

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday, August 7, 2022

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Readings

First Readings

Genesis 15:1-6

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalm

Psalm 33:12-22

Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

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

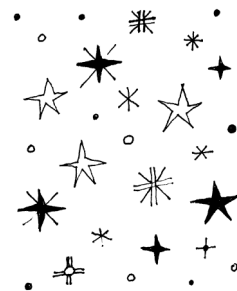


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SERVING THIS SERVICE

Accompanist	Mary Seim piano
Lay Assistant	Sandy Pepos
Usher	Earl Terwilliger
Tech	Adam Elkin
Children's Church	Julia Elkin and Ava Fossen
Counters	Stephanie Cummings and Dena Wagner-Fossen



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 for **Christikon** and Mark Donald and **FLBC** and Margie Feidler and their staff as they conclude their camping seasons.
- ✝ Prayers of thanksgiving for **Bridger Voorhees**, *1-month old grandson of Kris*, who is doing great after a medical procedure and is being baptized this Sunday in North Dakota.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is home after medical procedures and hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dale Ost** who is back in the hospital.
- ✝ 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 **Abby Bisgard-Clegg**, *daughter of Don and Kathi Bisgard*, waiting for results in August on the 'internal radiation treatments' that she had following chemo.
- ✝ 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 **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they continue to manage Don's health.
- ✝ 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 Colleen Walker-Nelson*, who is managing kidney disease.



Note from Pastor Jessie

This Sunday after worship I have the great opportunity to fly to Columbus, OH for the week and serve as a voting member at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. I was elected to serve as one of the Montana Synod's Voting Members at the assembly during our 2021 Synod Assembly, and have been preparing with several others from our Synod over the course of the last few months. As I head out this week, I wanted to share with you a few of the reasons that I feel so excited about attending this assembly.

Growing up, I was a nerdy church kid that attended First Lutheran Church in Havre. I loved church, being on Council, playing in the bell choir, and doing anything else I could at church. As I got into high school though, less kids were interested and involved in church, and I would feel lonely in many ways during my times there. After finishing my freshman year of high school, I was introduced to the Montana Lutheran Youth Organization (MLYO), and made friends that would last a lifetime from all over the state of Montana. I learned that "church" didn't just mean First Lutheran Church in Havre, MT. But that "church" was this larger thing that brought folks from all over the world together to dig deeper into the Jesus story and how it influences how we live our lives. After that MLYO experience, I was hooked. I applied to ELCA colleges, worked for my favorite ELCA camp, and knew that my ultimate dream was seminary. Over the course of the next ten years I had opportunities to see the work our church does in Rwanda, Malaysia, Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and numerous sites around the United States. I had the opportunity to experience inner city urban ministry and rural multi-point parish ministry. I encountered people from all walks of life, and from all over the world. What astounded me each and every time though, is that no matter how different we were, we were brought together by this common mission that the ELCA had set before us. This mission was to follow Jesus, to love our neighbor, and to keep our eyes out for the active work of God around us. The ELCA has taught me how to continue to learn to do those things in all sorts of places with all sorts of people. It has taught me that we are all beloved children of God, and that our ministries are better when we are together.

Now, you might be saying, "Ok, ok Pastor, I get it, you love the ELCA! What does this have to do with me?". Well, my prayer for us as Bethel Lutheran Church is that we might see the great blessing we have of being a part of a church body that empowers us to do ministry in these ways. A church body that gives us ways to engage, to learn, and to connect with one another. And most of all, a church body that always reminds us of the incredible things that we can do when we all work together and join in this larger mission that God has given us in our faith. I know that for many of you, this is a given in many ways. Bethel is one of the most generous congregations in the country in terms of giving to ELCA initiatives like ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response. We have long been one of the congregations known in our Synod for doing incredible work alongside of the folks in Bolivia, and for working together with many other congregations around the ELCA for Youth Gatherings, volunteer projects, and other activities. This work reminds us that church is not just here at Bethel but is so much bigger than that. I give thanks that our church helps us to realize how big this wider church community is, that we are in this together, and that our God is at the heart of it all. I can't wait to share all about the Churchwide Assembly with you all when I return, and ask that you lift the Assembly up in your prayers as we gather.

Peace,
Pastor Jessie

Words from the Bishop:

2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

The time is upon us again for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (CWA). The voting members for the CWA who were elected by the 2021 Montana Synod Assembly are busy gathering last minute information and finalizing travel for the assembly which is gathering August 8-12 in Columbus, OH. It is mind-blowing what needs to happen to bring together 1000 people from across the ELCA to one place to conduct the Assembly's important work on behalf of the church.



I know that for many of us this gathering seems a distant event, beyond our attention given our busy lives here in Montana or N. Wyoming. And yet, the Churchwide Assembly can and does affect our lives here on the frontier as some may remember from previous years.


