

# BETHEL NOTES

## Fourth Sunday of Easter



*The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.*

**APRIL 15 2018**

### This Sunday:

**Worship Planning Committee** will be meeting this morning after worship at 11am.

Today a special offering will be for the youth and adults traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 2018.

### Readings:

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

## Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lay Assistant:

Usher(s):

Projectionist:

Counters:

Nursery:

Mary Seim

Anne Vannatta

The Peterson Family

Tim Lightbourne

Jody Arvanetes and JoAnn Dullum

Ava Olson

## Good Shepherd and Earth Day Sunday

This Sunday, in our liturgical calendar year, is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The focus of our readings is on the care, healing and nurture we receive from God and which we, in turn, are to share with humanity and all creation. On Sunday the worldwide celebration called Earth Day takes place~the time in which the focus will be on the conservation and preservation of the world's resources. As stewards of God's gifts, we are called to love and care for God's creation as God loves and cares for creation.

One of the ELCA's Social Statements, *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, speaks of the call and responsibility we have to care for the gift of creation. This social statement was adopted nearly twenty-five years ago and is still a helpful resource and reminder of the great responsibility to which we are called as faithful stewards of the abundant and fruitful gift of God's creation.

*"Humans, in service to God, have special roles on behalf of the whole of creation. Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth. God's command to have dominion and subdue the earth is not a license to dominate and exploit. Human dominion (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8), a special responsibility, should reflect God's way of ruling as a shepherd king who takes the form of a servant (Phillippians 2:7), wearing a crown of thorns." ELCA Social Statement, Caring for Creation, pgs. 2,3*

The gospel reading for this Sunday is set in the contest of a healing story from John's gospel. A man born blind is found and healed by Jesus (John 9). As a result of Jesus' healing, not only is his sight restored but he is also named as one of Jesus' disciples (Jesus says) *"I know my own and my own know me."* **Jn.10:14** This naming and claiming united this man into a relationship with God, a human community and a relationship with all

creation. It meant access to God's pasture of abundant life. In the waters of baptism, we were united to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and given the gift of abundant life. The blessing of caring relationships and community. God continues to meet us where we live...in the earthiness of the fruits of the earth ~bread and wine~ all the gifts of creation.

So, in the celebration of Earth Day, and Good Shepherd Sunday, what might we be doing with the many caring relationships we have in our lives? I know that many of you will be participating in the Ice Breaker Run/Walk in Great Falls. Enjoy ! If this isn't you, make time to go for a hike or ride a bike. These warmer days, which we are experiencing, may inspire some of us to get our hands in some soil, care for our yards and maybe even consider planting a tree. The changing climate around the world has alarmed us and led to greater efforts of curbing destructive practices, but more can and needs to be done. Over the last few years, Bethel has addressed its energy consumption by switching to new energy efficient LED lights. I know that many of us recycle what we can (ie. aluminum, paper, newspaper, tin and cardboard, etc.) but are still frustrated that something more should be done. Might we brainstorm and initiate a community effort to expand recycling in our community? Many of us are mindful of the Spring flooding in many areas of our State and its destructive impact on the lives and properties of relatives, neighbors and friends. Our care for the earth and our neighbor's plight, will lead us to relief efforts to bring help and hope.

May God inspire you to continue your caring and nurturing relationships, with one another and in the care of God's gift of creation!

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

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

Prayers for **Kurt Hesse** (brother of Don Hesse).

Prayers for the friends and family of **Daisy Motschenbacher** as they grieve her death.

## Family Promise

Our next Family Promise host week will be **May 27th - June 3rd**. Due to scheduling conflicts at Bethel, Central Christian Church (The Hub) has graciously offered to allow us to host from their church as the families will already be there.. This is a treat for the families as they will not have to move! And a great opportunity for those of us who have not seen the Hub to stop by and say hello.

We will have sign ups beginning sign ups to help serve and also for food donations beginning May 6th. For anyone donating pantry items, please still drop them off at Bethel and there will be a sheet to sign to let us know who is donating and what you dropping off. We like to know so we can say thank you! Meals are to be delivered to The Hub, if you have need Tami or Dew can help with that. Thank you all for your kind Support!

