

BETHEL NOTES

Third Sunday of Easter



The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures: the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

APRIL 15 2018

This Sunday:

The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting this morning after worship at 11am.

Readings:

Acts 3:12-19

1 John 3:1-7

John 24:36b-48

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:
Lay Assistant:
Usher(s):
Projectionist:
Counters:
Nursery:

Lynn Ryan
Udo Wozny
Terree Wozny
Dave Scholten
Pam Dougherty & Matt Crampton
Carly Cushman and Heather Farris

Pastor Steve's Message

Resurrected Life: Deep and Abiding Presence and Relationships

We have heard the old familiar idiom, "Beauty is only skin deep." Which basically means that one's physical beauty or attractiveness doesn't equate to the substance of their character.

In today's social media culture, one can present themselves to others in a multitude of different ways, many only surfacey and skin deep. Handsome. Beautiful. Funny. Thoughtful. Authentic. Politically savvy. Outrageous. We who are social media users connect to others by simply clicking a "like" or "comment" icon near a picture or convey sympathy through a heart emoticon. But these ways of connecting are all safe, superficial, and like beauty only inches deep. A writer and blogger I like to follow, Christian Piatt, describes a lot of our social and relational connections in this way, "We build insular, self-affirming echo chambers that indulge static ways of thought and affirm that acquaintances, rather than deep relationships, are the new normal."

In the gospel for this Sunday, from Luke, the resurrected Jesus appears to the disciples and makes himself known. It was startling...terrifying and anything but a superficial self revealing. Jesus showed them his hands and feet ~ "flesh and bones," wounds and all. Jesus knew that the disciples needed a deep and abiding presence, and that is what they received in his post resurrection appearances. Hungry and in need of initiating a new normal ~ a deeper connection ~he asks them for something to eat. They eat together and he is remembered and known. In the Ancient Near East, to share a meal, another's hospitality, was an expression of friendship and intimacy. It was an expression of support, care, mutual responsibility and being known, deeply.

Jesus offers to us and the world resurrection life...abundant life...deep and abiding life and relationships. He has promised to open our minds to be able to understand the nature of the relationship we have with the living God and with each other. He invites each of us to risk sharing the imperfect us ~ through the gift of repentance~ and to experience reconciliation and peace.

Jesus revealed to us that resurrection life is way more than skin or inches deep. Resurrection life is ours through the Author of life, "*whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.*" Acts 3: 15

Pastor Steve

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Prayers for *Marj Vander Aarde* as she recovers from surgery. Also for her sister, *Jann DeGroot*, who is battling cancer.

Prayers for *Ed Pottratz and family*.

Prayers for *Todd Whitted* (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Prayers for *Anne Trunkle* (friend of Dean Wagner-Fossen) in hospice care. Also prayers for Dena's sister, *Trina*.

Prayers for *Shelly Murphy*

Prayers for God's presence and comfort for *Esther Schmidt* (Aunt of Sandy Pepos).

Prayers for *AnneRose Rogers* as she recovers from a fractured ankle.

Prayers for *Dick Seim*.

Prayers for God's comfort and peace for *Jeanne Rankin and Mary Hall* as they mourn the death of Jeanne's father, George. His funeral will be held on Saturday, April 14th at the Lutheran Church in Sunburst at 2pm with viewing at 1pm.

Prayers for healing for *Eric Meredith* as he recovers from surgery.

Prayers for God's grace as the *Synod staff* transition to their permanent home this week, the new Synod House.

Help Is Still Needed For The Northern Cheyenne

Thank you to those who have donated to the disaster relief fund so far. We are still requesting funds for our Disaster Fund to help address the need in the Montana Synod brought on by winter storms. more information can be found on our website, www.montanasynod.org

FLBC News



Adult Spirituality Retreat at FLBC

April 15-17, 2018

Join us for great days of learning, fellowship, relaxation & fun! Spend time in the great outdoors hiking around camp, enjoying great conversations, and worshipping together. Come for just a day or the whole retreat to experience the teachings of Dr. Mark Allan Powell, professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He will lead discussion on well-known Gospel passages, helping us to approach the Bible with new eyes. Retreat begins on Sunday at 6:15 pm for dinner & concludes on Tuesday at 12:15 pm with lunch. Register [here](#). Pastor Steve and Shirley Cayko will be attending.



NRIT News



QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Pastors, LPAs and all interested lay persons are encouraged to attend this NRIT training led by Jackie Gittins, Director of Voices of Hope.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer – the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR or the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade and refer someone to help. The more people trained in QPR, the more lives that can be saved.

You will learn to:

- Recognize the warning signs of suicide
- Know how to offer hope
- Know how to get help and save a life

Come join us for this 3.5 hour training.
Monday, April 23 - 1pm to 4:30 pm at New Hope Lutheran in Great Falls
Thursday April 26 - 1pm to 4:30 pm at First Lutheran in Glasgow
\$35 for clergy
\$25 for LPA
\$5 for lay

To register, go to www.montanasynod.org and click on the NRIT logo, left side of page. Click on the "Register Here" below the class description



Save the Date!!!!

I cannot believe that the year is moving so quickly that we are already talking about VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!! This year the FLBC counselors will be joining us **July 23rd through 27th from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.** We will have a faith filled week of friends, games, crafts, and music. Along with pool night and Family Night program and pot luck. This camp is free for youth going into Pre-K to 6th grade. We also need Junior Counselors for youth going into 7th and up. Check out the Bethel Website bethelmt.org under Youth Programs for more information or contact Tami Grosenick at bethelmc.church@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more details!



It is a privilege to announce that Donald J. Lott Jr. has agreed to serve as the new executive director of Family Promise of Great Falls!

D.J., as he prefers to be called, a USMC veteran, brings vital experience to our mission, having worked with the Indian Family Health Clinic in Great Falls, MT, the National Council of Urban Indian Health Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale, AZ, and more!

He starts on May 1st, and our retiring executive director, Sharon Odden, will be working in tandem with him until June 30th, 2018 (coincidentally, we're having a Family Promise Night at the Voyagers that night, and you'll definitely want to be there!).

We are excited to follow his command as we keep fighting to end childhood homelessness, one family at a time! Comment below and give a warm welcome to our new fearless leader!

This Week at Bethel

Sunday aft. 4/15-17:

Pastor Steve at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp attending the Adult Spirituality Retreat.

Thursday 4/19:

- Hope Circle 7pm - LaRae Vietch's home - 2005 2nd St S

Saturday 4/21:

- AlaNon meeting in the Fellowship Hall from 11:45am - 3pm.

Coming Up....

Sunday 4/22:

Worship Planning will meet following worship at 11am.

Saturday 4/28:

- Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 4pm in the Gathering Place.
Set up will begin at 3pm.

Sunday 4/29:

- 8th Grade Confirmation.



Pastor Steve Van Gilder
Administrative Assistant, Sarah Farris
Bookkeeper, Bonnie Sears
Ministry Coordinator, Tami Grosenick

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