

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, August 6, 2023

### 10th Sunday after Pentecost

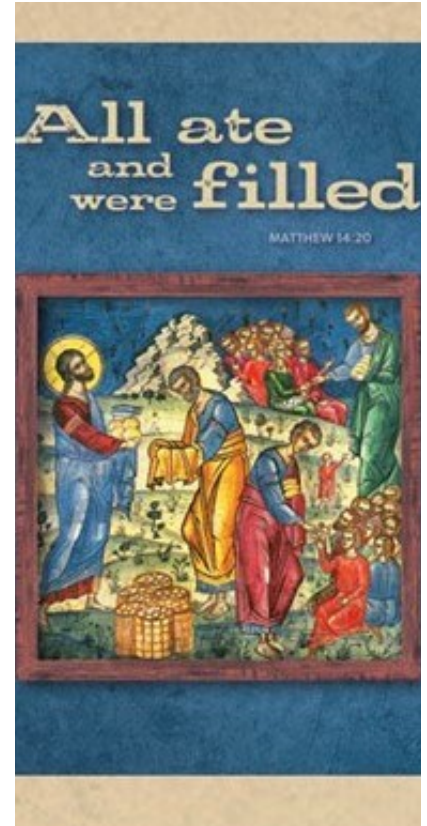
*In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.*

*First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5*

*Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21*

*Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5*

*Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21*



## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Mary Seim, piano

### Lay Assistant:

Tamy Scholten

### Usher:

Sue Hesse

### Tech:

Adam Elkin

### Children's Church:

Tyler Grosenick

Olivia Violett

### Counters:

Patty Braget

Kelsey Johnson

### Hospitality:

AnneRose Rogers

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

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**

The **Worship Planning Committee** meets in the Fellowship Hall after worship today.

**Welcome and thank you to Pastor Sara Branom** for filling in for Pastor Jessie this Sunday.



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of celebration and joy for **Jason Gleason and Christopher Wilson** as they get married this Saturday.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and wellbeing for **Walt and Leone Nuessle** as they both recover from illness.
- ✝ 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 and strength for **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law* managing adverse reactions to medication after surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is 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 **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.

# Mark Your Calendars!

Stay tuned for more details in upcoming *Bethel Notes*

## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



### FLBC Updates

THANKS to all for an awesome summer... FLBC is serving over 1200 campers this summer.

THANKS for your care and prayers that sustain this ministry! Hard to believe we have two weeks of "regular" summer camp left, before we jump into our full retreat program, including a week with the Montana Youth Diabetes Association, Intermountain, Flathead Industries and more!

**Join us for these upcoming FLBC sponsored events; See web site, or call 406-752-6602 for details!**

**Aug 5, 9-5pm** (or whenever you can come!)  
Wood cutting, splitting and fun day!!

**Sept 1-4-** Labor day family and work retreat, with Pastor Abigail Cress-Orellano serving as Adult Bible study and worship leader.

**Oct 14th-** Annual meeting, ( including worship and installation of Pastors Grant and Amanda Applehans as Co-Associate Directors.) followed by the Harvest Festival. Tickets on sale now for the dinner and event Saturday, to raise money for camperships. Donations needed!! Contact [Events@flbc.net](mailto:Events@flbc.net) with your questions

**Oct 20-22-** Grief retreat, with expert leaders! Pastor Keith Weatherford will serve as the retreat pastor.

**Oct 29-31** (Sunday-Tuesday) -"The Bible in 24 hours" Adult retreat for lay and pastors. With Dr. Rachel Wrenn, Trinity seminary.

The FLBC Outreach program is taking reservations for a one a month event at your church, October-April! A great outreach ministry for your church. Contact our office! Camp travels everywhere!!

### SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR



**Friday, August 18, 2023**  
**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Mansfield Convention Center**  
**2 Park Drive S**

Please bring donated supplies to Great Falls Rescue Mission Cameron Family Center (at 408 2nd Ave. S.) East Entrance. Call Lynne Staigmilller (406) 217-8489 to volunteer to fill backpacks August 7-11. To help on the day of the event, August 18, call Jason Meredith (406) 761-2653, EXT 115 or visit our website [www.volunteer.gfrm.org](http://www.volunteer.gfrm.org).

### BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- 1. **SOLID COLOR** BACKPACKS
- 2. 3-RING **ZIPPERED** BINDERS
- 3. COLLEGE RULED SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS
- 4. COLLEGE RULED LOOSE LEAF PAPER
- 5. COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS
- 6. POCKET FOLDERS
- 7. DRY ERASE MARKERS (**BLACK**)
- 8. HIGHLIGHTERS
- 9. #2 PENCILS
- 10. COLORED PENCILS
- 11. GLUE STICKS
- 12. PENCIL BOXES
- 13. PENCIL POUCHES-PLASTIC FOR BINDERS
- 14. SCISSORS
- 15. GIFT CARDS TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES NOT DONATED



# August News

# Family Promise

of Great Falls

The heat is on outside and the sun is shining, it must be August! We here at Family Promise of Great Falls are still working diligently to help homeless families within our community. From emergency food boxes to snack bags with cold water bottles, showers and hygiene kits to laundry services, our office has stayed busy this summer. We have welcomed not only clients but have also welcomed visitors who wished to get to know a little more about the services we offer. Within the last month we welcomed a group from the Public Defender's Office, as well as had a surprise visit from a representative of a Family Promise affiliate in Washington. In addition to those we have welcomed into our office, we have done a little travelling ourselves. Greg recently returned from a fantastic trip to Oregon for a National Family Promise conference! Greg enjoyed his time on the coast and has returned to us with some new and interesting ideas for ways in which we can better serve our community.

### Some exciting news from Promise Place Shelter

Within the last week we have received some exciting news from one of our shelter families! They were able to find a home to rent just outside of Great Falls and are moving in soon! We are so proud of this young family of five and applaud their hard work and dedication in reaching their goal of achieving housing. We wish them all the best on their new adventure together, and we'll make sure they know that we're still here for them if they need some help along the way. Providing emergency shelter is just a small part of what we do here, and if assistance is needed for a family to remain stably housed, we are here for them. Also, we will be seeking volunteers to help clean the shelter and prepare it for the next family in need. If you would like to help with this, please contact Greg at 406-590-2610.

### Calling all baseball fans

August 25th is our evening with The Great Falls Voyagers! Tickets are available for \$13 each, contact our office or swing by to say hello and purchase yours today. Remember that \$5 from every ticket sold benefits a family experiencing homelessness in our community. So come out and enjoy the game and feel good knowing that your purchase makes a difference within our community! We will hold a 50/50 raffle and are seeking donations to create gift baskets to raffle off as well. If you have some items you wish to donate for gift baskets, please contact Greg or Tiffany. We're hoping to have five or six baskets on game day, so every donation counts!

### A gift beyond measure

Recently we received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$4500! We feel so blessed by this generous gift and wish to thank the donor from the bottom of our hearts. This act of kindness will spread throughout the community by helping families in need, and at a time when the need is so great. From all the staff at Family Promise of Great Falls, thank you. In addition, we received a large donation of beautiful handmade quilts from the folks at Project Linus! These quilts are not only lovely but will keep many children warm in the upcoming fall and winter seasons. Thank you so much to those at Project Linus, your generosity and hard work are much appreciated. These donations, whether monetary or in-kind, help us to better serve the community. No donation is ever too small, every penny counts!



# Thank you for your Generosity!!

Our Adopt-A-Chair Campaign exceeded our goal and expectations and we are still receiving donations!! As of the end of July we have exceeded our goal of \$6000.00 by \$1700.00. We are so awed and blessed by the generosity you have shown. We will be blessing our chairs at a future date. We cannot say thank you enough for this beautiful congregation.



## **Montana Winter Theological Retreat** with Dr. Kaethe Schwenn

January 29th—31st at Flathead Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, Lakeside MT

Words of Wonder: Using Writing to Nurture our Relationships with the Bible, our Congregation, and God.

Cost: \$265.00 per person includes food and lodging  
deadline to register January 15th

### **Session One: Questions, Doubts, Dreams and Epiphanies: Writing Our Way into Deeper Understanding of Our Faith Journeys.**

This session will give us time to take stock of where there we are right now in terms of our own relationship to God. Pastors are sometimes not permitted the space or grace for their own doubts or fears about God; similarly, we might feel awkward about admitting a new closeness to God or an epiphany moment. And yet, being honest with ourselves about where we are with our faith is crucial if we want to help others on their own journeys.

### **Session Two: The Voice of “We” in Liturgy**

In this session we’ll explore ways to use the voices of congregants within liturgy. Participants will get the chance to practice a possible congregational writing exercise for use in Advent or Lent and then will have the chance to develop their own writing prompt or exercise for use in their home church.

### **Session Three: Who Do You Say That I Am?: Using Writing to Imagine our Way into the Bible**

One way to deepen our relationship with scripture is to truly imagine our way into it. In this session, we’ll look at a few examples of writers who have imagined their way into Biblical moments and characters and then we’ll try it ourselves. Is this practice useful? How? Might it be dangerous? Why?

