

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, October 8, 2023

### 19th Sunday after Pentecost

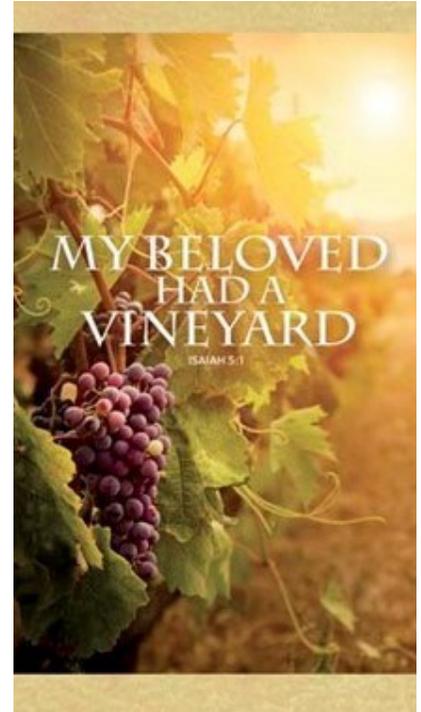
*In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*

*First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7*

*Psalm 80:7-15*

*Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14*

*Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46*



## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

### Lay Assistant:

Randy Gilbertson

### Usher:

TBD

### Tech:

Colter McCarty and TBD

### Children's Church:

Addi Carlson

Rylee Virts

### Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Greg Grosenick

### Hospitality:

Dena Wagner-Fossen

Ava Fossen

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

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**

Thank you to **Dave Scholten, LPA** who has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Today we lift up **ELCA World Hunger** and will receive an additional offering in the wicker baskets.

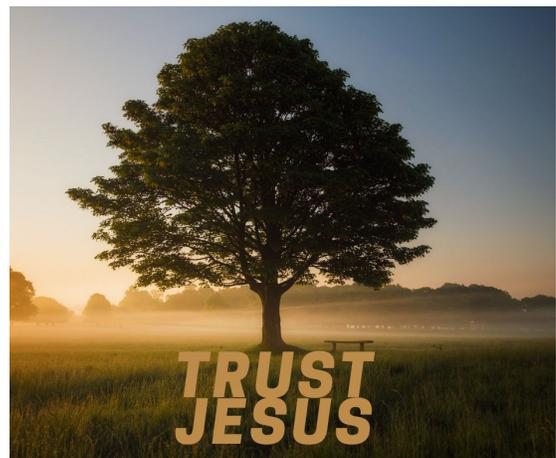
Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for **Adult Forum** on *The Chosen*.

**Worship Planning Committee** meets in the Sanctuary after worship.



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of joy and celebration for the newlyweds **Jonathan and Avalee (Olson) Marrs**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who has been admitted to the hospital for an illness.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Leona Ost** as she recovers from oral surgery.
- ✝ 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 **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law*, as he continues to monitor his health.
- ✝ 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

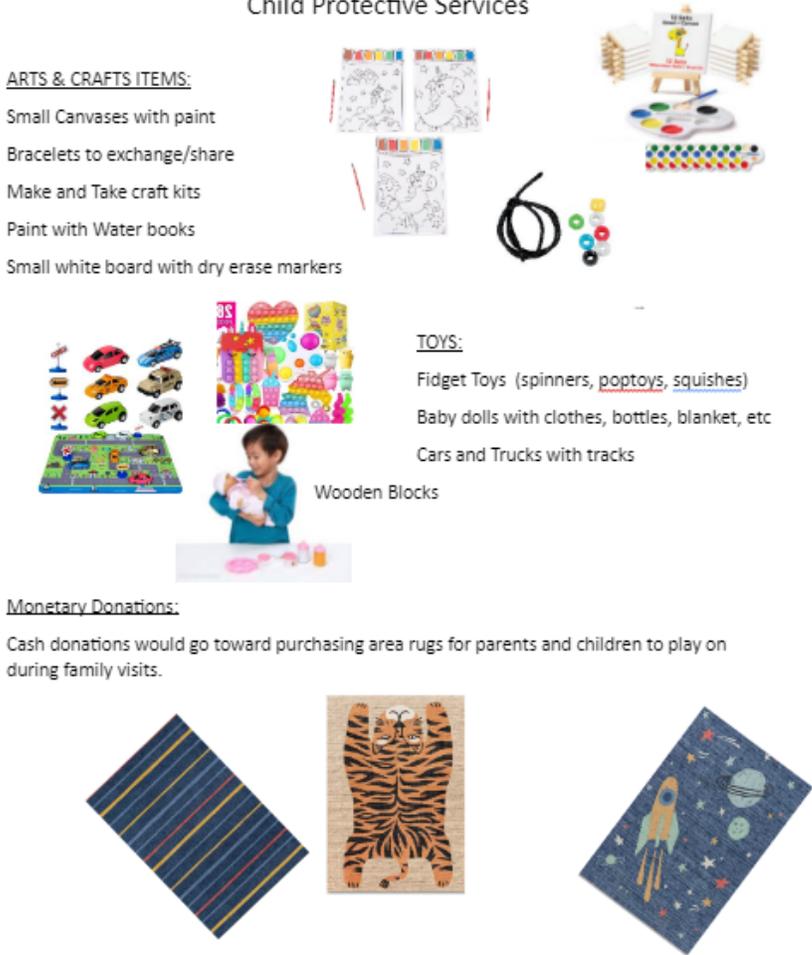
TOYS:

- 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.



