

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



Sunday
Jan 6

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Mary Seim

Lay Assistant:
John Blank

Usher(s):
Mick and Dina Davis

Projectionist:
Tim Lightbourne

Counters:
Stephanie Cummings
Donna Vinnedge

Nursery Attendant(s):
TBD

Epiphany of Our Lord

Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

This Sunday

- There will be a Budget Forum following worship in the sanctuary. The Council will present the proposed 2019 budget for the congregation to review prior to the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2019 where the budget will be voted on.
- “For the Healing of the Nations” will be sung by Tom Rosenbaum and Karolina Pepos during the offering.
- An additional offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger.



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.

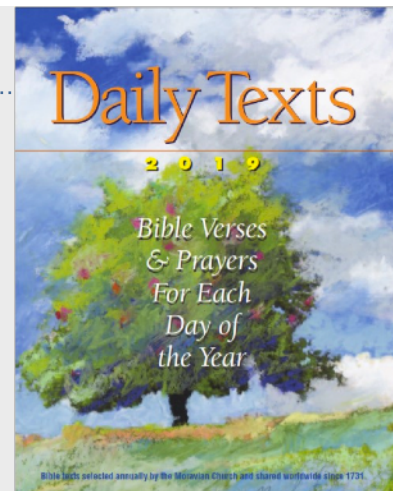
Prayers for God's comfort for **Thelma Seyfert and family (mother of Tami Grosenick)** as they mourn the loss of her sister, Martha Thompson.

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

2019 Daily Texts and other devotionals

The 2019 Daily Texts: Bible Verses and Prayers for each day of the year will be available this Sunday. (No charge to you!) If you wish to take more than one, there is a suggested donation of \$6. and if you write a check, make it to Bethel and footnote it: Daily Text in the memo line.

The January issues of Living Lutheran and Christ in Our Home are also available in the track rack.



PASTOR STEVE'S MESSAGE

10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2: 10,11 NRSV

Happy New Year ! A Blessed Epiphany Season !

This Sunday we begin the season of the church year called Epiphany. Epiphany means “manifestation.” It is the day which celebrates Jesus’ being revealed...made known to ALL the nations (the Gentiles)...represented by the magi.

As the story is told to us from the gospel of Matthew, some wisemen or astrologers traveled from the East (Persia..today called Northern Iraq and Northern Iran). That would have been at least 1,000 miles to Bethlehem. It would have taken many months, riding on a camel. They practiced a faith different from the people of God, the people of Israel. As they studied the night sky, a star in the sky had led them to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is he who is born King of the Jews?” They had come to worship this new born King. These travelers from the East ended up in Jerusalem and there met up with King Herod. But Herod was troubled by their question. Frightened because he was the King over that region called Judea. He didn’t want any competition. He pointed them to Bethlehem and then asked them to let him know of where to find Jesus, the Christ. (Because when he knew where, he would kill him)

They followed the star which led them to Mary, Joseph and Jesus and to him they paid homage. **Gold** has great value, it is a symbol of kingship on earth.. **frankincense** is a perfume used for incense; and **myrrh** is a common anointing oil. All tangible gifts they believed were fitting to offer for a King.

God used the faith and knowledge of some astrologers from the East to bring them to Jesus, the new born King. God used scientists who practiced other religions to let King Herod and the religious leaders of the people in on the news that their Messiah had been born.

They were good at studying stars ~ it was their passion and they offered their passion and most prized gifts to Jesus. So, we too, offer our passions...our best...our gifts in service to Jesus. One of my favorite authors, Frederick Buechner, says, “when we offer our best...when our passions...the things which we are gifted with by God....are offered in service to Jesus...through our neighbor...then we are doing what God wishes for us to do. For it is when our passions and gifts, offered with joy and gladness, meet up with the world’s – our neighbor’s deepest hunger..deepest need....we are making a holy connection. People of God...like the wisemen...offer your passions and your gifts to Jesus. And may they be used to bring Jesus’ light and life to the world.

Pastor Steve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year, CM Russell High School is hosting the Electric City Optimists Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament January 11th and 12th. Please take some time to read the announcement, below and register to judge for the tournament using the link.

Please consider taking part in this excellent opportunity to come see some of the best and brightest students from across the State of Montana demonstrate their ability in public speaking and knowledge of current affairs.

Friday, January 11th:

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School

4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM

Debate Rounds at CMR unless otherwise announced

4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM

Saturday, January 12th:

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School

8:30 AM 10:30 AM 1:00 PM 3:00 PM

Debate Rounds at CMR unless otherwise announced

8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM

Registration Options:

Click on the link at <https://goo.gl/forms/rbsFEJkVo4cZDDvw2>,

Email cmrjudgerecruiting@gmail.com or steven_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us, or

Call (406) 616-2695 and leave a message that details day, time, and any event preferences you may have.

Thank you for judging!



We are looking for help taking down and storing the Christmas decorations. We are meeting at the church on Saturday, January 5th at 1:00 pm if you are available. Thanks and Happy New Year!



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.



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



Thank you from
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
Annual Report 2018

“You put on an amazing weekend for the kids (and adults) Thank you for sharing God’s love and Gods work in this beautiful place; you are the best, and we will be back”

Ski Retreat Guest

“My favorite part was the worship, and the singing. I love learning more about God and the Bible through music”

12-year-old camper

“FLBC ROCKS! We had such a great time and we will let everyone know that YOU are the place to take a youth group”

Youth Director, ILL

Thank you so much for your care, prayers & gifts to your ministry at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp! This year, the gifts of many generous people resulted in:

- 54 summer staff from 9 different states.
- 105 summer adult volunteers (pastors, camp grandparents, nurses, maintenance, kitchen, cleaning, etc.).
- 21 Day Camps in congregations.
- 164 Glacier Wilderness campers.
- 1725 summer campers (onsite, weeklong family campers, and day camp attendees).
- 2059 summer retreat guests.
- 2360 fall, winter, & spring retreat guests.
- 11 year round staff.
- Just under \$4500 in offering was given by campers to support the new Synod House in Great Falls and the Lakeview Cabin Complex at FLBC.
- Over \$83,000 was given in camperships and discounts to summer campers.
- FLBC Outreach – a program to help congregation’s youth ministry be vibrant – is now serving 13 areas during the school year (October to May).
- The Lakeside Cabin Complex (A Place to Call Home) fund continues to grow and construction has begun on the foundation of the new cabin. Thank you for your continued support of this project!
- Many, many campers growing in their faith – PRICELESS!

THANK YOU and God Bless!

JANUARY 4, 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			