

Bethel Notes

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Sunday, October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday

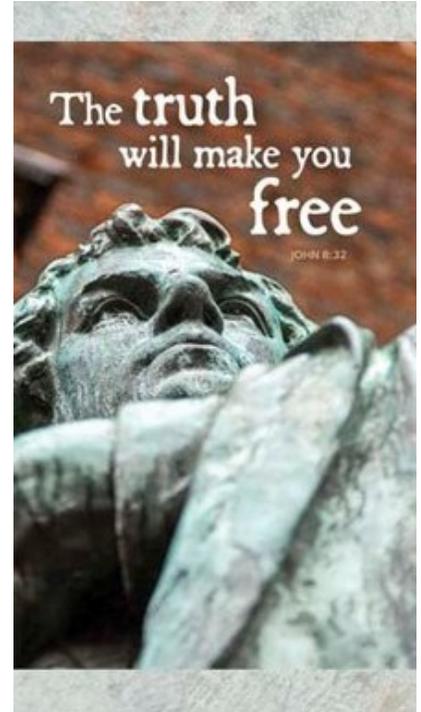
Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: John 8:31-36



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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Connie Titcomb, piano

Lay Assistant:

Sandy Pepos

Usher:

Patty Braget

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

Addi Carlson

Julia Elkin

Counters:

Patty Braget

Kelsey Johnson

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate **Reformation Sunday**.

Welcome and **thank you to Pastor Steve Nelson** for preaching and presiding for us today.

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

Pot luck next Sunday after worship bring your appetite and a dish to share!!



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Vivian Wayne**, *family friend of Isabelle Grosenick*, as she recovers from heart surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for the **family and friends of Russell Herring**, *friend of Shelly Murphy*, as they mourn his sudden passing.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, receiving chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ✝ 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 **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is 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.

Reformation Sunday



This article was written by Pastor Jessie Obrecht and was first published in the October 28, 2021 edition of the Bethel Notes. A wonderful explanation and reminder of our recognition of Luther's Reformation.

This weekend we celebrate Reformation Sunday! On Reformation Sunday we don our red clothes, sing “A Mighty Fortress” and other Martin Luther hymns and talk about how Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. As we enter into this weekend, I think it’s important to talk about the “Whys” behind some of these things.

Why do we wear red?

The color red is the color of the Holy Spirit and the martyrs (those who have died for their faith) in the church. On Reformation Sunday we celebrate that Martin Luther was moved by the Holy Spirit to reform the church, and that that work of the Holy Spirit was a Pentecost-type moment in which the Word (The Bible) was brought to far more people than just the clergy and church elite through Luther’s German translation. We remember the martyrs who have worked tirelessly to continue to reform the church over the years on Reformation Sunday, and we also remember that we, too, are called to continue to reform the church and be made new through God’s promises. Who knew that the color red represented all of that!

Why do we still celebrate Luther?

I have a feeling that if Luther knew we were celebrating him, or named an entire church body after him, he probably wouldn’t be too terribly pleased. On Reformation Sunday, rather than celebrating Martin Luther, we celebrate the work of reforming that Luther and many others took part in. Obviously, we celebrate our heritage through Luther and his teachings, but even more we celebrate that through these teachings and reforms, we have had the privilege and the joy to come to know God, the Holy Scripture, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit more deeply.

Does this mean we don’t like Catholics?

Absolutely not! We continue to hold many of the same beliefs (and some different ones) as the Roman Catholic Church. We have a different way in which we organize our Church and our clergy, but as Lutherans we have a rich history with the Roman Catholic Church that we celebrate and honor to this day. It is important to remember that Reformation Sunday is not an anti-Catholic moment for us as Lutherans, but a celebration of our history which influences how we live into our future.

How do we continue to be reformers today?

In the past few years the ELCA has repeated the saying “Always being made new” to many of our congregations and synods around the country. This emphasizes our commitment to not just be reformed once in 1517 as the church, but to always be open to God’s transforming work in our midst. If we’ve learned anything in the past year or two, it is that the world changes and it changes quickly! Similarly the Church will change and grow and be made new. As God’s people, we are called to be reformers by continuing to care for a changing world filled with changing people in new and diverse ways every day.



Calling All

Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, November 12th. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, November 11th from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon Mueller at oboeclar@gmail.com by Tuesday, November 7th.

Happiness is ringing handbells!!



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.



Great Falls Rescue Mission

A Beacon of Hope Since 1963

Cat vs Griz
Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive
Saturday, November 11th
9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Albertson's on 10th Ave South



SCAN HERE
TO VOLUNTEER



Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

Sunday November 12th, 2023
Bethel Lutheran Church
307 2nd Ave, Joplin, MT
12:00 to 3:00

Lutefisk, meatballs, lefse, boiled potatoes, salad bar and Scandinavian cookies

Youth 15 yrs. to Adults ~ \$22.00
Children 9 -14 yrs. ~ \$12.00
Children 3-8 yrs. ~ \$5.00
3 yrs. & younger ~ free

Lefse for sale
- while it lasts -

Profits will be used for
new church siding.

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.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday

The Truth That Is Freeing

Two key words are in today's gospel reading. These words are simple but profound, and not always easy to understand: "truth" and "free."

Truth is a word that has become questioned, disputed, and suspect. Many news sources and social media memes promote a distorted truth to try to confuse or mislead others. How do you know which sources to believe? What counts as truth now?

Jesus said that the truth will make you free. Even if we figure out what counts as truth, do we understand what it means to be free? We commonly think of freedom as being free from some obligation or limit others impose on us. We value individual autonomy and don't want anyone else to tell us what to do. While this kind of freedom is important in the civil realm, it is far from the freedom of Jesus.

