

# BETHEL NOTES

## THIS SUNDAY

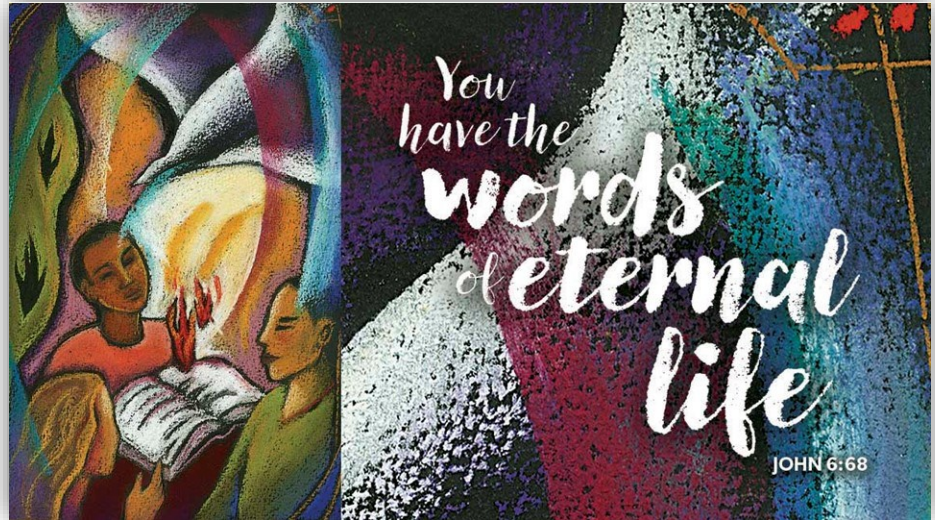
### Readings:

First Reading:  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm:  
Psalm 34:15-22

Second Reading  
Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel:  
John 6:56-69



## Serving

### Accompanist

Mary Seim, Piano

### Lay Assistant

Ainsley Kubas

### Usher

Shannon Marr

### Tech

Gabe Smith

### Projection

Dena Wagner-Fossen

### Children's Church

Addi Carlson

Hailey Marr

### Hospitality

Bethel Congregation

### Counters

Patty Braget

Shannon Marr

## This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**

We welcome and thank **Rev. Sara MacGilvra-Branom.**

**Join us** in the Fellowship Hall after worship for refreshments and friendship.

We also **celebrate with Redeemer as they have called** Pastor Will Rima as their new pastor.

A very special **happy birthday to Leona Ost** celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday this Sunday.

**No Adult Forum Book Study** this Sunday.

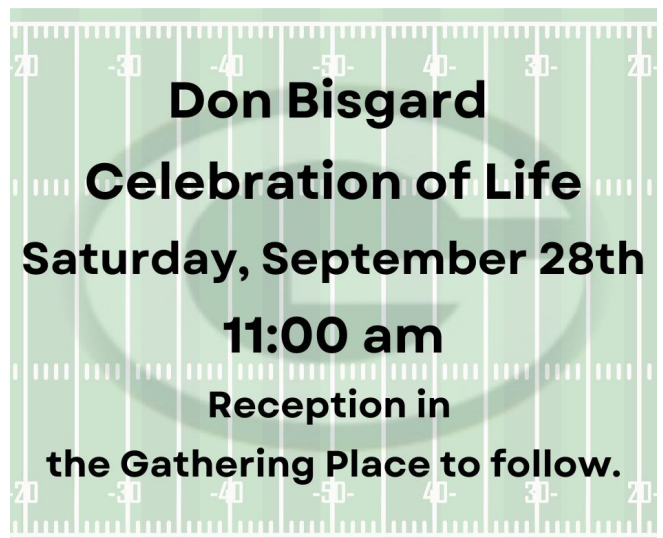
**Join us at 9:30 AM in person or  
online at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org).**

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*Lord,  
in your mercy  
hear our prayers.*

