25:14-30

In today's gospel, Jesus tells another parable. This one is about using the talents God has given you to share God's love. Check out the following story. Who used their talents well?

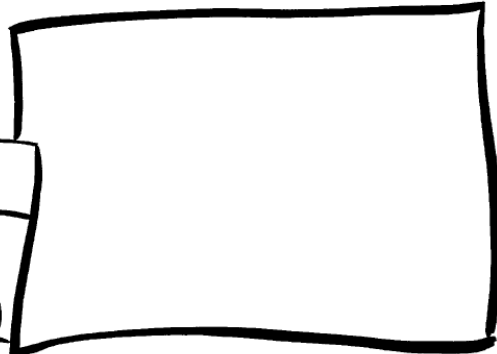
Just before Christmas, a new family moved into their apartment building. Karena and Sam were the first to greet them. Before long, the new kids were creating plays with Karena and playing football in the snow with Sam.



Sam, Karena, and Kelly were friends living in the same apartment building. Sam loved playing football and played anytime, anywhere.



Kelly was an amazing videogame player, and would spend time on the weekends working to get to the next level of the game she was playing. She knew all the secret codes and loved winning!



Kelly wondered how she could be a friend. What ideas do you have for Kelly? How could Karena, Sam, and their new friends include Kelly? How might Kelly share her talents?

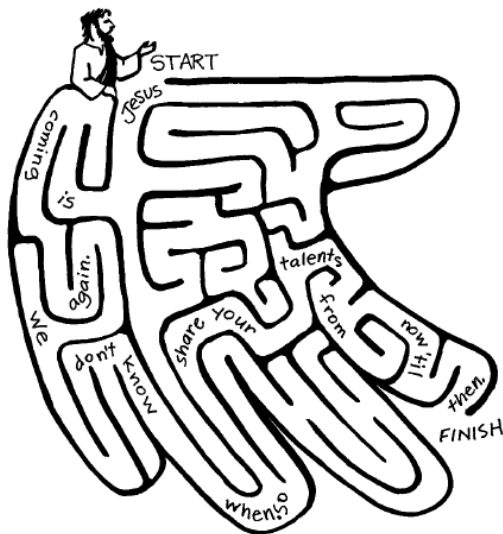
**Write or draw your idea in the box above.**

Karena loved to act. She practiced every day, before and after school, and enjoyed finding friends to be in her plays.



## Follow Jesus . . .

Following Jesus means sharing talents. Follow Jesus' footprints to uncover a poem that can help you remember to share your talents! Write the words you find, *in order*, in the space below the maze.




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## This Week...

Have a family talent show. Invite a friend or two!

Welcome to worship. Have you ever heard someone say: "Oh, she's so talented"? A talent is a gift from God. It is something you are good at. What are your talents?

Look at the pictures below. Place a **T** next to the ones that show a talent you have, and an **F** next to the pictures that show a talent of a friend.



*Oh God. We are so glad we have talents from you. Help us to share them!  
Amen*



Look at the people with you in worship. What are their talents?



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday 11/21**

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

### **Wednesday 11/22**

- Bible Study on Zoom led by Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- No LOGOs Youth Ministry

### **Thursday 11/23**

- Thanksgiving Day, Bethel Office is closed

### **Friday 11/24**

- Bethel office is closed.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 11/26**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie Obrecht in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Adult Education, The Chosen to follow worship
- Stay and help decorate the church for Christmas following worship.

### **Tuesday 11/28**

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

### **Wednesday 11/29**

- Bible Study on Zoom led by Udo Wozny
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School LOGOs 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 11/30**

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm

### **Friday 12/1**

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

## **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 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.

***November 16th, 7:00 pm at Korpela's .***

### **Weekly Text Study**

#### **with Pastor Jessie**

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.