

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, September 24, 2023

17th Sunday after Pentecost

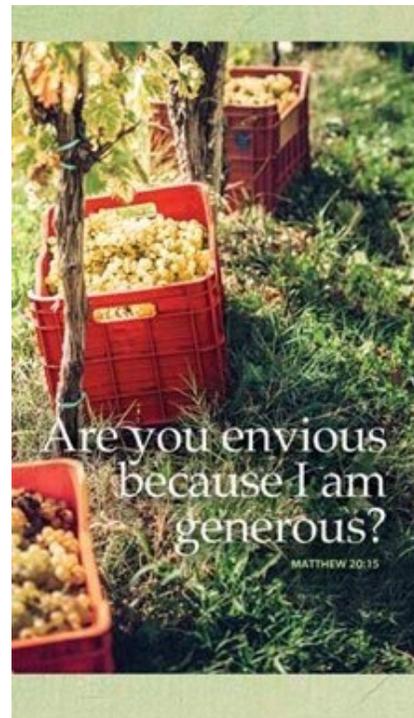
In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16



Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Mindy Leach

Usher:

Mary Gernaat

Marilyn Carlson

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

Julia Elkin

Tyler Grosenick

Counters:

Pam Dougherty

Greg Grosenick

Hospitality:

Sandy Pecos

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

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **17th Sunday after Pentecost.**

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

Yom Kippur begins tonight at 6:00 pm and continues until Noon on Monday, September 25th. The Jewish community will be using the sanctuary for celebration of this high holy day.

Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of strength and support for **Leona Ost** as she prepares for oral surgery Tuesday, October 3rd.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** recovering at home after 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 **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 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) Overturn*, as she continues to slowly make progress as she recovers at home from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, friend of *LaRae Veitch*, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ 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.

Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram
Pumpkins for a Cause

Jordan's
Pumpkins for a Cause

**Pumpkin Picking
Popcorn
& Hay Rides**

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 30th, 2023
87 Meridian Lane, Vaughn MT

Free Admission & Free Parking

**All donations to benefit Family
Promise**

Family Promise
FP
of Great Falls

Bethel Church Council Highlights

Bethel Church Council met on September 12th, here are some highlights from that meeting.

- We talked about the start of LOGOs and the need for volunteers. If you feel you want to help as a table parent, helping prepare and serve dinner, or lending a hand to the teachers, please contact Tami in the office.
- There will be a Christmas Craft Sale on Dec 10th, the same Sunday as the Christmas program. I'm hoping to get Hope Circle to work on this VBS fundraiser. Be thinking about a craft, decorations, or baking that would work for the sale if you want to contribute.
- We discussed the Youth Gathering in New Orleans next October 2024. The deadline for preregistration is October 1-coming right up! For more information, contact Shannon Marr.
- First English will be holding their Holy Closing on Oct 22 at 2:00. We are looking for volunteers to help with the reception after.
- Patty Braget has a list of items needed in the visiting room at CPS. You can contact her for the list. This could be a monetary contribution, as well.

Submitted by Laurie Turner, Council Secretary



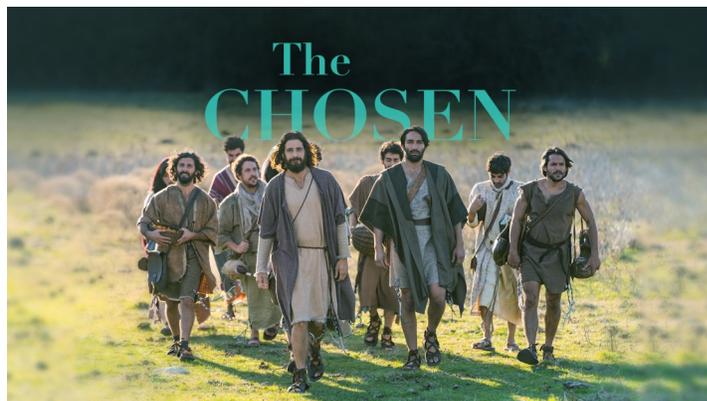
Adult Education after Worship Beginning

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.

INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES AND TRIBAL RELATIONS



September 30 is National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, and Bethel will be including remembrance in our worship and prayers on October 1. People are encouraged to wear orange, and to hang an orange banner on the Sunday nearest to September 30. We will hang the banner made by Sue Hesse in 2021, when the first group of unmarked graves was found at a former boarding school site in Canada. Since then the Orange t-shirt movement has taken hold of people's imagination. A young girl heading to a boarding school was given a brand new orange t-shirt by her grandmother. When the girl arrived at the school, the t-shirt was taken from her, as part of erasing her identity. As a way to remember the erasure of so many children's identity, the Orange t-shirt movement began. For more information and to order a t-shirt, go to www.elca.org/indigenous/boardingschools.

There are a number of opportunities to learn more about Indian Boarding Schools and other ELCA work with American Indian and Alaska Native people, all on Zoom.

September 18, 6-7 pm Mountain Time **"A Conversation with Descendants of Indian Boarding School Survivors."**

September 21, 6-7pm Mountain Time **"The ELCA's Truth Seeking and Truth Telling Initiative"**

September 26, 6-7 pm Mountain Time **"Introduction to the Truth and Healing Movement"**

September 28, 6-7 pm Mountain Time **"Indian 101"**

Information on joining the classes (free) is at www.elca.org/indigenous.

Indigenous People's Day is October 9. November is Native American Awareness Month.

In the 1960's and 1970's the Lutheran Church was very involved in working with American Indian communities, seeking justice and reconciliation. Through the National Indian Lutheran Board, the Lutheran Church was a partner with many tribal communities and movements. Since 2016, the ELCA has re-engaged, first with the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery in 2016, then with the Declaration to American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2021, and now with the Truth and Healing Initiative, coming out of the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. To learn more about the history and some of the present efforts, go to www.elca.org/indigenous.

As part of Bethel's commemoration of the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, we will have an adult forum after the service on October 1. You are welcome to come and learn more about the Boarding School System in both the US and Canada.

LOGOs Needs Help

Last night was our first night of LOGOs and we had a great time. We have a wonderful group of kids this year! We did find that we need more help. In the upcoming weeks we will be reaching out to parents of our LOGOs Youth to sign up to assist, but we would love (need) more consistent leaders to volunteer this year.

We have three High School Logos youth who will be leading Rec (thank you Ainsley Kubas, Kian Ryan and Tyler Grosenick). We have two youth teachers for Pre K through 6 (thank you Jo Ann Dullum and Tami Grosenick) and 1 that can be here, but not every Wednesday (thank you Sandi Pepos). We would love (need) 2 more adults to help with teaching or assistant teaching. We have two table parents (thank you Sandi Cummings and Laura Kupfner-also helping as a float where needed) and one that can be here one Wednesday per month (thank you Rachel Stubbs). We have two kitchen staff (Kelsey and Judy Johnson). We need at least two more people each night in the kitchen or to serve High School. We could also use one or two people to come in and set up tables at 4:30 pm for dinner and/or help clean up tables after dinner at 6:30.

Our confirmation leaders Warren Johnson and Jim Carlson will be filling in until Pastor Jessie returns and High School LOGOs has great leaders in Colter McCarty and Dan and Ali Morris.

This Sunday, we will have a sign up sheet for anyone who is willing and able to help with LOGOs either on a weekly basis or as often as you can.



Service of Thanksgiving and Holy Closure

FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
7262ND AVE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023
2:00 PM

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE

1905 - 2023



GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 24, 2023

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Daily Bread for Everyone

We all have a natural sense of justice, and of what is fair. We might easily conflate the two, but justice and fairness don't always lead to the same end. Jesus' parable of the landowner and the workers suggests that God's sense of justice might not seem fair to everyone. Our ideas of what is right are likely upended by the landowner's generosity. He gives to each worker not what they have earned but rather the "daily bread" they need.

Sometimes in the church's ministry, we behave in a spirit exactly opposite that of the parable's landowner, opting to be "fair" above all else. So, for example, the food pantry can insist on the same items in the same amount for everyone, or the soup kitchen rules dictate that everyone get the same thing on their tray. Yet everyone doesn't always have the same needs. What if instead of fairness, we also made a way for generosity to sometimes disrupt the rules? There are good reasons for insisting on fairness. Rules establish helpful boundaries. Fairness can help ensure that when resources are scarce, everyone has a chance to receive something. Yet, in the name of fairness, we can also overlook both God's abundant generosity and the actual needs of others.

