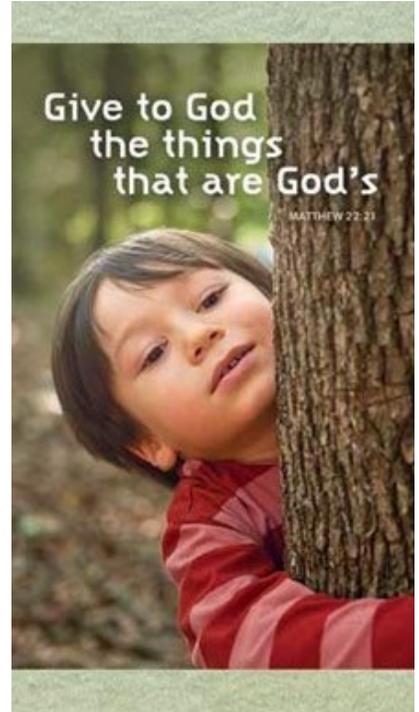


Bethel Notes



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Sunday, October 22, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Mary Seim, piano

Lay Assistant:

Tamy Scholten

Usher:

TBD

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Colter McCarty

Children's Church:

Addi Carlson

Rylee Virts

Counters:

Tim Lightbourne

Kelsey Johnson

Hospitality:

Shari Kohoutek

Debbie McCarty

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **21st Sunday after Pentecost.**

Welcome and **thank you to Dave Scholten, LPS** for preaching and presiding for us this Sunday.

We are blessed to have **the Bethel Handbell Choir led by Sharon Mueller** playing for us this Sunday.

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

All are invited to First English Lutheran Church at 2:00 pm for their **Holy Closing Worship Service.** Stay after for refreshments.

Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of thanks for all the prayers from **Leona Ost** as she is doing wonderful after oral surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Carmen Goodhart**, *Bernice Johnson's granddaughter*, that she may find safe and affordable housing.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who home recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, who is recovering at home after surgery.
- ✝ 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 **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, who has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues with chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ 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 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.



Furnishing Family Visit Rooms for CPS

Our Bethel Congregation has reached out to our local social workers and Child Protective Services staff this past year to show our support and appreciation for all they do for our community. They work tirelessly to advocate for the needs and rights of those whose voices are often less heard by our society. They are vital to helping families, particularly those experiencing hardship, while ensuring families have access to the resources they need to thrive. Like so many critical professions in our world, social workers deserve extra praise because of the significant sacrifices they make every day to better our communities.

Our local heroes have greatly appreciated your acts of kindness and gifts, including goodie bags for staff, yummy snacks, holiday treats, thank you cards, and the Spring Luncheon. To cap off this campaign, we have collaborated with the Family Visitation Supervising Team to identify ways we can enrich the special time children are reunited with their loved ones.

It is our hope to provide items that promote positive, loving communication in a comfortable environment. Playing and creating together is a great way to start a natural flow of conversation, so you will see a variety of toys and activities that will do just that. An outdoor patio table umbrella and corn hole game were donated this summer for the outdoor space.

Please take a moment to look over the Wish List of items that would help make these family visits a special time for both parents and children. Gently-used items are also welcome. Stuffed animals cannot be accepted for health reasons. Donation boxes for items will be set up at church October 1 – 22. Monetary donations can be made in the weekly offering (please designate CPS) or given to Tami in the office.

Wish List for Family Visitation Rooms
Child Protective Services

ARTS & CRAFTS ITEMS:

- Small Canvases with paint
- Bracelets to exchange/share
- Make and Take craft kits
- Paint with Water books
- Small white board with dry erase markers

