

BETHEL NOTES

Second Sunday after Epiphany



All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where – or rather whom – we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

JANUARY 14, 2018

Worship Planning committee will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Readings:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-7 13-18

John 1:43-51

SERVING SUNDAY

Accompanist: Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant: Vann
Arvanetes

Usher(s): The Kubas Family

Projectionist: Tim
Lightbourne

Counters: Tim Lightbourne
& Dave Scholten

Nursery: Ava & Alex Olson

Bethel Lutheran Church Contact Information

Pastor Steve Van Gilder
Administrative Assistant, Sarah Farris
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2018 Congregational Meeting

The 2018 annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 28th. We will be discussing the adoption/updating of Bethel's constitution, approving the proposed budget, electing new council members, and congregational representatives.

**NEW**

New Member Sunday



Are you interested in joining our congregation? You will have an opportunity to join on Sunday, January 21st. Please let Tami Grosenick or Pastor Steve know if you are able to attend.



2018 Daily Text Devotionals

There are only two copies left of the 2018 Daily Text Devotionals. If you haven't gotten yours yet, we do have more on the way. We will let you know when they arrive.



Reminder....

If you haven't yet submitted your annual report, please do so by Wednesday, January 17th.





Being Known

"Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me." Psalm 139: 1

Knowing. Intimate knowing is mentioned throughout the scriptures. It is because God is a relational God who initiates relationship and invites us to be in relationships. This is most evident in the readings we will hear in worship this Sunday.

The psalmist describes in such graphic detail the experience of being known by God. God knows everything about him ~ his life is an open book. We read in the gospel about Jesus searching and finding his first followers. Jesus found Philip and in turn, Philip found Nathanael. What Nathanael knew about Jesus was his hometown (that he was a Nazarene) and what he knew about Nazareth led him to be skeptical about him as Nazareth didn't have a good reputation. On the other hand, Nathanael was known by Jesus. Jesus knew his whereabouts, stature and that there was not a "false bone in his body." Jesus knew his skepticism... he knew Nathaniel. Again, a skeptical Nathanael asks, *"Where did you get to know me?"* In other words, *You don't know me!* Yet, Jesus did and revealed to Nathanael how much he really knew about him. This led to Nathaniel's bold confession ~his knowing Jesus for who Jesus was: *"Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"* We could say that being known leads to knowing, at least in part. The boy Samuel, not knowing the Lord nor recognizing his voice, was sought out by the Lord not once, not twice, but three times. It was with his mentor Eli's help that he was brought to a place of listening and knowing.

About being known, the psalmist says, *"This is too much, too wonderful, I can't take it all in."* Incomprehensible. Maybe even downright scary? God intimately knowing us...the real us...the insecure us...the us we would not want a soul to know about. This initiating God who knows us infinitely, intimately and as we really are, meets us just where we are and says, *"Come and see."* Come and experience who I am and the "greater things" that I have in store for you.

The hymn of the day for this Sunday is *"The Summons."* (ELW # 798). The hymn writer, John Bell, writes, (verse 1) *"Will come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known? Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"*

You are known and loved by our Lord Jesus, just as you are. But you are also invited by Jesus to explore the unfathomable depths of this love...and where this relationship will lead you. For he has great things in store for you, your family, your church, your community and the world!

-Pastor Steve



Bethel Wedding Policy

The council meeting has been postponed until Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 PM. The Bethel wedding policy has been drafted by a council subcommittee based on the comments received during the 5 meetings held in the fall of 2017. Thank you to all who participated in the meetings, engaged in conversation, and listened with respect to others. On January 16th, the entire council will discuss and arrive at a decision during this meeting. As a reminder, council meetings are always open to the congregation. For your review, here is a copy of the [draft wedding policy](#). If, after reviewing the draft policy, you would like to offer feedback, please call either council member, Jo Ann Dullum, (406) 899-800 or Pastor Steve (406) 761-1543.

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 *Michelle Meredith* as she recovers from surgery.

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 healing for *Frank Potter and family* (friend of Doug Sexe) as he battles cancer.

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 *Thelma Seyfert* for the loss of her sister-in-law and also her niece within the last month.

Prayers for *Shelly Murphy*.



LOGOS News



LOGOS reconvened this week with Family Meal and Worship. We also celebrated First Communion for Brady, Carson and Georgia Pike. The Pike children are regular attendees at LOGOS and we were proud to witness this important event. We look forward to our regular LOGOS schedule next week and continuing our fun year.



This Week at Bethel

Monday 1/15:

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

Tuesday 1/16:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.
- Men's Breakfast at 6:00am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Church Council meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

Wednesday 1/17:

- LOGOS begins at 5:30pm.

Coming Up....

Thursday 1/25:

- Hope Circle meets at 7:30pm at Judy Johnson's home; 624 Robin Court.

Sunday 1/28:

- 2018 Annual Meeting immediately following worship in the Sanctuary.

Saturday 2/10:

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

The Comfort Food Classic



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


The Comfort Food Classic will be February 10, 2018! If you would like to put together an amateur team of chefs, perhaps your team could take home a prize and bragging rights. Also, we will be accepting desserts to raise additional funds. Entry forms are available in the church office.

Lots of new things are in store this year, so mark your calendar and start planning your entrée! See you February 10th!



NEW

Happy Birthday

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------------|----|--|----|-----------------|----|
| Jayden Berryman | 2 | Melody Skogley | 21 | Courtney Crouch | 14 | Nancy Barnes | 27 |
| Leyton Quinn | 3 | Bridger Scholten | 21 | Tamy Scholten | 14 | Parker Schoenen | 28 |
| Scott Seim | 4 | Celeste Mintsiveris | 23 | Sharon Pulfrey | 15 | Shannon Marr | 28 |
| Payton Sexe | 5 | Fern Myhre | 24 | Pernell McMillan | 16 | Fran Hardesty | 30 |
| Jessica Jensen | 6 | Allison Will | 24 | Kyle Gilbertson | 18 | Max Quinn | 30 |
| Logan Beck | 8 | Grace Schoenen | 25 | Joseph (JT) Frick | 20 | Ross Thomas | 30 |
| AnneRose Rogers | 8 | Erik Farris | 25 | DJ Bretz-White | 20 | Jim Turner | 30 |
| Clara Bangert | 10 | Karin Striepe | 25 | Kristian Underdahl | 20 | Tyler Will | 31 |
| Jacob Broden | 11 | Erin Stutzman | 25 |  | | | |
| Sarah Gronning | 11 | Claire Lettow | 25 | | | | |
| Tammy Hamma | 11 | Aiyanna Scholten | 26 | | | | |

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

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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