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BETHEL NOTES



Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the between: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

Readings:

Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13



.Jan DeGroot (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) who is battling cancer.

Ed Pottratz and family.

Todd Whitted (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Shelly Murphy

Dick Seim as he recovers from heart surgery.

Katie Smith (daughter of Grant & Janet Smith) who is on a summer mission trip to Asia with InterVarsity.

Kurt Hesse (brother of Don Hesse)

Ardis Scholten (mother of Dave Scholten) who is in hospice care.

Jane O'Brien (mother of Carrie O'Brien)

Faith Crouch (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.

Bob Walker (brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson) who is recovering from surgery.

Fern Myhre who was recently hospitalized.

All of the young adults and adult leaders from our community attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

Walt and Leone Nuessle as they mourn the death of Walt's aunt Ruth.

Andrea (Radue) Johnson as she mourns the death of her father, Kelly Radue.

JoAnn (mother of Sara Sexe)

Leroy Dicon (Amber Erickson's father) who is hospitalized.

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:
Wal Nuessle

Usher(s):
Sue Hesse

Projectionist:
Ava Fossen

Counters:
Pam Dougherty
Dena Wagner-Fossen

Nursery Attendant(s):
Heather Farris

Sunday
July 8

FAREWELL/GODSPEED FOR THE ARVANETES FAMILY. A RECEPTION IN THEIR HONOR WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP.

ADULT FORUM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER WORSHIP. WE WILL HAVE A DEEPER CONVERSATION ABOUT TODAY'S LECTIONARY READINGS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY. LED BY PASTOR STEVE.

PASTOR STEVE'S MESSAGE

Considering our Welcomes and Farewells

Jesus had attained rock star status. He had healed many with the power of God. His teaching authority and ministry had touched the lives of young and old, alike, and brought restoration and wholeness but also skepticism and countless questions. Crowds great in number were following him and I can imagine hearing this word uttered on the streets and villages of Galilee, "Come see and hear the prophet who has a healing touch, can teach with an authority unlike any other and can even tame wind and wave!"

Curiosity led many to Jesus. The desperate courageously reached out to him, too. But then he returned to his hometown, Nazareth, and the reception was anything but gracious. Jesus returned to Nazareth with his disciples and taught in the synagogue but did not even get one "amen!" from the worshipping community. As a matter of fact, all he received was a mixture of astonishment, skepticism and disbelief. The town folk were even offended by him. Their lack of hospitality and nearsightedness Jesus chalked up to the trials of a prophet. But it also led to them missing out on something special as they were not open to God's Spirit-God's gift to them.

This gospel reading for this Sunday leads me to consider how I welcome and bid farewell. Like you, I have been on the receiving end of some gracious welcomes and felt included and affirmed for who I am. Those experiences felt good. Sadly, like you, there have also been those moments of feeling unwelcome, unacknowledged and distanced from others. Those experiences not only left me feeling devalued but also reminded me that I still have room for growth and for

improving my welcome to others. Jesus left his hometown synagogue and went out into the surrounding villages, calling on all to give up on the "it's all about me, self-serving life," in exchange for the "it's all about God..and serving God by serving other's life." That message is for us to embrace and to share, today. Jesus sends us out into the world to discover and to re-discover God's gracious hospitality in places which we may never have thought to look for it or to see it.

On Sunday, we will consider our welcomes and our farewells in the light of Jesus' teaching and practice. We will have the occasion to share our farewell and Godspeed with the Arvanetes family. Vann, Jodi and Max Arvanetes are leaving our community to take up the next chapter of their life in Billings and it is important that we bid them farewell and offer them Godspeed. If you are unable to be present in worship on Sunday, to bid farewell and to send them with our well wishes and God's blessing, then keep them in your prayers, give them a call and/or send them a card.

The Scriptures make many references to practicing God's gracious, wide welcoming embrace as well as to blessings and farewells and I leave you with one of them...

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13: 1, 2

Pastor Steve

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

New Binders for Usher/Greeter and Flower Sign Up

We encountered a minor incident at the church this week and as a result we are adjusting how we sign up for Usher/Greeter and Flower donations. We had a family who stopped in for assistance and later we noticed that some items were missing from the church, including the Usher/Greeter and flower binders. Nothing of value was missing. Sarah has put together new binders and they are located in her office during the week. If you would like to sign up during the week, you may stop by the church during office hours and Sarah will help you. You may also call or email myself or Sarah and we can put your name in the binders. The Usher/Greeter sign up is also available online on our website www.bethelmt.org under Bethel Ministries. The binders will be available on the sign up table on Sundays. We were able to update the new Usher/Greeter binder with the online information. If you had signed up for flowers, please let us know so we may put you in the new binder. We thank you for your understanding.

