

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday, August 14, 2022

10th Sunday after Pentecost

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Readings

First Readings

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

Psalm

Psalm 82

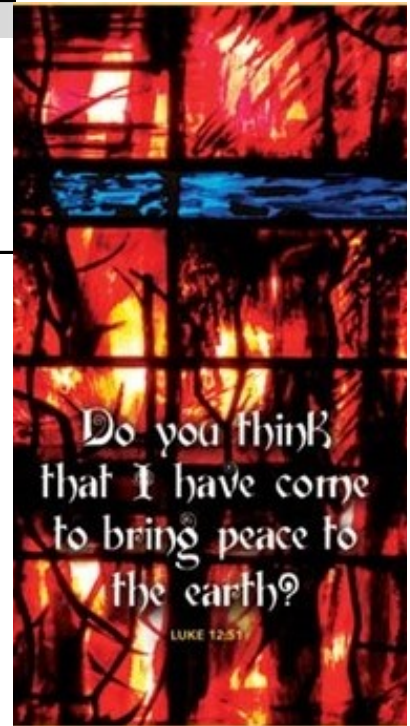
Gospel

Luke 12:49-56

World Hunger Sunday



Join us Sundays
9:30 AM in-person or
online at bethelmt.org.



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SERVING THIS SERVICE

Accompanist	Lynn Ryan, piano
Lay Assistant	John Blank
Usher	Mary Gernaat
Tech	Kaleb Stringer
Children's Church	Ava Fossen and Isabelle Grosenick
Counters	Tim Lightbourne and Laurie Turner



OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM CLOSED FRIDAY

OFFICE: (406) 761-1543

WEBSITE: www.bethelmt.org

EMAIL: bethelgf.church@gmail.com



Let Us Pray...

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Carolyn Arves**, *friend of the Grosenick Family*, as she begins treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Abby Bisgard-Clegg**, *daughter of Don and Kathi Bisgard*, as she received good results from her recent test results and will be having a second scan in November.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is rehabbing after a recent in-hospital procedure.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dale Ost** who is home after a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Doug Kickbusch** as he begins treatment for a brain tumor.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** who is having continued medical issues.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Brattain** recovering from knee surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **Heath Poser**, *nephew of Connie Titcomb*, who was diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor and is in Hospice.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he recovers from a procedure and begins treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Jim Carlson** as he recovers from knee surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Tony Marcson**, *Jessica Crist's brother-in-law*, as he begins hospice.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dina Davis**, who continues to recover from a broken leg.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rev. Inge Williams**, *friend of Pastor Jessie*, going through chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues with immunotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Eric Peterson** as he continues with immunotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Elijah**, *godson of Turner Graybill and Jessica Crist*, struggling with mental illness.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Donna Fugle**, *Joni Collins' mother*, who has moved to Eastview Nursing Home.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and support for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, who managing ALS.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and strength for **Rick Robitaille**, *brother of Tom Robitaille*, as he receives treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of thanks and continued healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, *brother of*

Some brief reflections from the Churchwide Assembly after our first day of business.

- The ELCA, at least as represented by the assembly voting members, is more in harmony than is often expressed on social media. Many of the votes we took today showed a community that is trying to seek unity in diversity rather than uniformity.
- The Assembly voted to set up a commission to explore the possibility of “reconstituting the ELCA.” What does this mean? That’s what the commission is commissioned to discern. But one thing I’m certain about: we’ve just jumped onto the Holy Spirit’s train and are in for a wild and hopefully wonder-filled ride.
- Bishop Eaton, on behalf of the whole ELCA, apologized to the community of *Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina* and once again committed all of us to do the difficult and on-going work of racial justice in our church and world. Four members of this Christian community from Stockton CA, after being deeply wounded by the actions of leaders of this church in the Sierra Pacific synod and beyond, exemplified Christ’s courage and grace by coming and receiving this apology, though they did not have to do so and it was very difficult decision for them to make. (The ELCA paid all their costs.) To listen to the apology and the community’s response, please go to the [Plenary 2 video on the Churchwide Assembly website](#) starting at the 2-hour, 19 minute mark.
- The worship service today was a time of lament for the injustice still experienced by BI-POC and LGBTQ+ people in the church and the world. As the confession says, “we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves” both as individuals and as social systems. Facing such realities and wrestling with the role we may play in causing such suffering (whether we know it or not) is hard work, but it is possible when we remember that our hope is in the promise of God’s unconditional forgiveness which in-spirits us to follow Christ’s call to seek God’s kingdom of love and justice for all in this world.
- Finally, a few reflective words from some of the synod voting members about their experiences at the CWA so far: “inspired, wrestling, heavy, hopeful, Holy Spirit, challenged, difficult, humbling, mixed, courageous confession, sacred, questioning, and community is hard but beautiful.”

