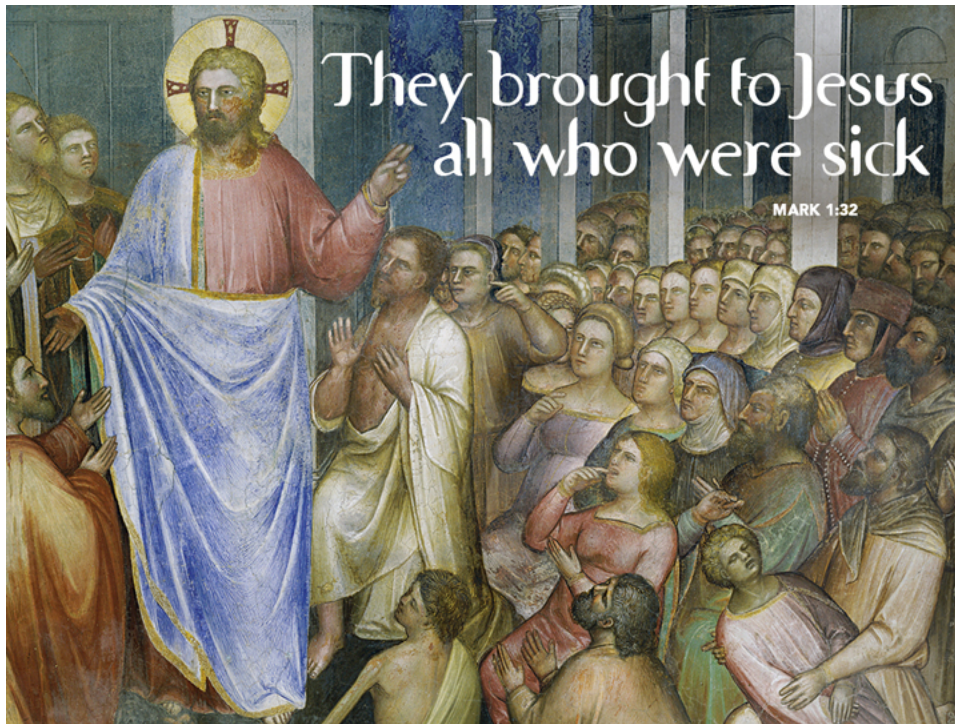


# BETHEL NOTES

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

### This Sunday:

This Sunday is Scout Sunday and we welcome Boy Scout Troop 1028 to assist with worship.

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

This Sunday we Today rejoices with **Jack Pinski** as he joins in sharing his first holy communion.

### Readings:

Isaiah 40:21-31

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

## Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lay Assistant:

Usher(s):

Projectionist:

Counters:

Nursery:

Mary Seim

Anne Vannatta

Boy Scout Troop 1028

Lisa Carlson

Jody Arvanetes & JoAnn Dullum

Ava & Alex Olson



## Scout Sunday

This Sunday is Scout Sunday. Every year the Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. Bethel Lutheran Church is the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 1028, which meets on Monday nights at Bethel. Troop leader is Vann Arvanetes. This Sunday, the scouts from Troop 1028 will be ushering, reading and assisting with worship.



## Bethel Bunch



Bethel Bunch's next gathering will be on Friday, February 16th at 6pm. Earl and Trudy Terwilliger will be our hosts as we celebrate the Chinese New Year. 2018 is the year of the dog. Bring your favorite Chinese dish to share and your own beverage.  
Location: 141 17th NW.



## ELCA 2018 Youth Gathering



We are excited to announce that two youth members of our congregation will be attending the "2018 ELCA Youth Gathering". Kaleb Stringer and Lillian Erickson will be heading to Houston, TX in June for this amazing opportunity. Kaleb and Lillian are both active members of our congregation. You can find them at Logos, in the daycare, and helping out wherever they can. Kaleb was also recently elected to be on the church council. Both Lillian and Kaleb attend CMR High School. While Lillian is active in music, playing the oboe, english horn, and saxophone to keep her busy, you can find Kaleb on the field, active in both football and track. Both Kaleb and Lillian also find time to have jobs, Lillian at The Montana Club and Kaleb at Howard's Pizza. This will be a life changing opportunity for these two young adults and we hope to support them in this journey. Kaleb and Lillian made time to attend the January Church Council meeting in order to introduce themselves and tell of their interest in attending the Youth Gathering. The Council assured them of their support. Please look forward to several upcoming fundraisers for Kaleb and Lillian. Our support is needed to help with their costs. Most importantly please keep them both in your prayers. We thank you in advance for your prayers and support.