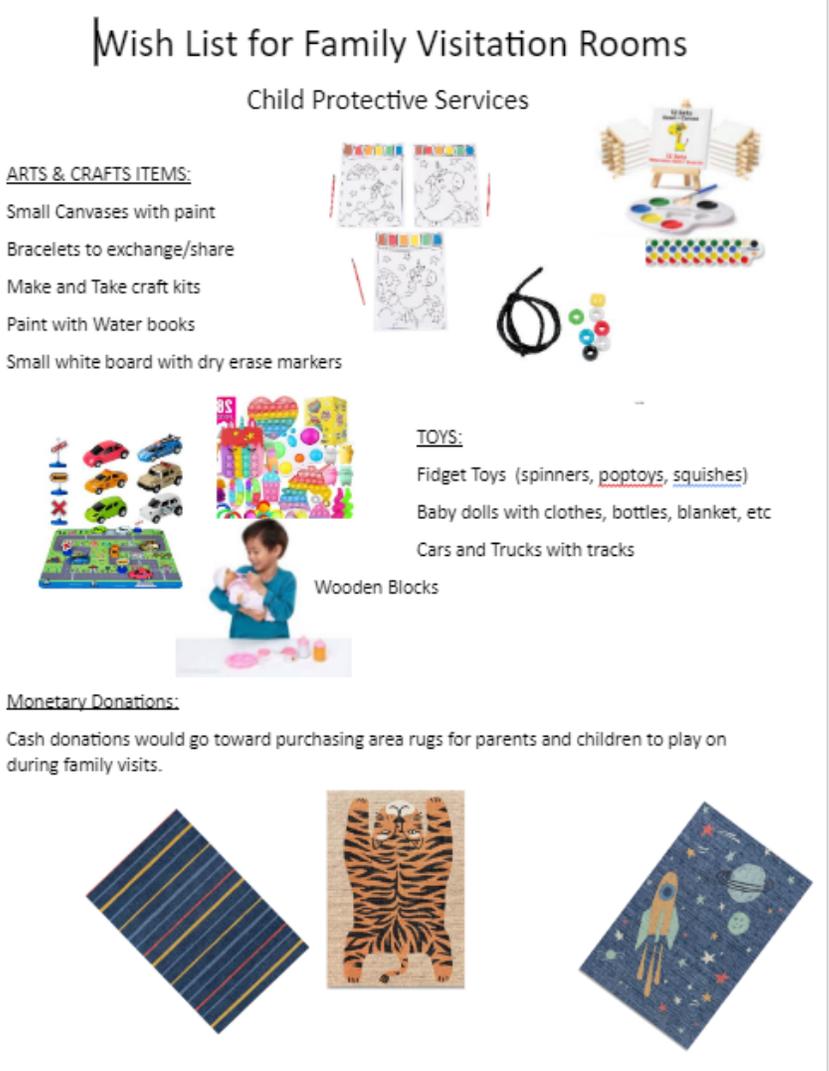
TOYS:

- Fidget Toys (spinners, [poptoys](#), [squishes](#))
- Baby dolls with clothes, bottles, blanket, etc
- Cars and Trucks with tracks

Wooden Blocks

Monetary Donations:

Cash donations would go toward purchasing area rugs for parents and children to play on during family visits.



Bethel Church Council Meeting Highlights

The Bethel Church Council met in person on October 17th in the Fellowship Hall. Here are a few highlights from that meeting.

- After all the generous contributions from our congregation for chairs, we will finish paying for them with only \$2647.07 from our Memorial Fund. Thanks so much to all of you!
- We had some discussion about asking the Property Committee to look into a new outdoor Bethel sign.
- A vote was taken on four people to serve on the nominating committee: Warren Johnson, Dena Wagner-Fossen, Lynn Ryan, and Sara Sexe.
- Mission Endowment is sponsoring a potluck after church Nov 5. Please plan to attend and help us build community!
- Hope Circle and friends are working on our Christmas bake/craft sale on December 10th, following the annual Christmas program.
- We so appreciate folks who have been filling in for Pastor Jessie in her absence: Jim Carlson, Dave Scholten, Pastor Steve Nelson and Pastor Sara Branom, and Former Bishop Jessica Crist. We thank them for their steadfast commitment to Bethel.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Turner, Council Secretary



TO DO LIST

1. Spend time with Jesus
Psalm 27:8.
2. Let Him prioritize my day
Matthew 6:33.
3. Pray instead of worrying
Philippians 4:6.
4. Be honest about my sins-
James 4:10.
5. Think of others
Philippians 2:3-4.
6. Wait patiently for God to act
Psalm 27:14.
7. Be willing to do hard stuff
Matthew 16:24.
8. Read God's Word
Psalm 119:9-16.
9. Do what it says
James 1:22
10. Let Christ lead me
Matthew 11:29.

1st Monday Night Quilters

The 1st Monday Night Quilters will meet Monday, November 6, 2023, 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Avenue South. Please use the alley door.

The quilts we've done this year will be picked up at Redeemer November 20 and taken to Lutheran World Relief in Minneapolis where they will be sent to various places around the world. LWR has been doing this for more than 75 years.

We can always use more people. Some of our quilters take home fabric and cut squares or sew tops at home or measure backs so when we come on these First Monday nights, we tie.. One person in Texas said, "If you can tie your shoes, you can help us make quilts." We have two people who sew the binding on at home, so many hands make a quilt.

If you have questions or want to help at home, call 799-0100.



Service of Thanksgiving and Holy Closure

FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
726 2ND AVE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023
2:00 PM

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE

1905 - 2023



Join us for the

Trinity Lutheran Church

Lutefisk Dinner



Sunday, Oct. 29 • 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church • 38 1st Ave. S.W. • Choteau

*Lutefisk, Lefse, Swedish Meatballs, Rutabagas
and all the Trimmings served family style.*

Preschool: Free • Grades 1-6: \$8 • Adults: \$20



Take Out Meals Available - Will Deliver in Choteau.