# FLBC

It is hard to believe that summer is almost here! We want to make sure that you know of a couple of things as you start planning your activities.

1. Work Weekend at FLBC is Memorial weekend. This is a chance to get up to the camp and help get it ready for a summer of campers! Lodging and meals are included so contact the camp at [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net) to reserve your spot today!

2. Pastor Steve will be going to camp July 29th to August 3rd

The deadline for early sign up with \$25 discount is May 1st so sign up today!

Bethel has camp scholarships available, \$100 per camper on a first come first serve basis. To take advantage of this benefit, bring or send a copy of your invoice from the camp (they will send you one as soon as you make the deposit) and Bethel will send the money to FLBC.

There are lots of exciting opportunities this year. Check out their website to see how you can be a part.

[www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)

# NRIT



## 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](http://www.montanasynod.org) and click on the NRIT logo, left side of page. Click on the "Register Here" below the class description



This year the FLBC counselors will be joining us **July 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We also need Junior Counselors for youth going into 7<sup>th</sup> and up. Check out the Bethel Website [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org) under Youth Programs for more information or contact Tami Grosenick at [bethelmc.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelmc.church@gmail.com). Stay tuned for more details!

## CHADWICK FC

### SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY!!

#### FOOD CONCESSIONS 2018 SUMMER STAFF

CASHIERS, COOKS, SETUP/TEARDOWN

\*\*NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED\*\*

TO APPLY VISIT: [WWW.CHADWICKFC.COM/APPLICATION](http://WWW.CHADWICKFC.COM/APPLICATION)

#### MONTANA STATE FAIR

GREAT FALLS, MT

JULY 27TH-AUGUST 4TH 2018



#### MONTANA FAIR

BILLINGS, MT

AUGUST 10TH-18TH 2018

-AND/OR-

(SET-UP WORK AVAILABLE 4+ DAYS PRIOR TO DATES LISTED ABOVE)

#### FOODS WE LOVE TO EAT & SERVE:

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#### FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY:

10% OF WAGES EARNED WILL BE MATCHED & DONATED BACK TO  
THE CHURCH/SCHOOL ORGANIZATION/CLUB OF WORKER'S AFFILIATION.

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## This Week at Bethel

### **Saturday 4/28:**

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

## Coming Up....

### **Sunday 4/29:**

- 8th Grade Confirmation.

### **Monday 4/30:**

- Boy Scout meeting in the Gathering Place 6:15pm

### **Tuesday 5/1:**

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am

### **Saturday 5/5:**

- Close Knit in the Fellowship Hall 9am.

### **Monday 5/7:**

- Boy Scout meeting in the Gathering Place 6:15pm

### **Tuesday 5/8:**

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am
- Church Council meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

### **Wednesday 5/9:**

- Staff meeting in the Fellowship Hall 10:00am.

### **Monday 5/14 - Friday 5/18:**

- Pastor Steve on vacation.

### **Monday 5/14**

- Boy Scout meeting in the Gathering Place 6:15pm

### **Tuesday 5/15:**

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am

### **Saturday 5/19:**

- Close Knit in the Fellowship Hall 9am.
- AlaNon meeting at 11:45am in the Fellowship Hall.

## Coming Up (cont.)....

### **Monday 5/21:**

- Cycle Across America - staying at Bethel, details TBA
- Boy Scout meeting in the Gathering Place 6:15pm

### **Tuesday 5/22:**

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am
- Columbia Falls School overnight.

### **Sunday 5/27:**

- Baptism of Hailey Marie Thomas.
- Family Promise Host week at Central Christian Church

### **Monday 5/28:**

- Memorial Day - office will be closed.

### **Tuesday 5/29:**

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am - until September

## Carpentry Help Needed



Trinity Lutheran Church of Sheridan Wyoming will be at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Rocky Boy May 19th to 24th. They are looking for someone with some carpentry skills to help on some projects that other groups will finish this coming summer.

If you are able to join us or would simply like more information please call **Pastor Phil Wold - 307-763-1115.**



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

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