So how do we put these two seemingly simple but complex words together and understand what Jesus means? In John's gospel, the word "truth" is not abstract; it is the reality of God revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Truth is knowing God through Jesus, and therefore knowing God as sacrificial love. This is the truth that sets us free. If we know God as revealed in Christ, then we know what true freedom is: freedom to love as God loves.

Martin Luther famously captured this truth when he said, in "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520), that Christians are truly free, subject to no one. And at the same time, Christians are servants of others called to love and care for them. This is the freedom we need and long for: freedom within a community of love. Jesus makes it possible for us by setting us free from having to become good enough for God to love us. God's love is the truth of the cross: extravagant, self-giving, and sure. We are truly free to love when we live in the love of God offered by Jesus.

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*

Martin's marvels

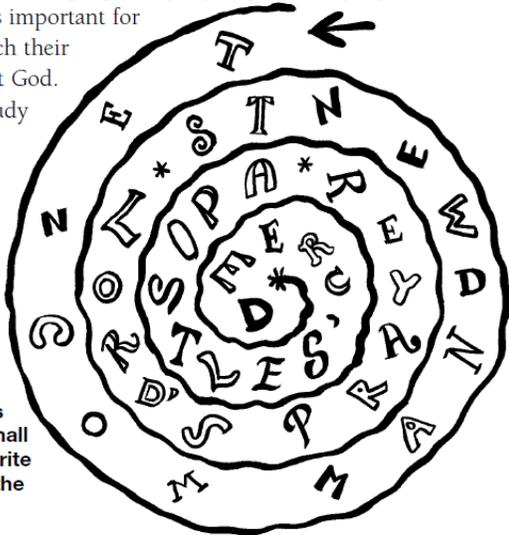
John 8:31-36

Martin Luther was a teacher who wanted everyone to know about the Bible. The printing press was just invented. Martin Luther used it to print copies of his translation of the Bible into the language the people spoke everyday. He thought it was important for parents to teach their children about God.

He wrote a study book to help families learn together.

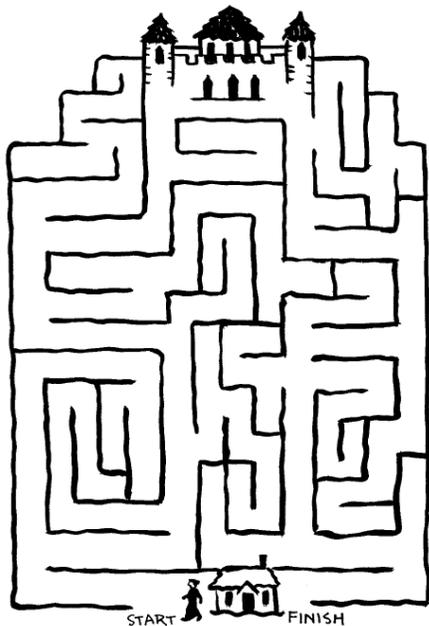
Luther's Small Catechism is still used today.

Follow the arrows to discover parts of Luther's Small Catechism. Write the letters in the blanks below.



Luther's Small Catechism contains:

The _____,
 The _____ and the _____,
 _____ . Check it out!

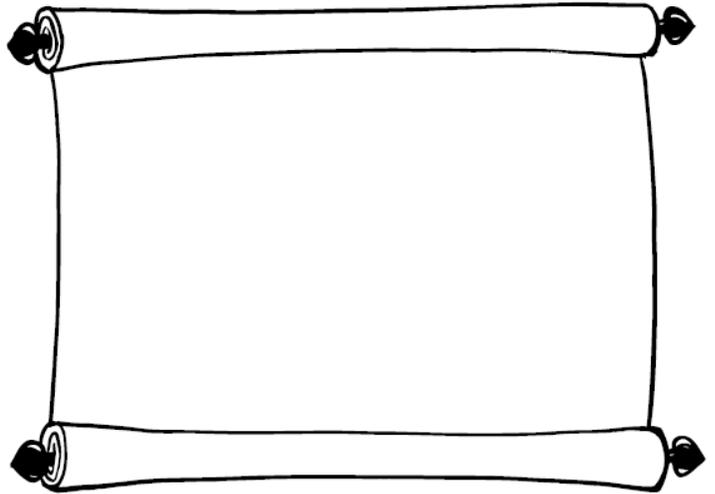


Lift high the cross

Martin Luther believed following Jesus was a way of life. Follow Luther to the Wittenberg castle and back home again to find an important reminder of Jesus.

Stories to share

Martin Luther and his wife Kate told Bible stories in their home. Perhaps they had favorites. What are your favorite Bible stories?



Welcome to worship! Today is a festival—Reformation Day. What do you notice about your worship space?



painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling



Gutenberg



printing press



Martin Luther



posting theses



Michelangelo

Today we hear about Martin Luther, a man who worked to reform—make changes—in the church. A lot was happening in the world at that time.

Draw a line connecting the person to what he did.



Thank you, God, for
 Bibles we can read
 and understand
 Amen.

This Week...

Check out a new Bible storybook from your church or public library.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 10/31

- Happy Halloween! Bethel Office closing 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 6:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 11/5

- All Saint's Sunday/Family Worship led by Pastor Jessie Obrecht and the LOGOs Youth Ministry in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Join us for a pot luck in the Gathering Place following worship

Tuesday 11/7

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

Wednesday 11/8

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

Thursday 11/9

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm
- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary 7:00 pm

Friday 11/10

- 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

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 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.