- ✠ Prayers of healing and support for **Dylan Erickson** as he prepares for bilateral hip surgery, first September 9th, second October 3rd.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and support for **Mike Evans**, *Thelma Seyfert's son*, recovering at home from surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Earl Terwilliger** continues to heal from a bone spur that will get better if he behaves himself.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Shannon Obrecht**, *family friend of Karen Lord*, as she prepares for surgery as part of cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Stephanie Cummings** as she has an MRI for torn meniscus and determines the best treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and support for **Carrie O'Brien** as she prepares for ankle joint replacement surgery scheduled for August 27th.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Charlie Hill**, *friend of Jeanne Rankin*, who has had brain surgery and will be receiving radiation treatments in Houston, TX.
- ✠ Prayers of healing **Shelly Murphy** who was recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as who is home and continues to regain strength.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Kathleen**, *friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen*, as she continues medical testing at Mayo Clinic.
- ✠ Prayers of continued healing for **Eric Peterson** as he receives chemotherapy that has slowed the progression of cancer growth.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Broc Cole**, *child of a friend of Ali Morris*, as he battles lymphoma.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America, **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, **Bishop Laurie Jungling**, and **Associate to the Bishop Rev. Brenda Frelsi**.



“God’s work. Our hands.”



**Sunday**  
**September 8th**

Join us for a day of service!

**Breakfast starts at 9:00 am**

**Worship at 9:30 am**

**Projects begin at 10:00 am**

### **Our Projects This Year:**

#### At Bethel:

- ◆ Kindness Rocks.—painting positive messages on rocks that will be placed around Great Falls and beyond.
- ◆ Clean out at Bethel... Effie's Closet, Storage Shed

#### Outreach:

- ◆ City of GF Parks and Recreation - playground project TBD
- ◆ Synod Office - Yard Work
- ◆ Helping Hands - Tour of facility and On Site activity

Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex starting this Sunday so we can get a count for each location. Remember to wear yellow that Sunday and if you would like Bethel to pick up a shirt for you, note it on the sign up sheet with the size you will need.

## **LOGOs Youth Ministry Teachers NEEDED.**

We need one or two teachers for this school year.

- Curriculum provided with as little or as much direction as you wish.
- Never taught before, no problem! We work together to make lesson plans
- Grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th
- Work with a great team of Youth Leaders!
- Have a partner and would like to team teach? We can do that too!



Commitment is Wednesday evenings 5:30 to 7:30 pm. From September 11, 2024 to April 9, 2025. Total of 24 Wednesdays. We have substitute teachers for Wednesdays you are unavailable. If you would like more information or are interested in joining this AMAZING ministry. Contact Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office. **Thank you for your prayerful consideration.**

# Bethel Church Council Meeting Highlights

Bethel Church Council met in person on Tuesday, August 13th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Here are some highlights from that meeting.

- Warren Johnson, with the Property Committee has secured a bid for trimming the trees on the Bethel property for \$6000.
- We have a candidate for a pastor and the call committee will keep us all posted.
- Our blood drive was successful and we plan to do another In January 2025.
- The Boy Scouts have chosen not to use Bethel as their meeting place.
- God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, Sept 8. Projects are:
  - Painting kindness rocks for those who want to stay at the church
  - Clean out Effie's Closet and outside shed
  - Synod Office-clean up around the building
  - Helping Hands- tour and onsite project
  - City Rec Dept will be outdoor clean up depending on number of people to help.
- Our next joint service with Redeemer is Sunday, the 25th at Bethel, with a reception following.

Next Bethel Council meeting is Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Turner, Council Secretary





# Helping Hands Food Pantry

Helping Hands is the 40+ year old ministry of First English Lutheran Church. Born out of the Christian ideals of loving your neighbor, the extravagant love of Christ, and gospel love. It now becomes our joy and duty to honor the hopes, dreams and prayers of all those brothers and sisters in Christ who have prayed, sang, and learned about God's messages of peace, mercy, grace, and love. Our responsibility for caring for the "least of these", reminding us we may ever be "entertaining angels unawares", and that we are the "hands and feet of Christ". Having said that, we do NOT prose-

lytize to our guests, recognizing that for many church has not been a welcoming space, that we all come from many different faith backgrounds—or none at all, and that it is our job to model Love.

