

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday
Jan 13

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant:
Sandy Pepos

Usher(s):
Colleen Walker-Nelson

Projectionist: Dave Scholten

Counters:
Tim Lightbourne
JoAnn Dullum

Nursery Attendant(s):
Carly Cushman



Readings:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

This Sunday

- The Jubilate Choir will be singing “*Immanuel*”.
- The Worship Planning Committee will meet following worship in the Fellowship Hall.



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 of healing for **Debbie Kuntz and Laura Clark (friends of Terry Korpela)**.

Prayers of healing for **Linda Walling (sister of Bobbie Bowen) and Trish McEwen (friend of Bobbie Bowen)**.

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

Prayers for God's comfort for **Thelma Seyfert and family (mother of Tami Grosenick)** as they mourn the loss of her sister, Martha Thompson.

Prayers for God's comfort for **Colleen (Smith) Heikkila and family (sister of Steve Smith)** as they mourn the loss of her husband, Alan.

Prayers for healing for **Terry Korpela** as she recovers from knee surgery.

Prayers for God's presence and peace for **Trudy Terwilliger** as she prepares for surgery on January 16th.



Annual Meeting

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Who Needs the ELCA? (Hint: We do.)

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” (I Corinthians 12: 12)

It is the season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the light shining in the darkness and the darkness not overcoming it. Traditionally, the season of Epiphany has been a time when the church highlighted the global nature of the church. And, back home, most of our congregations utilize the season of Epiphany to have annual meetings. (A letter to congregations from the Synod Bishop is next in this e-newsletter, and is also on the synod website.)

Annual meetings. Ideally, when we get together as congregations, we look at what we have done in the past year, and plan our ministry for the next year. As ELCA congregations, our ministry is not just to ourselves and to those who happen to come through our doors. Our ministry is our community, our Synod, and the wider church. And that wider ministry happens through the ELCA.

We are a connected church. We know that we are able to do more ministry and more effective ministry because we are partnered with one another. The annual meeting is a time to approve a budget, which includes mission support. Congregations send money to the Montana Synod, and the Synod sends approximately 40% of that on to the wider church through the ELCA.

What does the Synod do with the rest of the money? We support campus ministry at the University of Montana and Montana State University. We support the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, which provides continuing theological education and lifelong learning to clergy and laity in the Synod. We support Lutheran Social Services. We support Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, Our Saviour’s Rocky Boy and Spirit of Life on the Fort Peck Reservation. We provide the LPA training program to equip lay preachers and deeper faith and witness. We support first call pastors with First Call Theological Education. We shepherd candidates through the candidacy process, and we work with congregations and pastors during pastoral vacancies.

We foster relationships with our companion synods (Bolivia and the Cape Orange Diocese of South Africa.) We work with congregations in transition and in conflict.

The wider church is able to reach out on our behalf across the globe, through the world hunger program, through Lutheran Disaster Response, through ELCA seminaries and colleges, through global partnerships, through ecumenical relationships. We live in a connected world, and we have a connected church. Because of that we can share lay ministry curricula with our companion church in Bolivia. We can learn best ways to support the hurricane recovery for the people of Puerto Rico. We can learn about famine in Africa. We can learn about unaccompanied minors at the southern border, and efforts to care for them.

This week I returned from a gathering of ELCA Bishops focused on the care of creation—from biblical, theological and advocacy perspectives. We visited a congregation that meets outdoors year round, and has a community garden to share with their neighbors. Jason Asselstine, from our staff, has been at a church-sponsored training on family systems—how to live together as congregations, as communities and avoid the kinds of conflict that paralyze. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, also from our staff is at a church-sponsored training, along with 3 other pastors from the synod, on faith-based community organizing, finding tools for more effective outreach ministry in the communities we serve. We use these opportunities to learn and grow, so that we might better serve the Montana Synod.

And then we return from these trainings to do ordinations and installations, and meetings with congregations that we serve.

May God bless your congregation as you meet in your annual meeting and discern together what God is calling you to do! And please let us know. We learn from one another.

In Christ,

Jessica Crist, Bishop

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” (I Corinthians 12: 12)

CHOIR NOTES



The Jubilate Choir is gearing up for the new year. There will be a choir retreat on Saturday, January 12th beginning at 9am. The choir will be singing on Sunday, January 13th and Sunday, January 27th. They welcome new members so if you are interested in joining, come to the retreat or contact Jeff or Melody Skogley.



FLBC NEWS

It's that time of year again! Online registration for FLBC Summer Camps opens on Friday, January 11th. If you register with your deposit by April 1st, you will save \$50 and if you register with deposit between April 1st and May 1st you will save \$25. Please contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in a scholarship.

More information about camp dates, activities and fees are available on the camp's website at www.flbc.net, by phone at (406) 752-6602, or by email at registration@flbc.net. There are also brochures available in the Narthex by the track rack.

BETHEL GIVING TREE 2018

Thank you Bethel for your generous contributions to our 3 ministries supported by the giving tree!

The donations received are as follows:

\$290.00 Beads and beading needles for Spirit of Life on the Fort Peck Reservation

\$1,010.00 Roof for Our Saviors Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy's Reservation

\$2,590.00 Tuition scholarship for one month for a student at a Lutheran school in Bolivia

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

JANUARY COUNCIL MINUTES

Dena presented the Financial Report. As discussed, the completed drainage issue and the Gathering Place bathrooms were the 2 large expenses we've had in our budget. The generosity of our church continues to amaze all of us. Dena presented the 2019 budget and Mike Kubas updated the congregation on Mission Freedom at The Budget Forum, held on January 6, 2019. We are not budgeting for any large maintenance projects next year.

