

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, August 20, 2023

12th Sunday after Pentecost

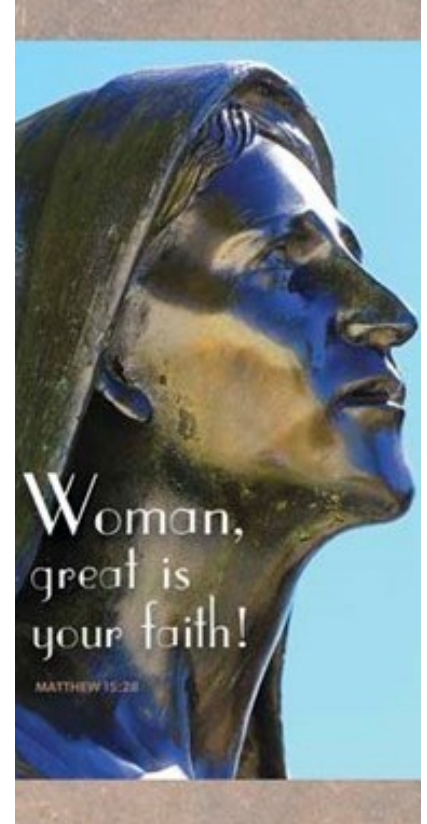
In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28



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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Stephanie Cummings

Usher:

Laurie Turner

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

Isabelle Grosenick

Tyler Grosenick

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Laurie Turner

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the 12th **Sunday after Pentecost.**

We welcome and thank **Pastor Sara Branom** for preaching and presiding while Pastor Jessie is out.

We celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism of Charlie Wade Link**, along with his parents Austin and Emma, brother August and Sponsors Hayden Wright and Noelle Wright.

Thank you to the **Bethel Handbell Choir led by Sharon Mueller** for the beautiful bell music in worship.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 10th. Project sign up sheets are located in the Narthex so you can see what the projects are and sign up for what you would like to do.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, who is having surgery this afternoon after an accident. He will be out of work for several weeks during his recovery.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **Jayda Paul**, *friend of Sandy Pepos*, on the loss of her baby.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **Debbie Blank** as she mourns the passing of her sister, Joy.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for the **People of Maui** as they continue to fight and clean up after the wildfires that took lives and destroyed property.
- ✝ 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 **Rebecca and Anna Boucher** as Rebecca recovers from pink eye and Anna receiving medical treatment for recurrence of seizures.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rachel Bertelson**, *daughter of Pastor Steve and Colleen Walker-Nelson*, as she recovers from a recent surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law*, as he continues to monitor his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cathy Rankin**, *Jeanne Rankin's sister-in-law*, as she recovers from surgery and begins treatment for stage 1 breast cancer.
- ✝ 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 healing for **Dick Seim** continues to work on regaining strength.
- ✝ 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 **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.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



We are getting ready for our participation in God’s Work Our Hands Sunday. This Sunday and next Sunday we will have project sign up sheets in the Narthex. You can sign up for your service project on one of those sign up sheets. Below we have a list of what the projects are, and how many people are needed for each project.

For those who do not wish or are unable to do a lot of physical labor, we will be filling hygiene kits for Family Promise of Great Falls. We have a goal of making 100 kits and in the upcoming weeks, we will be asking for donations for those kits. To make sure we have the items we need, we will have “shopping cards” with type of item needed, size, and how many. You may pick up a card, purchase the items (The Dollar Tree stores are ideal for these items) and return the items to Bethel by September 10th. If you would like to donate any dollar amount for purchase of items not donated, you may make an additional donation online or during our weekly offering noting hygiene kits in the memo line.

Service Projects are:

At Bethel:

- ◆ On the patio, paint the benches around the tree and clean up the leaves and debris—4 to 5 people
- ◆ Assemble Hygiene kits
- ◆ Make cards for Assisted living centers here in Great Falls.

Cameron Center/Rescue Mission/Women’s Shelter

- ◆ There will be different jobs depending on the shelter volunteering for and we will have more details later. They are asking for 6-8 people for each facility.

Angel Center, services the homeless population, by providing, meals, showers, laundry service

- ◆ Prepare meal at Bethel: Spaghetti, Bread, dessert, salad for approximately 65 people. We will then deliver the meal to the center by 11:15. They start serving at 11:30—4 to prepare meal, maybe 6 to deliver and set up

Family Promise, Promise Place Shelter

- ◆ Yard clean up. Pick up debris, leaves, etc., pull a few weeds, tidy lawn—4 people

After our service projects are finished about Noon, we will meet back at Bethel for a pot luck.

For more information or if you have a service project to submit, contact Patty Braget 406-868-7641 or Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or 406-788-9587.



It's not too late to volunteer for the Back 2 School Blast. Click the link below to see what is still needed.

Message to Volunteers for Back 2 School Blast 2023!

It's not too late to volunteer, you can go to volunteer.gfrm.org if you would like to.

Thank you for volunteering for the Back 2 School Blast 2003! Here is some information for you to help make it a great experience.