It is with this reverence, joy, and humility that we recognize our accomplishments as a ministry. Originally created about 40 years ago to help a few struggling congregation members, we hit our record high number served of **438 guests** in one day last November. In 2023 we distributed **69,499** pounds of food. THAT IS ALMOST 35 TONS. In 2023 we filled approximately **12,500** bellies. We could not do this without the support of the community and especially our Lutheran sisters and brothers.

We also distribute 100 Thanksgiving baskets, 100 Christmas baskets, and 100 Easter hams at the holiday seasons. A community can only be strengthened when its families are given the opportunity to gather around a table together to break bread. We continue to work together with other agencies in the Continuum of Care, tracking our unhoused and attempting to connect them with services. In addition to the food we give, we continue to advocate for housing solutions—recognizing that advocacy is an integral part of our ministry and mission, and we distribute clothing, hygiene kits, and sack lunches. Most importantly, we let people know that they are loved and that they matter.

On that note, Helping Hands is one of the only helping agencies in town that does not require vouchers. Why? Because we know how hard it is for some people to ask for help. Because we know that we serve many folks with mental illness and physical disabilities. Because we know how hard it is for some people to have their paperwork together, to get an ID, to make an appointment. Because we know that with the current economy, many people struggle to feed their families even though they may not officially be living "in poverty". We would rather "accidentally" feed a few people who maybe aren't in desperate straits than NOT FEED SOMEONE WHO IS HUNGRY.

If Helping Hands is going to continue to be the change for good, we all want to see in the world, we will need to encourage one another to be involved. Namely, we need people and money. We need people to volunteer for all sorts of things-- serve guests, accept/offload/and shelve our groceries from the food bank, sort and refrigerate produce, occasional yard work or groundskeeping—there are so many things that go into a ministry. We've learned that the volunteers are "fed" as much as our guests. We have a beautiful family of folks caring for our neighbors and caring for one another, we now need to grow and expand that family and share these miracles with others. We spend from \$800 to over \$1200 each WEEK on food alone. Please consider making an on-going, monthly pledge to Helping Hands. Without the support of our brothers and sisters in Christ, the ministry will not be sustainable.

Carrie Parker, Director Helping Hands

# GOSPEL MESSAGE

## Questions Remain

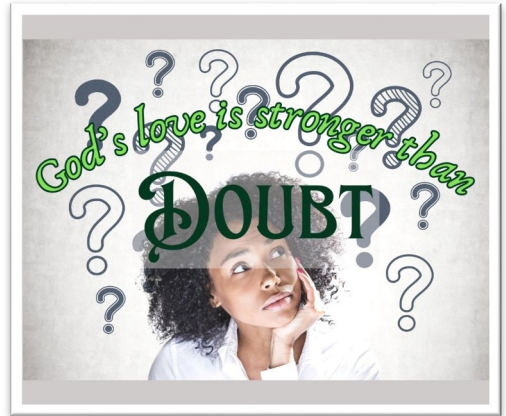
Throughout his time on earth, Jesus taught the disciples what it means to follow him, delving deeper into difficult concepts with each step toward the cross. Jesus' thought-provoking and life-changing words challenged existing wisdom, stretching the boundaries of belief, forcing each person who heard them to reevaluate everything they thought they knew. How could they eat this bread and live forever?

Is it any easier for us to wrap our minds around Jesus' teachings? How do we open our hearts to the mystery of flesh given for us, blood shed for us, and bread come down from heaven when our culture insists that there is a simple black-and-white answer to every question? Who takes time to slow down and reflect on challenging Bible passages? Can we allow those words we do not understand to just be, to percolate and take root in the fertile soil of Christ's presence until the Spirit can coax a shoot of understanding to spring forth and grow into the light?

Too many unanswered questions weighed heavily on some of Jesus' followers. They wanted out; it was too difficult. They turned back to the safety of familiar routines and comfortable ideologies, prompting Jesus to wonder if all the disciples would abandon him. "Do you also wish to go away?" he asked the twelve (John 6:67). He asks the same question of us today whenever the circumstances of our lives challenge our faith, whenever our hearts are broken and our bodies exhausted, whenever it feels like we cannot take another step. Will we trust in Jesus' promise that his words are spirit and life? Do we believe he is the Holy One of God?