*Kaethe Schwenn is the author of the post-apocalyptic novel *The Rending and the Nest*, the poetry collection *Tanka & Me*, and a memoir, *Tailings*. Her poems and prose can be found in journals such as *Crazyhorse*, *Pleiades*, *jubilat*, *Witness*, *Minnesota Review*, and the anthology *Fiction on a Stick*. She has been the recipient of a Minnesota Book Award for Creative Nonfiction, a Minnesota State Arts Board Grant, a Loft Mentor Series Award, the Donald Justice Poetry Prize, and a Best of the Net Anthology award. Schwenn studied creative writing at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and the University of Montana and earned a B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College. She currently teaches composition and creative writing at St. Olaf College.*

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 6, 2023, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

### The Problem with Numbers

So much attention to numbers! Five. Two. Twelve. Five thousand. And far more than five thousand when the women and children are included in the count (almost as if it's a census-taker's afterthought). But who, really, was doing the counting? And why? Was there a crew in that deserted place tallying attendance like ushering teams who survey church pews on Sunday mornings? Probably not. Yet the numbers often dominate this story, a miraculous story so significant to the evangelists that it is, unlike any other miracle, written into all four gospels.



What might be lost from this story when the numbers—how many people, so few loaves, only a couple fish, and even the counted leftovers—command our attention? The numbers apparently consumed the disciples' imaginations and produced their reaction: "Send them away."

Consider how often stories end like this: "Send them away." How quickly, even easily, numbers settle an issue and decide a story's conclusion, people's fate. But for Jesus the story is not over. Instead he says, "They need not go away" (Matthew 14:16). The numbers neither control nor tell the story. Compassion does. And more, that is not only how the story ends; compassion is how the story begins: "When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them" (Matt. 14:14).

Rather than the numbers, it is the "where" of this story that is significant. We easily overlook where Jesus is doing his ministry: Ashore. In a deserted place. It is not in the religious space of the synagogue. In the religious space, Jesus' teaching so offended the congregation that, dishonored, he left unable to accomplish anything among them. Unable to make a space of compassion and care there, he goes out to where the people are. If this doesn't give us pause, we are not paying attention.

We see where Jesus is. Where is the church?

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## Logos Youth Ministry

If you are looking for a way to get involved in ministries at Bethel and you love working with children, Bethel has a wonderful opportunity for you! Prayerfully consider volunteering for our Logos Youth Ministry. We are in need of youth teachers ages Pre K—Kinder through 6th grade, kitchen help, rec/game leaders.

We are extremely flexible to match you with the amount of time and talents that you have to help with this ministry. You can team teach, volunteer once a month, or any variation you can think of.

LOGOs year starts mid September and ends mid April. We take a few weeks off around Christmas.

This is a fun way to be involved with Bethel. If you want more information or would like to volunteer, talk with Tami Grosenick. We NEED You!!!

# Just for *YOUTH*

## More than enough!

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus was healing people in a big crowd of more than 5,000. It got late, and everyone was getting hungry! Jesus told the disciples to give the people food, but the disciples said, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish! It will never be enough!" Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, said a prayer, and gave the food back to the disciples. The disciples gave food to the hungry people. There was enough for everyone, with baskets left over.



### This Week...

Bake a loaf of bread and give it to someone who is sick or lonely.

Color the baskets. How many were there?

### What's in a name?

Write your name in the boxes. Think of words that describe you that use those letters.

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*Thank you  
Jesus, for  
doing  
amazing  
things.  
Amen*

Welcome to worship. Jesus is amazing! Did you know that a fish is a symbol for Jesus?

The Greek word for fish is ΙΧΘΥΣ. Each letter of this Greek word is the first letter of another Greek word that tells a name for Jesus. In English these words are

- Jesus
- Christ
- God's
- Son
- Savior



Jesus did something amazing with two fish! Listen to today's gospel to find out what it is.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Tuesday 8/8

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Council Meeting on Zoom 6:30 pm

### Wednesday 8/9

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

### Friday 8/12

- Bethel office is closed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday 8/13

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

### Tuesday 8/15

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

### Wednesday 8/16

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

### Friday 8/18

- 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

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.

## Congratulations Pastor Steve Nelson!

Pastor Steve has been honored to have his painting selected for the First Strike auction of the C M Russell Museum, which is one of the premiere western art museums in the US. The auction is scheduled for August 18th and the auction catalogue can be viewed on line thru the C M Russell Museum website. Title of the painting is "Painted Hills Ranch". It's the view from the hay field of a ranch located in central Oregon.



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