

# BETHEL NOTES

## Transfiguration of Our Lord



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see..

**FEBRUARY 11, 2018**

### This Sunday:

**Adult Forum: Immigration, Pt. 2**

After worship there will be an Adult Forum held in the Fellowship Hall on the issue of immigration. We will discuss why the church has been and is a part of the conversation on this issue. Come, join the conversation. We will conclude at noon.

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**Church Council retreat and council meeting at 12:30pm at Waddell & Reed, Inc. -, 300 Central Ave #600. The February Council meeting will convene at 1:45pm**

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### Readings:

2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

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## Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:

Sue Hesse

Usher(s):

TBD

Projectionist:

Vann Arvanetes

Counters:

Patty Braget & Doug Sexe

Nursery:

Carly Cushman & Heather Farris

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# Pastor's Message

We are about to turn the page on the Church year calendar. Beginning next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, the church will observe its forty day journey to Easter (not counting Sundays) called *Lent*. During this forty day period the church begins an annual examination of its spiritual condition. The ancient church observed the faith practices of fasting, penitence and alms giving~ practices that point us to Jesus' forty days of fasting in the desert. Fasting during Lent can mean the discipline of abstaining from certain foods or habits which distance us from God. Penitence is expressing our sorrow for sin through repentance so that God will raise us up to live in a right relationship with God and with others. Receiving the ashes on Ash Wednesday is a sign of repentance and sorrow for sin. It helps us to remember our mortality and the limits placed on human life. As the writer of Genesis says, "From dust you have come, and to dust you shall return." The practice of alms giving is giving money or food to the poor. During our mid-week worship, we have received an offering for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund ~ to provide for those in need. All these faith practices are intended to help one deepen their relationship with God. By observing these practices the followers of Jesus can nurture a faithful and rich way of living

It is interesting that this year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are observed on the same day. In the fourth century, the Roman Catholic Church established the Feast Day of Saint Valentine. There are a number of legends told of who Saint Valentine actually was. One legend tells of a man named Valentine who was a prisoner and fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Just before he died, he penned a note to his true love and signed it, "From your Valentine." In our time, the celebration of Valentine's Day is far different from that of a Saint's Feast Day. On Ash Wednesday, we will be invited to consider the state of our hearts before God and to turn towards God who is the source of love and life. On Valentine's Day we remember those we love and have affection for. Just maybe a connection can be made between the two observances. Life's short, make every moment count for good with those whom we love. Remember and turn towards the One who is the origin of your life and love.

Ash Wednesday Worship will be held on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We will receive the imposition of ashes and holy communion.

**Pastor Steve**





# LENTEN

## *Calendar & Events*

**February 14 - Ash Wednesday Worship, 7pm**

**February 22 - Soup Supper Host: Bethel Council**

**Creation (Genesis 1: 1 - 2:4a)**

**Pastor Steve Van Gilder -**

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 -Soup Supper Host:**

**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 - Soup Supper Host:**

**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 - Soup Supper Host:**

**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 - Soup Supper Host: Hope Circle**

**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.*



## **Maunday Thursday**

Liturgy, March 29th at 7:00 pm

\*\*Holy Communion; Jubilate Choir

## **Good Friday**

Liturgy, March 30th at 7:00 pm

\*\*Jubilate Choir

## **Easter Vigil**

Liturgy, March 31st at 7:00 pm

\*\*Holy Communion & Feast of Milk & Honey

## A Note of Thanks

Thank You Bethel Lutheran Church counsel and also Bethel congregation for your continued support of Great Falls Family Promise. There has been some concern that Family Promise was not listed in the proposed annual budget. Pastor Steve assured me that Family Promise was listed under the "Disbursements - Benevolence" account along with several other programs.

Thank You to those who support Family Promise with donations through their Sunday offering. And a huge Thank You to everyone who supports our Family Promise hosting with donations of your time and service, food, pantry items and your prayers. We are all making a big positive difference in the many lives of our local children and their families in need. We do God's Work With Our Hands.

Dew Elkin

## 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.

## The Comfort Food Classic



*Home town restaurants - home town cooking -  
to help homeless children and their families in Great Falls.*



The Annual Comfort Food Classic for Family Promise of GF Saturday, February 10th, from 4:00-7:00 pm, come to the Moose Lodge in Black Eagle for an evening filled with food that makes us think of the comforts of our own home and families.. Desserts will also be available for purchase. Tickets are available at the door and are \$15 for adults, \$12 for youth ages 6-15, and under children under 6 years old eat for free.

