

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, April 23, 2023

Third Sunday in Easter

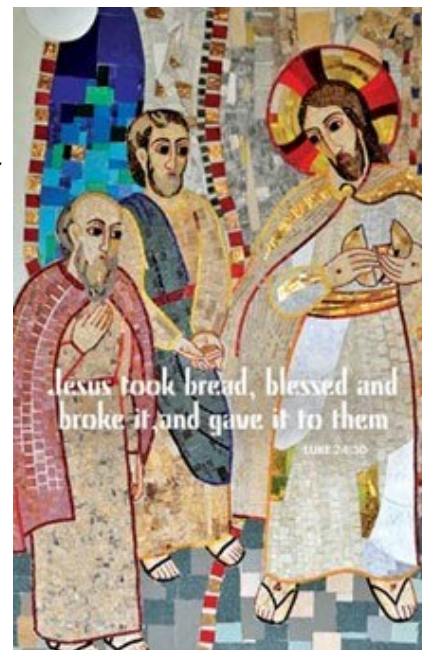
Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35



**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:

Stephanie Cummings

Usher:

TBD

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Allison Marr

Abbie Virtz

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Shannon Marr

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter.

We welcome all to the installation of our **2023 Church Council**. Officers are President Sara Sexe, Vice President Patty Braget, Secretary Laurie Turner, and Treasurer Kelsey Johnson. Rounding out our Council Members Ava Fossen, Greg Grosenick, Shannon Marr, Jeanne Rankin, and Kaleb Stringer.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship to make **May Day Baskets** for our church neighbors, TLC Families, and more! Our goal is to make 300 baskets.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sam Salois**, *friend of Jack Pinski*, recovering from a car accident.
- ✝ 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*, has been diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic cancer.
- ✝ 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 **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.



Greetings Bethel!

I am overjoyed to let you all know that seven of our 8th grade students will be Confirmed on May 7th, 2023 during our Sunday morning worship here at Bethel. These seven have spent the last two years preparing to affirm their baptisms. They have attended worship, completed service hours, memorized prayers and Commandments, and thought through what faith looks like and means for them. These seven students are: Addi Carlson, Ryan Gilbertson, Tyler Grosenick, Drake Lange, John "Jack" Pinski, and Emily Woods. As we approach their Confirmation day I

would encourage you to pray for them and to talk with them if you see them in church or around town. A huge part of being church together is learning about one another and building up the Kingdom of God together. These seven have shared great thoughts about what they have learned in these past two years, and what they are thinking about faith and life today. So, ask them about it! I would venture to bet that many of us are wondering and dreaming about similar questions and aspects of faith these days, and these young people will be (and already are) great assets to those conversations and to our church body as they continue to grow. I can't wait for us to celebrate them on May 7th, I hope that you will join us.

-Pastor Jessie

Spring Cleanup April 29 from 10-12

All are welcome, bring gloves and equipment if you have them.

We will be focusing on the flowers beds, gutter clean out, and general debris around the building.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 7th

9:30 am

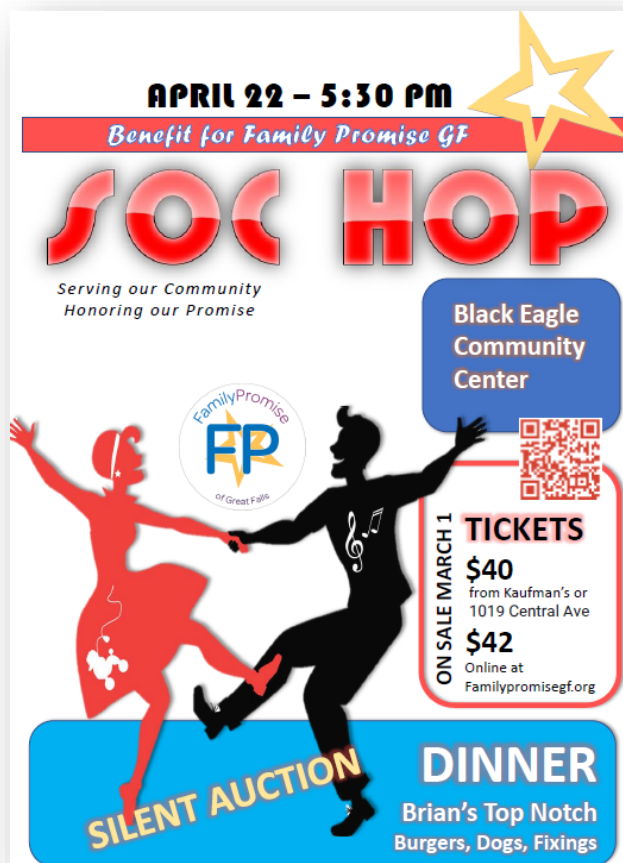
**Join us after worship
in the Fellowship
Hall for a reception
in celebraton of our
confirmatnds.**

