

BETHEL NOTES

Second Sunday After Pentecost



Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should not ever work anyone else seven days a week. Even slaves should be able to rest; even resident aliens. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping, but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.

JUNE 3 2018

This Sunday:

Steve Smith will be preaching and presiding at worship. Steve has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

An additional offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Readings:

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Psalms 81:1-10

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:	Connie Titcomb
Lay Assistant:	Sue Hesse
Usher(s):	Sue Hesse
Projectionist:	Tim Lightbourne
Counters:	Patty Braget & Ben Gooldy
Nursery:	Ava & Alex Olson

A Word From Our Bishop

See You At the Assembly!



On Friday, the 2018 Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference begins in Great Falls. We are in Great Falls again this year so that we can dedicate the new Synod House. Last year we gathered around a hole in the ground, and blessed the beginning of the project. This year we will gather around the (almost) completed building and give thanks.

You will be able to tour the building before and after the dedication at 11:45 on Saturday. And of course, any time you are in Great Falls, you are welcome to visit us. We will also dedicate a tree, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It has a companion tree in Wittenberg, Germany.

Our Assembly/Theological Conference is focused on congregations. Our Churchwide Representative, the Rev. Brenda Smith, will talk with us about faith practices. Our keynote, Linda Bobbitt, will talk about congregational vitality. More than a dozen workshops in two different sessions will give participants an opportunity to dive more deeply into issues of interest to them. (A couple of examples are: Family Systems, Stewardship, Prayer, Constitutions and Administration; Worship Space; Congregational Endowments; Peace in the Parish.) You don't have to be a voting member to attend the Saturday events, which include the keynotes and the workshops.

Each year for the last 5 years we have oriented our Assembly around one of our benchmarks. But regardless of the Assembly theme, the benchmarks – all 5 of them – guide how we do our work together.

- +Meet the future boldly.
- +Serve the world, especially the poor and those in need.
- +Deepen faith and witness.
- +Promote unity.
- +Support congregations.

See you at the Assembly!

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Synod Assembly Offering

Our Synod Assembly offering this year goes to help the congregations in Puerto Rico.

Did you know that the ELCA extends to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands? Indeed, the oldest Lutheran congregation in North America is on the island of St.

Thomas. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands make up the ELCA's Caribbean Synod, one of 65 in our church. On the island of Puerto Rico, there are nearly 30 ELCA congregations, many of which sustained at least some degree of damage from the hurricanes.

Last hurricane season, Puerto Rico was particularly hard hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. It is the fifth strongest storm ever to hit the United States (and, yes, Puerto Rico has been part of the United States since 1917.) One meteorologist said: "It was as if a 50- 60 mile wide tornado raged across Puerto Rico like a buzz saw." You heard about the devastation, and about the continued power outages, food shortages, and medical crises. Now, eight months later, Puerto Rico is still in need of assistance. The news cycle moves on, but the need remains.

There are numerous agencies providing relief in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, including Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA. LDR is working with the local LDR to build capacity, and to institute a multi-year volunteer rebuild/repair program. The needs are great.

The Montana Synod Council has designated the Caribbean Synod as the recipient of this year's Synod Assembly offering. We have learned that congregations of the Synod have lost windows and sustained roof damage. It is our hope that we will be able to collect enough funds to replace the windows, and to buy some generators, as well.

Pr. David Guadalupe, from LSS-Puerto Rico, will be in Montana visiting St. John's Lutheran Ministries later in June. (18-22) If you are interested in learning more about his visit, contact David Trost, CEO of St. John's, or Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Director for Evangelical Mission.

Our Synod Assembly theme this year is "Strengthening Congregations," based on our benchmark. I encourage you and your congregation to give generously to support the congregations of the Caribbean Synod recovering from hurricane devastation.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Schedule of Public Events

****You don't have to be a voting member to attend the Saturday events, which include the keynotes and the workshops.****

Friday, June 1

1pm-2:30pm - Justice For Women Hearing

8:00 pm- Opening Eucharist

Saturday, June 2

8:30 - Morning Prayer

9:00 - Keynote I

10:00 -break

10:15 -Keynote II

11:15 - Travel to Synod House & tours

11:45 Dedication of Synod House

12:15 - Lunch on your own

2:15 - Hymn Sing and Regather

2:30 Workshops Session A (see schedule on next page)

3:30 - break

3:45 - Workshops Session B (see schedule on next page)

4:45 break

6: 00 - Banquet, Celebrations and Recognitions Evening Prayer

Sunday, June 3

8:30 - Morning Prayer

9:00 - Bible Study - Pr. Mark Gravrock

10:30 - Close Assembly & Break

11: 00 - Closing Worship - Bishop Crist preaching.

