

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

# BETHEL NOTES



*Sunday*  
Jan 20

## Serving this Sunday

**Accompanist:**

Lynn Ryan

**Lay Assistant:**

Linda Rosenbaum

**Usher(s):**

Sue Hesse

**Projectionist:**

Dean Amor

**Counters:**

Pam Dougherty  
Dena Wagner-Fossen

**Nursery Attendant(s):**

Heather Farris

## Readings:

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

## **This Sunday**

Copies of the 2018 Annual Report will be available  
in the Narthex.



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 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 for healing for **Trudy Terwilliger** as she recovers from surgery.



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



**Come join us for Family Worship Night!**

Wednesday, January 30th

Dinner will be served at 6pm.

Worship will begin at 7pm.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CONGREGATION

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## Jim Carlson, LPA

John 2: 1-11 is a story of a miracle. It is much more than that, however, as it is the very beginning of Jesus ministry. It also may be a window into the final days of Jesus ministry. In this gospel, Jesus is revealed as the good wine of the true vine. Near the end of his ministry, he identifies himself as the true vine.

Let's look at this setting, as told by John. The setting is a wedding, of which I think we can all relate. Here are a few points that make this wedding special:

- 1) There is a special need at this wedding, and that need is for wine. There is a lack of wine for this wedding party. As a father who has experienced 3 daughters' weddings, I can certainly relate!
- 2) It takes a miracle to address this need. The miracle we have all heard before tells us Jesus turned water into wine.
- 3) There is a response to that miracle. The response to the miracle at Cana is the first of Jesus' "signs." It "revealed his glory," and as a result, "his disciples believed in him". This is also one of the first times John talks about the disciples.

Let's look at the significance of this wedding. Jesus did not ask to perform this miracle, nor did it appear he thought of this. He was asked by his mother, Mary, to take care of this embarrassing situation of the lack of wine. Mary was only a guest this wedding, but she, of all people, would know the miracle of Jesus through his birth. This is the only time Mary is mentioned in the Gospel of John, except at the cross. Jesus says to her, "Woman, my time has not come." Mary, apparently knowing the powers of Jesus, instructs the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it." I think this is more than just a trusting mother.

It is not known why this turned out to be Jesus "coming out party" or the significance of it. You would think turning water into wine would be trivial compared to the other miracles, or as John says, "signs" seen in the Bible, such as healing the sick, feeding the hungry, or raising the dead. Maybe in this case, Jesus was just enjoying a good party, as we all do. Why is this first act so important? It shows us the "fullness we have all received through Jesus' presence in the world".

At this point in the story it may appear the purpose of Jesus' signs is to inspire belief. Indeed, this is one of the purposes of this Gospel - "that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name".

Jesus turned water into wine to prove his real nature to the disciples for the first time. The ultimate purpose of the miracle was to reveal His Glory, with the result being faith in Him. May we all show our faith and trust in Jesus throughout our everyday lives, without the need of “signs”.

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## FLBC NEWS

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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](http://www.flbc.net), by phone at (406) 752-6602, or by email at [registration@flbc.net](mailto:registration@flbc.net). There are also brochures available in the Narthex by the track rack.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

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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](http://www.bethelmt.org).

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## BETHEL GIVING TREE 2018

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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.



# 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!\*\***



Who do you know who wants to share in the joy of ending childhood homelessness in Great Falls? There are more opportunities than ever to get involved! Bring your friends and family to find out more! You must attend at least one training to be a certified volunteer with Family Promise and its affiliates.

**What:** January Volunteer Training with Family Promise

**Where:** The Hub (1019 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59405)

**When:** Wednesday, January 23rd, 6-7:15 p



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# PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK: JANUARY 18 - 25, 2019

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From a World Council of Churches worship resource provided for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019:

Jesus Christ prays for the unity of his disciples. The gift of his life is justice for the world. As members of the body of Christ (Church), we are called to walk together in his path. Let us hear his calling and pray.....

Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

Today we begin the observance of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Jesus prayed for the unity of his followers. "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." **John 17: 11b, NRSV** By the work of God's Spirit, Jesus' prayer is answered through the Church at work in the world. The Church united in action. Bethel is a member congregation of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. What that means is that we are connected with congregations throughout Montana and in Wyoming. In Sunday worship each week, we lift up and pray for leaders, congregations and ministries of the MT. Synod and Churchwide in the Prayers of the Church because we are called to walk together.

The ELCA is a member of the **World Council of Churches** and so we are connected with Christians around the world whose mission is to "seek unity, a common witness and Christian service." The ELCA is also a member of the **Lutheran World Federation**, and connected with a diverse communion of churches whose purpose is to work together, ecumenically, and so to fulfill Jesus' prayer for unity. The **Montana Synod of the ELCA** is member of the **Montana Association of Christians** (MAC) and so we walk together, as an ecumenical movement in Montana, in the path of Jesus. Check out the MAC website [www.macmt.org](http://www.macmt.org) to read more about the work of justice through advocacy. As you know, the Montana State legislators are currently in session in Helena. The Montana Association of Christians is sponsoring a **Day at the Legislature** this coming Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. It is where we can connect with MAC members and partners from across MT. and to learn some citizen lobbying skills, share a lunch and visit with our local legislators in the Rotunda. The day ends with our being introduced to the House and Senate. I went last year and it was a great day. I encourage you to consider attending ! I plan to go again and have room in my car. The day's agenda begins at 10am at Plymouth Congregational, UCC (400 Oakes Street) in Helena and concludes around 2pm. We will meet at the church (Bethel) and leave at 8am.

Please let me know if you are interested in the trip to Helena by contacting me at

[bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com) or to talk with me at church on Sunday or call/ text me at 781-2232.

Also on Martin Luther King Jr. Day there are a couple of events taking place in Great Falls to celebrate the life and the achievements of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. To walk together in unity.

**University of Providence** (1301 20<sup>th</sup> Street S.) Trinitas Chapel (10 -11:30am) A Musical group named “Untapped,” will perform and messages will accompany. A lunch will follow this event.

“Celebrate the Life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” with **Mount Olive Christian Fellowship** (2401 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. N) at 6:30pm. A gospel choir will sing and a message will be delivered by Great Falls Mayor Bob Kelly.

Now, more than ever, we need to find ways to walk together to promote unity, to work for justice, and to walk humbly with God and each other.

Jesus Christ prays for the unity of his disciples. The gift of his life is justice for the world. As members of the body of Christ (Church), we are called to walk together in his path. Let us hear his calling and pray.....

Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

Pastor Steve

Young  Heart  
presents

# A Life of Survival and Gratitude

By John Kunz, Concentration Camp Survivor, Refugee & Traveler



In 1945 German-occupied Poland contained 457 camp (concentration/labor/extermination) complexes. John and his parents, residents of Bayreuth in Southern Germany, found themselves in one of these camps. Gaining refugee status when the war ended they immigrated to the U.S. and made their home in Great Falls. John has twice returned to Poland and will share stories and pictures of the changes since overcoming post-war Communism in the early 1990's. Poland is now a member of the European Union and was one of the first Former Soviet Republics to join NATO.



**Monday, Jan. 21st at 1 pm**  
**Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Lunde Hall**

Polish desserts and fellowship follow.

**Spread the word!**

**Bring your friends!**



JANUARY 18, 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
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			