Bethel Church Council Highlights

Hello Bethel, here are the highlights from the council meeting *Tuesday, April 18.*

- May 7 is Confirmation Sunday, and council accepted the slate of confirmands presented by Pastor Jessie: Addi Carlson, John “Jack” Pinski, Ryan Gilbertson, Drake Lange, Tyler Grosenick, Emily Woods, and Rylee Virts. We all look forward to this very special day for these young people.
- We voted to increase camperships for FLBC from \$100 to \$250, and hope this will help more kids get to camp this summer.
- Council is considering a one time fundraiser to pay down the mortgage as much as possible, as the interest on the loan will almost double in January of 2024. One suggestion is some kind of gala/auction/silent auction. We’ll continue to work on this and would welcome other ideas.

Laurie Turner, Council Secretary



APRIL 22 – 5:30 PM
Benefit for Family Promise GF

SOC HOP

Serving our Community
Honoring our Promise

Family Promise
of Great Falls

Black Eagle
Community
Center

ON SALE MARCH 1

TICKETS
\$40
from Kaufman's or
1019 Central Ave
\$42
Online at
Familypromisegf.org

SILENT AUCTION
DINNER
Brian's Top Notch
Burgers, Dogs, Fixings



**GFH Rhapsody Choir &
GF Community Orchestra
will be performing
Vivaldi's Gloria.**

**Tuesday, April 25th
7:00 PM
St. Ann's Cathedral
715 3rd Ave N, Great Falls
6:00 pm
Open to the public, no fee.**

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 23, 2023,

Third Sunday in Easter

“Accompaniment along the Way

Today’s gospel is a story of accompaniment. The two disciples are walking along, grief-stricken, trying to make sense of “the things that have taken place . . . in these days” (Luke 24:18), and Jesus simply joins them. He walks alongside them in their grief, he inquires about their questions, he meets them where they are.

That might be the most profound piece of this whole narrative—that Jesus doesn’t try to explain to them what has happened, doesn’t try to set the record straight, doesn’t try to change their hearts or minds. He simply accompanies them on the journey and shoulders their questions and grief together with them.

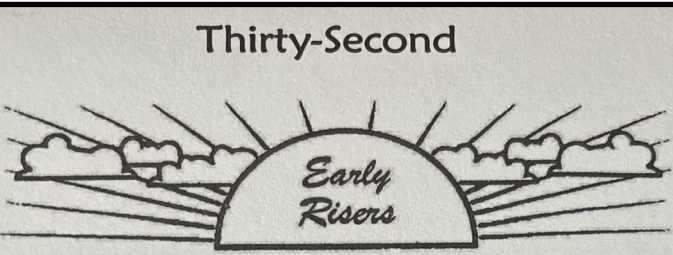
Isn’t this the very work of the church, week in and week out, as we gather for worship? We come alongside each other, meeting one another where we’re at, whether that’s in deep grief or celebration or apathy or any other emotion under the sun. We show up to see one other. We show up to be seen, to be accompanied along the way.

And when we gather at the table for the breaking of the bread, Jesus makes himself known to us in ways we cannot explain, as he did for those two disciples in that village of Emmaus. He meets us where we’re at and then accompanies us on our way, strengthening us to do the same for those we meet out in the world, for those we meet along the way of our own journeys.

What a gift this is in this time and place, when being right is valued above all else, when so many people are in the business of setting the record straight at all costs. What a gift this is to us. What a gift we’re invited to be, in this same way, to others.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Thirty-Second

Early Risers

Hope

Early Risers is a non-denominational annual gathering to glorify God, inspire Christian fellowship, and bring awareness to a non-profit charity.

