

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, April 16, 2023

Second Sunday in Easter

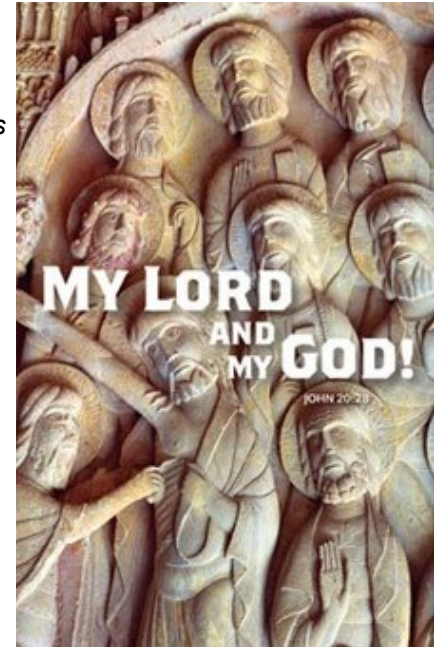
In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31



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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

9:30 am Mary Seim, Piano,
Sara Graft, djembe

Lay Assistant:

John Blank

Usher:

TBD

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Isabelle and Tyler Grosenick

Counters:

Pam Dougherty

Greg Grosenick

Hospitality:

Judy Johnson, Leone Nuessle

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter.

We welcome **Margie Fiedler**, executive director Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp who is preaching today.

We will be receiving an **additional offering** designated to the replacement of the outdoor chapel seats at FLBC.

Worship Planning Committee will be meeting after worship today in the Fellowship Hall.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **friends and family of Dick Schmidt**, *Sandy Pepos' cousin*, who passed away after a stroke.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and guidance for **Janet Hussli**, *Greg Grosenick's aunt*, who's cancer diagnosis has returned and they make decisions about treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is at home, regaining strength.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnsten** who continues treatment as she manages an illness.
- ✝ 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 at home from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Abby Bisgard-Clegg**, *daughter of Don and Kathi Bisgard*, continues to manage health issues, but feeling and doing very well.
- ✝ 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.

Montana Synod LPA Program (Lay Pastoral Associate)

A **Lay Pastoral Associate** in the Montana Synod is a congregational lay person who has received religious, educational training, through the Montana Synod, in order to provide (in most cases) short term pulpit supply (ie, preaching) when the pastor is away, or if a congregation is without a pastor. Their role is to fill in for the basic pastoral duties such as providing Word and Sacrament, communion, and other roles as approved by the Bishop.

The LPA program is a 3 year journey of theological education with a cohort of other Lutherans from around Montana and Northern Wyoming in a retreat-type format. A new cohort is beginning in the coming months! If you have any interest in becoming an LPA or simply participating in the LPA training program, please let Pastor Jessie know in the coming weeks.



April Update

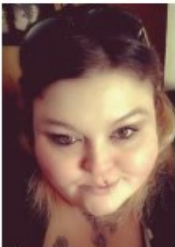
Highlighting What We Do: This month we are telling the story of one of our current Promise Place Shelter residents. A young student, full-time employee, and mother of three, she comes to Great Falls from out of state. Moving here for a career, she started by renting an apartment with a local property management company. Things went badly with the property managers, so she and her children moved into an income-based apartment. During this time, she continued working and attending classes but struggled to make ends meet. Unfortunately, things were not going well at the income-based property and within a few short months, eviction was imminent. Desperate and with no place to turn, GFPS Student Services had learned of her plight and put her in contact with Family Promise. Greg and Maggie were able to offer her, and her children shelter and the wraparound services she so desperately needed. In her words

"They provided hope and gave us room to grow." Now that she and her children are settled, she is working with Neighborworks to learn about money management, and how to improve her credit in the hopes of being able to own her own home one day in the future. She says that Family Promise has made her feel "more supported than ever."

What is happening in April: We are pleased to welcome a new board member to our team! Tammy Michelotti has joined our fabulous board of directors. Tammy is a Homeownership Planner with Neighborworks Great Falls. Neighborworks helps potential homeowners by providing homebuyer education, individualized financial coaching, and down payment assistance.