Handicap and wheelchair accessible
seating provided on the main level.

Call the church office at 466-2291
for more information.

Great Falls Drama Club Proudly Presents
**MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM**
By William Shakespeare



NOVEMBER 2-4 AND 9-11

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AT 7:30PM

SATURDAY AT 2:00PM

Tickets are \$5 for Students and \$8 for Adults

FOLLOW US ON INSTA @GREATFALLSDRAMA

GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 22, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Coins and Foreheads

It sure would be nice if Jesus had said his followers don't have to pay taxes. It would be wonderful to be able to say when taxes come due, "Gosh, I wanted to pay my taxes, but Jesus said I don't have to, so . . ." Of course, Jesus didn't say that, so we're not off the hook!

But Jesus says a lot more here than just "Pay your taxes." He encourages people to rethink their relationship with money and government in light of their relationship with God. He uses a coin of the Roman Empire to make a point. The coin bears the image of the emperor. So, if the emperor wants his coins back, go ahead and give them to him.

But then Jesus puts a limit on how much allegiance and loyalty to pay to the emperor: "Give . . . to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). Like so many coins that bear the images of great leaders, we are told in Genesis that we each bear the image of God. Give to God what is God's! Give yourself, your heart, your soul, your mind, your will to God! Don't give any of that to those who demand you pay taxes. God has a claim on you, not those in power.

At times we might feel a dilemma when it comes to balancing our loyalties among our government and civil obligations, and our loyalty to God. But the message is clear: We belong to God. God claims each of us as beloved, as valuable, as worth more than coins or gold or dollars.

In baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ on our foreheads. We bear the image of the Crucified One who claims us by grace. At the table we are fed and nourished, welcomed and loved, because of the one who tells us our lives have great worth.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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POTLUCK!

Mark your calendars November 5th after worship! This is our first Family Worship of this LOGOs year, it is All Saints Sunday, Pastor Jessie's first Sunday back, **AND** we will have a potluck to follow the service in the Gathering Place. Bring a dish to share and plan on great fellowship that Sunday!