Synod Assembly Workshops

June 2, 2018

Session A 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Heritage Inn, Canadian Room (first floor)

Congregational Vitality, with Linda Bobbitt

Heritage Inn, Britain Room (first floor)

Prayer, with the Rev. Brenda Smith

Heritage Inn, American Room (first floor)

Stewardship Challenges and Resources, with the Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger

Heritage Inn, Missouri Room (second floor, off main lobby)

Family Systems in the Congregation, with the Rev. Jason Asselstine

Heritage Inn, Lewis Room (second floor off main lobby)

Peace in the Congregation, with John Munding

Bethel Sanctuary (across the parking lot)

Using Your Worship Space, with the Rev. Julie Long

Synod Assembly Workshops

June 2, 2018

Session B 3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Heritage Inn, Canadian Room (first floor)

Endowments in Your Congregation, with Beth Adams

Heritage Inn, Britain Room (first floor)

Where are the Young People?, with the Rev. Seth Nelson

Heritage Inn, American Room (first floor)

We Do Not Lose Heart, with the Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger and others

Heritage Inn, Missouri Room (second floor, off main lobby)

How your Congregation Relates to the Synod and the ELCA: Constitutions, Committees and Administration, with the Rev. Tony Rhodes

Heritage Inn, Lewis Room (second floor off main lobby)

The ELCA's Proposed Declaration on Interreligious Relations, with the Rev. Miriam Schmidt

Heritage Inn, Clark Room (second floor, off main lobby)

Engaging the Congregation in Difficult Conversations, with the Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling



Prayers for **Jann DeGroot**, (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Ed Pottratz and family**.

Prayers for **Todd Whitted** (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Prayers for **Shelly Murphy**.

Prayers for **Dick Seim** as he recovers from heart surgery.

Prayers for protection and God's blessing for **Katie Smith** (daughter of Grant and Janet Smith) is on a summer mission trip to Asia with InterVarsity.

Prayers for God's grace as the **Synod staff** settle in to their new home and as they lead and support the Synod Assembly this weekend.

Prayers for **Kurt Hesse** (brother of Don Hesse).

Prayers for **Ardis Scholten** (mother of Dave Scholten).

Prayers for **Jane O'Brien** (mother of Carrie).

Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) as she awaits a double lung transplant.

Prayers for **Ann Tuomi** as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers for **Rae Murphy** (mother of Dina Davis).

Prayers of thanksgiving to God for *all of our graduates*.



1. Pastor Steve will be going to camp July 29th to August 3rd.

Bethel has camp scholarships available, \$100 per camper on a first come first serve basis. To take advantage of this benefit, bring or send a copy of your invoice from the camp (they will send you one as soon as you make the deposit) and Bethel will send the money to FLBC.

2. If you are registered for camp, please let the church office know so that we can make sure you get a card the week you are there.

There are lots of exciting opportunities this year. Check out their website to see how you can be a part.

www.flbc.net



Saturday June 9 - A Day In Fort Benton

- Dinner 5:00 pm. Grand Union Hotel.
- Please RSVP to Terry Korpela no later than **Friday June 1st** if you are coming for dinner as we need to get reservations nailed down for the hotel.
- If anyone is interested in lunch and exploring the Fort Benton museums let Terry know so we can spend the whole day if anyone is so inclined.

Sunday June 24th Noon - 12:00 p.m. at Ron and Dew Elkins house, 2412 47th Ave. SW. Elkins will provide the main dish - burgers and brats and buns.

- Everyone else will need to bring our own beverage as well as a side dish to share. We need someone to provide chips; condiments; salad and dessert.

- So if you could RSVP Terry Korpela at terry.korpela@gmail.com or Elkins at rda.elkingtf@gmail.com and let us know what you would like to bring, this will help get all bases covered.



- This year the FLBC counselors will be joining us **July 23rd through 27th from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM**. We will have a faith filled week of friends, games, crafts, and music. Along with pool night and Family Night program and pot luck. This camp is free for youth going into Pre-K to 6th grade. We also need Junior Counselors for youth going into 7th and up. Check out the Bethel Website bethelmt.org under Youth Programs for more information or contact Tami Grosenick at bethelmc.church@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more details!