## Adult Faith Formation

During the Sundays in Lent, beginning on February 18<sup>th</sup>, (after worship, done by noon) we will take time to explore some faith practices, using the *animate* curriculum developed by Spark House Publishing. The format is a ten minute video presentation, made by pastors, and authors who will reflect on the practices of *prayer* (Brian McLaren), *food* (Sara Miles), *money* (Shane Claiborne), *worship* (Mike Slaughter) and *service* (Enuma Okoro). There will be questions for follow up discussion. Pastor Steve will facilitate. We will begin with the faith practice of prayer, explored by Brian McLaren and us. Come and dive in!

# Mission Freedom Campaign Update

First of all, many thanks to those of you who have supported our efforts to service and retire our debt from our remodeling project! The generosity you have provided is a testament to your faith and commitment to our shared goal of freeing up our financial obligations as soon as possible, to achieve Mission Freedom and redirect efforts to our Missionary priorities.

We launched our second capital campaign (Mission Freedom) last spring and we would like to share the results this far. The campaign has had 32 pledges representing gifts of \$292,970. Our campaign goal was to achieve over 50 pledges totaling \$500,000 – that goal was designed to enable us to retire the mortgage by 2022. The good news: these campaign results have secured the funding needed to service the mortgage over the next 5 years. The bad news: our current level of pledges is short of our goal, which would require us to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> capital campaign in the spring of 2021.

A third capital campaign has three detrimental effects. One, we estimate that taking five additional years to retire the mortgage will cost the congregation roughly \$40,000 in avoidable interest expense. Two, we will need to put considerable time and effort into organizing and conducting another campaign. Three, most importantly, we lose the opportunity to redirect our financial capabilities to the ministries that Bethel is passionate about.

However, we believe many members will continue to contribute to the Mission Freedom effort through “non-pledged” contributions. As a matter of fact, our first capital campaign had 42 members who contributed to the campaign without a formal pledge. ***“Non-pledged” support is critical to achieve our goal of Mission Freedom.*** We know and understand a pledge is a big commitment, which is difficult for many to make – this is why non-pledged contributions are just as valuable as pledged

contributions. ***If you are unable to submit a pledge, please prayerfully consider making non-pledged contributions – this could potentially eliminate the need for a third capital campaign!***

We also want to stress that any gifts to Mission Freedom should be above and beyond your commitment to the General Fund. There is no deadline to submit a pledge or contribute to the Mission Freedom effort, and as noted above, both pledged and non-pledged gifts are very important.

There is a lot of detail below, as we felt it was important to be as transparent as possible. Please reach out to Mike Kubas and/or Earl Terwilliger if you would like clarification on any items, or have any questions – we would be more than happy to assist.

## Key Points:

- We have a \$2,600 monthly mortgage payment.
- We expect about \$1,300 of pledged dollars that come in each month, creating a \$1,300 shortfall vs. the mortgage payment from a timing perspective.
- We expect the following lump sum payments in the fourth quarter of each respective year, which are in addition to the monthly gifts noted above:
  - \$38,000 in 2018
  - \$31,000 in 2019
  - \$31,000 in 2020
  - \$30,000 in 2021
  - \$20,000 in 2022
- This does not include non-pledged gifts which in the past was several hundred dollars per month.
- We also have been getting non-pledged year-end gifts that were not included in our forecast.

## Stats on the overall Mission Freedom Campaign vs. the 1<sup>st</sup> Capital Campaign:

	1st Capital Campaign	Mission Freedom Campaign
Giving Period	2015-2017	2018-2022
Number of Pledges Received	45	32
Pledge Totals	\$ 283,791	\$ 292,970
Giving Period	3 years	5 years
Annualized Pledge Amount	94,597	58,594
Non-Pledged Contributions	42	TBD
Non-Pledged Receipts	\$ 28,619.00	TBD
Ending Campaign Participation	87	TBD
Ending Campaign Receipts	\$ 318,410	TBD



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 *April (daughter of Sharon Pulfrey)* as she prepares for surgery on Feb 15th.

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 *Vivian Dahl (sister of Bernice Johnson)* who is in hospice care.

Prayers for *Shelly Murphy*.

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

Prayers for *Whitnee Schuler* and family as they grieve the loss of her husband Lee.

Prayers for *Velma Oakland* and family as they grieve the loss of her husband Lester.

## This Week at Bethel

### Monday 2/12:

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

### Tuesday 2/13:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.
- Men's Breakfast at 6:00am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Hope Circle at 7:30pm hosted by Patti Godtel; 2925 Delmar Dr

### 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.

## Coming Up....

### 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.

### Thursday 2/22:

- Cub Scout Troop 1028 Blue and Gold Banquet in the Gathering Place from 5:30pm to 8pm.
- Lenten Soup Supper hosted by the Bethel Council at 6:15pm followed by Worship at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

- Bethel hosts Family Promise.

## Bethel Lutheran Church Contact Information

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

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