"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8



## Supporting Global Mission

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

We are followers of Jesus today because the earliest followers of Jesus took his words seriously and carried the message of God’s love through Jesus Christ to the far ends of the earth. As ELCA Lutherans, we are in relationship with Christians across the globe through the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies. And we are connected with some 77 million other Lutherans across the globe through the Lutheran World Federation. Two of our closest connections in the Montana Synod are our companion Synods, the Cape Orange Diocese in South Africa, and the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Perhaps you have met visitors from those churches as they have been in our synod. Or perhaps you have had an opportunity to visit their churches.



One of the structures that keeps our relationships going through changes in bishops, changes in committees, changes in congregations is the Regional Representative. Regional Representatives, like all other missionaries, are supported both by churchwide funds, and by congregations. In Latin America, our Regional Representative, Gustavo Driau, is new. And, as an Argentinian national, he does not have a home congregation in the ELCA. Since the Montana Synod is in partnership with the Bolivian Church, and, by extension, with Gustavo Driau, we have been asked to consider congregational sponsorships of Gustavo. Some of our congregations were sponsors of his predecessors, Justin and Kerry Eller. We invite you to consider sponsoring Gustavo.

Gustavo was introduced to the Lutheran Church in elementary school, and was confirmed and became an active lay leader. He served the Argentinian Church as director for diakonia and mission development, and then served the Lutheran World Federation in Latin America. You can read more about Gustavo [here](#) and [here](#).

We know that many congregations sponsor missionaries and YAGMs with whom they have a connection. That is wonderful, and so appreciated. We are asking congregations who may not have a global mission partner to consider a covenant relationship to sponsor Gustavo Driau. You can find more about missionary sponsorship covenants [here](#) and [here](#)

There are many ways that we can support global mission: prayer, communication, visits, financial sponsorship. Please keep all our global personnel in prayer. They are working hand in hand with God’s beloved children in many countries, in many contexts, living the Gospel and serving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jessica Crist, Bishop





## Message from the Pastor

# A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil

### OVERVIEW

This year's Lenten Mid-Week Worship will involve reading and reflections on a few of the salvation stories from the Easter Vigil Liturgy. We will discover together that these are not just *old* stories, but also *our* stories. Stories are accessible to us. Each of the stories can be seen as imaging God, Christ's resurrection, and the baptismal life. They offer the hearers an image with which to picture salvation: the earth is God's perfect creation; we are saved in the ark during the flood; we escape the enemy army; our bones are brought back to life; we are thrown into a fiery furnace and emerge untouched by the fire.

Bethel is blessed with a number of gifted Lay Pastoral Associates (LPA's) and they, along with Pastor Steve, will help lead those of us who gather to reflect on these salvation stories. Our Lenten journey begins with **Ash Wednesday worship, February 14th, at 7pm** with the imposition of ashes, and holy communion. We will begin our **mid week Lenten Worship on Thursdays at 6:15** for a soup supper hosted by ministry groups from the congregation and we will **worship at 7pm**. The dates, stories, and leaders are listed as follows:

**February 22 - Creation (Genesis 1: 1 - 2:4a) Pastor Steve Van Gilder - Soup Supper Host: Bethel Council**  
The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the beginning of life for us all. Just as the creator God forms the earth out of chaotic waters and shines light onto primeval darkness, so the resurrection of Christ pulls us from death through baptism into fruitful life with all the good earth and enlightens our life in Christ.

**March 1 - Flood (Genesis 7: 1 - 5, 11 - 18; 8: 6 - 18; 9: 8 - 13) Jim Carlson, LPA**  
In the story of the flood, God re-creates the world by sending forty days of rain to destroy all that is evil. In the resurrection of Christ, God is making all things new, and in our baptism, we are cleansed and brought to new life.

