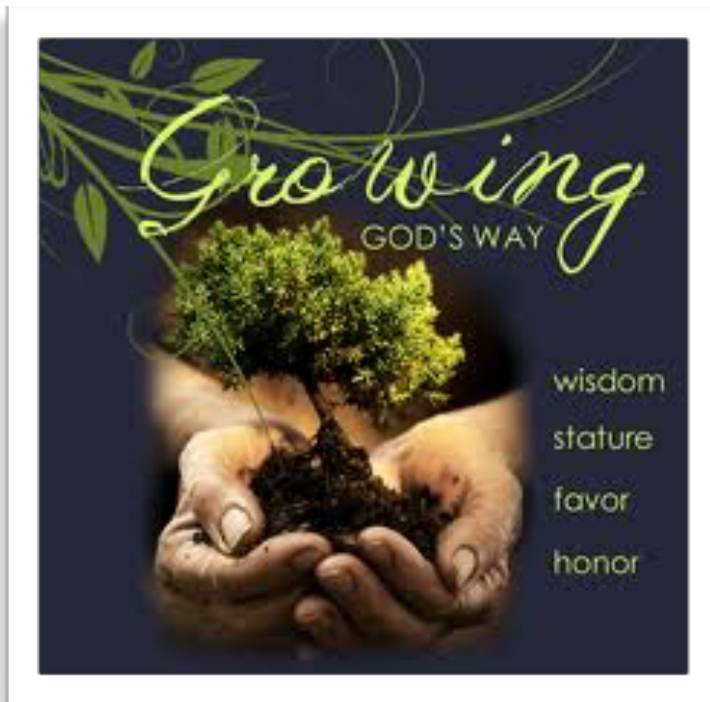


Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am to 2:30pm; Wednesday: 9am to 2pm
Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543
Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL NOTES



Sunday
Dec 30

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant:
Sandy Pepos

Usher(s):
Mary Gernaat

Projectionist:
Dean Amor

Counters:
Tim Lightbourne
Matt Crampton

Nursery Attendant(s):
Adam Elkin

Readings:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

This Sunday

Luke Bible Study will continue with Pastor Steve in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Scripture Focus: Luke 24: 13 - 35 (Road to Emmaus)



Prayers of healing for **Jan DeGroot** (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) who is battling cancer.

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

Prayers for healing for **Patsy Berkeley Brattain** as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers of healing for **Don Bisgard** as he battles stomach cancer.

Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** for healing as he resumes cancer treatment.

Prayers for **Sue Hesse**.

Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.

Prayers for **Terry Ryan** (brother of Patrick Ryan).

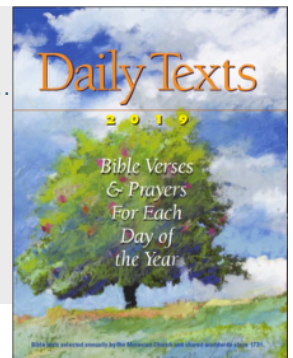
Prayers for healing for **Alex Bostic** as he recovers from surgery.

Prayers for healing for **Jean Humphrey** as she recovers from a fall.

Prayers of comfort for **Traci (Jason and Jack) Orthman** and family as they grieve the death of Traci's mother Dixie Hargreaves.

2019 Daily Texts

The 2019 Daily Texts: Bible Verses and Prayers for each day of the year will be available this Sunday. (No charge to you !) If you wish to take more than one, there is a suggested donation of \$6. and if you write a check, make it to Bethel and footnote it: Daily Text in the memo line.



The 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th immediately following worship.

There will be a Budget Forum on Sunday, January 6th from 11-12 PM after the service. The Budget committee will review the 2019 budget. This is an opportunity for the congregation to review the budget prior to the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2019 where the budget will be voted on.



PASTOR STEVE'S MESSAGE

(Jesus said to his parents) “Why were you searching for me ? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house ?” OR a contemporary translation might be rendered, “Why were you worried – I knew where I was the whole time !” Sounds like a cocky adolescent, right ? As we well know, this was no ordinary child. His ways were not entirely like the ways of a typical twelve year old.