# A Thank You Note to Bethel from Retired Pastor Bob Willse

The following email was sent to the office email this week. Retire Pastor Bob Willse has worshipped with Bethel and will be again when passing through Great Falls. His words were so kind, I wanted to make sure that you all received his appreciation.

*“ I would like to express my deep appreciation to the people of Bethel for their incredible mutual ministry as you have cared for Pastor Jessie and Jade in this heartbreaking time. For me it is a testament to the partnership you have made and work hard nurturing with one another. I noticed that when my wife and I worshiped with you back in May. I would hope that any congregation I served in my 40 years would have cared for me and my wife as deeply as you all have done with your pastor and her wife. Truly, Bethel shows God’s love for God’s people.”*

**THE GREAT FALLS SYMPHONIC CHOIR**  
Special Concert!

2pm Sunday October 15  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 15 2023

**GREAT FALLS SYMPHONIC CHOIR**  
CHOIR DIRECTOR CYNTHIA STEVENS

**Songs of Nature** ..... Antonín Dvorák

**Esto Les Digo** ..... Kinley Lange  
LAURA DETRICK SOPRANO

**Bear Me Gently** ..... Kinley Lange  
DENICE BURGESS MILLS SOPRANO

**Requiem** ..... Gabriel Fauré  
DAVID SASLAV TENOR  
ASHTEN SMITH MEZZO-SOPRANO  
DARRYL STEVENS BARITONE

**Praise His Holy Name** .. Keith Hampton  
CORBIN SWANSON TENOR  
ELLA EKSTEDT MEZZO-SOPRANO

ACCOMPANIST KIMBERLY PEACHY

Tickets



## 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



## Calling All Servers and Bakers

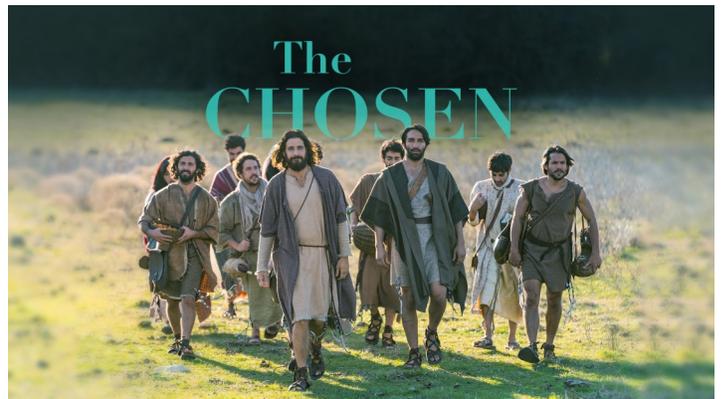
Bethel has been asked to serve and provide some goodies for the reception following the Holy Closure for First English. If you are available or would like to donate some baked goods, please reach out to Laurie Turner to volunteer or for more information. Email: [bethelgf.council.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.council.secretary@gmail.com) or call 406-899-4903.

**Mark your calendars** for the first worship service in November. 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!

## Adult Education after Worship Beginning October 8th

***First Season of The Chosen, we will be watching the episode and have discussion to follow. This series will cover 8 Sundays to complete the first season.***

***The Chosen*** is an American Christian historical drama television series. Created, directed and co-written by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins, it is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him. The series stars Jonathan Roumie as Jesus, alongside Shahar Isaac, Elizabeth Tabish, Paras Patel, Noah James, and George



The first season is set in 1st century Galilee, where Jesus starts to build a group for his ministry, inviting several people with different backgrounds. As he performs his first miracles, Jesus calls the redeemed woman Mary Magdalene; the stonemason Thaddeus; the choir member Little James; the fishermen Simon, Andrew, Big James, and John; the caterer Thomas and vintner Ramah; and the tax collector Matthew to follow him. As the group travels through Samaria, Jesus launches his public ministry after revealing himself to Photina, a Samaritan woman.

*Information courtesy of Wikipedia.*

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 8, 2023

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Solidarity in Rejection



People face rejection for all kinds of reasons: race, nationality, gender, native language, political beliefs. Rejection is a painful experience that can wound the soul and crush the ego. Anyone who has faced it for one reason or another knows the deep hurt of rejection.

Jesus faced rejection. He faced people with power who rejected his teachings, his ministry, his identity, and ultimately, his whole self. Even many of his followers had a hard time accepting his teaching and walked away. Matthew tells us Jesus understood his rejection in a significant way: "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" (Matthew 21:42).

Jesus saw that his rejection could be used for God's purposes, shocking as it sounds. The Rejected One becomes God's means of transformation by turning that rejection into an offer of mercy for all, even for those who rejected him. His rejection shows all who face similar fates that even when all others abandon them, God claims them as beloved. Jesus' rejection becomes the opposite: God's acceptance of us.