As Bishop Eaton states in the video below, the Churchwide Assembly is the highest legislative body of the ELCA. This means that it is the Assembly (made up of voting members from every one of the 65 synods) and not merely the bishops who make the decisions about the broader policies and procedures of the ELCA. Of course, because the CWA meets every three years, there is a Churchwide Council that governs during the time between CWA meetings, a council that is elected by the Churchwide Assembly. As a result, the governing structure for the ELCA is much more of a level field than people often picture, with the laity comprising 60% of the assembly/council and the clergy (including bishops) comprising 40%.

The voting members that each synod sends to the CWA are just that – *Voting Members* – rather than delegates or representatives. These folks -- who come from all over the synod, who are male and female, who are different ages and from different backgrounds -- are called by the church to serve and vote on behalf of the whole church, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They are not delegated to vote in a particular way or elected to represent a certain viewpoint or constituency. They follow a conscience hopefully bound in Christ to make the best decisions concerning how we shall live together as Christ's church in the ELCA.

Of course, you may share your ideas, perspectives or concerns with us; it is through the many members of Christ's body that the Holy Spirit works after all. But in the end, the voting members vote in the best interests of the whole church inspired and empowered by God's Spirit.

This year's voting members from the Montana Synod are:

- Bishop Laurie Jungling (Great Falls)
- Dick Deschamps, LPA and Vice President of the Synod (Hope Lutheran, Bozeman)
- Rev. Jessie Obrecht, (Bethel Lutheran, Great Falls)
- Kristopher Schock (Faith Lutheran, Ronan)
- Lorrie Vennes, LPA (St. John's Lutheran, Helena)

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- Dane Castleberry, LPA (St. Elizabeth Lutheran, Ekalaka)
 - Rev. Darren Paulson (St. John's United, Billings)
 - Kyle Lefler (Bethlehem Lutheran, Kalispell)
 - Margie Fiedler (Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Lakeside)

The bishop and vice president of each synod are always part of each synod's contingent; the others are elected at the synod's assembly a full year before each CWA.

And you too can attend the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, at least virtually. Each plenary session and worship service is live-streamed. Please check www.elca.org/assembly for the link to watch and participate. You can find a lot of other information about the assembly on this site as well including the schedule. (Remember that everything is listed in Eastern Time.)

What will be some of the work that the 2022 CWA will be doing next week? Bishop Eaton mentions a few important things [in her video](#): constitutional amendments, the election of a new Vice President of the ELCA, and responding to the many memorials that have come from synod assemblies across the church over the past 3 years involving social justice issues and church restructuring questions. If you would like to read the over 60 pages of memorials that we will be addressing, [click here to download Section VII](#) or consider [attending the hearing on the memorials](#) this evening at 6 p.m. MDT. You can also find the ELCA recorded budget hearing on the same [YouTube](#) page.

One of the highlights of this assembly will be the formal presentation of the [Declaration of the ELCA to the American Indian and Alaska Native People](#) as a follow up to the ELCA's repudiation of the doctrine of discovery at the 2016 CWA. We will also hear from Fawn Sharp, the president of the National Congress of American Indians.

A beautiful part of every Churchwide Assembly is the opportunity to worship together every day. As you might imagine, these worship services which are led by a wide diversity of clergy, deacons and lay leaders from across the ELCA make for some powerful proclamation, praise, prayer and presence together at the meal.

And we will have the opportunity to build relationships with people from all over the ELCA who have very different life experiences and perspectives on what it means to be church together and yet are loved and welcomed by the same Savior in Jesus Christ. The fellowship that happens at the assembly allows for us to listen to each other in a spirit of learning, compassion and transformation so that, as Paul writes, we can "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." (Eph 4:15-16)

As the voting members, guests and Churchwide staff from across the ELCA gather for the CWA, **I invite you to pray for each of us as well as the whole Assembly that we may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to discern God's wisdom and receive Christ's love so that together for the sake of the whole church we may do justice, engage in loving kindness and walk humbly with our God.** (Micah 6:8 Say a double prayer for that last one!)

In Christ's Love,
Bishop Laurie



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

God gives us gifts every day

Find and circle five hidden gift packages in the picture.
Giving our time and our possessions to help others are ways
to pass God's gifts along. Draw a ♥ around children and
adults who are helping others in this picture.



*We offer with joy and thanksgiving
what you have first given us—
ourselves, our time, and
our possessions. Amen.*



Joke of the week...

**Who was the greatest
comedian in the Bible?**

... Samson.

He brought the house down.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 8/8

- Bethel office closes at 12:00 pm.
- Pastor Jessie out until 8/13.

Tuesday 8/9

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

Wednesday 8/10

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

Friday 8/12

- Bethel office closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 8/14

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

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.

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 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.

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

Contact information

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

Phone: 406-761-1543 ext. 202