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BETHEL NOTES



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

Readings:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
 James 1:17-27
 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sunday
 Sept 2

An additional offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Patrick and Lynn Ryan will be singing "For the Healing of the Nations".



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

Shelly Murphy

Dick Seim as he recovers from heart surgery.

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.

Bishop Jessica Crist who is recovering from a broken rib.

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

The LOGOS ministry for staffing and other needs to be met as a new year approaches.

The family of Pastor Don Melchert as they mourn his death. His service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Missoula on Saturday, Sept 1 at 3pm.

Bethel's new mission venture, Ba'Bar Nabbas, for guidance and God's blessing as we reach out with the love of Christ to our community.

Bishop Jessica, Pastor Steve and Dave Scholten from Bethel as well as Pastor Lindean Barnett Christianson, Pastor Stacey Siebrasse, Cynthia Thomas, LPA, Alex Tooley, Tom Waldorf as they travel and serve as ambassadors on behalf of the MT Synod at our companion Synod in Bolivia.

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:
Sue Hesse

Usher(s):
Mary Gernaat

Projectionist:
Dave Scholten

Counters:
Pam Dougherty
Dena Wagner-Fossen

Nursery
Attendant(s):
Adam Elkin

PASTOR STEVE'S MESSAGE

Celebrating and Deepening our Montana Synod Companion Synod Relationship with the IELB (Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church)

As I write, my excitement grows for the upcoming trip to Bolivia with seven others from the Montana Synod. They are: Bishop Jessica Crist, Pastor Stacey Siebrasse, Pastor Lindean Barnett Christianson, Dave Scholten, LPA, Cynthia Thomas, LPA, Tom Waldorf and Alex Tooley, LPA candidate. We will be representing the Montana Synod as ambassadors to our Synod's companion church in Bolivia. During the time of our visit, we will join in celebrating with the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church's 80th anniversary as an independent church. On Sunday, September 9th, there will be a liturgical celebration held in El Alto, La Paz, with the many accompanying partner churches, Lutheran organizations, churches of Latin America and the world, and civil authorities in attendance.

An excerpt from the August Newsletter of the ELCA Global Mission in South America:

“The Evangelical Lutheran Bolivian Church emerged in 1938, from the missionary work of the World Prayer League among Aymara and Quechua communities. The church grew rapidly sharing the gospel in the language of the indigenous peoples of the Bolivian highlands. It is the largest Lutheran church (as a result of the missionary work) in South America. The Rev. Emilio Flores is the Pastor Presidente and leader of the IELB.”



Rev. Emilio Flores

While there, our MT. Synod delegation will be helping to deepen our relationship with our companion synod through deep listening to our brothers and sisters in Christ and learning from them of their ministry context and mission and outreach ministries. We will arrive in La Paz (nearly 14,000 feet above sea level) and after a few days, journey to Cobija (in the far North, near the border with Brazil) where we will visit a children's center and a farm with host pastor, Luis. We will also have the opportunity to visit and learn about a new ministry site in Tarija. I also look forward to a visit to the Obispa (Bishop) Jessica Crist Retreat Center, which the MT. Synod helped to build, and to the other places our host, Pastor Presidente, Emilio, chooses for us.

I am pleased to report that at the last Church Council meeting (August 26), the Council voted to direct our global missionary support to Gustavo Driau, who is currently serving as the South American Regional Rep. for ELCA/Global Mission.

Last year we directed our global mission support to Eamon Ormseth, who has recently completed his year of service as a Young Adult in Global Mission in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Please pray for safe travels, open hearts, and minds for the MT. Synod delegation as we serve on behalf of the congregations of the MT. Synod and the ELCA. We will be departing from Bozeman on Tuesday, September 4th and returning on Sunday, September 16th.

Pastor Ative



A WORD FROM PASTOR LEN

!!Daughters and Sons of Encouragement!!

Fall is here it is time to rejoice! I pray that you all had a full and productive summer. Council and Pastor Steve and are on board to renew our Mission to Reform and to Revitalize our active congregation. In addition to 9:30 on Sunday morning and LOGOS program, we will be adding a Saturday night worship from 7 to 8:30 to build our mission to increase our membership and live up to the promise of the body of Christ.

All of us are in mission to build up Christ body and this will aid us because we're not knocking on doors starting a new church or asking people to do things they're not capable of doing. Be prayerful, supportive and welcoming. We do that because as Martin Luther said, "The church is always reforming." Your prayerful enthusiasm and welcoming attitude have always been a hallmark Bethel. We ask you to be open minded and maybe take in the LOGOS and/or Saturday night service, so you can see what's going on the church. On September 9th and 16th I will be leading worship and preaching so you will get a flavor of what we're going to do on Saturday night. Let me be clear, this format will not replace Sunday morning or LOGOS, it will be part of Bethel's worshiping life.



The council and Pastor Steve see that revitalization is an intimate part of the church. We are not replacing we are adding to so that the life of the church may be evident to people who do not come every Sunday. Our welcoming building and church family make this possible as we are set up to add people to our congregation in so many ways. In the near future we will be putting together a trifold handout that you may give it to your friends, family and acquaintances so that they may see that the life of this church is vibrant, and on fire for the gospel mission.

I cannot thank Bethel enough for offering me this spectacular mission opportunity. It is what I have done for most of the 36 years of my ministry. We are all in mission together, but if you want to fit me with a title it would be Mission Pastor. Let us all rejoice in this opportunity as Bethel grows God's kingdom and rejoices in the many gifts that God has already given us.

Peace and Goodness,

Pastor Len Shatkus



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.

NEW MINISTRY AT BETHEL

Daughters and Sons of Encouragement

The Church Council has given their blessing to launch a new ministry venture at Bethel. Ba'Bar Nabbas is a ministry designed to reach out to our community, to invite exploration of belief in a higher power which supports and encourages our lives. It is a mission based program that is part of the church, aimed at revitalization and where all are unconditionally welcome. We are inter-racial, LGBTQ, non-denominational - no one is excluded. Meetings will be lead by Pastor Len Shatkus and held Saturdays beginning September 8th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall at Bethel.

Purpose of Meetings...

- To believe in some sort of higher power.
- Everyone is welcome, everybody is introduced - no strangers.
- Each week we will have a welcome and introduction. Listen to 2 to 3 songs and talk about them. Everyone share music.
- Introduce articles or things that are of encouragement that week.
- Check-in, how are you doing? - Good, indifferent, not good = it's all OK!
- Evaluating last week's project - every body does it individually with feedback and support.
- Reading - not necessarily bible - Pastor Len leads background points with group discussion on reading and set the week's project. Everybody should express an opinion.

For more information on Ba'Bar Nabbas you can go to our website, www.bethelmt.org, or contact Pastor Len at (406) 781-1738. He will be our guest preacher on September 9th and 16th while Pastor Steve in in Bolivia and will address this new ministry venture and welcome questions after worship.

NRIT EVENT



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



BETHEL CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						9am-Close Knit
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am-Worship	Labor Day Office Closed 6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place	6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia TLC Swap Meet-Gathering Place 7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Pastor Steve-Bolivia 9:30am-Worship Pastor Len Preach 6-9pm-Aitz Chaim for Rosh Hashanah in Sanctuary	Pastor Steve-Bolivia 6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place Aitz Chaim in Fellowship Hall	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia 7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pastor Steve-Bolivia 9:30am-Worship Pastor Len Preach	6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place	6-9pm-Aitz Chaim for Yom Kippur in Sanctuary	Aitz Chaim in Fellowship Hall			7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place					7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
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30						
Youth Gathering Brunch - 11am in Fellowship Hall						9