**March 8 - Deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus 14: 10 -31; 15: 20 - 21) Dave Scholten, LPA**  
In this archetypal story, God vanquishes evil and liberates the oppressed. By the resurrection, God liberates us from slavery to sin and brings us through the waters of baptism to safety.

**March 15 - Valley of the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14) Steve Smith, LPA**  
For Christians, the valley of the dry bones can be interpreted in various ways: a picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a promise about the baptized life, and a hint of the final resurrection of the dead. In the action of God, the Word, and the Spirit, Christians see also a picture of the Triune God.

**March 22 - Deliverance from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3: 1 - 29) Shirley Cayko, LPA**  
For each of us there will be a time when we are engulfed by fire. Because of the resurrection of Christ, we can be confident that the Son of God will be with us, no matter what or where the furnace.



**NEW**

## This Week At LOGOS...



LOGOS kids look forward to CANstruction each year and this week, we used the plentiful food donations to construct some amazing canned good creations. 1st and 2nd grade made a beautiful dove representing the Holy Spirit and grades 3-6 celebrated the upcoming Winter Olympics with creations that depicted bobsledding, ski jumping, curling and more. Check out the pile of food in the narthex at church on Sunday. Thank you for the donations!

We invite you to join us next Wednesday, February 7th, for Family Meal and Worship. Dinner will be served at 6pm and Worship with Holy Communion will begin at 7pm. All are welcome!







## Adult Forum

This Sunday, following worship in the Fellowship Hall, you are invited to discuss the issue of immigration. As we are aware, President Trump has asked Congress to work towards immigration reform. It is not a new issue but certainly one that stirs our passions, politics and hopefully our faith, too. During the offering, we will sing together, *For the Healing of the Nations*, and one of the final prayers is “*all immigrants and exiles....peace be yours.*” We will extend that prayer as we talk about our (individuals, church’s) immigrant roots, examine our own attitudes towards newcomers, the biblical stories, and take a look the ELCA’s social messages and social policy on immigration. We will conclude the forum by noon.



## First Communion

This Sunday, Bethel rejoices with **Jack Pinski**, son of Greg and Amber Pinski, brother of James, as he joins in sharing his first holy communion.

Jack, as you take part in the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation for the first time, know that you will carry the Lord’s blessings and love with you forever.



### IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Prayers for *Marj Vander Aarde* as she recovers from surgery. Also for her sister, *Jann DeGroot*, who is battling cancer.

Prayers for healing for *Ryan Pottratz* (son of Ed and Myra Pottratz and grandson of Sue Hesse).

Prayers for healing for *Brenda Slater* as she continues her treatment for cancer.

Prayers for *Harold Bossie and family* – as Harold has entered into the care of Hospice.

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 *Crystal Dunn* as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers for *Shelly Murphy*.

Prayers for healing for *Arlena Crandell’s son Mike*.



## 2018 Annual Meeting Highlights

Pastor Steve has been our pastor for 14 years and we are grateful!

Mission Freedom campaign raised a total of \$297,732 from 32 pledges.

Assuming the pledges come through, we will have a balance of \$288,000 at the end of 5 years. The mortgage will be paid off in 2028.

The congregation approved the updates to the Constitution. They are:

Mission Endowment by-laws were voted to be included in the Constitution; the amount the council can approve in budget expenditures before going to the congregation was changed from \$500 to \$5400. (This number had not been updated for 20 years); The number of people on the council was changed from 12 to 7-9 members; The number of people on the nominating committee was changed from 6 to 4.

The new council members will be: Kaleb Stringer (youth), Ben Gooldy (young adult), and Marilyn Carlson. The council is now reconciled with the Constitution where it is stated there will be 1 youth and 1 young adult on the council. Marilyn will become the new Secretary.

The following members are leaving the council and were voted in to serve on the nominating committee: Kristine Voorhees, Jenny Will, Mary Lou Norbie, and Dave Scholten.

Matt and Judy Crampton were voted in to serve as delegates to Montana Synod Assembly.