Please continue your prayers for the Churchwide Assembly and all of Christ’s church.

Blessings to you all.

Bishop Laurie



Updates In The Gathering Place



Just before VBS this summer our fridge that we use for Logos/VBS quit working. An anonymous donor paid to replace it with a brand new one purchased from Eklund's.



The Property Management Committee also had new flooring installed in the Gathering Place Kitchen.

Upcoming Book Study: *ONE COIN FOUND*

This fall we will be offering a book study on *One Coin Found* by Emmy Kegler (description below).

For anyone interested in participating in this book study, there will be a sign up on Sundays. You may also email the office at bethelmt.org or call 406-761-1543 and we will add your name to the list. Once we have all who will be participating, we will order the books and receive them the first Sunday of the book study beginning Sunday, September 25th following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

The stories of Scripture are for everyone. No exceptions.

Emmy Kegler has a complicated relationship with the Bible. As a queer woman who grew up in both conservative Evangelical and progressive Protestant churches, she knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude. And yet, the stories of Scripture continue to captivate and inspire her--both as a person of faith and as a pastor to a congregation. So she set out to fall in love with the Bible, wrestling with the stories inside, where she met a God who continues to seek us out--appearing again and again as a voice, a presence, and a promise.

Whenever we are pushed to the edges, our voices silenced, or our stories dismissed, God goes out after us--seeking us until we are found again. And God is seeking out those whose voices we too quickly silence and dismiss. Because God's story is a story of welcome and acceptance for everyone--no exceptions.

Kegler shows us that even when we feel like lost and dusty coins--rusted from others' indifference, misspent and misused--God picks up a broom and sweeps every corner of creation to find us.



Joke of the week...
Who was the straightest man in the Bible?

... Joseph: Pharaoh made him a ruler





Logos Youth Ministry

for youth in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

LOGOS is the fun, mid-week youth ministry program which aims to nurture young people into faith and discipleship through Christian relationships.

- LOGOS means “The Word” and this ministry is theology (Word) in practice. LOGOS helps churches like Bethel bring the Word to youth.
- LOGOS is a unique, intergenerational program where people of all ages from our church and community actively participate.
- LOGOS consists of bible study, a shared meal opening and closing worship.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

First night of LOGOS, September 14, 2022

*Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting Sunday, August 28th
11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall*

Wednesdays

Pre-K through 8th Grade 5:30—7:30 pm

High School 9th – 12th grade 6:30—8:30 pm



**Registration
Online
bethelmt.org**

Volunteers Needed!

Teacher Assistants

Kitchen Help

We love to have help with Logos and you do not have to commit to every Wednesday. Any amount of time will be very helpful.
Please let Tami Grosenick know if you would like to help.



Upcoming Retreats & Events:

Find more information and register online at <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/>

Labor Day Work Weekend & Family Retreat

Join us this Labor Day weekend for one last summer celebration with your family! Enjoy all that FLBC has to offer during this great family retreat: swimming, stand up paddleboarding, crafts in the Art Barn, sailing, and much more! Come to help us with some work projects or join us for a weekend of relaxation, or both! Either way, there will be

fun, worship, and more for all.

Plus, join us for a **fun run, lake time, and ice cream party** – Dash, Dive, & Dip! – on Sunday, September 4 at 2PM. Make it a part of your Labor Day Weekend Retreat, or come just for the event. \$25/ person supports camperships.

