

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, November 26, 2023

Christ the King Sunday

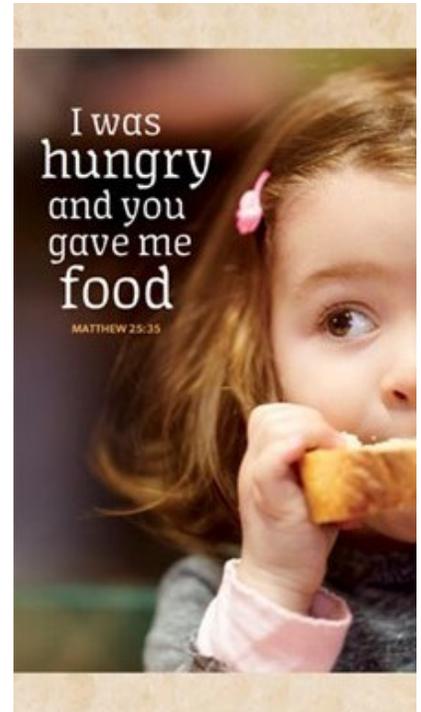
On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 95:1-7a

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46



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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Mary Seim, piano

Lay Assistant:

Chris Gleason

Usher:

Sara Sexe

Patty Braget

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

Taylah Jaques

Hailey Marr

Counters:

Patty Braget

Sara Sexe

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos



THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate **Christ the King**.

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

Stay after worship to help **decorate the church** with Christmas cheer!



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 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



Bethel Church Council Meeting Highlights

Bethel Church Council met in person on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. Here are some highlights from that meeting.

- Tami and Colter are working with Eric Dunn on our sound system, improving internet live stream, and our internal sound. It will be good to have these issues resolved!
- The property committee has been busy on the following projects:
 - ⇒ The old chairs from the sanctuary have been sorted and 75 are kept for the Fellowship Hall, 20 were given to TLC Daycare, 51 have been donated to Central Christian, and the rest that were damaged or dangerous are being taken to the dump.
 - ⇒ The new pavement along the TLC parking lot is also done. The garbage cans have been moved to the 17th Avenue so that the weight of the garbage truck will not be driving over the new drive and damage it.
- Thanks to the Property Management Committee for all their hard work. The November 5th potluck was a great success, thanks to Mission Endowment and to all who contributed and all who attended.
- Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. The worship schedule was discussed and decided to be the following:
 - ⇒ No Sunday morning service
 - ⇒ Christmas Eve services at 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm, this will be our traditional candlelight and communion service, held in the sanctuary
 - ⇒ No Christmas morning service
- Council has been working on updating our Constitution and Bylaws, using the Synod's model constitution as a guide. These updates will have to be approved by the Synod before we share them with the congregation, then hopefully we'll vote on this at the annual meeting. Many Council policies were consolidated into Continuing Resolutions and updates were made to the Personnel Handbook, which do not require congregational approval. These were both approved by unanimous vote.

Next Council meeting December 12th, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Turner, Bethel Council Secretary.



Words from the Synod: 2023 National Youth Summit

Once a year, the ELCA holds a National Youth Summit. The purpose of this summit is to strengthen the leadership skills and abilities of youth that are leaders in their setting. Two youth and 1 adult from each synod are invited to attend. This year, the theme was "Called On the Way" and the focus was on Advocacy. This seemed like a surprising theme, and I wondered how this would apply to developing the leadership skills of those that attended.

The way in which the leaders of the summit talked of advocacy and dealt with the topics discussed helped the youth present to understand that advocacy has many options and sizes. They learned that any way they care for those who are in need or who are marginalized is advocacy. They came away with eyes better opened to see options around them and with language skills so that what might be controversial can be talked about in ways that allow themselves and others to live in a space of discomfort. They learned that it is OK to be uncomfortable with while still loving those they are helping, knowing we are all children of God.



The youth from Montana that attended were Morgan May of Our Redeemer Lutheran in Helena and Kian Ryan of Bethel Lutheran in Great Falls. Here is what they had to say afterwards:

Morgan: This year's Youth Summit was a huge opportunity and experience I will never forget. The people I met and the new friends I made are people I will always remember. Especially the other representative from the Montana Synod, Kian Ryan.