We welcome you Tammy, and look forward to working with you! In addition, we welcome Tiffany Wilkson as our new Marketing/Community Outreach Specialist. Tiffany is originally from Dayton, Ohio but has lived and worked in the Great Falls community for over 14 years. A former employee of the YWCA, Tiffany hopes to continue to build upon the magnificent work that Family Promise of Great Falls does for our community.

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"Camp" Basket Donation for the SOC HOP

To help purchase the firepit or other items like flashlight, bundle of wood, camp chairs, smore's fixin's, roasting sticks, etc. Drop items off at the Bethel Office or donate online or through our weekly offering by noting Camp Basket in the memo line. If you have any questions email Judy Statham at ewe2me2001@yahoo.com

Serving Our Community Social Workers

Continuing with our service projects with our local Child Protective Services Staff and caring for these caregivers, we will be serving a lunch for them on Tuesday, April 25th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

If you would like to help set up, serve, clean up or if you have time to for the entire lunch we would love your help. Talk with Patty Braget or Pastor Jessie for more information.

If you would like to help with food. Click the link below to be connected to an online sign up. Or check the hardcopy sign up sheet in church this Sunday.



Photo by [Hillshire Farm](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Click here to sign-up for food items or to help <https://signup.com/go/LrijTrV>

An additional offering will be received this Sunday to help rebuild Chapel Benches at FLBC.

Chapel Benches at FLBC

Celebrating 80 years of Ministry!

What an amazing history of sharing God's love and grace!

The outdoor chapel (up the hill, across Lutheran Camp Road) was built in 1998! The building project was spearheaded by Brad Abbott, with help from Les McKean, Tim Rogge, Mark Mohorcich, Jim Lake & Jedd Larson.

The chapel has served us well with thousands of worship services and special events happening in this sacred space. The Chapel has been in need of repair for some time! In fact, the 'stage' was replaced when Connor Bates, Program leader in 2020, fell through the stage while singing and stomping... "Blessed be the Rock."

It's now time to get the benches replaced! Would you, your congregation, family, organization or group like to sponsor a bench?? \$750 per bench and you decide what you would like engraved on one end of the bench! 28 benches are needed!!



GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 16, 2023,

Second Sunday in Easter

A Wild, Skeptical Hope

“Doubting Thomas” is nearly always meant as a pejorative, but Jesus shows up for him. It’s easy to forget that Thomas is asking for nothing more than what Jesus has already provided to his friends—showing up for them, in the flesh. When he does the same for Thomas and Thomas exclaims, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28), Jesus responds, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” (John 20:29). It’s easy to hear this as if Jesus were chastising Thomas while he blesses the rest of us, but he does no such thing. He can show up for Thomas and bless the rest of us all at the same time.

Can you even imagine what those days must have been like—those days between the crucifixion and resurrection, and then the days that followed, full to the brim with confusion and grief and rumors and wild, skeptical hope? Two thousand years can make us forgetful, as if those who were present in those moments had the luxury of knowing the entire story all at once, the way we do.

But they didn’t. Regardless, Thomas believed in a God big enough to carry his doubts and uncertainty. He trusted that God was big enough to hold all his questions and his hope.

What are the big doubts you carry? What are your questions? What kind of wild, skeptical hopes do you have, that you hardly dare to utter out loud, even to your closest friends? Do they feel any different when you stop to wonder about letting God carry them with you?

Here, at the beginning of the Easter season, God has shown us that very little is truly impossible. Thomas believed as much, and he had the courage to ask for it. Jesus shows up in response to Thomas’s bold ask, and through this witness, he blesses the rest of us

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Support Bethel Lutheran Church every time you shop at Smith's. Signing up is free and easy. If you are a Rewards Card holder, follow the following directions to select Bethel as the recipient of .05% of your purchases! (This is donated by Kroger Company, it does not add additional charges to your grocery cost.)

1. Go to smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire
2. Sign into your digital account or choose “create an account” and fill in the information.
3. Link your Rewards Card to Bethel using code LC427 or type in Bethel Lutheran Church.
4. Choose Save.

What's Happening at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp!!!

Memorial Day Work Weekend

May 26-29, 2023 (Fri - Mon)

Cost: By donation, registration required ☺

Register by May 12th!