Graduation

twenty eighteen



Allison (Saxe) Morris graduated from The University of Montana School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science. She received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Liisa Nelson graduated from Alfred University in New York with a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in ceramics.



Bridger Scholten graduated from Gonzaga University with a Bachelors in Economics.

Hannah Good graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman with degrees in Political Science and History.





Coleman John Good is a member of the GFHS Bison football team. He is Student Body President, involved in Policy Debate, is a member of the National Honor Society and of the Bison Buddies Mentoring Program. Cole also participated in Leadership High School through the Chamber of Commerce. He love to ski. His most fond memory of high school is cheering on the Bison at sporting events. He loved science and math and the teachers that he admired most were Mr. Sullivan who taught Biology and his 4th grade teacher Ms. Dige. He plans to study Microbiology and Immunology at Montana State University and his goal is to pursue a career in the medical field.

Alec Keith Good attends Great Falls High School and is a member of the Golf team. He is a member of Student Government, the National Honor Society and Bison Buddies Mentoring Program. Alec participates in Leadership High School through the Chamber of Commerce and loves to ski. His most fond high school experience was traveling to Europe along with friends last summer with Education First Students Tours. The teachers he most admires are Mrs. Aakre who teaches English and his math teacher Mr. Herd. His favorite subjects are science and math. He plans to attend Montana State University to study Mechanical Engineering and "hopes to work as an engineer in an interesting city with great outdoor recreational opportunities."



Alexandra Elizabeth Olson is graduating from Central Catholic High School. She is a member of DECA Business Club. She enjoys baking, reading and spending time with her pets. Her favorite memories of high school are the proms which were always "super fun and a great time!" Her favorite subjects are English and business class. Her most influential teachers were Mrs. Amuehl and Mrs. Osterman. Her future plans are to get a degree in Early Childhood Development and "eventually take over as owner of the TLC Center."

BETH EL
Lutheran Church

Graduation

twenty eighteen



Gavin Todd Will attends CMR High School. He is a member of the Golf and Tennis teams and Student Council. Outside of school he loves to hunt and fish. His most fond memory of high school is Senior Prom. In school he loved to study history, government and humanities. Many teachers have inspired him. The ones he admires most are Mr. McLean, Mr. Allen, Mr. Comstock and Ms. Showen. He plans to attend Montana State University to study Political Science.

Jake Glen Olsen is graduating from CMR where he plays football and basketball. His favorite memory was winning the State Championship in Basketball. His most influential teachers are Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Skaer, and Mr. Halverson. Jake's favorite subject is lunch. His future plan is to attend Montana State University and major in Business Finance.





Many of you remember Marty Johnson and his passion for canning. We have been blessed with a gift from his family of some of his canned goods. There are pickles, salsa, peppers, asparagus, and green beans! This Sunday we will have a table with these items available to you, free will donations will go toward this summer's vacation bible school. Marty was always a great supporter during our fundraisers for VBS donating his canned goods to the cause! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get some of Marty's yummy items and support VBS.

Estate Auction



*Saturday, June 16th
11:00 am*

*An estate auction will be held
at the home of Marty Johnson.*

*154 Sun Prairie Rd
Great Falls, MT 59404*

This Week at Bethel

Monday 6/4:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meets at 6:15pm in the Gathering Place.

Tuesday 6/5:

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am.

Thursday 6/7:

- Hope Circle Picnic 6pm Terri Korpela's 3025 Delmar Drive.

Coming Up....

Tuesday 6/12:

- Church council meeting in the Gathering Place at 6:30pm.

Thursday 6/14 - Monday 6/18:

- Pastor Steve will be out of the office on vacation. Dave Scholten, LPA will be preaching and presiding on Sunday, June 17th in Pastor Steve's absence.

Tuesday 6/19:

- TLC Training Session in the Gathering Place from 6pm to 8pm.

Week of July 23rd -27th:

- Vacation Bible School at Bethel.

Tuesday July 24th:

- Family Pool Night at Jaycee Park 7pm.



Pastor Steve Van Gilder
Administrative Assistant, Sarah Farris
Bookkeeper, Bonnie Sears
Ministry Coordinator, Tami Grosenick

bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com
bethelgf.church@gmail.com
bethelgf.books@gmail.com
bethelmc.church@gmail.com

Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am to 2:30pm
Wednesday: 9am to 2pm

Website: www.bethelmt.org