Kian: The experience was amazing, the games and singing well connected (me to) others. It was very welcoming and kind. I made friends in those three days, but it felt like I've known them forever. When we left for departure to home, it was a horrible dejection. I miss my new best friends like Morgan May who is part of the Montana Synod and changed my life forever. I'm so glad we met. We continue to stay connected with other friends. We were "Called On the Way."

It was an honor to spend 4 days with these 2 youth and with youth from all over the US as we learned together what it means to care in big and small ways for the needs we see around us. We are Church, Better Together!

Pastor Brenda



GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 26, 2023

Christ the King Sunday

The Coming Kingdom

Jesus' vision of glory is really a humble one. His kingly activity is not concerned with parading around royally, or associating with the powerful or wealthy, or affiliating himself with military might and authority. The pronouncements made from his throne are not ones issued for the sake of protecting his own power. Instead, he is concerned with one question in particular: How do the vulnerable fare?

As we celebrate Christ the King at the end of another church year, we are challenged to see an expression of political power that is far different from that which makes our governments tick. Jesus welcomes his followers into an alternative way of life, one that puts love of neighbor at the center of our daily actions.

To get a sense of how the vulnerable have fared on our watch, we could look at our national and local budgets, government policies, advocacy efforts, social interactions, even our charitable contributions. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is an invitation to see one's neighbor with renewed vision. There is an expectation when honoring Jesus' sovereignty that our attention turn outward, away from ourselves. Similarly, the celebration of the Lord's supper redirects our attention toward Christ and our neighbor.

When we receive the meal, we are not coming forward for a private snack. Instead, we come as people who are shaped by this gift of God. In this gift Christ himself reminds us of the common need we have, and as we partake in the meal, we are invited to see it as a central expression of Christ's reign. In so doing, our idea of neighbor expands and we rehearse an economy that God desires, one in which vulnerable people matter. We share this meal with God's family throughout history and around the world. And this is how the kingdom comes.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

-John F. Kennedy

1st Monday Night Quilters

The 1st Monday Night Quilters will meet Monday, December 4, 2023, 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Ave. So. Please use the alley entrance.

All the quilts we made this past year were picked up Nov. 20 and taken to Lutheran World Relief in Minneapolis and to be packed into bales of 30-35 each. When the need arises, these bales are loaded onto shipping containers. Last year 220,000 quilts traveled to 19 countries.

Come join us December 4, 6 p.m. for 2 hours of quilting and conversation. If you have questions or want to help at home, call 406-799-0100.

Just for *YOUth*

Your kingdom come

In the Lord's Prayer we pray *your kingdom come*. What do you think those words mean? What is God's kingdom like?



What picture can you draw in this crown that shows God's kingdom?

Jesus is . . .



Find the words below that describe Jesus.

Lord, King, Savior, Loving, Kind, Teacher,
Healer, Friend, Helper, God's Son, Fabulous,
Amazing, Wonderful, Gentle

Welcome to worship. It's Christ the King, the last Sunday of the church year. What a great festival day—kind of like New Year's Eve! Jesus is our king forever. Today we celebrate everything about him.



This Week...
Prepare your hearts and homes for Advent. Slow down and enjoy a quiet wait for Christmas.

Write the word that tells what Jesus is doing. (love, pray, heal, teach)

What if?

Matthew 25:31-46

Have you ever seen Jesus? In today's gospel from Matthew, Jesus tells us we see him and serve him, whenever we help people in need. Read the following poem to discover how to see and serve Jesus—today.

Place all the letters with crowns around them in order in the blanks below to discover what Jesus wants you to do.

What if



You heard a knock on your door

And someone was there who needed clothes,

And someone was there who needed food,



And someone was there who needed a drink,

And someone was there who was lonely,

And someone was there who was sick,

And someone was there who was scared ?.

What would Jesus say to you?

What would Jesus want you to do?



_____ P _____

Jesus, you are amazing.
Amen



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Friday 12/1

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

Saturday 12/2

- Hope Circle Christmas Party at Jim and Marilyn Carlson's 2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 12/3

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie Obrecht in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Guest Speaker Carrie Parker from Helping Hands

Tuesday 12/5

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

Wednesday 12/6

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

Thursday 12/7

- Exec Board Zoom Meeting 5:30 pm

Friday 12/8

- Bethel office is closed.

Friday 12/9

- LOGOs Youth Christmas Program rehearsal 9:00 am
- Aitz Chaim Hanukkah Party in the Fellowship Hall 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.

December

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.