You are invited to help transform camp for the summer season. All ages are welcome for this FREE retreat which includes Fun, Fires (campfires, that is), great Food, and Fellowship, and bible study and worship. This retreat is a great way to experience camp for the first time!

Consider applying for your own Thrivent Action Team grant and join us! Contact the FLBC office for project ideas.



Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends with a sack lunch on Monday

2023 REGISTRATION

Memorial Day Work Weekend // May 26-29, 2023



SPEND YOUR SUMMER WORKING AT Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp!



Scan to go straight to the online application!

Find more information & apply at <https://flbc.net/work-at-camp/>

- We're hiring Cabin Leaders, Lifeguards, Wilderness Guides, Support Staff, Leadership Staff, and much more!
- June 4th-August 4th (or 18th)
- Pay starting at \$400/week plus room + board, & opportunities for bonuses!
- Paid staff training
- Ages 18+

Questions? Contact Karen@flbc.net

Develop skills and make connections that will help you in college, in your career, and beyond: leadership, public speaking, problem-solving, customer service, project management, collaboration, & so much more!

Need an internship? We can work with you to meet requirements for any major!



406.752.6602 • 603 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901 • office@flbc.net • www.flbc.net

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14th, 2023

Celebrate Mother's Day on the lake at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp!

550 Lutheran Camp Rd., Lakeside MT 59922

Three seatings available: 9:30 AM, 11:00, and 12:30
~ Buffet Style Service! ~

\$30 per person ages 12+ | \$18/ages 4-11 | Free/3 & under
Please call 406-752-6602 or send in the registration form to reserve your spot by May 8th!

2023 REGISTRATION

Mother's Day Brunch // May 14th, 2023

Just for *YOU*th

Jesus and Thomas

John 20:19-31

The peace Jesus gave to the disciples changed their lives. Jesus sent them out to forgive sins and help others believe in Jesus.

Unscramble the first letter of each sentence to find out what the disciples needed for their work. Write the new word on the lines below.

All of the disciples saw Jesus.

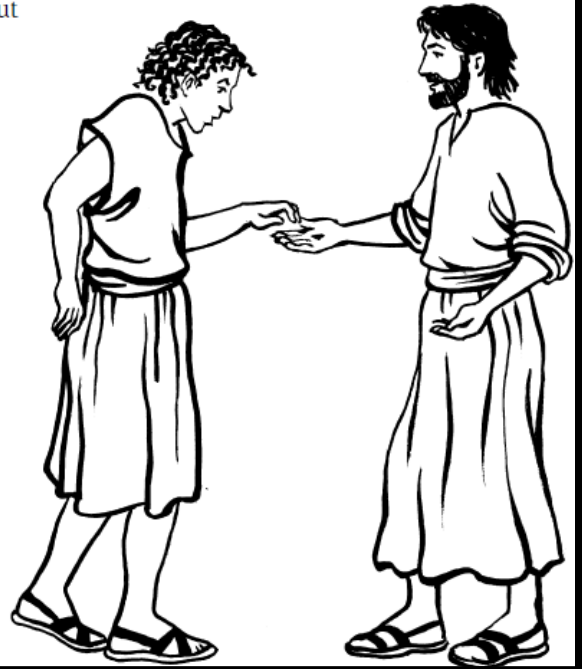
Thomas couldn't believe them.

Here are my hands and side, Thomas. Believe, don't doubt," said Jesus.

Forgive the sins of others," Jesus reminded the disciples.

I send you, just as the Father sent me," Jesus told the disciples.

We need this, too, to tell others about Jesus!



Go in peace

Jesus shared his peace with his disciples. We share God's peace with each other during worship. We give a hand-shake or a hug and speak the words, "Peace be with you." "And also with you." You can share the peace with someone who can't hear by signing the words *Peace be with you*.



peace



be



with



you

This Week...

Count the 50 days of Easter on a calendar. Keep a few Easter reminders in your house through the Easter Season.



Dear Lord, give us peace.

Help us hear your voice.

Amen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 4/18

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

Wednesday 4/19

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am

Friday 4/2

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 4/23

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.

Tuesday 4/25

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

Wednesday 4/26

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am
- Pastor Jessie out through May 3rd

Friday 4/28

- 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 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.

Next meeting: April

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie-online

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.