Maybe Jesus' parable doesn't mean changing the rules altogether. But maybe it means leaving ample space for those situations in which emulating God's generosity means bending the rules. God's grace frees us from a stubborn insistence on "only what's fair" so that we can care for others with generous spirits. No matter when we come to the baptismal waters, God's word of grace is enough to cover our sins. No matter our circumstances when we are gathered at Christ's table, God's generosity means there is always enough for each and every one of us to receive the daily bread we need.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Photo by Elmer Cañas on Unsplash



Just for *YOUTH*

The rest of the story

Jonah 3:10—4:11

Remember the prophet Jonah? He's the guy who ran away from God, got swallowed by a really big fish, and lived in its belly for 3 days before finally getting spit out on dry land. What happened after that? Where did Jonah go, and what did he do? Listen to the story as it is read, then solve the puzzle below to find out!

_____ went to _____ to tell people about _____.



The people _____ and _____ the _____.



_____ left _____.



_____ sent _____ a _____ for _____.



The next day was _____ and _____, and a _____ ate the _____.



_____.



Jonah was _____ and frustrated.



_____ said: "Don't worry _____!"



I will always take _____ of you.



I _____ you. I _____ all people."



Now you know the rest of the story. God loves us all!

This Week...

Invite another family to visit your church with you.



*Thank you God, for loving all of us!
Amen.*

Invite a friend!

We are all part of God's family, and like Jonah, we can tell other people about God's love.

Draw a heart around all the ways you might show God's love to someone.

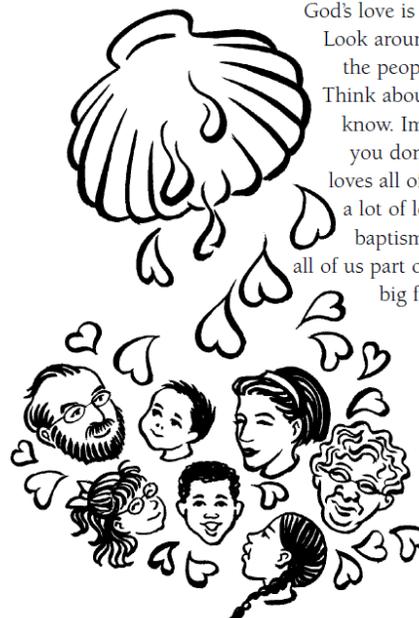


gather

Welcome to worship!
God's love is for everyone. Look around and see all the people God loves! Think about people you know. Imagine people you don't know. God loves all of them. That's a lot of love! Through baptism, God makes all of us part of God's really big family. We are all splashed with love!

Guess how many hearts there are in this picture.

Count them as you color them in!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 9/24

- Yom Kippur worship continues throughout the day

Tuesday 9/25

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

Wednesday 9/26

- Bible Study on hold until further notice
- 5:30 LOGOs Youth Ministry begins

Thursday 9/27

- Hope Circle Meets at LaRae Veitch's 7:00 pm
- Electric City Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday 9/28

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 10/1

- Worship led by Pastor Jessica Crist in -person and online 9:30 am,
- Indigenous Childrens' Remembrance

Tuesday 10/3

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

Wednesday 10/4

- Bible Study on hold until further notice
- 5:30 LOGOs Youth Ministry begins

Thursday 10/5

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

Friday 10/6

- 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 Meets in-person

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.

Thursday, September 21st at LaRae Veitch's

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie

—On Hold Until Further Notice



*Fall Harvest
Festival & Auction*
OCTOBER 14, 2023 4:00-7:00PM
ONLINE AUCTION: OCTOBER 1-15, 2023

Click this picture to link
to purchase tickets.

Harvest Festival and Auction at FLBC

Buy your tickets now for the Semi Annual Fall Harvest Fest and Auction, Oct 14th, benefitting Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. A single ticket is \$50 or you can get a whole table (8 tickets) for \$350. This event helps make camp a reality for every single kid or family by offsetting the cost per camper.



Pastor Jessie Obrecht Contact information Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com Phone: 406-761-1543 ext. 202