Where can I park?

You can park in the lot behind the Childrens Museum. You can also park in the old Hardees parking lot.

Where do I go to check in?

The Volunteer Entrance is through Door A and the Volunteer Check-in Table is on the right as you enter.

How do I check-in?

We will ask for your name and a valid email or phone if we do not have one. We will give you an overview of your role, a button, and a little thank you surprise for volunteering.

How do I check-out?

Yes, please check out at the volunteer table after you have completed your shift and return your button.

A Special Prayer for Students Heading To School

Dear God, as our children go to college/
school for the first time or returning,
we ask for grace, peace, and love.
Be their guide everywhere they go.
May they hear your voice,
directing them on their way.
Holy Spirit, guide them in all truths
that they may not stray
from the ways of the Lord.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



The 1st Monday Night Quilters

Meet at **New Hope Lutheran**
3125 5th Avenue South (use the back door entrance)

Thanks to all who are doing work at home--binding,
making tops, getting backs ready to use and the final
step -tying the quilts.
Questions? Call 799-0100.

Next meeting
Monda, September 11, 2023
6:00-8:00 pm



Logos Youth Ministry

Wednesdays

Pre-K through 8th Grade 5:30—7:30 pm

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

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, games and worship.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

LOGOS begins in September

First night September 13, 2023

Cost of program per child \$70.00/year

Scholarships available. Contact the Bethel Office for more information.



1009 18th Ave SW

406-761-1543

bethelmt.org

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 20, 2023, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Holding Jesus Accountable

As disturbing as the report of Jesus' callous-sounding encounter with the unnamed Canaanite woman may be to our ears, all around him, on both sides of their ethnic divide, were people who would have been outraged by any act of generosity or goodwill between a Jew and a Canaanite. So it's no surprise when the disciples urge Jesus to send her away. Animosities toward "those" on the other side of the border, between children of Canaan and children of Israel, were deeply entrenched and easily inflamed. Jesus appears to identify with the ill will.

All eyes and ears attend the scene. The shouting, then kneeling woman is in stubborn company with others whose protesting faith demands more than silence from God, who refuse to be rejected by God, who insist on being heard by God. She is in the company of Jacob, who wrestled with God through the night and demanded a blessing; with Moses pleading for God's mercy upon stiff-necked people; with Job, not settling for a vindictive Creator. She's in tradition with the psalmist's entreaty "My God, . . . why [are you] so far from saving me?" (Psalm 22:1). She is beside Martha railing against Jesus' delay as her brother, Lazarus, lay dying, and beside the blind men shouting to Jesus above defiant crowds at Jericho.

The Canaanite woman is clear about the way of Jesus, so she dares to hold him—Son of David, face of God—accountable. Yes, her aggressive and, surely for many, objectionable faith in the mercy of Jesus against all evidence to the contrary results in her daughter's healing. What's more, her persistent challenge to Jesus becomes an enduring voice to be heard by any who dare claim that God's mercy is limited, God's help is restricted, or God's providence is settled. She raises her voice and takes a knee for the church of Jesus Christ, representing all the voices shouting, "Have mercy on me."

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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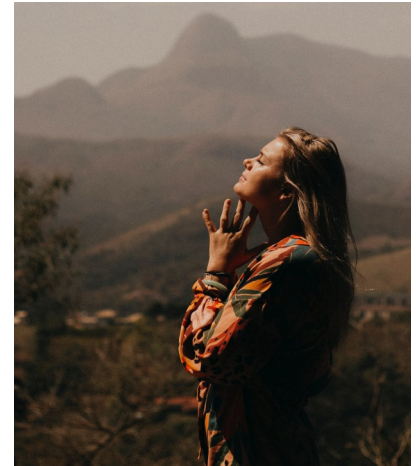


Photo by [Marcos Paulo Prado](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Thank You

A big thank you to **Steve Mueller** who repaired our processional cross from the altar and making new insert crosses. So very appreciated that the cross could be repaired and did not have to be replaced.

Thank you to **Morgan and Mindy Leach** for their donation of a very large flat screen TV that we will be able to use for confirmation classes, LOGOs and Vacation Bible School. Such a generous donation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 8/21

- Bethel Office is Closed, Tami out until Thursday.

Tuesday 8/22

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

Wednesday 8/23

- Bible Study on hold until further notice

Friday 8/25

- Bethel office is closed.
- HS LOGOs service night for Family Promise at Voyager baseball and lock in at Bethel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 8/27

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

Tuesday 8/29

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

Wednesday 8/30

- Bible Study on hold until further notice

Friday 9/1

- 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. **ON HOLD UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

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.

On hold until the fall.

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie—online—On Hold Until Further Notice

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.

HOUSE AND PET SITTER NEEDED



Looking for someone who is comfortable with both dogs and cats. One 3 year-old golden retriever and two indoor cats. Individual will also need to be able to stay overnight at the home.

The frequency and duration of the job will vary. Will negotiate a daily rate.

If you are interested or know someone who may be contact Marie Stoddard (541) 817-3167

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