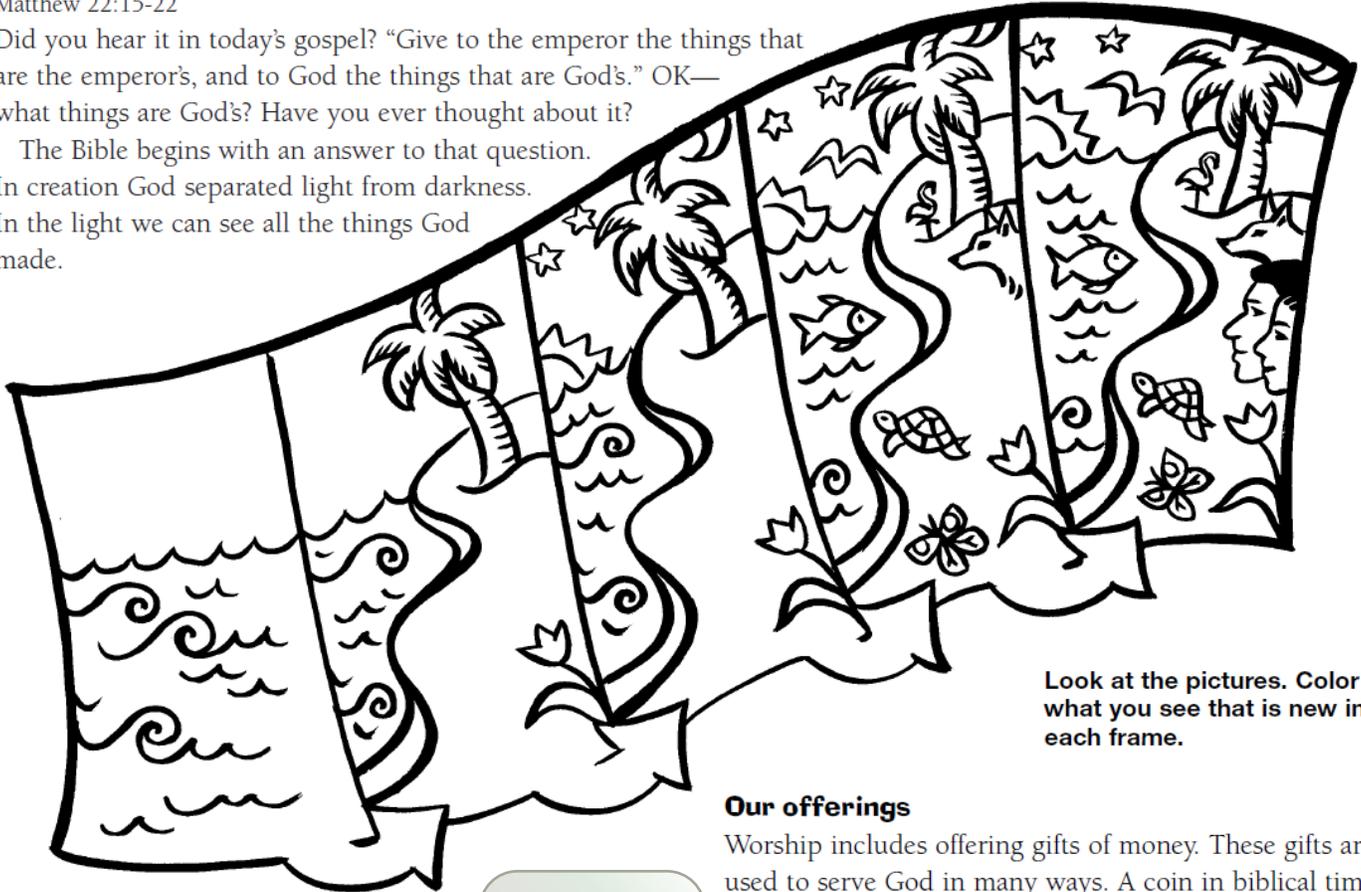
Just for *YOUTH*

Give to God what is God's

Matthew 22:15-22

Did you hear it in today's gospel? "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." OK—what things are God's? Have you ever thought about it?

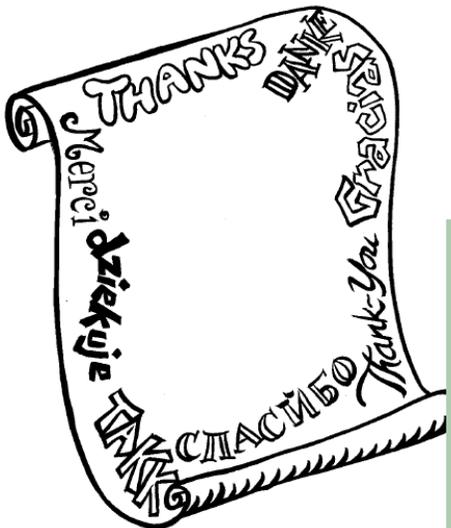
The Bible begins with an answer to that question. In creation God separated light from darkness. In the light we can see all the things God made.



Look at the pictures. Color what you see that is new in each frame.

Welcome to worship! When we come to church, we say thank you to God for all kinds of things. What has God given you that you are thankful for?

Write or draw a thank you note to God.



This Week...

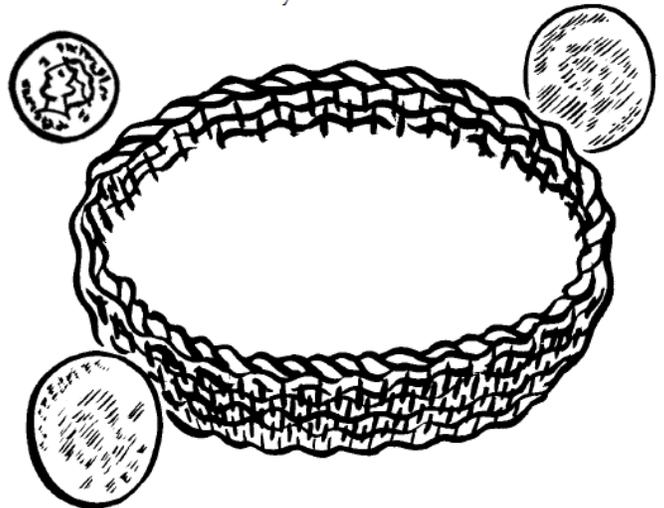
Talk about other offerings to God. How does your family serve God each Day?



Thank you, God, for **EVERYTHING!** Help us share with others.

Our offerings

Worship includes offering gifts of money. These gifts are used to serve God in many ways. A coin in biblical times, called a *denarius*, had a picture of the emperor. What pictures are on the coins you offer to God?



Fill the offering basket with coin rubbings. Place coins under this page and rub over the paper with a pencil. Try both sides of the coin. Who do you see?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 10/24

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

Wednesday 10/25

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

Thursday 10/26

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

Friday 10/27

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 10/29

- Family Worship led by Pastor Steve Nelson in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Reformation Sunday, wear red
- Adult Education, The Chosen to follow worship

Tuesday 10/31

- Happy Halloween! Bethel Office closes at 3:30 pm
- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 11/1

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

Thursday 11/2

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

Friday 11/3

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship service 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.

October date to be announced.

Weekly Text Study

with Pastor Jessie

—led by Udo Wozny in October

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.