

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

BETHEL NOTES



Readings:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

This Sunday

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary following worship.

The Jubilate Choir will be singing “10,000 Reasons”.

Sunday
Jan 27

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant:
Sue Hesse

Usher(s):
Mike & Joyce Harding

Projectionist:
Dina Davis

Counters:
Patty Braget
Matt Crampton

Nursery Attendant(s):
Adam Elkin



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

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

Prayers for God's guidance and direction at the **Annual Congregational Meeting** this Sunday.

Prayers of thanksgiving and joy to God for the gift of new life in the birth of **Sterling Stubbs (son of Bronson and Rachael Stubbs, grandson of Daren and Patty Braget and Phil and Heidi Stubbs, nephew of Michelle and Danielle Braget)**.

Prayers for God's comfort and peace for **Marj Cole** (Aunt of Cheryl Klette) as she battles cancer.

Prayers for strength and healing for **Teresa O' Connell** (friend of Tami Grosenick) as she begins treatment for breast cancer.



There will not be a Family Worship Night on Wednesday, January 30th. We will resume our regular LOGOS schedule from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONGREGATION

Udo Wozny

Who is Jesus to you?

Josephus was a 1st century Jew whose life as a diplomat, general, and historian was crammed with contradictions.* He is honored by academics and Christians. His historical work includes the following in Jewish Antiquities, Chapter, “Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.” (Chapter 3, 3, (page 590))

The historian Josephus provided more than likely one of the few non-biblical written references to the human Jesus, especially in the 1st century.

When we are asked, “Who is Jesus to you?” I would guess that the 2nd article to the Apostle’s Creed provides for most of us the explanation who Jesus is to us. Historically speaking, we should understand that it took more than 400 years to put the Creed in writing.

In Luke’s attempt “to write an orderly account” for us about the story of Jesus, we read and hear today’s gospel lesson from Luke 4:14-21. Luke refers to Isaiah 61:1-2 about the prophetic writings and Jesus’ statement in response in verse 21, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Unfortunately, we have to wait until next Sunday to “hear the rest of the story.” The rest of the story may not be as pleasant as today’s reading. Simply speaking, Jesus is rejected by his hometown people.

This leads me back to the question, “Who is Jesus to you?” It is fairly easy for us to quote Josephus, the 2nd article to the Apostle’s Creed, or Martin Luther’s explanation to the 2nd article of the Apostle’s Creed.

However, Jesus’ teachings are part of our daily living today. In light of next week’s gospel reading, do we have a preconceived idea of who Jesus is and what Jesus wants us to do TODAY? I remember from decades ago the letters WWJD. It took me some time to figure out that it stands for “What Would Jesus Do”?

It is easy to agree with programs and movements that fit our mindset and beliefs, or preconceived ideas about “something.” Over the past few years, my mindset changed about Family Promise. As Terree was very involved in Family Promise for the first couple of years during the establishment of Family Promise in Great Falls, I also volunteered. However, in the back of my mind, I perceived issues about funding sources, getting enough volunteers, and how Family Promise could prosper against the Rescue Mission.

Over the years, my negative concerns were unfounded and I learned much from the guests about the conditions on the reservations or the difficulty of earning a living wage in Great Falls. I believe Bethel has benefitted as much as the guests from Family Promise.

The challenge for me is to keep an open mind to who Jesus is for me. I may have to adjust my thoughts about issues, especially when I’m bombarded with ideas from “talking heads” on all sides of the issues.

It is easy to “throw Jesus off the cliff” (Luke 4: 29) if Jesus’ teachings don’t fit my thoughts on issues.

“Who is Jesus to you?” You may find no easy answers, but thinking about it may open new horizons in the journey with Jesus.

* First sentence of the Introduction to “The New Complete Works of Josephus,” Translated by William Whiston, Commentary by Paul L. Maker, Copyright 1999 by Kregel Publications.



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!****

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.

ANNUAL REPORT

There will once again be **limited printed quantities** available of the 2018 Annual Report on Sunday, January 27th. It is also available on our website at www.bethelmt.org.

COUNCIL NEWS

The Church Council retreat and February meeting will be held from 1-3:30pm at the MT Synod office (1221 24th Street South) on Sunday, February 10th. Lunch will be provided. The February Council meeting will begin at approx. 2:30pm.



Pancake Breakfast

When: Sunday, February 10th following worship

Where: Bethel Gathering Place

Come support Boy Scout Troop #1028 by attending their Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. There will be lots of yummy pancakes, great fellowship and a free will offering.



JANUARY 25, 2019




Mark your calendars!!
Wednesday evening 7:00 PM
Family Worship

March 6th - Ash Wednesday
 April 3rd

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	5:30pm - LOGOS			



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
					Pastor Off 6pm-Aitz Chaim	9am - Close Knit
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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	10am-Staff Meeting 5:30pm - LOGOS		Pastor Off	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am-Worship 11am-Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast 1pm-Council Retreat & Meeting @ Synod House	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast	5:30pm - LOGOS		Pastor Off	9am-Close Knit