Questions remain, but the good news is that God's love is stronger than our doubts and fears, calling us back to worship, filling us with strength and giving us peace in the midst of uncertainty.

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### Maintenance Help Needed!!

**Saturday, August 31st**

The Property Management Committee will be switching out the old fluorescent light fixtures in the Fellowship Hall to more energy efficient LED fixtures.

If you like to do fixit jobs and are available Saturday, August 31st starting at 9:00 am they could use more people to help change out fixtures.

Many hands make lighter jobs.

For more information contact Warren Johnson 406-489-1333 or Randy Gilbertson 406-868-2924 or see you on Saturday!

## Confirmation Classes

Starts

September 11th

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Grades 7th and 8th

\$70.00 per youth

scholarships available.

for more information call

406-761-1543 or email

[bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)

register online at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)



# JUST 4 YOUTH

## Home and away

No matter where we are we serve God.

Circle the five matching items in the pictures.

Nick and Anita are serving God by helping their mom...



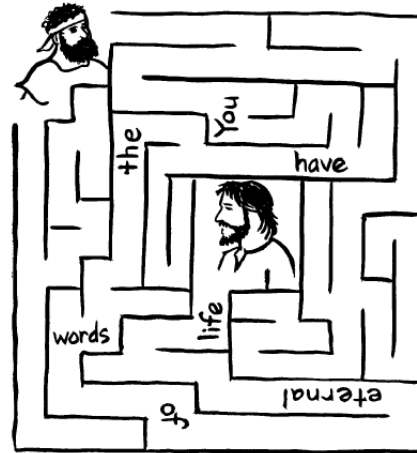
... and by cleaning up God's creation.

When you see someone who is wearing something to protect them from danger think about your prayers to God. That's a way to be strong and protected from evil.

Circle the things worn in this picture for protection from danger.



Welcome to worship. Peter knew that Jesus could bring eternal life, life with God forever. Many churches sing Peter's words to Jesus every Sunday, adding "Alleluia!" because it is good news for all.



Bring Peter to find Jesus in the maze. Print the words you find along your way on the lines below in order to complete the verse.

ALLELUIA. LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. ALLELUIA.

Count how many times you hear "Alleluia" during worship today.



### Our powerful God

Ephesians 6:10-20

God's power is awesome. Paul tells the people of Ephesus to find their strength in God, or "put on the whole armor of God."

Unscramble the words, then draw a line to the picture of each word.

elbt \_\_\_\_\_

erbsat plate \_\_\_\_\_

esosh \_\_\_\_\_

ishled \_\_\_\_\_

melthe \_\_\_\_\_

dorws \_\_\_\_\_



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### THIS WEEK

#### Tuesday 8/27

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

#### Wednesday 8/28

- Office closes at 12:00 pm

#### Friday 8/30

- Bethel office is closed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Sunday 9/1

- Worship led by Pastor Jessica Crist in person and online at 9:30 am
- Baptism of Beckett Stucker son of Andrew and Celeste Stucker.
- Adult Forum book study after worship in the Fellowship Hall

#### Monday 9/2

- Labor Day, Bethel Office is closed.

#### Tuesday 9/3

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

#### Thursday 9/5

- Exec Board meeting 6:00 pm

#### Friday 9/6

- 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 [loli51gus@icloud.com](mailto:loli51gus@icloud.com) for a link to join the meeting.

#### Men's Breakfast

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 [dscholten1118@gmail.com](mailto:dscholten1118@gmail.com) for more information.

**Resumes September 10th**

#### Hope Circle—in person

This group meets once a month usually on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. 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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

**Resumes Tuesday, September 17 at 2:00 pm  
at Marilyn Carlson's Home.**

#### Preaching And Presiding at Bethel

August 25th Pastor Sara MacGilvra  
Branom

September 1st Pastor Jessica Crist

September 8th God's Work Sunday

September 15th Rev. Doug Scholten

September 22nd Rev. Doug Scholten

September 29th Pastor Steve Nelson

October 6th Jim Carlson, LMA