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BETHEL NOTES



Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Readings:

Proverbs 9:1-6
 Ephesians 5:15--5:20
 John 6:51-58

Sunday
 August 19

Welcome to Eamon Ormseth! Bethel has been one of many congregations who has supported Eamon financially and through prayer during this past year. He will share a message in worship and, at the **Adult Forum following worship**, discuss his experiences of living in community with Palestinian Lutherans, share about the prospects for peace in Palestine/Israel, answer relevant questions, and provide resources to learn more about the area. Welcome back to Bethel, Eamon !



Jan DeGroot (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) who is battling cancer.

Ed Pottratz and family.

Todd Whitted (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Shelly Murphy

Dick Seim as he recovers from heart surgery.

Kurt Hesse (brother of Don Hesse)

Ardis Scholten (mother of Dave Scholten) who is in hospice care.

Jane O'Brien (mother of Carrie O'Brien)

Faith Crouch (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.

The family of Fern Myhre, Shelly, Laura, Judy, and their families and friends as they grieve her death. A memorial will be held on Saturday, August 25th at Bethel at 10am with a reception to follow.

Bishop Jessica Crist who is recovering from a broken rib.

Patty Braget and family as they mourn the loss of her grandmother.

Ed VanVleet (family friend of the Grosenick's) as he recovers in ICU.

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Mary Seim

Lay Assistant:
Sue Hesse

Usher(s):
Shari Kohoutek
Sue Reppe

Projectionist:
Dean Amour

Counters:
Patty Braget
Dean Wagner-Fossen

Nursery
Attendant(s):
Adam Elkin
Kaleb Stringer



GUEST SPEAKER EAMON ORMSETH

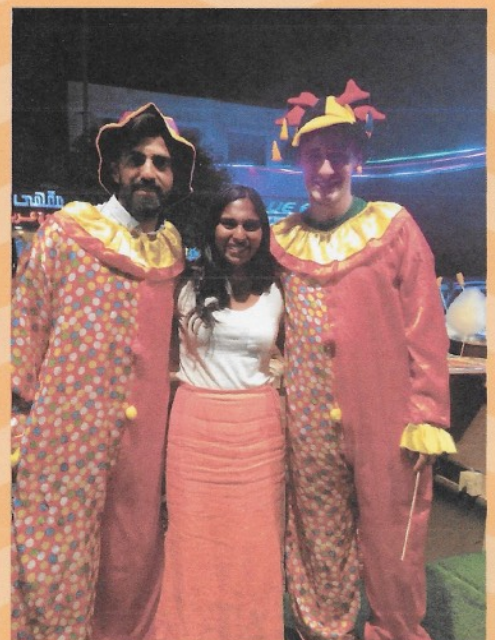
Today's Special Guest is Eamon Ormseth. Bethel has been one of many congregations who has supported Eamon financially and through prayer during this past year. He will be at Bethel to share a message in worship and, **at the Adult Forum following worship**, discuss his experiences of living in community with Palestinian Lutherans, share about the prospects for peace in Palestine/Israel, answer relevant questions, and provide resources to learn more about the area. All are welcome and invite others to join you!



in Saying goodbye: my last meal with my host family.



A man from Gaza being treated in Jerusalem visiting Al-Aqsa Mosque for the Day



Dressing up as Clowns to Sell Ramadan Treats

FLBC INFO



A Montana Blessing

May your visions be as boundless as the breadth of our skies.

May your soul have the strength of our mountains.

May your life be as peaceful as the gently falling snow.

And your days be as many as our trees.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS



August 23rd, 2018, 7 pm: Ramp It Up! At The Sip N' Dip. Back by popular demand, El Wencho will be



Family Promise of Great Falls is looking for a volunteer Treasurer to work 12-15 hours per month. For more information or to volunteer, please contact DJ Lott at (406) 866-0288 .

SEPTEMBER HOST WEEK

Bethel will be hosing Family Promise the week of September 9th to 16h. Due to bathroom remodel project we will be hosting at Central Christian Church 1025 Central Avenue.

There will be a hardcopy sign up in church this Sunday for those who would like to help with food donation or host a meal. Online is currently available at our website www.bethelmt.org.

If you wish to donate food for a meal or panty item and are unable to deliver to Central Christian please contact Dew Elkin or Tami Grosenick to make other arrangements.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE - WISDOM FOR LIFE

"What's the good word for today?" I asked my retired friend, Leonard, as I entered the locker room of the athletic club. "Save your money while you're young," he said. This was wisdom from the learned. And we know other wise sayings, don't we?