Mary and Joseph had no idea what their son, Jesus, was talking about. They had just spent three painful days searching among relatives and friends for their missing son. So, to hear him ask them, “Why were you worried ?” Well, it must have left them feeling hurt and confused. They had both suffered on his account. Simeon’s prophetic words to Mary about “a sword piercing the mother’s heart..” seem to becoming true.

Think what it means at those times in life, when we utter or hear another say, “I don’t understand.. or I have no idea..or haven’t a clue ?” It means we have come to the end of our understanding. It can leave us feeling helpless and frustrated but it can also bring us to the threshold of a whole new journey. A world of mystery. To a world where we may grow in dependency on another’s help. Mary and Joseph had been stretched in their ability to understand – far beyond most of us.

What Jesus told them both in the Temple, brought them once again to the end of their understanding. “Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house ?” In many families, this failure to understand one another, strains, distances, or even ends the relationship. But not here. Their inability to understand the ways of God..the ways of their Son... did not end their relationship with him. Even though there was hurt, he didn’t give up on them nor did they give up on him. Luke tell us, “Then he (Jesus) went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.” And Mary, well, she did not simply dismiss the things which she could not comprehend, for Luke tells us that she “treasured all these things in her heart.” She was given grace to accept and deal with those things which surpassed her human understanding.

Now for us. Think about your relationship with God. There are definitely those things we will never understand about God, no matter how hard we try. You and I know that God loves us but we still may wonder... why ?

Thanks be to God, that God does not give up on the relationship which God began in baptism with you... just because you did not understand God’s ways. And you...do NOT have to give up on your relationship with God just because of your lack of finding the answer to each and every question you ask.

Emmanuel means, “God with us.” God has come near to you and to those places in your journey of life where your understanding ends. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God made it possible for Mary and Joseph to believe all that was revealed to them. That the promises of God would be fulfilled. By the power of the Holy Spirit God, God is able to grant us grace sufficient in order to face the trials and

the challenges of life. We have witnessed Emmanuel (God with us) in a babe born in the manger...in a twelve year old boy who astonished the teachers in the Temple....and who caused his parents to suffer greatly when he chose to stay behind and not tell his parents. Because God chose to come to us...to be born in the cradle of our lives..our world...we have been grace sufficient to begin a new day...a new year...and, like Jesus, to be about our God's business. To continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ of God.

A blessed Christmas and New Year 2019 to you and your family !

Pastor Steve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year, CM Russell High School is hosting the Electric City Optimists Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament January 11th and 12th. Please take some time to read the announcement, below and register to judge for the tournament using the link.

Please consider taking part in this excellent opportunity to come see some of the best and brightest students from across the State of Montana demonstrate their ability in public speaking and knowledge of current affairs.

Friday, January 11th:

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School

4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM

Debate Rounds at CMR unless otherwise announced

4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM

Saturday, January 12th:

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School

8:30 AM 10:30 AM 1:00 PM 3:00 PM

Debate Rounds at CMR unless otherwise announced

8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM

Registration Options:

Click on the link at <https://goo.gl/forms/rbsFEJkVo4cZDDvw2>,

Email cmrjudgerecruiting@gmail.com or steven_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us, or

Call [\(406\) 616-2695](tel:4066162695) and leave a message that details day, time, and any event preferences you may have.

Thank you for judging!



Mark your calendars!!
Wednesday evening 7:00 PM
Family Worship
 January 30th
 March 6th - *Ash Wednesday*
 April 3rd

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
12/30	12/31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am-Worship Luke Bible Study after worship			NO LOGOS	LukeBible Study @ 10am	Pastor Off Aitz Chaim 6-9pm	9am - Close Knit
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am-Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30pm - Council Meeting	NO LOGOS 5:30pm - LOGOS Staff meal and training		Pastor Off	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am-Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast	5:30pm - LOGOS		Pastor Off	9am - Close Knit
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am-Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast	5:30pm - LOGOS	7pm - Hope Circle	Pastor Off	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30am-Worship Annual Meeting	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast	6pm-Family Worship Night			