All who face rejection in this life can trust that Jesus lives in solidarity with them. They can even come to see that God can use their pain and hurt to create something new. Baptized, we live in an unbreakable covenant of acceptance. We are invited to the table of inclusion. This doesn't eliminate the pain or justify the rejection, but it does open up new possibilities for healing and empowerment. Living as siblings of Christ the rejected one, we come to have such bold faith, and it is amazing in our eyes.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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LOGOs Pre K through 2nd Grade show their creativity with their Noah's Ark Rain Cloud and Rainbow Mobile art project on Wednesday night.

# Just for *YOU*th

## Bible trivia

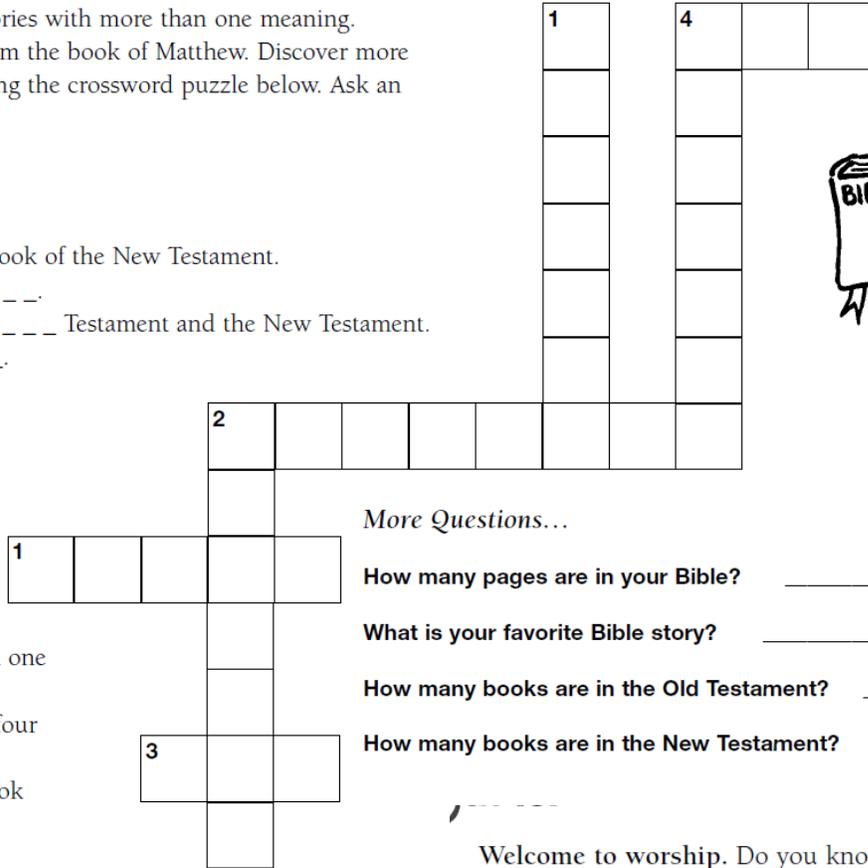
The Bible is full of books and stories. Jesus loved to tell stories and often told parables—short stories with more than one meaning. Today's gospel is a parable from the book of Matthew. Discover more about your Bible by completing the crossword puzzle below. Ask an adult for help, and have fun!

### Across

1. Matthew is the \_\_\_\_\_ book of the New Testament.
2. Gospel means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Bible has 2 parts. The \_\_\_\_\_ Testament and the New Testament.
4. The Bible is all about \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. Short story with more than one meaning; \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Matthew is the first of the four \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the first book in the Bible.




*Thank you, Jesus, for all your blessings. Help us share. Amen*



### More Questions...

- How many pages are in your Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is your favorite Bible story? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many books are in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many books are in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

## Brimming with blessings

Jesus' love fills us up with blessings. During communion, look for a cup like the one here. When we celebrate communion, we're filled with Jesus' blessings!



In the cup above draw pictures of some of your blessings—food, clothing, family. How can you share your blessings with others?

Welcome to worship. Do you know what a cornerstone is? Have you ever seen one? It is usually a big stone in the corner of a building that helps hold the whole building up. Listen today and you'll hear that Jesus is a cornerstone for the whole world. Jesus holds us up!



**This Week...**

Look through your closets for outgrown clothes to share with others.

Draw Jesus as the cornerstone of the earth. He's holding us up!

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday 10/10**

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

### **Wednesday 10/11**

- Bible Study on hold until further notice
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 10/12**

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

### **Friday 10/13**

- Bethel office is closed.

### **Saturday 10/14**

- Jubilate Choir retreat in the sanctuary 9:00 am

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 10/15**

- Worship led by Rev. Steve Nelson in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Jubilate Choir will be singing during worship.

### **Tuesday 10/17**

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

### **Wednesday 10/18**

- Bible Study on hold until further notice
- No LOGOs

### **Thursday 10/19**

- Hope Circle craft hour in the Fellowship Hall 1:30 pm
- No Electric City Chorale rehearsal

### **Friday 10/20**

- 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.

***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.