Ben Franklin said, "A penny saved is a penny earned." He also said, "God helps them that help themselves." Here's an ancient Proverb we all know, "Give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day. Teach...a man how to fish, he'll eat for a lifetime." Here's are a few familiar wise sayings that I heard at home while growing up. "The early bird gets the worm" and "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," or "A bird in the hand is better than two in the bush."

"Just Google it, dad," my sons tell me. At your and my finger tips we have information and answers to many of our inquiries. But does all of this information make us any wiser? We obsess over being right, self sufficient, and in control. But do we hunger after wisdom...living wisely?

The assigned lectionary readings for this Sunday speak of wisdom, a wisdom which transforms our living. The first reading is from Wisdom Literature ~ Proverbs. Wisdom is personified as a woman who stands right alongside God as a "master worker," (Proverbs 8:30) who makes sure that everything fits so that those who heed her invitation and instruction will live a beautifully built life. Here (chapter 9) we have Wisdom calling all who will hear to a feast. She invites all to her table, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine that I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live,



and walk in the way of insight." (Proverbs 9: 5,6) In other words, "Come, feast on wisdom!" In the Proverbs, we are reminded fourteen times that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

In the letter to the Ephesians, the writer calls the church to live wisely. It sounds less like an invitation and more like an admonition. "Be

careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:15-17). Understanding and doing the will of the Lord, according to the writer, is being filled with the Spirit of God. To "be filled" is a present tense verb which implies a continuing action or experience. It is for all of Jesus' followers...allowing the Spirit of God to guide our lives and to live wisely.

The gospel for Sunday is from the Gospel of John. It is a hard saying which left the religious leaders and the disciples scratching their heads. As Udo Wozny's Bethel Notes article from last Friday articulated so well, "Bread of Life" is a metaphor for Jesus' life and ministry." All who feast and are nourished on Jesus, the "Bread of Life," will live forever.

Wisdom is not in short supply. God's Wisdom is available to one and to all and will help us to build a beautiful life. A wise and God pleasing life. I close with some of my favorite verses from Proverbs. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him (the Lord) and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3: 5,6)

Pastor Steve



*Fall Course
Offered at Bethel*

Gospel Road
Show
Just Luke:
Gospel Stories
and Today's
Church

Dr. Katherine Shaner,
Asst. Professor of
New Testament at
Wake Forest University School of Divinity



This workshop examines the Gospel of Luke for the ways it shapes Jesus's ministry for justice in both ancient and contemporary communities. From Mary's song to the Emmaus Road, Luke's Gospel contains some of our most beloved stories. How might the emphasis on justice help us tell these stories in fresh ways?

Tuesday, October 2nd 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall at Bethel
5 Contact Hours
\$75 clergy/\$50 new to ministry, LPA/\$25
lay and retired pastors

For more information or to register go
to www.nrit.org - this will take you to the
Montana Synod page and click on the
NRIT logo - left side.



LOGOS is our fun, mid-week youth ministry which aims to nurture young people into faith and discipleship through Christian relationships.

The 2018-19 year begins
Wednesday, September 19th with
kickoff and picnic from 5:30 - 6:45
pm at Montana Park!

Visit www.bethelmt.org/logos to learn more, register, and pay fees.

Would you like to be a part of LOGOS?
We are looking for volunteers to help teach, be a table parent, or play an instrument for Worship Arts. Contact Shannon Marr for more information.



BETHEL CALENDAR - AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
Pastor Steve @ Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve @ Camp Tami Vacation Boy Scout Troop 1028 Meeting in Gathering Place at 6:15pm	Pastor Steve @ Camp Tami Vacation 6:30am Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	Pastor Steve @ Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve @ Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve @ Camp Tami Vacation	9am - Close Knit Group in Fellowship Hall Pastor Steve Vacation
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Worship World Hunger Pastor Steve Nelson preaching Pastor Steve Vacation	Boy Scout Troop 1028 Meeting in Gathering Place at 6:15pm	Pastor Steve Vacation 6:30am Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	Pastor Steve Vacation	Pastor Steve Vacation	Pastor Steve Vacation Sarah Vacation	Pastor Steve Vacation Sarah Vacation
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship Steve Smith & Shirley Cayko preaching Pastor Steve Vacation Sarah Vacation	Sarah Vacation	6:30am Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee 6:30pm Council meeting in the Gathering Place Sarah Vacation	Sarah Vacation	Sarah Vacation	Sarah Vacation Office Closed	9am - Close Knit Group in Fellowship Hall Sarah Vacation
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship 11am Worship Planning		6:30am Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee		5pm - Ramp It Up @ Sip N' Dip 6pm-8:30pm - TLC Meeting		10am - Fern Myhre Memorial Service and Reception
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am Worship		6:30am Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee				8