Women's Retreat

September 23-25, 2022 | \$175/person (Full Weekend) \$135/person (Saturday Only)

Join us for a weekend of fun, good company, great food, and rest. Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Director for Evangelical Mission at the Montana Synod, will lead our Bible Study focusing on Dwelling in the Word. Plus, spend time enjoying the beauty of camp, doing yoga on the docks, doing pottery, drinking coffee on the deck, and much more.

FLBC Golf Tournament

On Friday, October 7th, 2022, join FLBC for a fun day of golf at Polson Bay Golf Course as we raise funds for camperships! \$150 / player includes green fees, golf cart use, driving range practice & more! Register as a team of 4 or as a free agent. More information can be found online at flbc.net/golf

Can your congregation / business/ organization / family / etc. be a tournament sponsor? From donating a raffle item, to sponsoring a hole, to being the title sponsor, your support makes an un-fore-gettable impact! Contact carlee@flbc.net for more information about supporting the tournament in this way!

NRIT Coming Classes Fall 2022

Rural Ministry: Revisioning and Reforming for Vitality and Sustainability

Led by Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen, Wartburg Seminary.

Class offered via Zoom – September 15 from 10am to 3pm (with a lunch break)

Trauma-Informed Approaches - Training

Led by professionals in this area.

Class offered at Hope Lutheran Church, Bozeman MT – September 22 from 9am to 5pm

“Anxiety Makes You Stupid” and other interesting things to consider about our emotional and family systems.

Led by Rev. Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop

Class offered in-person, the afternoon before the Bishop's Convo. Times and location TBD
October 27

Heaven, Hell, Death and Judgement

Led by Rev. Julia Seymour

Class offered via Zoom – November 3rd and 10th from 9am to Noon both days.



Mark your calendar for these events. Registration available soon.

Just for YOUTH

gather

Welcome to worship. God's words are strong words, and God's love for us is very powerful. God's words of warning are strong, too.

Follow the lines from the strong things to find out what they can change with their power.



A big choice

Mira and her new friend, Kim, had so much in common! They liked to do the same things, and they were going to have the same teacher.

"We will be best friends forever," said Mira. "Maybe we're on the same soccer team, too! Do you have practice tomorrow morning?"

"No," said Kim.

"I'm in a league that
doesn't practice on

Sundays because I go to church with my family."

Mira looked upset. "Bummer. Maybe we can't be best friends after all."

When it's hard to be Jesus' follower, our prayers and the examples of others give us strength to say and do what is right. What could Kim say to help Mira understand her choice?



Witnesses for God

Witnesses for God
God's strong words are sometimes hard to follow. Bible stories teach us about people who followed God's words. They are sometimes called a "great cloud of witnesses." Their stories can be our instruction book. Match God's witnesses with their shadows.

Dear God,
Help us make choices
that honor you. Amen.

This week

Think about ways your family's choices honor God.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 8/16

- Electric City Bible Study,
Zoom meeting 7:00 am.

Wednesday 8/17

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

Friday 8/19

- Bethel office closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 8/21

- Worship led by Pastor Jes-
sie, in-person & live
stream 9:30 am.
- Worship Planning meets
in the Fellowship Hall
11:00 am.

Tuesday 8/23

- Electric City Bible Study,
Zoom meeting 7:00 am.

Wednesday 8/24

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

Friday 8/26

- Bethel office closed.

Online Ministries

Electric City Bible Study

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 on Summer Break

Join us for a fun and engaging conversation, and
insightful discussion of each week's lectionary
texts as we meet both in person and via Zoom.
We will resume after Labor Day in September,
Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave
Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for a
link to join the meeting or for more information.

Hope Circle

This group meets once a month usually on
Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship
are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact
Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com for a link
to join the meeting and Terry Korpela to be on
the group email for meetings and prayer
requests terry.korpela@gmail.com.

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie

Wednesdays, 10:00 am via Zoom, Pastor Jessie
will be leading discussion on the text readings
for the upcoming Sunday. Dig deeper in the in-
terpretation 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.

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

Contact information

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

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