“Hope is an Anchor for the Soul” Hebrews 6:19

May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023
7:00 a.m.—8:15 a.m.
First Presbyterian Social Hall
1315 Central Avenue • Great Falls, Montana 59405
Presented By First Presbyterian Church
406-453-1411

[More details in next week’s Bethel Notes...](#)

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

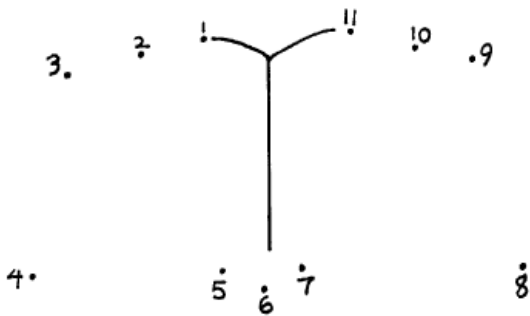
Mother's Day Brunch // May 14th, 2023

Just for *YOUTH*

Seeing Jesus

Luke 24:13-35

The disciples were walking on the road to the village of Emmaus (ee-MAY-us) when they met Jesus. They were still sad. They even told Jesus his own story because they did not recognize him. Finally when Jesus blessed the bread and offered it to them, the disciples really saw Jesus! They left quickly to tell others their good news.

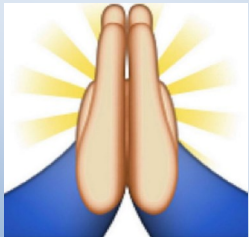
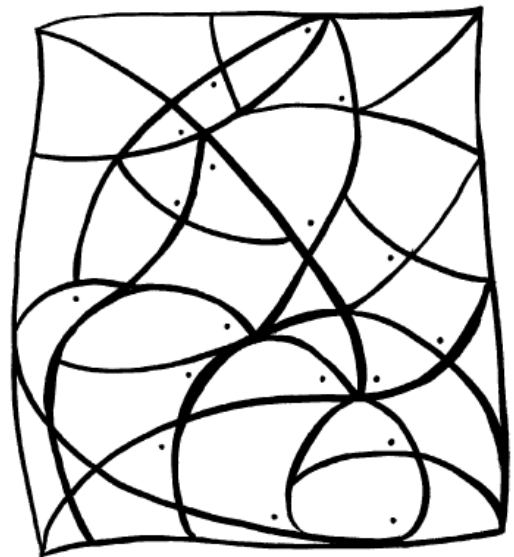


We can't see Jesus like the disciples did.

Connect the dots to find one way we "see" Jesus.

Listen for the words "The word of the Lord" as this is used today in worship. Then say, "Thanks be to God."

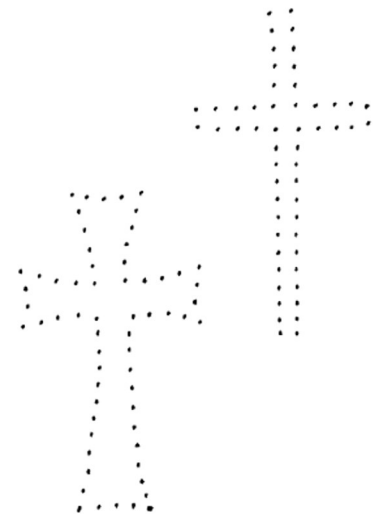
Color the dotted spaces to find a communion symbol. At communion we hear, "Do this in remembrance of me," We say Amen.



*Dear Lord,
Give us Easter eyes to see
Jesus in the actions of others.
Help us show your
love to them. Amen*

This Week...

Invite a friend or neighbor to eat a meal with you and your family.



The disciples needed "Easter eyes" to see Jesus in new ways.

Trace the outlines to find other symbols we use to see Jesus. Color them in.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 4/30

- Worship led by Jim Carlson, LPA in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Join in as we deliver the May Day Baskets that we made last Sunday.

Tuesday 5/2

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

Wednesday 5/3

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Thursday 5/4

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

Friday 5/5

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday 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 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.