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BETHEL NOTES



Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

The world often exploits division and accentuates personal power. Christ, in contrast, brings us together and enables us with mutual empowerment. Unity helps us grow and mature as Christians. Unity also enables us to have healthy and dynamic churches. In Ephesians 4:1-16, we examine ways that disunity can harm the body of believers. The Spirit binds us together to build up the church. We are united with one Lord, one baptism, and one faith.

Readings:

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Sunday
 July 29

TODAY WE WILL CONTINUE THE SIX WEEK SERMON SERIES ON THE LECTIONARY READINGS FROM THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS. THE SERMON SERIES IS TITLED: *GOD'S EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH.*

ADULT FORUM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER WORSHIP. LED BY PASTOR LEN SHATKUS.

WE WELCOME PASTOR STEVE NELSON TO PREACH AND PRESIDE AT WORSHIP.



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.

Katie Smith (daughter of Grant & Janet Smith) who is on a summer mission trip to Asia with InterVarsity.

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.



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 .

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:
Anne Vannatta

Usher(s):
Walt & Leone
Nuessle

Projectionist:
Dean Amor

Counters:
Stephanie Cummings
Marilyn Carlson

Nursery
Attendant(s):
Adam Elkin
Kaleb Stringer

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONGREGATION

Unity in the Body of Christ - In A World of Diversity

I am struggling with Sunday's readings. The Old Testament reading from Exodus 16 is the familiar story of "Manna" - The Bread from Heaven given to the Israelites in the desert. The gospel reading quotes Jesus saying, "I am the bread of life." The letter (Epistle) deals with "Unity in the Body of Christ." I am asking myself, "What is the message in light of the sermon series titled "God's Extraordinary Church - Based on the Letter to the Ephesians?"

VBS (Vacation Bible School) came to the rescue for me. I was looking at the video loop on the TV screens on Tuesday. The screens read:

- Jesus Changes Everything
- Our Identity - Jesus calls us to be followers, reflecting God's love into the world
- Daily Bible Text - The conversion of Saul - This event caused Saul to cease his persecution of early Christians and became a follower of Jesus

I am asking myself, "What is unity in the body of Christ, when I live in a world that has

- On the Lutheran side
 - ELCA - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - LCMS - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
 - LCMC - Lutheran Church Mission in Christ
 - Lutheran Brothers
 - Wisconsin Synod
 - to name a few...
- In Great Falls alone
 - There are 70 to 90 different congregations of many Christian flavors



Retreats, Events, and Updates:

For additional information about our upcoming retreats and events, check out our website at www.flbc.net.

Labor Day Family Retreat August 31-September 3, 2018

This weekend is for all ages! Adult bible studies will be lead by Pr. Tanner Howard of Havre, MT. FLBC staff will lead activities for kids. Lots of time for boating, ropes course, crafts and play
Click here for Registration Form.

CLICK HERE for the full calendar of retreats and events. Like us on Facebook for news and pictures from camp.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
603 S Main St Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-6602
office@flbc.net
www.flbc.net

Some of the differences are minor and some are major.

Reflecting on my understanding of the Christian history, there were always differences in the Body of Christ. There are differences related to dogmas, doctrine, personal history, heritage.

Jesus Changes Everything. We may be better off looking at Unity in the Body of Christ on a smaller scale. During VBS, there was unity among the 120+ Campers during the week at Bethel. When they left the physical location, there may have been dis-unity. The teachings of Jesus created unity at that moment for a relatively small group at a defined location.

Moreover, there is unity during the 9:30 Sunday worship service at Bethel. For an hour, the service creates a feeling of unity. However, there could be dis-unity of thought during the Bible study following the worship service. That may actually be a good thing. Reading the Bible stories, thinking about them, reflecting on different opinions on the same reading actually helps us to ascertain what God wants us to do at this specific time and location.

In Genesis 32:22-32 - Jacob Wrestles at Peniel. Verse 30 states "So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.'" For me, this is permission from God to struggle mentally with God. Very frequently, when we struggle with something we also grow. When we think about unity, let us also "struggle" with diversity and grow in our understanding that "Jesus Changes Everything."