Dan & Steph Richardson were voted in to serve as representatives to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

Kris Voorhees gave the President's report which outline all the work the council and other members have accomplished over the past year. She also reminded us of our Mission Statement: God Calls Us, God Transforms Us and God Sends us...make sure you are listening!

The pastor acknowledged the members leaving the council and thanked them for their service: Mary Lou Norbie, Dave Scholten, Jenny Will and Kristine Voorhees, who received a plaque in recognition of being the council President.

The new officers on the 2018 council are: Jo Ann Dullum (President), Doug Sexe (Vice President), and Marilyn Carlson (Secretary).

If you would like to view the full meeting minutes, [click here](#) or go to [www.bethelmt.org](http://www.bethelmt.org).

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## This Week at Bethel

### **Monday 2/5:**

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

### **Tuesday 2/6:**

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.
- Men's Breakfast at 6:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Wednesday 2/7:**

- LOGOS Family Dinner at 6:00pm and Worship with Holy Communion at 7pm.

### **Saturday 2/10:**

- The Comfort Food Classic, benefit for Family Promise, at the Moose Lodge in Black Eagle from 4pm to 7pm.

## Coming Up....

### **Sunday 2/11:**

- Church Council retreat and council meeting at 12:30pm at Waddell & Reed, Inc. -, 300 Central Ave #600. Council meeting will convene at 2:15pm.

### **Wednesday 2/14:**

- Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm.
- No LOGOS.
- 

### **Friday 2/16:**

- Bethel Bunch Chinese New Year at 6pm hosted by the Terwilligers; 141 17th Ave NW.

### **Monday 2/19:**

- The office will be closed in observance of President's Day.

### **Wednesday 2/21 - Friday 2/23:**

- Montana Rural Water training workshops in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Sunday 2/25-Sunday 3/4:**

- Bethel hosts Family Promise.



# Happy Birthday

Keith Marr	2	Eric Peterson	15	Ed Ferguson	27
Regan Will	2	Mary Gernaat	15	Terree Wozny	27
Patsy Berkeley	4	Pam Dougherty	16	Stephanie Cummings	29
John Wendt	5	Pam Purdy	16		
Vernon Kutzler	5	James Peterson	18		
Jennie Gresham	7	Maelee Frick	18		
Liisa Nelson	7	DeeAnn Coffman	19		
Reena McCarty-Stimac	8	Jessica Crist	19		
Riley Kutzler	8	Don Hesse	20		
Kendal Blades	10	Fred Crandell	20		
Shelly Murphy	10	Raphael Graybill	20		
Sonja Baumgardner	10	Raylene Rein	20		
Abby Troyer	11	Tyler Marr	21		
Steve Smith	12	Liam Quinn	23		
Tom Slater	13	Maddy Gooldy	25		
Dale Mortenson	14	Sandra Bechard-Peterson	25		
Kathy Bisgard	14	Daniel Brattain	26		



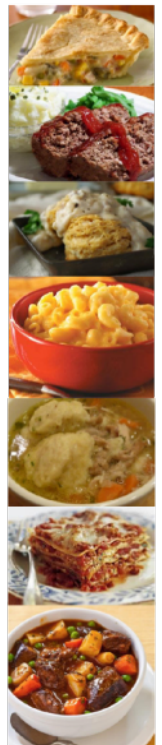
**\*\*If you do not wish to have your birthday published, please contact the church**

## The Comfort Food Classic



*February 10, 2018 4:00-7:00  
At the Moose Lodge in Black Eagle*

The annual Comfort Food Classic is on Saturday February 10th from 4:00 to 7:00 at the Moose Lodge in Black Eagle. Have a night out and support our local mission to help our Great Falls homeless children and their families. Adults are \$15. And children 6-12 \$12. As of Friday there are 14 local businesses that will be handing out samples of your favorite comfort food. Golden Corral - Perkins - 4B's - MacKenzie River Pizza - Clark & Lewie's - Borrie's - Rikki's - and more. So come and join the fun and vote for the best comfort food in Great Falls. If you would like to purchase tickets please see Dew Elkin.



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## Bethel Lutheran Church Contact Information

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

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Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am to 2:30pm  
Wednesday :9am to 2pm

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### BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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