VBS Help Needed

We are moving closer to our Vacation Bible School Week where we will be hosting around 100 young campers ages 3 to 12 as well as Flathead Counselors and Junior Counselors. During that week we provide a daily snack for our campers and lunch for our Counselors, Junior Counselors, and adult volunteers. If you would like to help provide some of the food and or supplies for our week, there will be a hard copy sign up on Sunday and available on line at <http://signup.com/go/wDXRSTW> We have an amazingly generous congregation at Bethel and we are honored to have so many souls who support our youth ministries. Thank you all in advance and God bless.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Prayers for youth and families attending FLBC

This year we have 34 campers registered for a week at Flathead Bible Camp! We will be sending mail to each one from us at the church and will include them in the prayers. A post card(s) will be available each week beginning July 15th either before or after worship for you to sign. We also encourage you to pray for them for a fun and meaningful, life-changing camp experience. Pastor Steve and Dew Elkin will be attending the week of July 29th. If you want to attend and are interested in a \$100 scholarship, they are still available.



Retreats, Events, and Updates:

For additional information about our upcoming retreats and events, check out our website at www.flbc.net.

Labor Day Family Retreat August 31-September 3, 2018

This weekend is for all ages! Adult bible studies will be lead by Pr. Tanner Howard of Havre, MT. FLBC staff will lead activities for kids. Lots of time for boating, ropes course, crafts and play
Click here for Registration Form.

CLICK HERE for the full calendar of retreats and events. Like us on Facebook for news and pictures from camp.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
603 S Main St Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-6602
office@flbc.net
www.flbc.net

Comfort by candlelight
 an evening with **kathy troccoli**

Sunday, July 22, 2018
 6:30 p.m.
 Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church
 1300 Ferguson Drive
 Great Falls, MT 59404
 406-454-1309

Times are dark.
 Even believers are weary
 She will sing-she will share
 Encouragement, Hope,
 Truth and Love

iTickets.com/KathyTroccoli

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

Family Promise Volunteer Training at Bethel

We are happy to offer a free volunteer training at Bethel for anyone who would like to be a evening, dinner or overnight host for Family Promise. This training covers topics such as you duties as a volunteer, rules and guidelines as well as how to handle potential issues that may arise. Children are welcome to attend with their families.

Tuesday, August 7th 6:15 pm at Bethel. Expect about 1.5 to 2 hours for training.

Refreshments will be served.

If you are interested please RSVP to Dew Elkin or Tami Grosenick.

A Note of Thanks

I want to say a very heart felt thank you to all who prepare meals for Family Promise dinners. I appreciate the extra effort it takes in our busy schedules. Also extremely important are those who go to the store to buy what ever is on our needs list to host all meals. Such a wonderful team we have and don't think for a minute that I take anything for granted. I am so grateful and so blessed to have such wonderful support from Bethel congregation members. Also another laundry angel has come to mind - Tami Scholten - I don't know how I missed that one but again - I know there are more unnamed laundry angels out there so please let me know - I want to thank each and every one of you.

Family Promise has been serving families for a little over 3 1/2 years and so far we have served 303 individuals of which 173 are children and 61 families. Wow - that is wonderful. God calls us - God transforms us - God sends us. This is Bethel's mission statement and we are certainly living it. Again - a big heart felt thank you to everyone.

Dew Elkin

BETHEL CALENDAR

July 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
World Hunger Sunday 9:30am Worship	Boy Scout Troop 1028 Meeting in Gathering Place at 6:15pm		Independence Day Office Closed			9am - Close Knit Group in Fellowship Hall
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am - Arvanetes Farewell/ Godspeed		6:30pm - Church Council Meeting at the Van Gilder's	10am - Staff Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 3:30pm - LOGOS meeting in the Fellowship Hall	Bonner Youth Group	Bonner Youth Group	Bonner Youth Group
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30am Worship						9am - Close Knit Group in Fellowship Hall
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am Worship	9am-1:30pm VBS	9am-1:30pm VBS 6pm-8pm - Pool Party @ Jaycee Pool 6pm-8pm - TLC meeting in the Gathering Place	9am-1:30pm VBS	9am-1:30pm VBS	9am-1:30pm VBS 6pm - Aitz Chaim in the Sanctuary	Aitz Chaim in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:30am Worship	Pastor Steve at Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve at Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve at Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve at Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve at Camp Tami Vacation	Pastor Steve vacation