Udo Wozny

(Source of Bible verses: New Revised Standard Version Bible, 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Prayers for youth and families attending FLBC

This year we have 34 campers registered for a week at Flathead Bible Camp! We will be sending mail to each one from us at the church and will include them in the prayers. A post card(s) will be available each week beginning July 15th either before or after worship for you to sign. We also encourage you to pray for them for a fun and meaningful, life-changing camp experience. Pastor Steve and Dew Elkin will be attending the week of July 29th. If you want to attend and are interested in a \$100 scholarship, they are still available.

Campers This Week

Max Arvanetes Ben Peterson



JULY 27, 2018

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



TO REGISTER: Go to Opportunities Inc. located at 1123 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401 by **August 15th**.

TO VOLUNTEER: Contact Lynne Staigmiller at (406) 761-2653 or lynne.staigmiller@gfrescuemission.org to sign up!

Backpack Central runs August 21-24 where we will be stuffing 700 backpacks with school supplies.

We also need help the day of the Rally on Sunday, August 26.

We need meal servers, help with setting up & cleaning up, supervisor of bouncy houses and games, and help with the distribution.

TO DONATE: Bring donated supplies to the local businesses below and/org GFRM Administration Office located at 408 2nd Avenue South, East Entrance of the Cameron Family Center by **Friday, August 17th**.

PLEASE CALL US AT (406) 761-2653 WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED:

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

BETHEL BIRTHDAYS



Blessings to all who
celebrate birthdays in
August!



If we have missed anyone's birthday, or you do not wish to have your birthday published, please contact the Church Office at 76101543.

Name	Month	Day
Jeff Skogley	August	1
Andrew Voorhees	August	1
Judy Johnson	August	2
Michael Zook	August	4
Kelsey Vinnedge	August	5
Kelsey Brown	August	6
Pam Castner	August	6
Megan Black	August	7
Spencer VanHeel	August	9
Danielle Braget	August	10
Nancy Henneford	August	10
Arlena Crandell	August	13
Sue Swingley	August	13
Griffin Olson	August	13
Ayden Nicholls	August	14

Name	Month	Day
Aaron Violett	August	16
Remington Frick	August	17
Laurie Turner	August	17
Brianna Berryman	August	19
Kathy Johnson	August	19
Glenn Vannatta	August	20
Bob Vander Aarde	August	20
John Blank	August	21
Keenan Malik	August	21
Marlon Zook	August	22
Gary Sorum	August	23
Kaileia Wendt	August	28
Nicolas Barnes	August	31
Isaiah Beck	August	31
Crystal Dunn	August	31

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



Mark Your Calendars!

On Sunday, August 19th, we welcome back Eamon Ormseth to share the message and lead the forum following the service. Eamon grew up in Great Falls, is a 2011 graduate of C.M. Russell High School and a 2015 graduate of the University of Montana. He recently returned home from a year spent serving in Jerusalem and the West Bank as part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

Family Promise Volunteer Training at Bethel

We are happy to offer a free volunteer training at Bethel for anyone who would like to be an evening, dinner or overnight host for Family Promise. This training covers topics such as your duties as a volunteer, rules and guidelines as well as how to handle potential issues that may arise. Children are welcome to attend with their families.

Tuesday, August 7th 6:15 pm at Bethel. Expect about 1.5 to 2 hours for training.

Refreshments will be served.

If you are interested please RSVP to Dew Elkin or Tami Grosenick.



August 23rd, 2018, 7 pm: Ramp It Up! At The Sip N' Dip. Back by popular demand, El Wencho will be playing at your favorite local hangout, while you enjoy a silent auction, a special cocktail, a catered dinner courtesy of Clark & Lewie's, and more! This year's event is sponsored by Pacific Steel & Recycling!

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 Office Closed	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	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		10am - Fern Myhre Memorial Service and Reception
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am Worship		6:30am Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee				9