Dena presented the Financial Report. As discussed, the completed drainage issue and the Gathering Place bathrooms were the 2 large expenses we've had in our budget. The generosity of our church continues to amaze all of us. Dena presented the 2019 budget and Mike Kubas updated the congregation on Mission Freedom at The Budget Forum, held on January 6, 2019. We are not budgeting for any large maintenance projects next year.

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Total Income	\$247,558.00	\$269,648.26	22,090.26
Total Expenses	\$259,960.75	\$283,828.32	(23,867.57)
Net	(\$12,402.75)	(\$14,180.06)	(\$1,777.31)

Tami presented the Ministry Report. Jewish Community began their First Friday services 12/7/2018. Christmas Eve Service went well. Attendance was 225 at the first service and 125 at the second. Thank you to all who volunteered for the service. We will host Family Promise 2/24 - 3/3/2019. LOGOS will resume 1/16 and the next Family Worship night is 1/30. VBS - upcoming prep day for camp is 3/9. Nursery has a staff of 7. Tami will be scheduling a CPR training for those who need it or need to renew their skills. Lay Assistants: Tereez Wozny is taking Udo's place. Linda Rosenbaum and Sandy Bechard have joined. Plans are being made to host a "Senior Banquet" in April or May at the church. Please contact Tami if you are interested in volunteering.

Dan & Steph Richardson took the High School Logos on a youth retreat to White Sulphur Springs. They enjoyed fellowship, the hot springs, and skiing at Showdown.

The council approved Boy Scout Troop 1028's request to hold a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, February 10th following worship.

Pastor Steve reported Bethel's Membership Data to the Synod

Membership Data (1/1/18 - 12/31/18)

Baptized members: 837

Confirmed Members: 581

Average Number of Households: 334

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: *93

Mick presented on the Building Report. Bathrooms in the Gathering Place are done. Thanks to Matt Crampton and Mick Davis and their efforts, time, and in-kind donations.

If anyone is interested in serving on the council, please contact the Nominating Committee for more information. This includes: Kris Voorhees, Dave Scholten, MaryLou Norbie and Jenny Will.

The Annual Meeting date has been set for January 27, 2019 immediately following the service. We will need a quorum of 58 voting members so your attendance is needed!

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Dullum

Bethel Council President



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

What: 2019 Comfort Food Challenge

A benefit for Family Promise of Great Falls

When: Saturday, February 23rd from 4-7pm

Where: Moose Lodge 532

401 21st Street North

Black Eagle, MT

**** Stay tuned...More information to come!****

ANNUAL REPORT

The 2018 Annual Report will be sent out electronically. There will be **limited printed quantities** available on Sunday, January 20th. It will also be available on our website at www.bethelmt.org. If you have not yet submitted your report, please do so **no later than close of business Wednesday, January 16th.**

BETHEL BIRTHDAYS

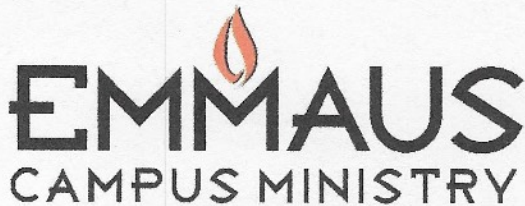


Jayden Berryman	2	Courtney Crouch	14	Grace Schoenen	25	Max Quinn	30
Leyton Quinn	3	Tamy Scholten	14	Erik Farris	25	Ross Thomas	30
Scott Seim	4	Sharon Pulfrey	15	Erin Stutzman	25	Jim Turner	30
Payton Sexe	5	Kyle Gilbertson	18	Claire Lettow	25	Tyler Will	31
Jessica Jensen	6	Joseph (JT) Frick	20	Aiyanna Scholten	26		
Logan Beck	8	DJ Bretz-White	20	Nancy Barnes	27		
AnneRose Rogers	8	Kristian Underdahl	20	Parker Schoenen	28		
Clara Bangert	10	Melody Skogley	21	Shannon Marr	28		
Jacob Broden	11	Bridger Scholten	21	Fran Hardesty	30		
Sarah Gronning	11	Celeste Smith	23				
Tammy Hamma	11	Allison Will	24				

****If you do not wish to have your birthday published,
please contact the church office at 761-1543.****



A NOTE OF THANKS



December 31, 2018

Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Ave SW
Great Falls, MT 59404

Dear friends at Bethel Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250! We feel blessed by your support.

Our ministry depends on donors like you. Without you we couldn't offer such rich and rewarding experiences for young people to grow in faith and service. The entire Emmaus Community will benefit from your generosity.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor John".

Pastor John Lund

Thank you for your
support of campus ministry!

JANUARY 11, 2019



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
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am- Worship 11am - Budget forum	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 12pm-2pm - Russell Country Cluster text study	NO LOGOS		Pastor Off	9am - Choir Retreat
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am- Worship 11am - Worship Planning	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Childbridge group in the Gathering Place 12pm-2pm - Russell Country Cluster text study	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 12pm-2pm - Russell Country Cluster text study	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 12pm-2pm - Russell Country Cluster text study	6pm-Family Worship Night			